



YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Volume 68

The United Nations Department of Global Communications is dedicated to communicating the ideals and work of the United Nations to the world; to interacting and partnering with diverse audiences; and to building support for peace, development and human rights for all. Based on official documents, although not itself an official record, the *Yearbook of the United Nations* stands as the definitive reference work on the Organization and an indispensable tool for anyone seeking information on the UN system.

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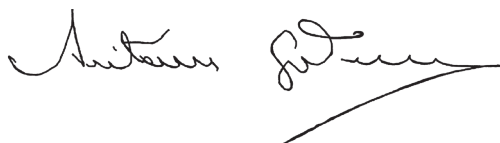
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Foreword

The *Yearbook of the United Nations* is the authoritative reference work on the annual activities and concerns of the world's leading instrument of common progress. Through the documents, resolutions and decisions that represent the work of the Organization, the *Yearbook* provides policymakers, academics, historians and journalists with a unique narrative of United Nations deliberation, action and achievement. As with other *Yearbooks* issued since the founding of the Organization in 1945, the present volume, covering the year 2014, offers critical information for people today and important lessons for future generations about vital matters of peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and international law. I hope that this account of our work, in our words, will contribute to our shared pursuit of the world we want.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, July 2019

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About the 2014 edition of the *Yearbook*

This sixty-eighth volume of the *Yearbook of the United Nations* continues the tradition of providing the most comprehensive coverage available of the annual activities and concerns of the United Nations.

The present volume recounts the work of the United Nations in dealing with recurring conflicts with severe humanitarian consequences in the Middle East, including in the Syrian Arab Republic, where more than 12 million people were in need of basic food, clothing and shelter. The volume also highlights the Organization's rapid response to an escalatory global health emergency: the Ebola virus disease outbreak across West Africa. It documents the Organization's coordination of policy discussions to finalize a global sustainable development agenda, with the security of future generations as the core concern; and its efforts to rebuild societies emerging from conflict while keeping the fragile peace in other places. It further details the entry into force of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty, the missile downing of a passenger airliner in the midst of a geopolitical crisis in eastern Ukraine, and securing international human rights and humanitarian law and prosecuting abusers.

Readers can locate information by using the Table of contents, the Subject index, the Index of resolutions and decisions and the Index of Security Council presidential statements. The volume also features three appendices: Appendix I comprises a roster of Member States; Appendix II presents the structure of the principal organs of the United Nations in 2014; and Appendix III provides the agenda for each session of the principal organs in 2014.

Structure and scope of articles

The *Yearbook* is subject-oriented and divided into five parts covering political and security matters; human rights issues; economic and social questions; legal issues; and institutional, administrative and budgetary matters. Chapters summarize pertinent UN activities, including those of intergovernmental and expert bodies, as well as major reports and, in selected cases, the views of States in written communications.

Activities of UN bodies. The *Yearbook* places the major activities of the principal organs of the United Nations and, on a selective basis, those of their subsidiary bodies in a narrative context of consideration, deliberation and action. Substantive action by the Security Council is analysed and brief reviews of the Council's deliberations are given, particularly in cases where an issue was taken up but no resolution was

adopted. The texts of all resolutions and decisions of a substantive nature adopted in 2014 by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are reproduced or summarized under the relevant topic. Such texts are preceded by procedural details giving the date of adoption, meeting number and vote totals (in favour–against–abstaining), if any, and an indication of their approval by a sessional or subsidiary body prior to final adoption. The texts are followed by details of any recorded or roll-call vote.

Major reports. Most reports of the Secretary-General in 2014, along with those of main United Nations committees, regional and functional commissions, and Special Rapporteurs, as well as selected reports from other UN sources, such as seminars and expert and working groups, are summarized.

Views of States. Written communications sent to the United Nations by Member States and circulated as documents of the principal organs have been summarized, in selected cases, under the relevant topics.

Multilateral treaties. Information on signatories and parties to multilateral treaties and conventions has been taken from the series *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General* (ST/LEG/SER/E) (see treaties.un.org).

Terminology

Formal titles of bodies, organizational units, conventions, declarations and officials are normally given in full on first mention in each main section. They are also used in resolution/decision texts, as well as in the Subject index under the key word of the title. Short titles, abbreviations or acronyms are used in subsequent references in the main text.

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The Yearbook online

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Pre-press. The Yearbook Pre-press (unyearbook.un.org/pre-press) offers draft *Yearbook* chapters or detailed, hyperlinked chapter outlines from volumes currently in production. Pre-press material is made available as a service to readers and researchers and reflects the fact that the Yearbook Unit works simultaneously on researching, writing, editing, copy-editing and finalizing multiple volumes of the *Yearbook*. The Pre-press is updated on a regular basis. Pre-press chapters do not represent the final edited and proofread

versions that will appear in published form, nor do Pre-press chapter outlines represent the final structure and content or document scope of the chapter in question. Nonetheless, they indicate the key topics and relevant UN documentation that will be covered in the corresponding *Yearbook* chapter.

Express. The Yearbook Express (unyearbook.un.org/express) features the chapter introductions of recently published *Yearbooks*, along with the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization in those years, in all six United Nations official languages—Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. To provide speakers of those languages with such summary *Yearbook* content, the Yearbook Unit works with teams of volunteer translators. Only the annual report of the Secretary-General represents a United Nations official translation.

Social media. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* can be also found on Twitter (twitter.com/UN-Yearbook), where @UNYearbook addresses current United Nations activities and concerns in their historical perspective, linking readers to relevant information in the *Yearbook* collection.

Abbreviations commonly used in the *Yearbook*

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
AU	African Union	ODA	official development assistance
BNUB	United Nations Office in Burundi	OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
BINUCA	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
CEB	United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination	OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination	PA	Palestinian Authority
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa	UNAMID	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
EU	European Union	UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ICC	International Criminal Court	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ICJ	International Court of Justice	UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	UNIOGBIS	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission	UNIPSIL	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
ICTY	International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
IDPs	internally displaced persons	UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
IMO	International Maritime Organization	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit	UNOWA	United Nations Office for West Africa
LDC	least developed country	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals	UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic	UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti	UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	WFP	World Food Programme
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development	WHO	World Health Organization
NGO	non-governmental organization	WMDs	weapons of mass destruction
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
NSGTs	Non-Self-Governing Territories	WTO	World Trade Organization
OAS	Organization of American States	YUN	Yearbook of the United Nations

Explanatory note on documents

The following principal United Nations document symbols appear in this volume:

- A/- refers to documents of the General Assembly, numbered in separate series by session. Thus, A/69/- refers to documents issued for consideration at the sixty-ninth session, beginning with A/69/1. Documents of special and emergency special sessions are identified as A/S and A/ES-, followed by the session number.
- A/C.- refers to documents of the Assembly's Main Committees. For example, A/C.1/- identifies documents of the First Committee, A/C.6/- documents of the Sixth Committee. A/BUR/- refers to documents of the General Committee. A/AC.- documents are those of the Assembly's ad hoc bodies and A/CN.- those of its commissions. For example, A/AC.105/- identifies documents of the Assembly's Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, A/CN.4/- those of its International Law Commission. Assembly resolutions and decisions since the thirty-first (1976) session have been identified by two Arabic numerals: the first indicates the session of adoption, the second the sequential number in the series. Resolutions are numbered consecutively from 1 at each session. Decisions since the fifty-seventh (2002) session are numbered consecutively from 401 for those concerned with elections and appointments and from 501 for all other decisions. Decisions of special and emergency special sessions are numbered consecutively from 11 for those concerned with elections and appointments and from 21 for all other decisions.
- E/- refers to documents of the Economic and Social Council, numbered in separate series by year. Thus, E/2014/- refers to documents issued for consideration by the Council at its 2014 sessions, beginning with E/2014/1. E/AC.-, E/C.- and E/CN.-, followed by identifying numbers, refer to documents of the Council's subsidiary ad hoc bodies, committees and commissions. For example, E/CN.5/- refers to documents of the Council's Commission for Social Development, E/C.2/- to documents of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. E/ICEF/- documents are those of the United Nations Children's Fund. Symbols for the Council's resolutions and decisions since 1978 consist of two Arabic numerals: the first indicates the year of adoption and the second the sequential number in the series. There are two series: one for resolutions, beginning with 1 (e.g. resolution 2014/1), and one for decisions, beginning with 201 (e.g. decision 2014/201 A).
- S/- refers to documents of the Security Council. Its resolutions are identified by consecutive numbers followed by the year of adoption in parentheses, beginning with resolution 1(1946).

- ST/-, followed by symbols representing the issuing department or office, refers to documents of the United Nations Secretariat.

Documents of certain bodies bear special symbols, including the following:

- CD/- Conference on Disarmament
- CERD/- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- DC/- Disarmament Commission
- DP/- United Nations Development Programme
- HSP/- United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- ITC/- International Trade Centre
- TD/- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNEP/- United Nations Environment Programme

Many documents of the regional commissions bear special symbols, which are sometimes preceded by the following:

- E/ECA/- Economic Commission for Africa
- E/ECE/- Economic Commission for Europe
- E/ECLAC/- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- E/ESCAP/- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- E/ESCWA/- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Various other document symbols include the following:

- L.- refers to documents of limited distribution, such as draft resolutions.
- CONF.- refers to conference documents.
- INF.- refers to general information documents.
- SR.- refers to summary records and is followed by a meeting number.
- PV.- refers to verbatim records and is followed by a meeting number.

United Nations sales publications each carry a sales number with the following components separated by periods: a capital letter indicating the language(s) of the publication; two Arabic numerals indicating the year; a Roman numeral indicating the subject category; a capital letter indicating a subdivision of the category, if any; and an Arabic numeral indicating the number of the publication within the category. Examples: E.14.II.D.7; E.14.XX.1.

All United Nations official documents cited in the text in square brackets may be obtained through the United Nations Official Document System website: **documents.un.org**.

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Following is the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization [A/69/1], dated 21 July 2014, submitted to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The Assembly took note of it on 7 October 2014 (decision 69/506).

Chapter I Introduction

1. The eyes of the world are rightly fixed on 2015, when we hope to conclude several crucial agreements that will have a major impact on the life of every person on this planet. Success in 2015 requires hard work now. The past 12 months have seen specific progress towards those agreements on several fronts, from the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened in September 2013, to the conclusion of the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in July. Member States have made headway on the new global sustainable development agenda, building on the successes and lessons of the Millennium Development Goals while acknowledging the many ways in which the world has changed in the 15 years since the Goals were articulated. They have also made a concerted push towards achieving the Goals, acutely aware that fewer than 500 days remain before the date set for their achievement. While we can take satisfaction that millions of people have been lifted out of extreme poverty, too many more continue to suffer from privation, insecurity and inequality. This is unacceptable in a world in which opportunities and wealth abound and in which technology has empowered us and shrunk the distances between us. Development is not only about economic growth — it is also about justice. I am encouraged that the discussions on a post-2015 development agenda have taken this sense of common future to heart.

2. There has also been increased recognition that time is running out to take meaningful action on climate change. The scientific evidence that global warming has been caused by human influence is unequivocal. Meanwhile, emissions have continued to rise, and with them the risks of exceeding an increase of 2°C in global mean temperature that is regarded as the threshold beyond which dangerous climate change will occur. It is clear that the time to act is now. Our generation is the first to feel the impact of climate change and the last that will be in a position to do anything about it. I saw the effects first-hand when I visited Greenland and I will continue to press world leaders to do everything that they can in this

regard. The climate summit that I am convening on 23 September is intended to mobilize political will at the highest levels and specific action on the ground. I encourage all involved to make the most of this opportunity.

3. While seeking to build those long-term foundations for human well-being, we have also faced several grave and immediate challenges to peace and security and the rule of law. The dramatic deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip had a horrifying impact on civilians. I travelled to the region, visiting eight countries, with the demand for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire that would, in turn, pave the way for a durable ceasefire and the beginning of comprehensive negotiations. The crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic has entered its fourth year and produced the worst exodus of refugees since the Rwandan genocide, in addition to the horrifying spectacle of chemical weapons attacks. Political efforts to end the crisis have produced no results, even in the face of the devastating humanitarian and economic consequences for the region. In South Sudan, the fragile achievements of a new nation were destroyed when conflict erupted in December 2013, claiming thousands of lives and leaving millions in need of humanitarian assistance. Similar unravelling in the Central African Republic and Mali has affected the lives of millions. Meanwhile, events in Ukraine have triggered debates about State sovereignty and the right to self-determination. The downing of a civilian airliner, killing 298 innocent civilian passengers, underscored how localized conflicts can swiftly generate tragic consequences that are felt far beyond the region. The events in Ukraine have also raised questions about Member State agreements vis-à-vis nuclear weapons and, in general, exacerbated differences of view among Member States about the promotion and maintenance of international peace. The latter dynamic has in turn affected the ability of the United Nations to address global crises. Geopolitical tensions have also played out in maritime and cyber disputes, reminding us that our increasing interdependence comes with increased complexity and that early and peaceful resolution of disputes is more important than ever. I have initiated a review to take stock of evolving expectations of United Nations peace operations and how we can work towards a shared view of the way forward.

4. More encouragingly, we have applied new approaches and tools to the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where combined political and military efforts have succeeded in disbanding the main militia that had long terrorized the local population. The closure of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone marked the successful conclusion of years of sustained effort by the United Nations in support of that country's recovery from decades of strife.

5. The year 2014 marks the twentieth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda. I was privileged to visit Kigali to highlight the country's progress since that tragedy. I also paid a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau German Nazi concentration and extermination camp. To reflect on human beings' potential for unthinkable brutality is to be reminded of how vigilant we must remain. Today, the agony of the people in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and identity-driven discrimination and violence elsewhere, represent a test of the Organization's ability to use the full breadth of its mandates to protect the people whom it is meant to serve — and of Member States' willingness to fulfil their responsibilities. This lies at the heart of my "Rights up front" initiative, launched in November 2013, which offers a new lens through which the Organization will examine threats of serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and respond by taking early civilian action, thereby averting impending catastrophes. We will be vigilant in identifying emerging risks, speak out publicly, inform national authorities or appropriate United Nations organs and regional organizations of violations, and engage in discussions with Member States on ways in which they can pursue improvements.

6. Human-caused and natural disasters combined to make the past year one of the most challenging in recent memory for humanitarian assistance. Natural disasters took a devastating toll, from Typhoon Haiyan to the floods in the Balkans, with the poor and vulnerable paying a disproportionate price. In many conflict settings, the evolving security environment has presented greater challenges to the Organization's ability to deliver. In the Syrian Arab Republic, we have seen an unconscionable politicization of humanitarian aid. Access to hundreds of thousands of desperate people continues to be blocked, starvation is being used as a weapon of war and medicines are being deliberately removed from aid convoys.

7. We have continued to accord priority to women's economic empowerment, leadership and participation in decision-making and to efforts to combat violence against women and girls. The inspirational efforts of Malala Yousafzai and shocking kidnappings of schoolgirls in northern Nigeria by the terrorist group Boko Haram have brought home the

importance of education for girls and the distance that we still have to travel in many parts of the world to ensure that women and girls participate as equals in society. Humankind will not enjoy the peace and prosperity that it seeks as long as half the population faces violence and discrimination and mindsets that see women and girls as second-class citizens.

8. Lastly, closer to home, I have continued in my efforts to adapt the Organization to the needs and realities of our times. The General Assembly approved my proposal for a managed mobility framework, which will help to deliver United Nations mandates by building a workforce that is dynamic, adaptable and mobile. The International Public Sector Accounting Standards will be fully implemented in the financial year 2014, while Umoja, the new enterprise resource planning system, one of the other main pillars of internal strengthening, is now being used by all peacekeeping operations and will be fully rolled out in 12 months' time.

Chapter II

The work of the Organization

A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development

1. Accelerating progress on the Millennium Development Goals

9. The 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals is swiftly approaching. The final picture is increasingly clear. Overall, substantial progress has been made in meeting many of the targets. Both the number of people living in extreme poverty and the proportion of people without sustainable access to improved water sources have been halved. The proportion of urban slum dwellers has declined. Remarkable progress has been made in combating malaria and tuberculosis. There have been notable improvements in primary education. Several other important targets are also likely to be met by 2015, assuming continued commitment by Governments and other stakeholders. Progress in many areas is, however, far from sufficient. Much remains to be done to secure the well-being, dignity and rights of those still on the margins, in addition to those of future generations. Considerable effort will be needed to fully meet target 1.C and improve nutrition. The world is still failing to renew the promise of survival for its children, while too many women are dying in childbirth when we have the means to save them. More than 2.5 billion people continue to lack improved sanitation facilities. Our natural resource base is in serious decline, with continuing losses of forests, species and fish stocks.

10. Some progress has been made on gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2013, more

women were elected to legislatures than ever before, with women now holding 21.8 per cent of parliamentary seats worldwide. For the first time, the Commission on the Status of Women comprehensively assessed progress with regard to each Goal, identified structural factors that have held back achievement of the Goals on the part of women and girls, and called for a transformative and comprehensive approach for gender equality. Gender-based violence remains a scourge that contravenes the rights of women and girls and undermines development. It is an affront to our common humanity.

11. Progress towards the Goals remains uneven among and within countries, especially where violence is reversing gains made. Poverty rates remain high in sub-Saharan Africa. Children from poor or rural households are more likely to be out of school than their rich or urban counterparts. There are wide gaps in knowledge about and access to medicines for HIV and its prevention in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been hardest hit by the epidemic. Many least developed countries lag behind and will meet none of the global targets. At the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, in September 2013, participants highlighted the urgent need to address disability as a cross-cutting development issue and called for an inclusive approach in our global agenda-setting.

12. On a more positive note, notwithstanding the fiscal constraints stemming from weak economic performance in many donor countries and after two years of falling volumes, official development assistance rose by 6 per cent to a record high of \$134.8 billion in 2013. That amount was, however, equivalent to only 0.3 per cent of the gross national income of donor members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, a small improvement from 2012 towards the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income, which was met by only five countries.

13. The risk of disasters continues to increase, threatening economic growth and hampering efforts to reduce poverty. The United Nations has taken steps to strengthen partnerships with the private sector and to ensure that investment decisions reduce risk. Accelerated action is needed, however, for the remaining term of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and for post-2015 disaster risk reduction work. The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience is key. Global, regional and thematic multi-stakeholder consultations have been convened in preparation for the Third World

Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Japan in March 2015.

14. Preparations are under way for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which, in conjunction with the International Year of Small Island Developing States, will provide a unique opportunity for global leaders to inject political momentum and commit themselves to taking tangible action to tackle the specific structural challenges of this vulnerable and geographically disadvantaged group of Member States by recognizing and launching genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships. Time is running out to take the action necessary to keep the rise in global temperature below the agreed threshold of 2°C, however. Progress has also been made in preparations for the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

2. Post-2015 development agenda

15. In the past 12 months, significant progress has been made in shaping a transformative universal agenda to harmonize peoples' ambitions and the planet's needs, while embarking on a more sustainable development path. This was a key message of my report entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015" (A/68/202 & Corr.1), which I presented to Member States in September 2013. The special event of the President of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals showed the determination of Member States to free the world from poverty, inequality and hunger and to address, in an integrated way, the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Member States agreed that the agenda should promote peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights for all. At the heart of this agenda will be a concise set of ambitious goals with the overarching objective of eradicating poverty and with sustainable development at their core, universal in nature and applicable to all countries, taking into consideration their various contexts and levels of development.

16. The work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, supported by the United Nations system, has galvanized enthusiasm, ambition and energy, including through extensive outreach to key stakeholders. The Open Working Group has proposed a set of sustainable development goals that show the strong ownership of Member States and their commitment and ambition to working towards a global vision, not only of ending poverty in all its forms, but also of ensuring equitable distribution of development gains and tackling common challenges affecting all people and our planet.

17. By September 2014, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing will have delivered options to facilitate the mobilization and use of resources in achieving sustainable development objectives. The outcome of the events organized by the President of the General Assembly, including his high-level stocktaking event on the post-2015 development agenda, will also be available as input to the process.

18. Intergovernmental negotiations will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda at a high-level summit in September 2015. Before the end of 2014, I will bring all input together in a synthesis report. It will include the output of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the structured dialogues on technology, in addition to the wider input facilitated by the United Nations, including the second phase of national and global consultations, the “My World” consultations and the regional dialogues on accountability. Expectations for the summit include a set of action-oriented and universal sustainable development goals, and both a renewed global partnership for development and an inclusive accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda. Those expectations need to be backed by the broadest and highest-level engagement, including by civil society, the private sector, parliamentarians and the scientific and academic community, to ensure strong impact and high visibility. It will therefore be critical to ensure that we have an effective United Nations development system, which is fit for purpose when it comes to supporting the implementation of this agenda, while leading other constituencies to likewise engage with this important issue.

19. The second meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in July 2014, has charted the way towards an ambitious and universal post-2015 development agenda. It has given more clarity to the implications of a universal agenda in a context of varied regional priorities, all grounded in the scientific findings of the *Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report*. We must continue to shape the forum so that it delivers its mandate to review sustainable development goals, ensuring coordination and coherence of sustainable development after 2015.

20. Through its high-level Development Cooperation Forum, the Economic and Social Council has generated policy messages and recommendations on the critical role of development cooperation in supporting the implementation of a post-2015 development agenda. The Forum has also called for a robust global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation commitments engaging all actors.

21. I am confident that a renewed global partnership and clearer and fairer rules for the global economy will emerge from the process launched at the International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development track on means of implementation and the work of the Development Cooperation Forum. The third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, should make an important contribution to and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

22. The new development agenda must mitigate the risks of future crises such as those that we have witnessed in the fields of energy, finance, food and climate. That vision can, however, be delivered only if ambition is matched with equally strong commitment to reframing development models and unblocking the wide range of resources needed to achieve sustainable development objectives. Capable implementation by effective institutions anchored in the rule of law and accountability by all will be essential.

3. Need for action on climate change

23. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to a sustainable future. Without urgent action, the consequences will be highly dangerous and perhaps irreversible. Poverty eradication, sustainable development and efforts to combat climate change are mutually reinforcing goals that can provide prosperity and security for current and future generations.

24. The fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides a compelling case for tackling climate change through substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse-gas emissions. It is concluded therein that atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, among other gases, have increased to unprecedented levels in human history. The Panel has assessed, with 95 to 100 per cent certainty, that human activities are the dominant cause of observed warming. Projected losses from climate change range from 0.2 to 2.0 per cent of global annual income, with a rise in temperature of 2°C. We are likely to exceed this range. Climate and social risks will interact and amplify each other to increase overall adverse impacts further. In addition to the tremendous savings and opportunities for economic growth, however, climate action can foster decent jobs, equality and access to sustainable energy, help to build sustainable cities and enhance the health of people and the planet.

25. World leaders and Governments have never been more aware of the destructive effects of climate change. They are also aware of the existence of affordable and scalable climate solutions that can lead to cleaner and more resilient economies. I am hosting a climate summit on 23 September to provide leaders

with a platform to champion an ambitious vision and transformative action. In the lead-up, the Abu Dhabi Ascent, held in May 2014, brought together leaders from Governments, the business sector and civil society to explore new approaches to expanding action to combat climate change. The summit will give leaders an opportunity to demonstrate their political will for a global climate agreement in 2015 and to catalyse action on the ground to reduce emissions and strengthen resilience to climate change. I call upon leaders to come to New York on 23 September to make bold announcements of the significant steps that they are willing to take.

B. Maintenance of international peace and security

26. The past 12 months have witnessed several events on the international peace and security stage that are cause for deep concern. The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic has led to well in excess of 150,000 deaths and left more than 680,000 people injured. A United Nations investigation team concluded that chemical weapons had been used in a suburb of Damascus. Events in Ukraine have raised fears of a dangerous escalation and a return to the polarized world of the past. The best efforts of the international community have failed to prevent loss of life and human rights violations in the Central African Republic and South Sudan. In contrast, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has made progress in neutralizing and disarming armed groups. In the Middle East, the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers and a Palestinian teenager in the West Bank led to a severe Israeli crackdown on Hamas, on the one hand, and a barrage of rocket fire at Israel by Hamas, on the other. As at the time of preparation of the present report, more than 1,200 Palestinians, most of them civilians, had been killed in the Gaza Strip since 7 July, following the launch of a protracted Israeli military operation. During the same period, the conflict claimed the lives of 56 Israeli soldiers and two Israeli civilians. Both sides repeatedly failed to reach agreement on meaningful ceasefires and the international community's efforts in this regard also continued to fall short. An especially reprehensible feature of the fighting has been the attacks in Gaza by Israeli forces on a number of schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East that were harbouring Palestinian civilians displaced by the fighting.

27. The global security environment in which the United Nations operates continues to exhibit worrying trends. Security threats have become more complex, with the use of unconventional tactics and often direct attacks against civilians and the United Nations,

including improvised explosive devices, suicide bombings and abductions. The line is increasingly blurred between criminals and hostile groups and peace spoilers, including extremists with transnational strategies and sophisticated tactics. The breakdown of the State security apparatus in intra-State and inter-communal conflicts poses tremendous security challenges and tests the Organization's capacity to carry out its mandates and critical programmes. There are risks of potential security and safety incidents from the use of nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological materials or from cyberattacks. The United Nations is often an alternative and relatively soft target, and the past year has witnessed complex attacks targeting United Nations personnel and premises in mission and non-mission settings alike, with tragic loss of life.

1. Conflict prevention and mediation

28. With the mounting complexity and growing costs of addressing crisis situations, the imperative of prevention is higher than ever. Over the past year, we have faced enormous challenges in conflict prevention and mediation, across several continents. I should like to highlight a number of specific cases where our efforts have made an impact.

29. In Guinea, through persistent preventive diplomacy, my Special Representative for West Africa was instrumental in helping the Government and the opposition to agree on the modalities for the legislative elections, held, after much delay, on 28 September 2013 and marking a milestone in the country's transition. In the Great Lakes region, my Special Envoy engaged regional leaders, international stakeholders and civil society groups to advance the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, in addition to related political initiatives, although the underlying causes of conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo still need to be addressed. I undertook two joint visits with the President of the World Bank, together with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the representatives of donor countries, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sahel in May and November 2013, respectively. The visits were aimed at fostering a multidimensional approach to development that would address the nexus between peace, security, human rights and development, an approach that is vital for ensuring durable solutions.

30. In Somalia, the establishment of a new political mission in Mogadishu for the first time since 1995 was an important milestone. Complex challenges remain. My Special Representative continues to support the Government and other actors in the country through his good offices. His role in support of a peaceful indirect election in Puntland in January 2014 has been widely acknowledged.

31. My Special Adviser on Yemen, working closely with the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Security Council, facilitated the successful conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference in January 2014. To mobilize support for the stability of Lebanon against the impact of the Syrian conflict, I established an international support group in September 2013. We also continued to support the efforts of the Lebanese authorities to preserve security and unity, including through the formation of a government of national interest.

32. In Myanmar, the progress made in strengthening democratic and human rights institutions, inclusive socioeconomic development and peace efforts between the Government and various armed ethnic groups is at risk of being undermined by growing communal tensions and religious strife. Our good offices effort will need to be sustained in order to continue to tackle those issues, in addition to constitutional reform, national reconciliation and other challenges emerging at this critical juncture.

33. In our conflict prevention and mediation work, we continue to face challenges regarding how best to engage with sometimes amorphous movements or fractured armed groups and how to ensure inclusivity. There is increasing interest in national dialogues as a tool, Yemen being an example. Consultation with women's groups is also one of my priorities and has been conducted in six of our processes over the past year (Georgia, Mali, Sudan (Darfur), Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Western Sahara). High-level gender expertise has been systematically provided to most peace and security processes.

34. We have been able to better respond to increasing demands from Member States to support national actors in their conflict prevention and mediation efforts. In South America, where peace talks between the Government of Colombia and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia were launched in August 2012, the United Nations has supported the contribution of civil society through dialogue mechanisms.

35. Experience over the past year has also highlighted the important role of regional and subregional organizations, with which we have strengthened our relationships. Our regional offices in West Africa, Central Africa and Central Asia have played a significant role in fostering conflict prevention and mediation partnerships, in addition to rapid responses to regional crises.

36. There are also, however, several tragic cases where we have not been successful. While our joint efforts with the League of Arab States to put an end to the violence in the Syrian Arab Republic succeeded in bringing the sides together in two rounds of talks in Geneva, unfortunately the talks have yielded little. More than 150,000 people, including over 10,000

children, have been killed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. A further 6.5 million are internally displaced and 2.8 million are seeking refuge in other countries, notably Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. In the unfolding tragedy of the Central African Republic, the United Nations has been assisting the Economic Community of Central African States, its mediator and the African Union in endeavouring to resolve the crisis. Thousands of people have been killed since March 2013 when the Séléka rebel coalition ousted the President, François Bozizé. At the time of preparation of the present report, more than 625,000 people had been displaced throughout the country. While our immediate priority is to stop the violence, we are working to facilitate a political process, with particular attention to the need for reconciliation. During the period under review, conflict-related sexual violence remained underreported but prevalent in settings such as the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The continued political will to prevent this scourge was exemplified by the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, launched on the sidelines of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, and the subsequent Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, held in London in June 2014. To translate political will into specific action, my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict has continued to engage with national authorities at the highest level.

37. The adoption of Security Council resolution 2122(2013), general recommendation No. 30 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the declaration of the Peacebuilding Commission on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding represent significant steps in advancing the women and peace and security agenda more broadly.

38. The Security Council has called for sustained monitoring and reporting on the violations affecting children in armed conflict and for perpetrators to be brought to account. In March 2014, my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Children's Fund launched the global campaign "Children, Not Soldiers", which is aimed at ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children by all national security forces in conflict by 2016.

2. Democratic transitions and elections

39. Countries undergoing or seeking to consolidate democratic transition continue to benefit from inclusive, participatory, transparent and nationally owned constitutional reform. The implementation of a new constitution can take years and sometimes decades of commitment for the goals of democracy,

good governance and the rule of law to be realized and enjoyed. The past 12 months have seen an increase in constitutional reform processes and requests from Member States for the United Nations to provide constitutional support, with peace operations and/or country teams providing assistance to more than a dozen Member States during the period under review. The United Nations country team continued to support reform efforts in Tunisia, where, setbacks notwithstanding, commitments to inclusive dialogue and consensus-building resulted in a more legitimate and nationally owned constitution and the foundation for stability and democratic governance, which is expected to culminate in elections in 2015.

40. Member States have continued to see the value of United Nations support to electoral processes, with requests for assistance — which include technical assistance, the engagement of good offices and support to regional organizations — remaining high. For example, while technical assistance was provided to Afghanistan in the context of the presidential election held in 2014, my Special Representative also supported broad consultations on the legal framework and on the appointment of electoral commissioners. In Nepal, the Organization continued to provide technical support to the electoral commission and supported efforts to ensure that the political commitments of all relevant actors regarding the Constituent Assembly election held in November 2013 were met. A similar approach was taken in Guinea-Bissau. In Madagascar, the United Nations provided assistance to the electoral commission and worked with the Southern African Development Community and the African Union to enable peaceful elections in 2013 and the end of the transition process in 2014.

41. Electoral assistance has been provided in challenging security environments, many under Security Council mandates. In Mali, the Organization supported the conduct of the 2013 presidential and legislative elections that ended the transition process. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq supported the electoral commission with the legislative elections in 2014, in spite of the difficult operating environment. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya supported the elections for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly and Council of Representatives, held in February and June 2014, respectively, as part of the post-conflict transition process. Further to a Security Council mandate and a request from the Transitional Government, the United Nations is providing support in the Central African Republic for the preparation and conduct of a referendum on the Constitution, in addition to presidential and legislative elections.

42. Civil society organizations around the world have continued to demand to participate in transitions, governance and elections. That was reflected in

the work of the United Nations Democracy Fund, which received more than 2,000 project proposals from organizations in over 130 countries during its annual proposal window. They included wide-ranging proposals from countries in transition, including Libya and Tunisia, where civil society had previously been almost non-existent or under severe government control. At the same time, a growing number of Governments have proposed national legislation restricting the freedom of civil society groups to operate, including with regard to international funding.

3. Peacekeeping

43. Member States have demonstrated their continued interest in using peacekeeping and continued to recognize it as an effective and cost-effective tool, without which the human and material costs of conflict and relapse into conflict would be unquestionably higher. Although the environments for United Nations peacekeeping operations have always been challenging, we face today a heightened level and new types of security threat, requiring new approaches and strategies. Peacekeeping operations are being increasingly deployed earlier in the conflict continuum, before any peace or ceasefire agreement. Creating the political and security space necessary for successful negotiations is crucial. The lessons of early deployment contexts need to be better analysed and recognized.

44. Achievements in the period under review included the establishment and deployment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, promoting reconciliation and political dialogue, including with armed groups, and the stabilization of the security situation, in particular in the north of the country, which remains volatile. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO addressed the crisis in the east, including by supporting the Peace and Security Framework and the deployment of the Force Intervention Brigade. In addition, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti facilitated constructive political dialogue, including on long-awaited legislative and local elections. We also supported the planning and deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic and its transformation into a United Nations peacekeeping operation as the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.

45. South Sudan has been gripped by violence and ethnic strife since mid-December 2013. While the United Nations Mission in South Sudan is protecting tens of thousands of civilians in its bases throughout the country, a political agreement between the parties is needed to halt the descent into a worsening spiral of violence and is vital to alleviating the plight of civilians. In the Golan, the United Nations Disengagement

Observer Force has continued to operate under extremely challenging conditions amid the continuing armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. Together with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, it has contributed to containing the crisis. The United Nations Mission in Liberia has contributed to improving security throughout the country, but there are concerns about the future as it draws down. There are similar concerns in Côte d'Ivoire in view of the elections scheduled for October 2015 and the gradual drawdown of the United Nations mission. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur has made important strides towards promoting peace and stability, but shortfalls in troop- and police-contingent capabilities and the need for improved coordination and integration structures within the mission remain challenges to the effective implementation of the mandate.

46. Financial and capability constraints have a significant impact on our ability to deliver. The cost of peacekeeping, per capita, has been reduced by 15 per cent compared with four years ago. The United Nations continues to seek greater efficiency while increasing the effectiveness of its field missions. Human and material resources are limited, yet host populations and the international community expect us to protect civilians and implement varied and complex peacekeeping and early peacebuilding mandates. Fully meeting those expectations is a challenge.

47. The field support requirements for our field missions continue to grow, with demand for more flexible, mobile and nimble operations able to deploy swiftly into increasingly inhospitable settings. In South Sudan, enhanced mobility and standby arrangements would have greatly assisted in the rapid strengthening of the mission when the crisis erupted. In Darfur, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation continues to operate across vast spaces and difficult terrain to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian assistance, in spite of the increased number of attacks against peacekeepers. Ensuring that United Nations troops are properly supported and equipped is a high priority. We are striving to achieve the greatest possible impact on the ground with the resources that we are given, advancing our field support efforts through the global field support strategy.

48. Supporting missions in the field will require an exploration of technological and other advances to improve effectiveness, increase efficiency and minimize the environmental footprint of field operations. Incorporating solutions offered by new technologies and other innovations remains a priority. The complexity of contemporary peacekeeping environments requires strengthened partnerships with all stakeholders, including regional and subregional

organizations, the wider United Nations family, international and regional financial institutions and donors, and multilateral and bilateral partners. Only through such collaboration can we collectively address the challenges that we face.

49. To be truly effective, United Nations peacekeeping requires the highest political engagement and support from the international community and host Governments. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a coordinated political strategy in the form of the Peace and Security Framework has been vital in underpinning the efforts of MONUSCO to neutralize and disarm armed groups. The consent of the host Government, the support of host communities, the active involvement of all key parties, the inclusion of women in peace processes, the strong political engagement of key Member States and the provision of the resources and authority required for the Secretariat to deliver the mandates provided have all been critical, as have the political will and support of the Security Council and police- and troop-contributing countries.

4. Peacebuilding

50. The past year saw an important milestone in the emergence of Sierra Leone from conflict, with the closure of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country in March 2014 and the transfer of responsibility for the Organization's continued support to the United Nations country team. Peacebuilding remains an unpredictable enterprise, however, with the constant risk of relapse, as demonstrated by the re-eruption of violent conflict in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, in addition to political tensions in Guinea and a challenging road towards the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau.

51. The Peacebuilding Commission brought to bear the collective weight of Member States in support of peacebuilding processes in six countries. In Sierra Leone, the Commission accompanied the country through the transition. With the assistance of the Peacebuilding Support Office, Member States also continued to provide political support to United Nations officials and mandates in Burundi and Liberia. My Special Representatives also benefited from the support, in difficult circumstances, of the Peacebuilding Commission in the Central African Republic, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, which helped to reinforce their political messages and efforts to mobilize international and regional support.

52. The Peacebuilding Fund also played a critical role, allocating \$86.7 million, a significant increase over the amount in 2012, to support peaceful transitions in 14 post-conflict countries in 2013. The Fund supported United Nations responses to the relapse into violence in the Central African Republic

and Guinea-Bissau. In Guinea and Yemen, it supported critical mediation efforts and national dialogues. Elsewhere, in Burundi, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Fund provided assistance in the areas of decentralization, justice, human rights and the participation of women in politics.

C. Development of Africa

53. Africa continues to make steady development gains. Economic growth reached 4.0 per cent in 2013 and is projected to reach 5.3 per cent in 2014. Improved regulatory frameworks, macroeconomic policy and business environments have helped to increase foreign direct investment flows by 6.8 per cent. Substantial progress was made towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those on education, gender equality and women's empowerment and combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Significant headway was also made towards consolidating peace and security and strengthening democratic institutions, including through multiparty elections. Challenges remain with regard to redressing income and gender inequalities, the lack of infrastructure and underemployment, in particular for Africa's burgeoning youth population. Food insecurity and malnutrition are exacerbated by climate change and, in some instances, conflicts and political instability.

54. The United Nations has helped to advance the African development agenda in several ways, cooperating closely with the African Union, including the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the regional economic communities, to develop the African Agenda 2063, a transformative 50-year development agenda. Important milestones included the tenth anniversary of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the fifteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure Development, held in June 2014.

55. Institutional support was provided to the High-level Committee of African Heads of State and Government on the Post-2015 Agenda, especially in the formulation of a common African position, and several important regional meetings were jointly organized with the African Union, including a consultative meeting on sustainable development goals and a ministerial meeting in preparation for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

56. Coordination support was provided through the interdepartmental task force on African affairs and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to increase collaboration and strengthen coherence in delivering system-wide support to Africa. The Organization also undertook global advocacy for NEPAD by partnering with the African Union, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and

the African Peer Review Mechanism to organize the Africa-NEPAD Week in 2013. In view of the important nexus between peace, security, human rights and development, the Organization also continued to support efforts to make the African Peace and Security Architecture operational, implement the Human Rights Strategy for Africa and improve electoral management and monitoring.

D. Promotion and protection of human rights

57. The year 2014 marks the twentieth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda. As we commemorate one of the darkest chapters in human history, we are reminded of our collective responsibilities to promote and protect human rights around the world. In November 2013, I renewed the commitment of the United Nations Secretariat, funds and programmes to upholding the responsibilities assigned to us by the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council and the General Assembly whenever there is a threat of serious and large-scale violations of human rights. That was a first step in implementing my "Rights up front" action plan, which places better system preparedness and preventive action to ensure respect for human rights at the core of United Nations efforts to avoid future conflict. The action plan reaffirms the centrality of human rights to the work of the Organization and confirms that we will use the full breadth of our mandates to protect people at risk.

58. The United Nations system has made progress on far-reaching policy initiatives aimed at mainstreaming human rights throughout its work. I applaud the call of the General Assembly to ensure that human rights are effectively mainstreamed in the post-2015 development agenda. The Organization has continued to take an active role in ensuring that the essential human rights dimensions of freedom from fear and freedom from want remain central to that discussion.

59. We have continued to implement policies governing the way in which the United Nations conducts its own business, including the human rights due diligence policy and the human rights screening policy. The latter aims to ensure that the United Nations neither selects nor deploys for service in the Secretariat anyone who has been involved in violations of human rights.

60. Events across the globe in the past year testified to the need for human rights to be integral to all that the United Nations does. The Security Council addressed human rights situations in, among other countries, the Central African Republic, Mali, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Human Rights Council acted to address human rights crises worldwide, hearing from commissions of inquiry on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Syrian Arab Republic, establishing a commission of

inquiry on Eritrea and a special procedures mechanism on the Central African Republic, and requesting an investigation into the events that occurred in Sri Lanka during the period covered by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. Those bodies promise a voice for victims, a step towards holding perpetrators accountable and a source of recommendations to help Governments and parties to conflict to comply with human rights obligations. The Human Rights Council continued to make use of special procedures mechanisms to track challenging country situations and thematic human rights issues.

61. The second cycle of the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council has continued to register 100 per cent participation by Member States, reaffirming its universal scope. Given the cycle's focus on implementation, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with United Nations country teams, has supported follow-up by Member States on recommendations by providing technical advice and financial assistance. Dialogue among Member States within the Council benefits from the engagement of civil society actors, which are an indispensable partner of the United Nations system. I am greatly concerned by reports of reprisals against persons who cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms.

62. General Assembly resolution 68/268 has been a significant advance that will improve the system of human rights treaty bodies. While treaty bodies provide States parties with expert guidance on implementing human rights obligations and play a critical early warning role, a massive backlog of State party reports was limiting their effectiveness. I am pleased to report that support for the improvements, including building the capacity of States to report, will mainly derive from savings made by streamlining the current system.

63. The Organization's mainstreaming efforts have continued. The human rights responsibilities of resident coordinators have been strengthened, a new guidance note on United Nations country team conduct and working arrangements has clarified roles and responsibilities concerning human rights and additional human rights advisers have been deployed. Over the past year, human rights officers in the field have provided Member States with technical assistance and capacity-building to promote the implementation of the rule of law on the ground. They have also delivered critical information to alert Member States and United Nations bodies to situations of potential concern. That early warning role is fundamental to the Organization's efforts to take preventive action to avoid conflict.

64. On a sombre note, people continued to be subjected to serious and widespread human rights violations. My Special Adviser on the Prevention

of Genocide provided a briefing to the Security Council on the risk of genocide and other atrocity crimes in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, in addition to continuing to monitor closely the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. My Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect engaged with Member States on the advancement of the responsibility to protect principle and its integration into the work of the Organization. In September 2013, the fifth informal interactive dialogue in the General Assembly on the responsibility to protect focused on the causes and dynamics of atrocity crimes and the measures that States can take to prevent them. In April 2014, the Security Council adopted resolution 2150(2014) on the prevention of genocide, reaffirming paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

65. By the end of 2013, more than 50 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance. The United Nations and its partners continued to respond to humanitarian needs and emergencies across the globe. Four emergencies were designated by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator as system-wide level-3 emergencies (the highest categorization possible). In the Syrian Arab Republic, violence and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law continued. Some 10.8 million people are in urgent need of assistance, including more than 6.4 million who are internally displaced. Another 2.8 million people fled and became refugees in neighbouring countries. In the Central African Republic, 50 per cent of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance. In South Sudan, more than 1 million people were driven from their homes during the first months of violence. Without an end to the violence, 1 in every 2 South Sudanese will be displaced or face extreme hunger by the end of 2014. In the Philippines, Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) affected a further 14 million people and displaced more than 4 million.

66. In 2013, new actors took a larger part in humanitarian action and various partnership models arose, including cash-transfer programmes and remote management of operations by using local organizations and partners to deliver assistance. Furthermore, 95 countries, in addition to numerous multilateral and regional organizations, private sector organizations and individuals, contributed a total of \$14.4 billion in funding to inter-agency response plans and complementary humanitarian action. That was an increase of \$1.6 billion from

2012, largely owing to the magnitude of the Syrian crisis and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. The Central Emergency Response Fund hit a record high of \$474 million in 2013.

67. The rising scale of needs, the persistence of protracted crises and the interplay of new risks have led to a continued global deficit in the capacity of Governments and humanitarian organizations to respond, suggesting a need for a shift in the way in which Member States and the United Nations and its partners prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises towards a more anticipatory approach. As the international community prepares for post-2015 development and disaster risk reduction frameworks and the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, it will be important to recognize that development cannot be sustainable unless the risk of crises is addressed proactively as a joint priority.

68. For preparedness to be effective and sustainable, it must be integrated into relevant national legal frameworks and institutions, coupled with joint planning and coordination by all national and international partners and coordination among humanitarian and development actors. Innovative approaches to leveraging the capabilities and resources of the United Nations and other actors and to enhance interoperability are vital to the future of the international humanitarian system.

69. At the end of 2013, each of the 10 largest consolidated humanitarian appeals concerned situations of armed conflict, most of which had exceeded five years in duration. Conflict can set back the development of a country by decades, leading to prolonged suffering and creating further vulnerability to disaster.

F. Promotion of justice and international law

70. Furthering international justice and promoting the rule of law are of fundamental importance to the work of the Organization across its three main pillars. Another priority is to adopt a coordinated and system-wide approach to evaluating the effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system for the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations.

71. The reform of the security sector and the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation of former combatants that are undertaken by peacekeeping operations continue to contribute to early peacebuilding and the strengthening of the rule of law in post-conflict environments. However, early successes in those areas need to be consolidated through longer-term stabilization activities by the broader United Nations system and other partners that may enjoy a comparative advantage, once the peacekeeping presence draws down. Well-planned and well-resourced follow-on activities

in this transitional phase remain important elements of the exit strategy for peacekeeping and require both political commitment and adequate resources if early gains are to be sustained.

72. The joint global focal point for the police, justice and corrections areas in the rule of law in post-conflict and other crisis situations has made notable progress in providing rule of law assistance in post-conflict settings. The global focal point arrangement is driven both by a common vision and the actual requirements of field missions; it brings together the United Nations system to leverage resources, draw on comparative advantages and avoid duplication of efforts for the common objective of strengthening the rule of law.

73. The ad hoc tribunals and United Nations-assisted tribunals have continued to contribute to combating impunity and promoting accountability for the most serious crimes. In September 2013, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone upheld the conviction of the former President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, for aiding and abetting and planning the commission of international crimes. In 2013, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda brought to a close its substantive cases at the trial level, marking an important step towards its forecast closure in the near future. The International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia continued proceedings in major trials of senior political and military figures. The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia continued trial proceedings against the surviving senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge, while the Special Tribunal for Lebanon worked towards the commencement of the trial phase of its major proceedings to date, which ultimately opened in January 2014.

74. The United Nations has continued to promote accountability for serious crimes of international concern and advocate the universal ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Court issued its third judgement, in which it convicted a former leader of a rebel group in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germain Katanga, on four counts of war crimes and one count of a crime against humanity.

75. War crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and other gross violations of human rights that constitute serious crimes under international law undermine the very foundations of the rule of law at both the international and national levels. While the International Criminal Court was established to investigate and prosecute these crimes, it is Member States that retain the primary responsibility to do so. For that reason, we continue to accord high priority to activities in support of strengthening national capacity to combat impunity for those crimes, in line with obligations under international human rights,

humanitarian and refugee law, and to provide remedies and reparations to the victims.

76. The Organization has continued to support the efforts of Member States to strengthen the legal regime for oceans, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Oceans have featured prominently in the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and during the preparatory work for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The Organization has also been requested to support important regional initiatives such as the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy, which was adopted in February 2014.

G. Disarmament

77. The elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction remains a high priority. Ahead of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, however, there has been only limited progress by the nuclear-weapon States, and strong concern voiced over continuing efforts by those States to modernize their nuclear arsenals and related infrastructure.

78. I remain fully committed to convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, which is of utmost importance for the integrity of the Treaty. Nuclear-weapon-free zones contribute greatly to strengthening nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes and to enhancing regional and international security. I am concerned that the events in Ukraine have cast considerable doubt on the relevance of the security assurances provided by the permanent members of the Security Council in connection with the conclusion and indefinite extension of the Treaty, as well as by the nuclear-weapon States in connection with the various treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones.

79. In 2013, I established a United Nations mission to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, which concluded that chemical weapons had been used on a relatively large scale on 21 August 2013 in the Ghouta area of Damascus, resulting in numerous casualties. Since then, I have been encouraged to see the international community come together to ensure the rapid and verified elimination of the chemical weapons of the Syrian Arab Republic. I commend the efforts of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic and the material support provided by Member States, which has resulted in the removal and destruction of 100 per cent of Syrian chemical weapons materials, in addition to progress in the destruction of equipment

and buildings relating to the storage and production of such materials. It is of the utmost importance that the Syrian Arab Republic implement all its disarmament obligations faithfully.

80. The persisting deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament remains of great concern. No negotiations towards new legally binding instruments have been conducted for 18 years. In my address to the Conference in January 2014, I encouraged its members to live up to the international community's expectations. A more constructive spirit appears to have prevailed, with structured substantive discussions that will hopefully lay a foundation for negotiations.

81. In the face of the perceived failure of the existing disarmament machinery to deliver results, humanitarian disarmament has been gaining momentum. The United Nations has supported the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I am particularly encouraged by the growing interest of the States parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in addressing the humanitarian, legal, military and ethical dimensions of emerging weapon systems and technologies. The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and international humanitarian law have also gained prominence in the past 12 months, with two conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons held, one in Oslo in 2013 and the other in Nayarit, Mexico, in 2014.

82. The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in 2013 marked a turning point in the international community's efforts to regulate the trade in conventional arms. Unregulated, this trade has fuelled conflict, fostered regional instability, abetted violations of Security Council arms embargoes and undermined efforts to promote socioeconomic development. Within less than a year following its opening for signature, more than half of the States Members of the United Nations had signed the Treaty, suggesting that an early entry into force might be feasible. The implementation of the Treaty will contribute to a more conducive environment for monitoring sanctions and arms embargoes, humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the promotion of durable development.

83. In response to increased requests from Member States, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat and its three regional centres have continued to provide training, technical and legal assistance and other capacity-building measures to improve the control of small arms and light weapons,

combat the spread of illicit arms and promote the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) on preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors. The United Nations has played an important role in promoting dialogue among Member States on security in the use of information and communications technology and in further developing international cooperation in this field, especially the current efforts to tackle existing and potential threats from States, their proxies or non-State actors through the use of such technology.

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

84. Around the world, drug demand, supply, production and trafficking continue to have profound impacts on health and security, undermining respect for the rule of law and jeopardizing peace, development and stability. Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan reached a record high in 2013, while cocaine transiting through West Africa is now estimated to be worth \$1.25 billion per year. The number of users of illicit drugs is also reportedly on the rise in the subregion. Accordingly, the United Nations has provided assistance to transnational crime units in Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone and has made formal commitments to establishing such units in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

85. To support Member States in tackling issues relating to the world drug problem, the United Nations actively promoted a health-centred approach to drug control in more than 100 countries, an increase from 65 in 2012, by supporting sustainable livelihoods, drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services; HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care among drug users and in prison settings; and accessibility to controlled medications while preventing diversion. In addition, an early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances was set up.

86. The Organization has continued to assist Member States in taking on issues of crime prevention, criminal justice, good governance and terrorism prevention by building institutions that strengthen accountability and transparency and by assisting in the ratification and implementation of international legal instruments. A total of 179 Member States have now ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and adopted national legislation for its effective implementation, while 171 have ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Assistance has also been provided to States parties to the drug control conventions in re-drafting their national legislation.

87. In March 2014, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs evaluated progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan

of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. It agreed on a joint ministerial statement in which it recognized the importance of promoting a comprehensive and balanced approach, including adequate health measures. The meeting was an important step towards the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, scheduled to be held in 2016, and will be a milestone on the way to 2019, the target date for the goals in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. The Organization, including the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability, stands ready to support Member States in their deliberations.

88. Terrorism continues to be a factor in many regions, as evidenced in the Sahel, East Africa, West Africa, the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan, where groups claiming allegiance to terrorist organizations have continued to inflict violence. To build the capacity of Member States to counter terrorism, the Organization provided support in areas covering all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The General Assembly reviewed the Strategy in June 2014 and endorsed my approach to renew efforts to address conditions conducive to terrorism while assisting in the comprehensive and balanced implementation of all pillars of the Strategy. It also recognized the important work being carried out by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. In June 2014, I launched a support portal for victims of terrorism, intended to serve as a resource hub for victims, their families and communities worldwide. Further progress was achieved on the international conventions and protocols relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, with additional new ratifications.

Chapter III

Strengthening the Organization

89. Over the past year, the General Assembly has taken steps to further strengthen the work of the Organization, for example by strengthening the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Environment Programme. The question of the equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council remains of central importance to the wider membership. The intergovernmental negotiations thereon resumed during the main part of the sixty-eighth session.

90. My management reform efforts aim to strengthen the Organization and enable it to deliver its mandates more effectively while ensuring the proper stewardship of resources, by improving administrative support, resource management,

accountability and transparency. The Organization's enterprise resource planning solution has become a reality with the implementation of Umoja Foundation in peacekeeping operations and political missions and is improving administrative services and related decision-making. Full implementation throughout the Organization is expected by the middle of 2015. Delivering the mandates entrusted to the United Nations around the world requires a workforce that is dynamic, adaptable and mobile. The approval by the General Assembly of a managed mobility and career development framework will help to ensure that the right people are in the right position at the right time, while also enabling a fairer sharing of the burden of service in hardship duty stations. To enhance transparency and improve the management of financial resources, we are fully implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards in the financial year 2014, which will allow stakeholders to have a more comprehensive view of the Organization's financial position, performance and cash flows, and a better assessment of how well the United Nations has used its resources.

91. Improving our delivery of mandates also requires proactive risk management. To this end, we have conducted a comprehensive, Secretariat-wide risk assessment and identified the top strategic risks to the Organization. In addition, the Administration is working in close cooperation with the oversight bodies, maintaining quarterly meetings to discuss issues of mutual concern, implementing their findings and recommendations and ensuring that they are effectively fed into the management process.

92. The Secretariat has continued to modernize delivery of the conference services provided to Member States, implementing efficiencies to significantly reduce resources while minimizing the impact on the serving staff. Changes have included the integration of conference services in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi into a single global operation, the use of new technology to improve the timeliness and quality of the services and the reduction of their environmental impact. In late 2014, I will present a revised information and communications technology strategy for the United Nations, which will focus on continued reform and modernization through innovation and automation. In the face of growing cybersecurity threats and need for resiliency, priority has been assigned to, and significant progress made in, strengthening information security and operational resilience.

93. The Organization remains determined to deliver its mandates in challenging global security environments. In 2013, the United Nations continued to strengthen its security management system, including in areas with heightened security risks. This entailed efforts to enhance situational

awareness, collaboration with host Governments and non-governmental organizations, security incident reporting, security risk management and the security of premises. The aim is to balance critical programmes with the duty of care towards United Nations personnel.

Partnerships

94. Strengthening the capacity of the Organization to partner at scale, while ensuring accountability, integrity and transparency, remains a priority. More than 1,000 partners are engaging on key issues through United Nations platforms such as the Every Woman, Every Child initiative, the Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business, the Children's Rights and Business Principles, the Caring for Climate initiative, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative, the CEO Water Mandate and the Global Pulse initiative. The United Nations Global Compact remains our main avenue for engaging businesses, with over 8,000 participants in more than 140 countries. In September 2013, I launched a post-2015 business engagement architecture that provides a framework for scaling up business engagement and action, in addition to promising initiatives such as the Business for Peace platform, the Food and Agriculture Business Principles and Business for the Rule of Law. As partnerships continue to expand throughout the Organization, we must use the partnership tool more, in a more effective and accountable manner, with the full range of actors, including philanthropists, civil society and academic institutions. The General Assembly has taken a positive step in welcoming my intention to strengthen the collaboration of the Organization with all relevant partners, while noting the importance of continued consultations with Member States in this area. In this regard, my proposed partnership facility, which is being considered by the Assembly, aims to provide a more supportive enabling environment for United Nations partnership activity, together with greater accountability, coherence, efficiency and scale, to ensure that we deliver our goals.

Chapter IV Conclusion

95. The present report is an account of progress over the past year in delivering the eight long-term organizational priorities identified by Member States, as we approach the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and take steps to define the post-2015 agenda. The challenges ahead across all areas of the Organization's work require a strong spirit of cooperation among Member States. I pledge to do my part and call upon all to join forces in this common endeavour.

ANNEX

Millennium Development Goals, targets and indicators, 2014: statistical tables

GOAL 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1.A

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Indicator 1.1

Proportion of population living below \$1.25 purchasing power parity (PPP) per day^{a, b}
(Percentage)

	1990	1999	2005	2010
Developing regions	46.7	36.5	26.9	22.0
Northern Africa	5.2	5.0	2.6	1.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	56.5	57.9	52.3	48.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	12.2	11.9	8.7	5.5
Caribbean	24.9	27.0	29.1	28.1
Latin America	11.7	11.2	7.8	4.5
Eastern Asia	60.2	35.6	16.3	11.6
Southern Asia	51.5	43.1	37.7	29.7
Southern Asia excluding India	52.0	36.3	29.3	21.5
South-Eastern Asia	45.3	35.5	19.0	14.3
Western Asia	5.1	5.0	4.6	3.6
Oceania	42.0	34.4	43.1	35.0
Caucasus and Central Asia	9.8	19.5	7.2	3.5
Least developed countries	64.6	61.3	53.4	46.2
Landlocked developing countries	53.2	52.2	40.9	33.0
Small island developing States	29.6	29.5	32.0	29.4

^a High-income economies, as defined by the World Bank, are excluded.

^b Estimates by the World Bank, April 2013.

Indicator 1.2

Poverty gap ratio^{a, b, c}
(Percentage)

	1990	1999	2010
Developing regions	16.1	11.9	6.8
Northern Africa	0.8	0.9	0.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	25.3	25.9	21.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	5.4	5.6	2.9
Caribbean	10.9	13.5	14.9
Latin America	5.1	5.2	2.4
Eastern Asia	20.7	11.1	2.8
Southern Asia	15.4	11.7	6.8
Southern Asia excluding India	17.7	10.6	4.9
South-Eastern Asia	14.4	9.6	2.7
Western Asia	1.1	1.0	0.9
Oceania	16.1	11.9	12.4
Caucasus and Central Asia	3.0	5.4	0.9
Least developed countries	27.0	25.6	17.8
Landlocked developing countries	23.5	20.6	11.2
Small island developing States	12.6	13.1	13.5

^a The poverty gap ratio at \$1.25 a day (2005 PPP) measures the magnitude of poverty. Expressed as a percentage of the poverty line, it is the result of multiplying the proportion of people who live below the poverty line by the difference between the poverty line and the average income of the population living under the poverty line.

^b High-income economies, as defined by the World Bank, are excluded.

^c Estimates by the World Bank, April 2013.

Indicator 1.3

Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

No global or regional data are available.

Target 1.B

Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

Indicator 1.4

Growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed

(a) Annual growth rate of GDP per person employed
(Percentage)

	2001	2013 ^a
World	0.6	1.5
Developing regions	1.4	3.2
Northern Africa	2.0	-0.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.8	1.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	-1.8	0.8
Caribbean	0.6	1.5
Latin America	-2.0	0.8
Eastern Asia	6.1	6.3
Eastern Asia excluding China	2.0	1.8
Southern Asia	1.2	1.6
Southern Asia excluding India	0.3	-0.7
South-Eastern Asia	1.1	3.6
Western Asia	-2.5	0.9
Oceania	-3.2	1.3
Caucasus and Central Asia	7.3	4.6
Developed regions	1.3	1.0
Least developed countries	3.0	2.5
Landlocked developing countries	2.9	3.3
Small island developing States	-0.9	1.7

(b) GDP per person employed
(2005 United States dollars (PPP))

	1991	2000	2013 ^a
World	16 256	18 550	23 948
Developing regions	6 435	8 272	14 187
Northern Africa	17 259	18 015	21 110
Sub-Saharan Africa	4 644	4 474	5 749
Latin America and the Caribbean	20 022	21 114	23 991
Caribbean	17 703	19 269	23 557
Latin America	20 200	21 244	24 018
Eastern Asia	3 125	6 075	16 468
Eastern Asia excluding China	20 293	29 138	42 338
Southern Asia	4 128	5 331	9 326
Southern Asia excluding India	6 619	7 151	9 050
South-Eastern Asia	5 838	7 178	10 901
Western Asia	32 543	37 802	44 232
Oceania	5 210	5 434	6 439
Caucasus and Central Asia	10 365	7 111	14 823
Developed regions	48 906	57 218	66 742
Least developed countries	2 045	2 236	3 411
Landlocked developing countries	4 539	3 702	5 818
Small island developing States	18 283	22 100	28 503

^a Preliminary data.

Indicator 1.5

Employment-to-population ratio

(a) Total
(Percentage)

	1991	2000	2013 ^a
World	62.2	61.2	59.7
Developing regions	64.1	62.8	60.8
Northern Africa	41.5	40.2	42.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	63.4	63.3	64.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	57.3	58.3	62.1
Eastern Asia	74.4	73.0	67.7
Southern Asia	58.0	56.2	53.2
South-Eastern Asia	67.3	66.9	67.4

	1991	2000	2013 ^a
Western Asia	47.2	44.2	45.9
Oceania	67.2	67.4	68.0
Caucasus and Central Asia	57.7	56.5	59.7
Developed regions	56.6	55.9	55.2
Least developed countries	70.3	69.2	69.8
Landlocked developing countries	67.1	66.9	69.3
Small island developing States	54.9	55.6	57.6

(b) Men, women and youth, 2013^a
(Percentage)

	Men	Women	Youth
World	72.3	47.1	41.2
Developing regions	74.8	46.6	41.8
Northern Africa	67.8	17.7	22.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	71.2	58.2	47.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	75.4	49.5	45.6
Eastern Asia	74.1	61.1	49.9
Southern Asia	77.1	28.3	35.0
South-Eastern Asia	78.7	56.5	45.3
Western Asia	68.7	20.1	25.5
Oceania	72.3	63.6	52.2
Caucasus and Central Asia	69.0	51.0	36.9
Developed regions	61.9	49.0	37.7
Least developed countries	78.4	61.4	53.9
Landlocked developing countries	77.7	61.1	55.3
Small island developing States	68.0	47.5	36.2

^a Preliminary data.

Indicator 1.6

Proportion of employed people living below \$1.25 (PPP) per day

(a) Total number of employed people living below \$1.25 (PPP) per day
(Millions)

	1991	2000	2013 ^a
World	811.1	692.6	370.2
Developing regions	810.2	691.2	369.9
Northern Africa	1.4	0.9	0.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	97.1	127.7	130.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	13.7	15.8	8.1
Eastern Asia	373.8	232.4	44.1
Southern Asia	226.1	224.9	154.1
South-Eastern Asia	93.5	82.6	30.5
Western Asia	0.9	0.7	0.7
Oceania	1.0	1.1	1.0
Caucasus and Central Asia	2.6	5.1	1.0
Developed regions	0.5	1.0	0.02
Least developed countries	134.4	158.1	136.4
Landlocked developing countries	49.3	60.6	49.3
Small island developing States	3.1	3.2	2.9

(b) Proportion of total employment
(Percentage)

	1991	2000	2013 ^a
World	35.9	26.5	11.8
Developing regions	46.9	33.6	14.5
Northern Africa	4.8	2.5	0.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	54.0	54.8	38.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	8.2	7.6	2.9
Eastern Asia	56.4	31.4	5.4
Southern Asia	52.3	42.8	23.6
South-Eastern Asia	48.3	34.5	10.1
Western Asia	2.6	1.5	1.0
Oceania	45.4	40.2	26.7
Caucasus and Central Asia	10.7	19.1	2.9

	1991	2000	2013 ^a
Developed regions	0.1	0.2	0.0
Least developed countries	66.5	61.0	36.8
Landlocked developing countries	49.0	48.5	27.0
Small island developing States	18.0	15.6	11.1

^a Preliminary data.

Indicator 1.7

Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment

(a) Both sexes
(Percentage)

	1991	2000	2013 ^a
World	55.0	52.5	47.6
Developing regions	68.2	63.7	56.3
Northern Africa	36.3	32.4	31.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	79.7	78.5	77.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	36.5	35.4	31.8
Eastern Asia	69.0	58.7	45.2
Southern Asia	80.0	79.8	75.0
South-Eastern Asia	68.8	65.6	58.9
Western Asia	42.5	33.0	21.7
Oceania	75.8	73.5	73.4
Caucasus and Central Asia	39.8	49.5	40.3
Developed regions	11.7	11.0	10.0
Least developed countries	86.1	84.7	81.2
Landlocked developing countries	72.8	76.1	73.3
Small island developing States	32.9	34.8	37.0

(b) Men

(Percentage)

	1991	2000	2013 ^a
World	52.6	50.6	46.9
Developing regions	63.9	60.0	54.1
Northern Africa	32.2	29.1	27.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	73.4	71.6	70.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	35.6	35.1	31.7
Eastern Asia	63.9	53.5	42.0
Southern Asia	76.5	76.7	73.1
South-Eastern Asia	64.8	61.9	55.9
Western Asia	36.1	28.6	19.2
Oceania	70.9	67.9	68.1
Caucasus and Central Asia	39.6	49.1	39.9
Developed regions	12.0	11.5	11.1
Least developed countries	81.6	79.5	76.1
Landlocked developing countries	69.1	72.5	69.0
Small island developing States	32.8	35.7	38.7

(c) Women

(Percentage)

	1991	2000	2013 ^a
World	58.6	55.5	48.7
Developing regions	75.1	69.5	59.9
Northern Africa	53.7	46.0	47.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	88.1	87.0	85.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	38.2	35.9	31.9
Eastern Asia	75.2	65.1	49.2
Southern Asia	89.2	88.2	80.3
South-Eastern Asia	74.3	70.6	62.9
Western Asia	64.9	49.4	31.1
Oceania	81.7	80.0	79.5
Caucasus and Central Asia	40.0	50.0	40.9
Developed regions	11.3	10.4	8.7
Least developed countries	91.8	91.5	87.6
Landlocked developing countries	77.5	80.8	78.6
Small island developing States	33.1	33.3	34.6

^a Preliminary data.

Target 1.C

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Indicator 1.8

Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age^{a, b}

(a) Total

(Percentage)

	1990	2012
World	25	15.1
Northern Africa	10	5
Sub-Saharan Africa	29	21
Latin America and the Caribbean	7	3
Eastern Asia	15	3
Southern Asia	50	30
South-Eastern Asia	31	16
Western Asia	14	6
Oceania	18	19
Caucasus and Central Asia	12	5
Developed regions	1	2

(b) By sex, 2006–2010^c

(Percentage)

	Boys	Girls	Boy-to-girl ratio
Developing regions^d	28	27	1.04
Northern Africa	6	4	1.50
Sub-Saharan Africa	23	19	1.21
Latin America and the Caribbean	5	4	1.25
Eastern Asia	—	—	—
Southern Asia	41	42	0.95
South-Eastern Asia	—	—	—
Western Asia	—	—	—
Oceania	—	—	—
Caucasus and Central Asia	6	5	1.20

(c) By residence, 2006–2010^c

(Percentage)

	Rural	Urban
Developing regions^d	32	17
Northern Africa	6	5
Sub-Saharan Africa	22	15
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	3
Eastern Asia	—	—
Southern Asia	45	33
South-Eastern Asia	—	—
Western Asia	5	4
Oceania	—	—
Caucasus and Central Asia	6	4

(d) By household wealth, 2006–2010^c

(Percentage)

	Poorest quintile	Richest quintile
Developing regions^d	38	14
Northern Africa	7	4
Sub-Saharan Africa	28	11
Latin America and the Caribbean	—	—
Eastern Asia	—	—
Southern Asia	55	20
South-Eastern Asia	—	—
Western Asia	—	—
Oceania	—	—
Caucasus and Central Asia	7	4

^a The prevalence of underweight children is estimated according to World Health Organization (WHO) child growth standards. The United Nations Children's Fund and WHO have initiated a process to

harmonize anthropometric data used for the computation and estimation of regional and global averages and trend analysis.

^b Owing to differences in source data and estimation methodology, these prevalence estimates are not comparable to the averages published in previous editions of the present report.

^c Data were calculated on the basis of the most recent surveys carried out during the period specified.

^d Excluding China.

Indicator 1.9

Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

(Percentage)

	1990–1992	2000–2002	2008–2010	2011–2013 ^a
World	18.9	15.5	12.9	12.0
Developing regions	23.6	19.0	16.0	14.3
Northern Africa	<5	<5	<5	<5
Sub-Saharan Africa	32.7	30.6	26.6	24.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	14.7	11.7	8.7	7.9
Caribbean	27.6	21.3	18.8	19.3
Latin America	13.8	11.0	8.0	7.1
Eastern Asia	22.2	14.0	11.7	11.4
Eastern Asia excluding China	9.9	13.9	14.6	11.3
Southern Asia	25.7	22.2	18.5	16.8
Southern Asia excluding India	26.3	21.6	17.2	16.4
South-Eastern Asia	31.1	21.5	13.8	10.7
Western Asia	6.6	8.3	9.7	9.8
Oceania	13.5	16.0	11.8	12.1
Caucasus and Central Asia	14.4	16.2	9.2	7.0
Developed regions	<5	<5	<5	<5
Least developed countries	38.6	36.2	31.0	29.0
Landlocked developing countries	35.6	34.7	27.4	25.2
Small island developing States	24.8	20.4	17.5	17.9

^a Projections.

GOAL 2

Achieve universal primary education

Target 2.A

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicator 2.1

Net enrolment ratio in primary education^a

(a) Total

(Percentage)

	1991	2000	2005	2012
World	82.1	85.1	88.7	91.1
Developing regions	79.8	83.5	87.7	90.5
Northern Africa	80.7	89.5	93.9	99.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	53.5	60.3	69.9	77.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	86.0	93.8	94.4	93.6
Caribbean	73.7	81.7	80.1	81.1
Latin America	87.1	94.8	95.6	94.6
Eastern Asia	95.7	95.7	96.4	96.7
Eastern Asia excluding China	96.7	96.8	96.5	97.8
Southern Asia	75.3	80.2	90.2	94.4
Southern Asia excluding India	66.7	68.0	79.5	83.7
South-Eastern Asia	93.3	92.7	92.1	93.9
Western Asia	83.7	86.0	90.2	93.5
Oceania	68.5	—	—	89.0
Caucasus and Central Asia	—	95.0	94.5	94.5
Developed regions	96.3	97.1	96.2	96.4
Least developed countries	53.0	59.6	73.0	81.7
Landlocked developing countries	53.9	63.7	72.1	83.0
Small island developing States	74.2	80.4	77.6	84.1

(b) By sex

(Percentage)

	1991		2000		2012	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
World	86.6	77.3	87.9	82.1	91.9	90.3
Developing regions	85.1	74.3	86.7	80.1	91.3	89.5
Northern Africa	88.0	73.1	92.5	86.4	99.6	98.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	58.5	48.4	63.9	56.5	80.6	75.2
Latin America						
and the Caribbean	–	–	94.9	92.7	93.4	93.8
Caribbean	–	–	81.4	82.0	81.0	81.2
Latin America	–	–	96.0	93.6	94.4	94.8
Eastern Asia	98.2	93.1	95.6	95.8	96.6	96.8
Eastern Asia						
excluding China ...	96.4	97.0	96.8	97.8	98.5	97.1
Southern Asia	85.2	64.7	86.9	72.9	94.5	94.3
Southern Asia						
excluding India	74.4	58.5	73.6	62.0	86.3	81.1
South-Eastern Asia	94.7	91.8	93.5	91.8	93.8	93.9
Western Asia	87.8	79.5	90.7	81.1	95.8	91.1
Oceania	72.9	63.8	–	–	91.4	86.4
Caucasus and Central Asia ..	–	–	95.3	94.7	94.9	94.1
Developed regions	96.1	96.6	97.1	97.1	96.2	96.6
Least developed countries	59.0	46.9	63.5	55.6	84.1	79.3
Landlocked developing						
countries	60.7	46.9	68.3	59.1	85.5	80.4
Small island developing States ..	74.8	73.4	81.4	79.4	84.7	83.5

^a Defined as the number of pupils of the theoretical school age for primary education enrolled either in primary or secondary school, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

Indicator 2.2

Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary school^{a, b}

(a) Total

	1991 ^b	2000 ^b	2011 ^b
World	70.5	75.3	74.8
Developing regions	67.4	73.0	72.7
Northern Africa	73.9	90.7	93.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	55.8	61.4	58.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	63.9	77.0	76.7
Caribbean	42.4	53.9	–
Latin America	65.5	78.8	78.5
Eastern Asia	89.1	92.6	97.6
Eastern Asia excluding China	82.1	92.7	–
Southern Asia	56.3	62.2	63.8
Southern Asia excluding India	–	70.3	69.4
South-Eastern Asia	69.3	79.7	85.3
Western Asia	77.4	81.0	79.1
Oceania	57.1	58.5	51.2
Caucasus and Central Asia	92.2 ^c	96.1	97.9
Developed regions	91.5	93.9	94.4
Least developed countries	44.4	56.6	55.1
Landlocked developing countries	56.4	64.5	54.0
Small island developing States	48.4	57.8	56.2

(b) By sex

	1991 ^b		2000 ^b		2011 ^b	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
World	71.1	69.9	75.0	75.7	73.8	75.9
Developing regions	68.3	66.4	72.8	73.3	71.6	73.8
Northern Africa	76.5	70.8	90.2	91.1	93.5	93.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	57.0	54.3	62.4	60.2	58.2	58.5
Latin America						
and the Caribbean	61.9	66.1	74.7	79.6	74.8	78.6
Caribbean	–	–	52.1	55.8	–	–
Latin America	63.5	67.7	76.4	81.4	76.6	80.4

	1991 ^b		2000 ^b		2011 ^b	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Eastern Asia	–	–	94.2	90.9	97.4	97.8
Eastern Asia						
excluding China ...	82.3	81.8	92.3	93.0	–	–
Southern Asia	59.0	52.8	62.4	61.9	62.0	65.9
Southern Asia						
excluding India	–	–	70.4	70.1	67.8	71.2
South-Eastern Asia	67.8	70.9	78.1	81.5	82.8	88.1
Western Asia	78.8	75.7	81.8	80.1	80.2	78.0
Oceania	58.8	55.1	58.2	58.9	51.6	50.8
Caucasus and Central Asia ..	–	–	97.0	95.1	97.7	98.1
Developed regions	–	–	93.2	94.6	93.8	95.1
Least developed countries	–	–	58.2	54.7	54.7	55.7
Landlocked developing						
countries	57.1	55.6	65.3	63.6	53.6	54.5
Small island developing States ..	47.1	49.9	56.2	59.7	55.3	57.2

^a Since there are no regional averages for the official indicator, the table displays the gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary, which corresponds to the “total number of new entrants in the last grade of primary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population of the theoretical entrance age to the last grade” (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Institute for Statistics, *Global Education Digest 2009: Comparing Education Statistics Across the World*, annex B.

^b The primary completion rates correspond to school years ending in the years displayed.

^c Values refer to 1992.

Indicator 2.3

Literacy rate of women and men, aged 15 to 24 years

(a) Total

(Percentage of the population aged 15 to 24 years who can read and write)

	1990 ^a	2000 ^a	2011 ^a
World	83.2	87.3	89.4
Developing regions	80.0	85.1	87.9
Northern Africa	67.1	79.7	89.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	65.3 ^b	68.7	69.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	93.1 ^b	96.3	97.8
Caribbean	–	91.6	90.9
Latin America	93.3 ^b	96.7	98.3
Eastern Asia	94.6	98.9	99.7
Eastern Asia excluding China	–	–	–
Southern Asia	60.4	73.8	80.2
Southern Asia excluding India	56.4 ^b	67.4	78.0
South-Eastern Asia	91.6	96.3	97.3
Western Asia	87.8	91.6	94.1
Oceania	–	74.7	77.2
Caucasus and Central Asia	99.8 ^b	99.8	99.9
Developed regions	–	–	99.7 ^b
Least developed countries	56.9 ^b	65.6	71.0
Landlocked developing countries	63.5	69.1	72.9
Small island developing States	88.3	88.6

(b) By sex

(Percentage of the population aged 15 to 24 years who can read and write)

	1990 ^a		2000 ^a		2011 ^a	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
World	87.7	78.6	90.5	84.0	92.1	86.9
Developing regions	85.4	74.5	88.9	81.2	90.9	85.0
Northern Africa	77.1	56.6	85.5	73.8	92.8	85.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	72.8 ^b	58.1 ^b	75.8	62.2	75.5	64.2
Latin America and						
the Caribbean ...	92.8 ^b	93.4 ^b	96.0	96.7	97.6	98.0
Caribbean	–	–	91.3	92.0	91.2	90.7
Latin America	92.9 ^b	93.7 ^b	96.3	97.0	98.1	98.5

	1990 ^a		2000 ^a		2011 ^a	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Eastern Asia.....	97.1	91.9	99.2	98.6	99.7	99.6
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southern Asia.....	71.4	48.6	81.3	65.7	86.3	74.4
Southern Asia excluding India.....	66.0 ^b	46.7 ^b	74.1	60.8	81.4	74.6
South-Eastern Asia...	93.4	89.8	96.6	96.0	97.4	97.3
Western Asia.....	93.8	81.4	95.4	87.7	96.0	92.1
Oceania.....	—	—	76.7	72.6	74.4	80.3
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	99.8 ^b	99.8 ^b	99.8	99.9	99.8	99.9
Developed regions.....	—	—	—	—	99.7 ^b	99.6 ^b
Least developed countries	65.2 ^b	48.8 ^b	72.6	59.0	75.7	66.6
Landlocked developing countries.....	69.5	57.8	75.6	63.2	77.6	68.5
Small island developing States.....	—	—	88.8	87.9	88.4	88.8

^a The regional averages presented in this table are calculated using a weighted average of the latest available observed data point for each country or territory for the reference period. Estimates by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics have been used for countries with missing data.

^b Partial imputation owing to incomplete country coverage (between 33 and 60 per cent of the population).

GOAL 3

Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 3.A

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Indicator 3.1

Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

(a) Primary education^a

	1991	2000	2012
World.....	0.89	0.92	0.97
Developing regions.....	0.87	0.91	0.97
Northern Africa.....	0.82	0.91	0.96
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	0.84	0.85	0.92
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	0.98	0.96	0.97
Caribbean.....	0.98	0.98	0.96
Latin America.....	0.98	0.96	0.97
Eastern Asia.....	0.92	1.00	1.00
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	1.00	0.99	0.98
Southern Asia.....	0.76	0.84	1.00
Southern Asia excluding India.....	0.76	0.83	0.95
South-Eastern Asia.....	0.97	0.97	0.99
Western Asia.....	0.85	0.86	0.93
Oceania.....	0.90	0.90	0.93
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	1.00	0.99	0.99
Developed regions.....	0.99	0.99	0.99
Least developed countries.....	0.80	0.85	0.93
Landlocked developing countries.....	0.83	0.83	0.93
Small island developing States.....	0.96	0.96	0.96

(b) Secondary education^a

	1991	2000	2012
World.....	0.84	0.92	0.97
Developing regions.....	0.77	0.89	0.96
Northern Africa.....	0.79	0.95	0.99
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	0.77	0.81	0.84
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	1.07	1.06	1.07

	1991	2000	2012
Caribbean.....	—	1.06	1.06
Latin America.....	1.07	1.06	1.07
Eastern Asia.....	0.77	0.94	1.02
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	0.97	0.99	0.99
Southern Asia.....	0.61	0.76	0.93
Southern Asia excluding India.....	0.63	0.88	0.93
South-Eastern Asia.....	0.90	0.97	1.02
Western Asia.....	0.66	0.76	0.92
Oceania.....	0.88	0.89	0.86
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	0.98	0.99	0.98
Developed regions.....	1.02	1.01	0.99
Least developed countries.....	0.60	0.79	0.87
Landlocked developing countries.....	0.87	0.84	0.88
Small island developing States.....	1.06	1.03	1.02

(c) Tertiary education^a

	1991	2000	2012
World.....	0.91	1.00	1.08
Developing regions.....	0.71	0.85	0.98
Northern Africa.....	0.69	0.83	1.12
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	0.54	0.67	0.64
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	0.98	1.19	1.28
Caribbean.....	1.36	1.42	—
Latin America.....	0.95	1.17	1.26
Eastern Asia.....	0.51	0.69	1.08
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	0.54	0.66	0.82
Southern Asia.....	0.50	0.66	0.81
Southern Asia excluding India.....	0.40	0.69	0.91
South-Eastern Asia.....	0.96	1.03	1.12
Western Asia.....	0.63	0.77	0.95
Oceania.....	0.62	0.84	—
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	0.99	0.97	1.07
Developed regions.....	1.10	1.21	1.28
Least developed countries.....	0.43	0.61	0.64
Landlocked developing countries.....	0.83	0.85	0.77
Small island developing States.....	1.25	1.34	—

^a Using gross enrolment ratios.

Indicator 3.2

Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
(Percentage of employees)

	1990	2000	2005	2012
World.....	35.4	37.6	38.5	39.8
Developing regions.....	29.1	31.8	32.9	34.4
Northern Africa.....	19.2	18.9	18.7	19.5
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	23.4	27.9	29.9	33.4
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	38.1	41.8	43.2	43.8
Eastern Asia.....	38.1	39.7	40.9	42.4
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	40.1	42.2	43.9	45.1
Southern Asia.....	13.5	17.1	18.1	19.8
Southern Asia excluding India.....	15.3	18.4	18.0	18.3
South-Eastern Asia.....	34.7	36.8	36.8	38.5
Western Asia.....	15.1	17.3	18.1	20.2
Oceania.....	32.8	35.6	36.2	38.5
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	42.8	43.1	43.8	44.0
Developed regions.....	44.7	46.2	47.0	47.8

Indicator 3.3

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament^a
(Percentage in single or lower houses only)

	1990	2000	2010	2014
World.....	12.8	13.6	19.0	22.1
Developing regions.....	11.9	12.3	17.6	20.8

	1990	2000	2010	2014
Northern Africa	2.6	3.3	9.0	24.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	9.6	12.6	18.4	22.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	11.9	15.2	22.7	25.9
Caribbean	22.2	20.6	29.4	32.9
Latin America	8.7	13.2	20.1	23.2
Eastern Asia	20.2	19.9	19.5	21.3
Eastern Asia excluding China	17.8	14.6	14.5	15.6
Southern Asia	5.7	6.8	18.2	16.0
Southern Asia excluding India	6.0	5.9	20.1	17.2
South-Eastern Asia	10.4	12.3	19.3	18.4
Western Asia	4.5	4.2	8.8	12.2
Oceania	1.2	3.6	2.5	3.2
Caucasus and Central Asia	–	7.0	15.1	18.9
Developed regions	16.1	16.3	22.5	25.2
Least developed countries	8.8	9.9	19.3	21.4
Landlocked developing countries	14.2	7.8	21.6	24.6
Small island developing States	15.2	14.0	20.5	23.3

a As at 31 January 2014.

GOAL 4

Reduce child mortality

Target 4.A

Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate

Indicator 4.1

Under-5 mortality rate^a

	1990	2000	2012
World	90	75	48
Developing regions	99	83	53
Northern Africa	73	43	22
Sub-Saharan Africa	177	155	98
Latin America and the Caribbean	54	32	19
Eastern Asia	53	37	14
Eastern Asia excluding China	27	31	15
Southern Asia	126	92	58
Southern Asia excluding India	125	93	61
South-Eastern Asia	71	48	30
Western Asia	65	42	25
Oceania	74	67	55
Caucasus and Central Asia	73	62	36
Developed regions	15	10	6
Least developed countries	172	138	85

a Number of children who died before reaching the age of 5, per 1,000 live births.

Indicator 4.2

Infant mortality rate^a

	1990	2000	2012
World	63	53	35
Developing regions	69	58	38
Northern Africa	56	35	19
Sub-Saharan Africa	107	94	64
Latin America and the Caribbean	43	27	16
Eastern Asia	42	30	12
Eastern Asia excluding China	21	24	12
Southern Asia	89	68	45
Southern Asia excluding India	92	71	49
South-Eastern Asia	52	37	25
Western Asia	49	33	20
Oceania	55	50	42
Caucasus and Central Asia	60	52	31
Developed regions	12	8	5
Least developed countries	69	86	38

a Number of children who died before reaching the age of 1, per 1,000 live births.

Indicator 4.3

Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles^a
(Percentage)

	1990	2000	2012
World	73	84	84
Developing regions	75	74	84
Northern Africa	84	93	95
Sub-Saharan Africa	56	52	72
Latin America	77	95	96
Caribbean	64	77	76
Eastern Asia	98	84	99
Southern Asia	57	61	78
South-Eastern Asia	70	81	86
Western Asia	79	86	83
Oceania	70	67	71
Caucasus and Central Asia	–	93	94
Developed regions	84	92	94

a Children aged 12 to 23 months who received at least one dose of measles vaccine.

GOAL 5

Improve maternal health

Target 5.A

Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Indicator 5.1

Maternal mortality ratio^a

	1990	2000	2013
World	380	330	210
Developing regions	430	370	230
Northern Africa	160	110	69
Sub-Saharan Africa	990	830	510
Latin America and the Caribbean	140	110	85
Caribbean	300	230	190
Latin America	130	98	77
Eastern Asia	95	63	33
Eastern Asia excluding China	47	66	54
Southern Asia	530	360	190
Southern Asia excluding India	450	350	170
South-Eastern Asia	320	220	140
Western Asia	130	97	74
Oceania	390	290	190
Caucasus and Central Asia	70	65	39
Developed regions	26	17	16

a Number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

Indicator 5.2

Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
(Percentage)

	1990	2000	2012
World	57	58	69
Developing regions	56	57	68
Northern Africa	47	69	83
Sub-Saharan Africa	40	43	53
Latin America and the Caribbean ^a	–	–	–
Caribbean	70	71	74
Latin America	–	–	–
Eastern Asia	94	97	100
Southern Asia	33	38	51
Southern Asia excluding India	29	27	49
South-Eastern Asia	49	66	79

	1990	2000	2012
Western Asia	60	70	80
Oceania	—	—	—
Caucasus and Central Asia	97	92	98
Developed regions	—	—	—

^a Including only deliveries in health-care institutions.

Target 5.B

Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

Indicator 5.3

Contraceptive prevalence rate^{a, b}

(Percentage of women aged 15 to 49 years, married or in union, who are using any method of contraception)

	1990	2000	2012
World	55.2	61.5	63.5
Developing regions	51.8	59.8	62.5
Northern Africa	43.4	57.7	62.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	12.6	18.7	25.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	61.1	69.9	73.2
Caribbean	54.0	58.9	61.6
Latin America	61.7	70.7	74.0
Eastern Asia	78.1	85.7	83.5
Eastern Asia excluding China	72.5	75.9	75.0
Southern Asia	39.2	48.3	57.0
Southern Asia excluding India	31.0	46.3	53.5
South-Eastern Asia	48.1	57.1	63.1
Western Asia	44.0	51.0	57.6
Oceania	28.4	31.6	37.3
Caucasus and Central Asia	49.3	57.9	56.4
Developed regions	68.4	70.1	69.8
Least developed countries	16.1	26.6	37.0
Landlocked developing countries	22.3	28.9	38.2
Small island developing States	49.6	53.1	55.7

^a The averages are based on the data available as at 31 March 2014.

^b Data available prior to 1990 have been used to estimate the regional averages.

Indicator 5.4

Adolescent birth rate^{a, b}

(Number of live births per 1,000 adolescent women aged 15 to 19)

	1990	2000	2011
World	58.8	51.6	50.1
Developing regions	63.7	56.1	54.3
Northern Africa	42.3	32.3	31.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	123.3	120.7	117.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	85.8	86.2	75.9
Caribbean	79.9	78.8	68.6
Latin America	86.3	86.7	76.4
Eastern Asia	15.3	5.8	6.0
Eastern Asia excluding China	4.0	3.2	2.3
Southern Asia	87.6	60.8	49.5
Southern Asia excluding India	117.7	83.2	74.2
South-Eastern Asia	54.2	43.4	43.2
Western Asia	62.9	50.5	47.0
Oceania	84.1	64.5	58.5
Caucasus and Central Asia	44.6	28.5	31.8
Developed regions	33.7	25.5	20.6
Least developed countries	130.8	117.8	112.6
Landlocked developing countries	107.4	105.8	99.7
Small island developing States	77.2	72.7	62.7

^a The averages are based on the data available as at 31 March 2014.

^b Data available prior to 1990 have been used to estimate the regional averages.

Indicator 5.5

Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)

(a) At least one visit^a

(Percentage)

	1990	2000	2012
World	65	71	83
Developing regions	65	71	83
Northern Africa	50	63	79
Sub-Saharan Africa	69	72	82
Latin America and the Caribbean	79	90	96
Caribbean	85	88	95
Latin America	78	90	96
Eastern Asia	70	89	94
Southern Asia	54	55	72
Southern Asia excluding India	35	39	65
South-Eastern Asia	77	85	93
Western Asia	58	67	79
Oceania	—	—	—
Caucasus and Central Asia	93	92	96
Least developed countries	53	58	79
Subregions of Africa ^b			
Central Africa	60	62	71
Eastern Africa	—	—	—
North Africa	50	63	80
Southern Africa	86	88	94
West Africa	59	67	75

(b) At least four visits^a

(Percentage)

	1990	2000	2012
World	—	44	52
Developing regions	37	44	52
Northern Africa	—	37	—
Sub-Saharan Africa	48	48	50
Latin America and the Caribbean	70	82	—
Caribbean	59	66	80
Latin America	—	—	—
Eastern Asia	—	—	—
Southern Asia	24	27	36
Southern Asia excluding India	—	—	—
South-Eastern Asia	45	69	80
Western Asia	—	—	—
Oceania	—	—	—
Caucasus and Central Asia	—	—	—
Least developed countries	27	33	40

^a Defined as the percentage of women aged 15 to 49 years who received antenatal care during pregnancy from skilled health personnel.

^b Based on the subregional classification adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa.

Indicator 5.6

Unmet need for family planning^{a, b}

(Percentage of women aged 15 to 49, married or in union, who have an unmet need for family planning)

	1990	2000	2012
World	15.2	12.8	12.0
Developing regions	16.5	13.5	12.4
Northern Africa	22.3	14.0	11.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	27.5	26.5	25.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	17.3	12.8	10.6
Caribbean	19.5	18.5	17.0
Latin America	17.1	12.4	10.1
Eastern Asia	5.7	3.2	3.9
Southern Asia	21.3	17.6	14.4

	1990	2000	2012
Southern Asia excluding India.....	25.3	20.2	16.0
South-Eastern Asia.....	18.8	15.5	12.5
Western Asia.....	21.6	19.3	15.9
Oceania.....	27.4	26.7	24.6
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	18.0	14.0	14.1
Developed regions.....	10.4	9.7	9.8
Least developed countries.....	28.9	26.6	23.2
Landlocked developing countries.....	26.9	26.1	23.1
Small island developing States.....	20.2	19.5	18.4

^a The averages are based on the data available as at 31 March 2014.

^b Data available prior to 1990 have been used to estimate the regional averages.

GOAL 6

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 6.A

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Indicator 6.1

HIV prevalence among population aged 15 to 24 years

(a) HIV incidence rates^{a, b}

(Number of new HIV infections per year per 100 people aged 15 to 49 years)

	2001	2012
World.....	0.09 (0.08:0.10)	0.05 (0.05:0.06)
Developing regions.....	0.1 (0.09:0.11)	0.06 (0.05:0.07)
Northern Africa.....	0 (0.00:0.01)	0.01 (0.00:0.01)
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	0.65 (0.61:0.69)	0.31 (0.28:0.34)
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	0.04 (0.03:0.05)	0.03 (0.02:0.05)
Caribbean.....	0.12 (0.11:0.14)	0.05 (0.05:0.07)
Latin America.....	0.03 (0.03:0.04)	0.03 (0.02:0.05)
Eastern Asia.....	0.01 (0.01:0.01)	0.01 (0.00:0.02)
Southern Asia.....	0.03 (0.03:0.04)	0.02 (0.01:0.03)
South-Eastern Asia (including Oceania).....	0.04 (0.03:0.07)	0.03 (0.01:0.06)
Western Asia.....	0 (0.00:0.01)	0.01 (0.00:0.01)
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	0.02 (0.02:0.03)	0.02 (0.02:0.04)
Developed regions.....	0.03 (0.03:0.04)	0.03 (0.02:0.05)
Subregions of Africa ^c		
Central Africa.....	0.63 (0.56:0.72)	0.29 (0.24:0.35)
Eastern Africa.....	0.36 (0.34:0.39)	0.21 (0.18:0.23)
North Africa.....	0.01 (0.01:0.02)	0.01 (0.01:0.02)
Southern Africa.....	1.98 (1.86:2.08)	1.02 (0.94:1.1)
West Africa.....	0.41 (0.36:0.46)	0.16 (0.13:0.19)

(b) HIV prevalence among population aged 15 to 24 years^d (Percentage)

	1990	2001	2012
	Estimated adult HIV prevalence (people aged 15 to 49) with HIV	Estimated adult HIV prevalence (people aged 15 to 49) with HIV	Estimated adult HIV prevalence (people aged 15 to 49) with HIV
World.....	0.3	43	0.8
Developing regions.....	0.3	48	0.9
Northern Africa.....	<0.1	63	<0.1
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	2.1	53	5.6
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	0.4	29	0.5
Caribbean.....	1.1	48	1.3
Latin America.....	0.3	24	0.5
Eastern Asia.....	<0.1	25	<0.1

	1990	2001	2012
	Estimated adult HIV prevalence (people aged 15 to 49) with HIV	Estimated adult HIV prevalence (people aged 15 to 49) with HIV	Estimated adult HIV prevalence (people aged 15 to 49) with HIV
Eastern Asia.....	<0.1	30	<0.1
excl. China.....	<0.1	28	0.3
Southern Asia.....	<0.1	21	<0.1
excl. India.....	0.1	11	0.4
South-Eastern Asia (including Oceania).....	<0.1	28	<0.1
Western Asia.....	<0.1	43	0.6
Oceania.....	<0.1	20	0.1
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	0.2	19	0.4
Developed regions.....	1.6	52	2.5
Least developed countries.....	2.6	53	4.1
Landlocked developing countries.....	0.8	48	1.1
Small island developing States.....	0.8	48	1.1

^a "Hiv prevalence among population aged 15 to 24 years" was chosen as a proxy indicator for the incidence rate when the indicators for the United Nations Millennium Declaration were developed. However, the estimated incidence rate among people aged 15 to 49 years is now available for all regions and from 60 countries. The HIV incidence rate is therefore presented here together with HIV prevalence data among people aged 15 to 49 years.

^b Lower and upper bounds in parentheses.

^c Based on the subregional classification adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa.

^d Trend data for the indicator 6.1 are available from only 35 countries, almost all in sub-Saharan Africa, and are therefore not presented here.

Indicator 6.2

Condom use at last high-risk sex^a, 2008–2013^b

	Women		Men	
	Number of countries covered by the surveys	Percentage who used a condom at last high-risk sex	Number of countries covered by the surveys	Percentage who used a condom at last high-risk sex
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	36	37	28	57.4
Oceania.....	2	34.4	2	49.4
Southern Asia.....	2	22.2	2	37.1

^a Percentage of women and men aged 15 to 24 years reporting the use of a condom during sexual intercourse with a non-regular (non-marital and non-cohabiting) sexual partner in the past 12 months, among those who had such a partner in the past 12 months.

^b Data were calculated on the basis of the most recent surveys carried out during the period specified.

Indicator 6.3

Proportion of population aged 15 to 24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS^a, 2008–2013^b

	Women		Men	
	Number of countries covered by the surveys	Percentage who have comprehensive knowledge	Number of countries covered by the surveys	Percentage who have comprehensive knowledge
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	40	26.7	31	35.7
Southern Asia.....	8	17.1	4	30.2
South-Eastern Asia.....	7	24.5		

^a Percentage of women and men aged 15 to 24 years who correctly identify the two major ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV (using condoms and limiting sex to one faithful, uninfected partner), reject two common local misconceptions and know that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV.

^b Data were calculated on the basis of the most recent surveys carried out during the period specified.

Indicator 6.4

Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10 to 14 years^a, 2007–2012^b

	Number of countries with data	Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	36	0.91
Southern Asia.....	3	0.73

^a Ratio of the current school attendance rate of children aged 10 to 14 years whose two biological parents have died to that of children aged 10 to 14 years whose two parents are still alive and who currently live with at least one biological parent.

^b Data were calculated on the basis of the most recent surveys carried out during the period specified.

Target 6.B

Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

Indicator 6.5

Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs^a
(Percentage)

	2010	2012
World ^b	47	64
Developing regions.....	46	61
Northern Africa.....	31	42
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	46	63
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	60	75
Caribbean.....	51	70
Latin America.....	62	76
Eastern Asia.....	29	46
Southern Asia.....	39	48
Southern Asia excluding India.....	14	20
South-Eastern Asia and Oceania.....	49	56
Western Asia.....	31	37
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	22	39
Least developed countries.....	42	58
Landlocked developing countries.....	51	70
Small island developing States.....	49	68

^a Antiretroviral treatment coverage among people with CD4 cell counts at or below 350 cells/mm.

^b Including only low- and middle-income economies, as defined by the World Bank.

Target 6.C

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Indicator 6.6

Incidence and death rates associated with malaria

(a) Incidence

(Number of new cases per 1,000 people)^a

	2012
Northern Africa.....	–
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	237
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	12
Eastern Asia.....	<0.5
Southern Asia.....	28
South-Eastern Asia.....	34
Western Asia.....	30
Oceania.....	135
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	<0.5
Least developed countries.....	192

	2012
Landlocked developing countries.....	203
Small island developing States.....	81

(b) Deaths

(Number of deaths per 100,000 people)^a

	2012
Northern Africa.....	0
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	78
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	1
Eastern Asia.....	0
Southern Asia.....	4
South-Eastern Asia.....	6
Western Asia.....	9
Oceania.....	37
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	0
Least developed countries.....	61
Landlocked developing countries.....	63
Small island developing States.....	23

^a For populations at risk of malaria in malaria-endemic countries.

Indicator 6.7

Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets, 2008–2012^a

(a) Total^b

(Percentage)

Sub-Saharan Africa (36 countries).....	36 ^a
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(b) By residence^b

(Percentage)

	Urban	Rural
Sub-Saharan Africa (34 countries).....	34	39

^a Data were calculated on the basis of the most recent surveys carried out during the period specified.

^b Calculation includes data available as at 16 June 2014.

Indicator 6.8

Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs, 2008–2012^a

(a) Total^b

(Percentage)

Sub-Saharan Africa (38 countries).....	37
--	----

(b) By residence^b

(Percentage)

	Urban	Rural
Sub-Saharan Africa (35 countries).....	46	35

^a Data were calculated on the basis of the most recent surveys carried out during the period specified.

^b Calculation includes data available as at 16 June 2014.

Indicator 6.9

Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis

(a) Incidence

(Number of new cases per 100,000 people, including those who are living with HIV)^a

	1990	2002	2012
World.....	147 (136:160)	147 (139:156)	122 (117:127)
Developing regions.....	180 (165:195)	174 (163:184)	143 (138:149)
Northern Africa.....	64 (55:74)	56 (49:62)	52 (45:58)

	1990	2002	2012
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	252 (197:306)	321 (267:375)	255 (236:274)
Latin America			
and the Caribbean ..	89 (76:103)	57 (53:61)	43 (40:46)
Caribbean	94 (68:120)	91 (78:104)	72 (62:82)
Latin America	89 (74:104)	54 (50:58)	41 (38:44)
Eastern Asia.....	157 (126:189)	106 (92:120)	80 (71:88)
Southern Asia.....	207 (178:235)	206 (189:222)	178 (164:191)
South-Eastern Asia.....	254 (217:292)	237 (215:259)	202 (184:219)
Western Asia.....	53 (47:59)	38 (35:41)	25 (24:27)
Oceania.....	245 (171:318)	266 (178:353)	264 (175:353)
Caucasus and Central Asia	132 (122:142)	291 (267:315)	100 (93:108)
Developed regions.....	29 (28:31)	38 (35:40)	24 (23:26)
Least developed countries ..	289 (256:322)	281 (258:304)	231 (218:243)
Landlocked developing			
countries	271 (231:311)	316 (278:355)	187 (171:202)
Small island developing States	112 (91:133)	120 (105:136)	112 (96:128)

(b) Prevalence

(Number of existing cases per 100,000 people, including those who are living with HIV)^a

	1990	2002	2012
World	274 (249:302)	250 (225:278)	169 (149:190)
Developing regions	338 (306:370)	297 (266:328)	198 (174:222)
Northern Africa	118 (73:163)	85 (53:117)	81 (50:112)
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	423 (272:574)	398 (256:539)	308 (245:371)
Latin America			
and the Caribbean ..	159 (110:207)	83 (63:104)	61 (45:76)
Caribbean	175 (85:264)	136 (76:196)	103 (56:150)
Latin America	157 (105:210)	79 (58:101)	58 (41:74)
Eastern Asia.....	221 (206:236)	165 (143:187)	108 (93:123)
Southern Asia.....	455 (389:521)	412 (349:474)	255 (189:321)
South-Eastern Asia.....	573 (422:725)	487 (368:606)	316 (238:393)
Western Asia.....	77 (48:106)	53 (36:69)	34 (24:44)
Oceania.....	543 (214:873)	435 (134:736)	410 (104:715)
Caucasus and Central Asia	279 (198:360)	605 (428:783)	150 (106:193)
Developed regions.....	45 (35:54)	57 (40:74)	34 (23:44)
Least developed countries ..	545 (428:662)	449 (369:529)	343 (286:399)
Landlocked developing			
countries	386 (296:476)	404 (339:470)	220 (189:250)
Small island developing States	218 (140:296)	186 (125:247)	165 (107:223)

(c) Deaths

(Number of deaths per 100,000 people, excluding those who are living with HIV)^a

	1990	2002	2012
World	25 (21:29)	21 (17:26)	13 (11:16)
Developing regions	31 (26:36)	25 (20:30)	16 (13:18)
Northern Africa	9.5 (7.3:12)	6.7 (4.1:9.4)	5.8 (2.9:8.7)
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	45 (26:64)	37 (19:56)	27 (19:34)
Latin America			
and the Caribbean	9.1 (7.3:11)	4.9 (4.2:5.6)	3 (2.6:3.4)
Caribbean	11 (2.5:20)	11 (4.2:19)	7.6 (3:12)
Latin America	8.9 (7.1:11)	4.4 (3.9:4.8)	2.6 (2.3:2.9)
Eastern Asia.....	18 (16:20)	7.3 (6.1:8.5)	3.4 (3.1:3.7)
Southern Asia.....	42 (28:55)	41 (28:53)	24 (17:32)
South-Eastern Asia.....	55 (34:75)	46 (29:62)	25 (18:33)
Western Asia.....	8.1 (4:12)	4.3 (2.5:6)	2.1 (0.9:3.2)
Oceania.....	59 (16:103)	39 (9.4:70)	40 (8.7:71)
Caucasus and Central Asia...	9.7 (9.1:10)	20 (19:22)	5.3 (4.7:5.8)
Developed regions.....	3.1 (3.1:3.1)	4.7 (4.6:4.7)	2.7 (2.6:2.7)
Least developed countries	60 (43:76)	45 (34:57)	32 (25:39)
Landlocked developing			
countries	34 (23:46)	28 (21:35)	17 (13:20)
Small island developing States ..	18 (8.9:26)	16 (9.7:23)	14 (8.1:20)

^a Lower and upper bounds in parentheses.

Indicator 6.10

Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course

(a) New cases detected under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)

(DOTS smear-positive case detection rate: percentage)^a

	1990	2002	2012
World	48 (44:52)	45 (42:47)	67 (65:70)
Developing regions	47 (43:51)	43 (41:46)	66 (64:69)
Northern Africa	57 (50:67)	79 (71:89)	73 (65:84)
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	32 (26:41)	45 (39:54)	58 (54:63)
Latin America			
and the Caribbean	55 (47:66)	71 (66:76)	79 (74:86)
Caribbean	11 (9:16)	50 (44:58)	74 (65:86)
Latin America	55 (47:66)	74 (68:80)	79 (74:86)
Eastern Asia.....	23 (19:29)	38 (33:43)	89 (80:99)
Southern Asia.....	71 (63:83)	41 (38:44)	59 (55:64)
South-Eastern Asia.....	46 (40:54)	41 (37:45)	75 (69:82)
Western Asia.....	81 (72:92)	81 (75:88)	78 (73:83)
Oceania.....	25 (20:36)	55 (42:82)	82 (61:120)
Caucasus and Central Asia..	37 (34:40)	35 (32:38)	70 (65:76)
Developed regions.....	78 (75:82)	73 (68:79)	81 (75:87)
Least developed countries	24 (21:27)	40 (37:44)	57 (54:61)
Landlocked developing			
countries	34 (30:40)	45 (40:51)	62 (58:68)
Small island developing States ..	21 (18:26)	54 (48:62)	75 (66:88)

^a Lower and upper bounds in parentheses.

(b) Patients successfully treated under directly observed treatment short course

(Percentage)

	1994	2000	2011
World	75	69	87
Developing regions	75	69	87
Northern Africa	80	88	84
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	60	71	82
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	65	76	78
Caribbean	74	72	84
Latin America	65	77	77
Eastern Asia.....	88	92	95
South Asia	74	42	89
South-Eastern Asia.....	82	86	89
Western Asia.....	72	77	84
Oceania.....	61	76	73
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	73 ^a	79	74
Developed regions.....	68	66	63
Least developed countries	66	77	85
Landlocked developing countries	57	75	83
Small island developing States	67	73	82

^a 1995 data.

GOAL 7

Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 7.A

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Indicator 7.1

Proportion of land area covered by forest
(Percentage)

	1990	2000	2010
World	32.0	31.4	31.0
Developing regions	29.4	28.2	27.6
Northern Africa	1.4	1.4	1.4

	1990	2000	2010
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	31.2	29.5	28.1
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	52.0	49.6	47.4
Caribbean.....	25.8	28.1	30.3
Latin America.....	52.3	49.9	47.6
Eastern Asia.....	16.4	18.0	20.5
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	15.2	14.0	12.8
Southern Asia.....	14.1	14.1	14.5
Southern Asia excluding India.....	7.8	7.3	7.1
South-Eastern Asia.....	56.9	51.3	49.3
Western Asia.....	2.8	2.9	3.3
Oceania.....	67.5	65.1	62.5
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	3.9	3.9	3.9
Developed regions.....	36.3	36.6	36.7
Least developed countries.....	32.7	31.0	29.6
Landlocked developing countries.....	19.3	18.2	17.1
Small island developing States.....	64.6	63.7	62.7

Note: The latest available update was in July 2010.

Indicator 7.2

Carbon dioxide emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)

(a) Total^a

(Millions of tons)

	1990	2000	2005	2010
World	21 550	23 841	27 852	31 387
Developing regions.....	6 727	9 936	13 525	17 791
Northern Africa.....	229	330	395	464
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	462	554	635	711
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	1 006	1 330	1 491	1 701
Caribbean.....	84	99	105	137
Latin America.....	922	1 231	1 386	1 564
Eastern Asia.....	2 991	3 979	6 387	8 975
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	531	574	597	688
Southern Asia.....	993	1 709	2 072	2 824
Southern Asia excluding India.....	303	522	661	815
South-Eastern Asia.....	423	774	1 000	1 216
Western Asia.....	615	926	1 149	1 418
Oceania.....	6	7	11	11
Caucasus and Central Asia ^b	0	327	386	472
Developed regions.....	14 824	13 904	14 327	13 596
Least developed countries.....	61	111	157	213
Landlocked developing countries.....	50	398	458	563
Small island developing States.....	139	160	151	168
Annex I countries ^{c,d,e}	14 986	14 436	14 917	14 158

(b) Per capita

(Tons)

	1990	2000	2005	2010
World	4.08	3.91	4.30	4.57
Developing regions.....	1.66	2.03	2.57	3.16
Northern Africa.....	1.91	2.33	2.57	2.80
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	0.91	0.83	0.84	0.83
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	2.29	2.57	2.70	2.90
Caribbean.....	2.76	2.87	2.88	3.63
Latin America.....	2.26	2.55	2.68	2.85
Eastern Asia.....	2.46	2.95	4.60	6.30
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	7.42	7.31	7.40	8.30
Southern Asia.....	0.83	1.17	1.31	1.66
Southern Asia excluding India.....	0.94	1.28	1.49	1.70
South-Eastern Asia.....	0.95	1.48	1.79	2.05
Western Asia.....	4.85	5.73	6.32	6.85
Oceania.....	1.00	0.96	1.25	1.09
Caucasus and Central Asia ^b	7.33	4.59	5.25	6.10
Developed regions.....	12.37	11.67	11.79	10.90
Least developed countries.....	0.12	0.17	0.21	0.26
Landlocked developing countries.....	0.26	1.21	1.25	1.37

	1990	2000	2005	2010
Small island developing States.....	3.20	3.15	2.74	2.85
Annex I countries ^{c,d,e}	12.76	11.75	11.88	11.02

(c) Per \$1 GDP (2005 United States dollars (PPP))

(Kilograms)

	1990	2000	2005	2010
World	0.60	0.50	0.49	0.47
Developing regions.....	0.63	0.59	0.61	0.58
Northern Africa.....	0.43	0.49	0.48	0.43
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	0.55	0.53	0.47	0.41
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.28
Caribbean.....	0.54	0.52	0.48	0.55
Latin America.....	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.27
Eastern Asia.....	1.45	0.87	0.94	0.83
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	0.45	0.45	0.38	0.37
Southern Asia.....	0.58	0.61	0.55	0.49
Southern Asia excluding India.....	0.46	0.54	0.52	0.30
South-Eastern Asia.....	0.41	0.46	0.46	0.44
Western Asia.....	0.49	0.55	0.56	0.57
Oceania.....	0.29	0.26	0.37	0.24
Caucasus and Central Asia ^b	2.31	1.72	1.32	1.09
Developed regions.....	0.58	0.45	0.41	0.37
Least developed countries.....	0.14	0.19	0.20	0.20
Landlocked developing countries.....	0.20	0.91	0.74	0.64
Small island developing States.....	0.54	0.39	0.30	0.23
Annex I countries ^{c,d,e}	0.59	0.46	0.43	0.38

Note: The latest available update was in July 2013.

^a Total carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels (expressed in millions of tons) include emissions from solid fuel consumption, liquid fuel consumption, gas fuel consumption, cement production and gas flaring (Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center).

^b The 1990 column shows 1992 data.

^c Including all annex I countries that report under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Countries that are not listed in annex I do not have annual reporting obligations.

^d National reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that follows the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines is based on national emission inventories and covers all sources of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. It can be calculated as the sum of emissions for the sectors of energy, industrial processes, agriculture and waste.

^e Excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry.

Indicator 7.3

Consumption of ozone-depleting substances

(Consumption of all ozone-depleting substances in tons of ozone-depletion potential)

	1986	1990 ^a	2000	2012
World	1 774 954	1 211 193	263 241	44 167
Developing regions.....	285 496	241 670	209 605	41 023
Northern Africa.....	14 214	6 203	8 129	963
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	36 408	23 451	9 597	1 677
Latin America				
and the Caribbean.....	78 663	76 048	31 104	5 166
Caribbean.....	2 216	2 177	1 669	165
Latin America.....	76 448	73 871	29 435	5 002
Eastern Asia.....	103 445	103 217	105 762	23 702
Eastern Asia				
excluding China.....	25 436	12 904	14 885	2 180
Southern Asia.....	13 473	3 338	28 161	2 448
Southern Asia				
excluding India.....	6 159	3 338	9 466	810
South-Eastern Asia.....	17 926	21 108	16 831	2 902
Western Asia.....	21 254	8 258	9 891	4 144
Oceania.....	113	47	129	20
Caucasus and				
Central Asia.....	11 607	2 738	928	51

	1986	1990 ^a	2000	2012
Developed regions.....	1 477 850	241 670	262 313	3 094
Least developed countries.....	3 551	1 458	4 812	665
Landlocked developing countries.....	14 616	3 354	2 395	266
Small island developing States.....	9 419	7 162	2 147	375

^a For years prior to the entry into force of the reporting requirement for a group of substances, missing country consumption values have been estimated at the base-year level. This applies to substances in annexes B, C and E to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which entered into force in 1992, 1992 and 1994, respectively.

Indicator 7.4

Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits (Percentage)

	1990	2000	2009
Non-fully exploited.....	31.3	25.4	12.7
Fully exploited.....	50.0	47.2	57.4
Overexploited.....	18.6	27.4	29.9

Indicator 7.5

Proportion of total water resources used^a (Percentage)

	Circa 2008
World.....	8.8
Developing regions.....	9.6
Northern Africa.....	79.9
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	3.0
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	2.2
Caribbean.....	14.4
Latin America.....	2.1
Eastern Asia.....	19.8
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	20.8
Southern Asia.....	47.5
Southern Asia excluding India.....	53.5
South-Eastern Asia.....	7.7
Western Asia.....	54.1
Oceania.....	0.06
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	49.6
Developed regions.....	7.3
Least developed countries.....	4.1
Landlocked developing countries.....	11.2
Small island developing States.....	1.4

Note: The latest available update was in July 2013.

^a Defined as surface water and groundwater withdrawal as a percentage of total actual renewable water resources.

Target 7.B

Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

Indicator 7.6

Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected

(a) Terrestrial and marine^{a, b} (Percentage of total territorial area)

	1990	2000	2012
World ^c	8.3	11.3	14.0
Developing regions.....	7.8	10.5	13.8
Northern Africa.....	2.9	3.7	6.9
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	10.7	11.5	15.2
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	8.7	13.9	20.3
Caribbean.....	3.2	4.0	5.9
Latin America.....	8.9	14.3	20.9
Eastern Asia.....	11.5	14.4	15.4

	1990	2000	2012
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	3.9	11.5	11.9
Southern Asia.....	5.1	5.7	6.1
Southern Asia excluding India.....	5.5	6.4	7.1
South-Eastern Asia.....	4.4	6.9	9.4
Western Asia.....	3.7	14.4	14.7
Oceania.....	0.6	1.3	4.0
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	2.8	3.0	3.6
Developed regions.....	9.1	12.3	14.0
Least developed countries.....	9.0	9.7	12.4
Landlocked developing countries.....	9.0	11.3	13.6
Small island developing States.....	1.3	2.8	5.1

(b) Terrestrial^{a, b}

(Percentage of total surface area)

	1990	2000	2012
World ^c	8.9	11.9	14.6
Developing regions.....	8.6	11.6	14.9
Northern Africa.....	3.0	3.7	6.9
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	11.0	11.8	15.4
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	9.0	14.4	21.2
Caribbean.....	9.2	10.0	13.5
Latin America.....	9.0	14.5	21.3
Eastern Asia.....	12.0	14.9	16.0
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	4.0	12.2	12.6
Southern Asia.....	5.4	6.0	6.5
Southern Asia excluding India.....	5.9	6.9	7.5
South-Eastern Asia.....	8.4	12.6	14.1
Western Asia.....	4.0	15.5	15.7
Oceania.....	2.0	3.1	5.2
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	2.8	3.0	3.6
Developed regions.....	9.2	12.4	14.0
Least developed countries.....	9.5	10.2	12.9
Landlocked developing countries.....	9.0	11.3	13.6
Small island developing States.....	3.7	6.5	8.7

(c) Marine^{a, b}

(Percentage of total territorial waters)

	1990	2000	2012
World ^c	4.6	6.8	9.7
Developing regions.....	1.6	3.0	5.9
Northern Africa.....	2.3	3.7	6.2
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	1.5	3.3	7.5
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	5.8	9.3	11.9
Caribbean.....	0.9	1.8	3.0
Latin America.....	7.7	12.3	15.4
Eastern Asia.....	0.8	1.4	1.8
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	2.1	2.1	2.4
Southern Asia.....	1.0	1.4	1.6
Southern Asia excluding India.....	0.6	1.1	1.7
South-Eastern Asia.....	0.5	1.2	4.8
Western Asia.....	0.7	2.1	3.3
Oceania.....	0.2	0.8	3.7
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	0.2	0.9	0.9
Developed regions.....	8.3	11.8	13.9
Least developed countries.....	0.9	2.1	4.8
Landlocked developing countries ^d	0.0	0.0	0.0
Small island developing States.....	0.4	1.3	3.6

Note: The latest available update was in July 2013.

^a Differences in figures when compared with the statistical annex of previous Millennium Development Goals reports are due to new available data, revised methodologies and revised regional groupings.

^b Protected areas whose year of establishment is unknown are included in all years.

^c Including territories that are not considered in the calculations of developed and developing region aggregates.

^d Excluding territorial water claims within inland seas by some landlocked developing countries.

Indicator 7.7**Proportion of species threatened with extinction^a**

(Percentage of species not expected to become extinct in the near future)

	1988	1990	2000	2012
World	92.1	92.1	91.7	91.3
Developing regions	92.4	92.4	92.1	91.7
Northern Africa	98.0	98.0	97.5	96.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	93.6	93.6	93.4	93.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	93.0	93.0	92.9	92.1
Eastern Asia	96.1	96.1	95.9	95.6
Southern Asia	95.8	95.8	95.5	95.2
South-Eastern Asia	93.2	93.2	92.4	92.4
Western Asia	97.8	97.7	97.3	96.8
Oceania	91.6	91.6	91.3	91.2
Caucasus and Central Asia	98.1	98.1	97.7	97.1
Developed regions	93.9	93.9	93.6	93.1

^a Red List Index of species survival for vertebrates (mammals, birds and amphibians). The Red List Index is an index of the proportion of species expected to remain extant in the near future without additional conservation action, ranging from 1.0 (equivalent to all species being categorized as "of least concern" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List) to zero (equivalent to all species having become extinct).

Target 7.C

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Indicator 7.8**Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source**

(Percentage)

	1990			2012		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
World	76	95	62	89	96	82
Developing regions	70	92	58	87	95	80
Northern Africa	87	94	80	92	95	89
Sub-Saharan Africa	48	83	35	64	85	53
Latin America and the Caribbean	85	94	63	94	97	82
Eastern Asia	68	97	56	92	98	85
Eastern Asia excluding China ..	76	93	69	88	94	85
Southern Asia	72	90	65	91	96	89
Southern Asia excluding India ..	90	97	73	98	99	91
South-Eastern Asia	71	90	62	89	94	85
Western Asia	85	95	69	91	96	79
Oceania	50	92	37	56	94	45
Caucasus and Central Asia	87	96	78	86	96	78
Developed regions	98	99	94	99	100	98

Indicator 7.9**Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility**

(Percentage)

	1990			2012		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
World	49	76	28	64	80	47
Developing regions	36	64	21	57	73	43
Northern Africa	72	92	54	91	95	87
Sub-Saharan Africa	24	41	18	30	41	23
Latin America and the Caribbean	67	80	37	82	87	63
Eastern Asia	27	53	16	67	76	57
Eastern Asia excluding China ..	38	68	25	57	73	49

	1990			2012		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Southern Asia	23	55	12	42	64	31
Southern Asia excluding India ...	77	83	62	91	93	83
South-Eastern Asia	47	69	37	71	80	63
Western Asia	80	94	59	89	96	73
Oceania	35	75	22	35	76	24
Caucasus and Central Asia	91	96	86	95	96	95
Developed regions	95	97	90	96	97	92

Target 7.D

By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Indicator 7.10**Proportion of urban population living in slums^a**

(Percentage)

	1990	2000	2012
Developing regions	46.2	39.3	32.7
Northern Africa	34.4	20.3	13.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	70.0	65.0	61.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	33.7	29.2	23.5
Eastern Asia	43.7	37.4	28.2
Southern Asia	57.2	45.8	35.0
South-Eastern Asia	49.5	39.6	31.0
Western Asia	22.5	20.6	24.6
Oceania ^b	24.1	24.1	24.1

^a Represented by the urban population living in households with at least one of the following four characteristics: lack of access to improved drinking water; lack of access to improved sanitation; overcrowding (three or more persons per room); and dwellings made of non-durable material. Half of the urban dwellers using pit latrines are considered to be using improved sanitation.

^b Trend data are not available for Oceania.

GOAL 8

Develop a global partnership for development

Target 8.A

Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction — both nationally and internationally.

Target 8.B

Address the special needs of the least developed countries

Includes: tariff- and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction.

Target 8.C

Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)

Target 8.D

Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Official development assistance

Indicator 8.1

Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as a percentage of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) donors' gross national income

(a) Annual total assistance^a

(Billions of current United States dollars)

	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012	2013 ^b
All developing countries	52.8	54.0	108.3	104.9	120.6	134.7	133.7	126.9
Least developed countries	15.1	13.8	26.0	32.4	37.6	44.8	40.5	–

(b) Share of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income

(Percentage)

	1990	2002	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012	2013 ^b
All developing countries	0.32	0.22	0.32	0.27	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.30
Least developed countries	0.09	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.09	–

^a Including non-ODA debt forgiveness but excluding forgiveness of debt for military purposes.

^b Preliminary data.

Indicator 8.2

Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Percentage of bilateral, sector-allocable aid ...	15.5	17.3	15.9	20.0	18.2	16.4	18.2
Billions of United States dollars ..	4.3	4.9	7.7	11.5	14.9	14.5	14.2

Indicator 8.3

Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied^a

	1990	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Percentage of aid that is untied.....	67.6	91.1	91.4	83.9	84.5	84.4	85.8
Billions of United States dollars ..	16.3	30.1	49.0	60.3	71.3	65.1	66.0

^a Excluding technical cooperation and administrative costs as well as ODA for which the tying status is not reported. The percentage of bilateral ODA, excluding technical cooperation and administrative costs, with reported tying status was 99.6 per cent in 2008. In 2011, in-donor refugee costs are also excluded from the tying status reporting.

Indicator 8.4

ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes

	1990	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Percentage of recipients' gross national incomes	10.2	8.2	7.0	5.9	6.0	4.6	3.2
Billions of United States dollars ..	7.0	12.2	15.1	19.9	25.0	26.9	27.0

Indicator 8.5

ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes

	1990	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Percentage of recipients' gross national incomes	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.8	3.1	3.9	3.3
Billions of United States dollars ..	2.1	1.8	2.5	3.3	4.2	5.3	4.7

Market access

Indicator 8.6

Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty (Percentage)

	1996	2000	2005	2007	2012
Excluding arms					
Developing countries ^a	52	62	75	81	83
of which, preferential ^b	17	15	18	17	16
Northern Africa.....	52	57	97	97	98
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	78	80	93	96	98
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	66	75	93	94	95
Eastern Asia.....	35	52	62	67	69
Southern Asia.....	47	48	58	72	73
South-Eastern Asia.....	59	75	77	80	82
Western Asia.....	34	39	66	96	97
Oceania.....	85	83	89	91	95
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	91	84	94	94	99
Least developed countries.....	68	76	83	89	90
of which, preferential ^b	29	42	28	27	33
Excluding arms and oil					
Developing countries ^a	54	65	75	77	80
of which, preferential ^b	19	17	21	20	20
Northern Africa.....	20	26	95	95	96
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	88	83	91	93	97
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	73	81	93	93	94
Eastern Asia.....	35	52	62	67	69
Southern Asia.....	41	46	58	63	70
South-Eastern Asia.....	60	76	77	79	81
Western Asia.....	35	44	87	93	92
Oceania.....	82	79	87	89	94
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	90	69	84	82	90
Least developed countries.....	78	70	80	80	84
of which, preferential ^b	35	35	49	52	54

^a Including least developed countries.

^b The true preference margin is calculated by subtracting from the total duty-free access all products receiving duty-free treatment under the most-favoured-nation regime. The indicators are based on the best available treatment, including regional and preferential agreements.

Indicator 8.7

Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries (Percentage)

	1996	2000	2005	2012
Agricultural goods				
Developing countries.....	11.5	10.8	8.4	7.9
Northern Africa.....	6.6	7.3	7.2	6.8
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	7.4	6.2	6.2	3.8
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	12.0	10.3	9.7	8.4
Eastern Asia.....	9.3	9.5	10.7	9.9
Southern Asia.....	5.4	5.3	4.5	4.5
South-Eastern Asia.....	11.3	10.1	9.1	8.7
Western Asia.....	8.2	7.5	5.0	5.2
Oceania.....	11.5	9.4	8.7	3.5
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	4.7	3.8	3.4	3.0
Least developed countries.....	3.8	3.6	3.0	0.9
Textiles				
Developing countries.....	2.0	1.4	1.1	0.9
Northern Africa.....	8.0	7.2	4.4	3.6
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	3.9	3.4	2.9	2.9
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	4.7	3.5	1.5	1.2
Eastern Asia.....	7.3	6.6	5.8	5.5

	1996	2000	2005	2012
Southern Asia.....	7.1	6.5	6.1	5.5
South-Eastern Asia.....	9.1	8.4	6.0	5.3
Western Asia.....	9.1	8.2	4.6	4.4
Oceania.....	5.9	5.4	4.9	4.9
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	7.3	6.3	5.8	5.6
Least developed countries.....	4.6	4.1	3.2	3.1
Clothing				
Developing countries.....	10.4	9.2	8.8	7.7
Northern Africa.....	11.9	11.1	8.0	5.3
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	8.5	7.9	1.6	2.6
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	8.8	7.8	1.3	1.3
Eastern Asia.....	12.0	11.5	11.0	10.7
Southern Asia.....	10.2	9.6	8.6	8.5
South-Eastern Asia.....	14.2	13.5	10.5	9.2
Western Asia.....	12.6	11.8	8.5	8.2
Oceania.....	8.8	8.3	8.4	8.8
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	12.9	11.8	11.5	10.7
Least developed countries.....	8.2	7.8	6.4	6.7

Indicator 8.8

Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product

	1990	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
As percentage of OECD countries' GDP.....	2.37	1.06	1.04	0.88	0.95	0.96	0.94
Billions of United States dollars.....	325	338	368	347	376	409	415

Indicator 8.9

Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity^a

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Trade policy and regulations and trade-related adjustment ^b ...	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
Economic infrastructure...	21.5	14.8	17.2	13.6	15.1	16.2	19.3
Building productive capacity.....	16.0	13.4	12.8	13.3	12.8	14.2	13.7
Total aid for trade	38.5	29.0	30.7	27.7	28.8	31.2	33.8

^a Worldwide aid-for-trade proxies as a percentage of bilateral sector-allocable ODA.

^b Reporting of trade-related adjustment data started in 2007. Only Canada and the European Commission reported.

Debt sustainability**Indicator 8.10**

Total number of countries that have reached their heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)

	2000 ^a	2012 ^b
Reached completion point.....	1	35
Reached decision point but not completion point.....	21	1
Yet to be considered for decision point.....	12	3
Total eligible countries	34	39

^a Data for 2000 show the status at the end of the year.

^b Including only heavily indebted poor countries as at 2012. Data for 2012 show the status at the end of August 2013.

Indicator 8.11

Debt relief committed under heavily indebted poor countries and multilateral debt relief initiatives^a
(Billions of United States dollars, cumulative)

	2000	2012
To countries that reached decision or completion point.....	32	95

^a Expressed in net present value terms at the end of 2012. Commitment status as at December 2012.

Indicator 8.12

Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services^a

	1990	2000	2009	2010	2012
Developing regions.....	19.4	12.0	3.8	3.0	3.1
Northern Africa.....	39.8	15.3	4.8	4.4	4.4
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	17.6	9.5	3.3	2.4	3.3
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	20.6	20.8	8.0	6.7	6.6
Caribbean.....	17.0	8.0	18.0	13.8	12.3
Latin America.....	20.7	21.3	7.8	6.6	6.5
Eastern Asia.....	10.6	4.9	0.6	0.6	0.4
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	–	6.5	4.1	4.3	2.7
Southern Asia.....	17.6	13.8	3.6	2.8	3.0
Southern Asia excluding India.....	9.3	11.5	9.4	8.4	9.9
South-Eastern Asia.....	16.7	6.5	4.1	3.1	2.5
Western Asia.....	27.8	16.1	8.7	8.0	6.6
Oceania.....	14.0	6.0	1.9	1.5	1.8
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	–	8.6	1.1	1.1	1.1
Least developed countries.....	16.8	11.5	5.1	3.8	5.0
Landlocked developing countries.....	14.3	8.9	1.9	1.6	1.7
Small island developing States.....	13.9	8.8	10.1	6.6	8.2

^a Including countries reporting to the World Bank Debtor Reporting System. Aggregates are based on available data and for some years might exclude countries that do not have data on exports of goods and services and net income from abroad.

Target 8.E

In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries

Indicator 8.13

Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

No global or regional data are available.

Target 8.F

In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Indicator 8.14

Fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

	1995	2000	2012
World.....	12.0	16.0	16.7
Developing regions.....	4.1	7.9	11.1
Northern Africa.....	4.5	7.2	10.1
Sub-Saharan Africa.....	1.1	1.4	1.2
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	9.0	14.5	18.0
Caribbean.....	9.0	11.3	10.4
Latin America.....	9.0	14.8	18.5
Eastern Asia.....	5.4	13.6	22.2
Eastern Asia excluding China.....	33.0	43.1	48.3
Southern Asia.....	1.5	3.2	4.1
Southern Asia excluding India.....	2.2	3.5	8.1
South-Eastern Asia.....	2.9	4.8	10.9
Western Asia.....	13.2	17.2	14.5
Oceania.....	4.7	5.2	5.4
Caucasus and Central Asia.....	9.0	8.9	14.2
Developed regions.....	42.8	49.2	42.4
Least developed countries.....	0.3	0.5	1.0
Landlocked developing countries.....	2.7	2.8	3.8
Small island developing States.....	10.3	13.0	11.8

Indicator 8.15**Mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants**

	1995	2000	2012
World	1.6	12.1	89.3
Developing regions	0.4	5.4	82.6
Northern Africa	<0.1	2.8	116.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.1	1.7	59.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.8	12.1	109.1
Caribbean	1.2	7.5	63.6
Latin America	0.8	12.5	112.4
Eastern Asia	0.5	9.8	82.1
Eastern Asia excluding China	3.4	50.2	98.7
Southern Asia	<0.1	0.4	69.2
Southern Asia excluding India	<0.1	0.5	67.5
South-Eastern Asia	0.7	4.2	111.8
Western Asia	0.6	13.1	101.5
Oceania	0.2	2.4	47.4
Caucasus and Central Asia	<0.1	1.3	107.3
Developed regions	6.4	39.8	120.3
Least developed countries	<0.1 ^a	0.3	48.6
Landlocked developing countries	<0.1	1.1	59.4
Small island developing States	1.5	11.0	70.3

^a 1996 data.**Indicator 8.16****Internet users per 100 inhabitants**

	1995	2000	2012
World	0.8	6.6	35.5
Developing regions	<0.1	2.1	27.3
Northern Africa	<0.1	0.7	38.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.1	0.5	14.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.1	3.9	43.4
Caribbean	<0.1	2.9	32.8
Latin America	0.1	4.0	44.2
Eastern Asia	<0.1	3.7	43.6
Eastern Asia excluding China	1.1	28.6	60.4
Southern Asia	<0.1	0.5	12.3
Southern Asia excluding India	<0.1 ^a	0.3	11.5
South-Eastern Asia	<0.1	2.4	24.9
Western Asia	<0.1	3.1	38.6
Oceania	<0.1	1.8	10.3
Caucasus and Central Asia	–	0.5	37.5
Developed regions	3.2	25.1	73.2
Least developed countries	<0.1 ^b	<0.1	6.3
Landlocked developing countries	<0.1 ^a	0.3	13.3
Small island developing States	0.4	5.2	31.2

^a 1996 data.^b 1998 data.

Sources: Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators and Millennium Development Goal Indicators website (<http://mdgs.un.org>).

Notes: Except where indicated, regional groupings are based on United Nations geographical regions, with some modifications necessary to create, to the extent possible, homogeneous groups of countries for analysis and presentation. The regional composition adopted for the 2014 reporting on Millennium Development Goal indicators is available at <http://mdgs.un.org>, under “Data/Regional groupings”.

Where shown, the expression “developed regions” comprises Europe (except the Commonwealth of Independent States), Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States. The expression always includes transition countries in Europe.

For some Millennium Development Goal indicators, data are presented separately for smaller subregions in Africa, based on the classification adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa.

PART ONE

Political and security questions

International peace and security

In 2014, the resolve of the international community to promote and maintain international peace and security continued to be tested by the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, events in Ukraine, re-eruption of violent conflict in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, a worsening global security environment in which the United Nations operated, and new acts of terrorism and violent extremism.

The General Assembly in June conducted its fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and adopted a consensus resolution calling upon Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner and in all its aspects. In August, the Security Council called on all UN Member States to act to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, financing and other support to Islamist extremist groups in Iraq and Syria, and laid out steps that it intended to take to ensure the protection of humanitarian workers in conflict situations worldwide.

In April, the Council adopted its first thematic resolution on security sector reform, reaffirming the importance of such reform in stabilizing countries recovering from conflict and resolving to prioritize reform aspects in both peacekeeping and special political mission mandates. The Council also recognized the contribution of the updated aide-memoire for the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and as a practical tool that provided a basis for improved analysis and diagnosis of key protection issues, and stressed the need to continue its use on a more systematic and consistent basis.

In October, the Secretary-General convened a high-level independent panel to conduct a review of UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions—the first major external review of peace operations since 2000—to provide recommendations to ensure that such operations remained fit for purpose.

In November, the Council adopted its first resolution dedicated to policing issues, which included measures for increasing the effectiveness of UN work on policing. The Security Council also created the “Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage”, to be awarded to those military, police and civilian UN personnel and associated personnel who demonstrated exceptional courage in the face of extreme danger.

At the end of 2014, there were 16 peacekeeping operations served by 122,729 uniformed and civilian personnel, including United Nations Volunteers. In April, the Council subsumed the presence of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic into a peacekeeping operation: the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, to assist the transitional authorities in restoring peace and stability to the country.

As at 31 December, the United Nations was carrying out 11 political or peacebuilding missions. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone completed its mandate in March, signalling important progress in the country’s peace consolidation and transition process.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which met in February and March, considered proposals, recommendations and conclusions on guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates, restructuring of peacekeeping, and safety and security of peacekeepers. Regarding the financial position of UN peacekeeping operations, expenditures increased by 4.7 per cent, from \$7,273.1 million in the previous fiscal year, to \$7,615.7 million. Unpaid assessments decreased by 74.1 per cent, from \$835.6 to \$687.6 million.

Promotion of international peace and security

Maintenance of international peace and security

Security sector reform

Security Council consideration. On 28 April [S/PV.7161], the Council held an open debate on security sector reform: challenges and opportunities, and adopted its first thematic resolution on security sector reform, reaffirming the importance of such reform in stabilizing countries recovering from conflict and resolving to prioritize reform aspects in both peacekeeping and special political mission mandates. It had before it a concept note [S/2014/238] submitted by Nigeria, and the Secretary-General’s 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 35] on strengthening the United Nations comprehensive support to security sector reform (ssr). Briefing the Council, the Secretary-General

stated that SSR was a core element of peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. The United Nations had strengthened assistance to national authorities to undertake SSR processes, including assisting in the development and implementation of national security strategies in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali; contributing to public financial management of the security sectors in Liberia and Somalia; and supporting defence sector reform in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The United Nations had also enhanced its delivery capacity through the Security Sector Reform Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force.

The Secretary-General, however, noted that more remained to be done, and underlined the need for national security services to have the capacity to perform their duties. Looking ahead, the Secretary-General outlined four priorities: recognizing the links between SSR and the broader reform processes, including legal and institutional reform, national reconciliation and political dialogue; host nations doing more to meet immediate security needs; concerned actors placing more emphasis on sector-wide approaches that addressed the strategic and governance framework underpinning all security institutions; and reflecting on the institutional capacities within the Organization, on links to other key areas of work, such as the rule of law and human rights, and on how to ensure the flexible resources needed to meet the needs on the ground.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 April [meeting 7161], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2151(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/302] was submitted by 41 Member States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Stressing that reforming the security sector in post-conflict environments is critical to the consolidation of peace and stability, promoting poverty reduction, the rule of law and good governance, extending legitimate State authority and preventing countries from relapsing into conflict, and further stressing that in this regard a professional, effective and accountable security sector and accessible and impartial law enforcement and justice sectors are equally necessary to laying the foundations for peace and sustainable development,

Recalling the sovereign right and the primary responsibility of the country concerned to determine the national approach and priorities of security sector reform and recognizing that it should be a nationally owned process that is rooted in the particular needs and conditions of the country in question, and encouraging the development of expertise in the field of security sector reform at the national level,

Recognizing that the political leadership and political will of national authorities are critical for the progress of security sector reform, and reaffirming the lead role of

national authorities in developing an inclusive national vision for security sector reform, coordinating the implementation of the vision, dedicating national resources towards national security institutions and monitoring the impact of the security sector reform process,

Recalling the statements by its President of 20 February 2007, 12 May 2008 and 12 October 2011, and noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General of 13 August 2013 entitled "Securing States and societies: strengthening the United Nations comprehensive support to security sector reform",

Recalling also reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the General Assembly, which have provided guidance to the Secretariat on the subject of security sector reform and the development of a United Nations approach to security sector reform,

Expressing concern at the range of challenges that weak and dysfunctional security institutions pose, including impairing the ability of the State to extend public security and the rule of law within its boundaries, noting that good governance and oversight of the security sector is important in ensuring that security institutions are capable of protecting the population, further noting that failure to address operational and accountability deficits can undermine the positive gains of peacekeeping and necessitates the return of peacekeeping and special political missions in previous areas of operation, and recognizing that effective security sector reform processes have been an important element of the stabilization and reconstruction of some post-conflict countries,

Reaffirming that an effective, professional and accountable security sector without discrimination and with full respect for human rights and the rule of law is the cornerstone of peace and sustainable development and is important for conflict prevention,

Recalling that the bulk of Security Council-mandated United Nations assistance in the area of security sector reform takes place in, and is directed to, countries in Africa and that a number of African countries are becoming important providers of such assistance,

Noting the support provided by bilateral actors, as well as regional actors, including the European Union, to security sector reform efforts and other initiatives in the area of security sector reform, in particular in Africa, and stressing the importance of coordination as appropriate between the different actors involved in supporting security sector reforms through bilateral contributions and emphasizing the role that United Nations peacekeeping operations or special political missions can play in enhancing this coordination,

Recognizing the centrality of security sector reform as a key element of peacekeeping and special political mission mandates, noting the increasing number and complexity of mission mandates on security sector reform, and emphasizing the importance of the United Nations, including through its peacekeeping operations and special political missions, supporting national Governments, upon their request where appropriate, to develop security institutions that are accessible and responsive to the needs of their population, and the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in supporting security sector reform,

Recalling the important role that the United Nations has played in supporting national efforts to build sustainable security institutions, and commending the efforts

of the United Nations, in particular the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, including the Security Sector Reform Unit and the United Nations Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, in further strengthening a comprehensive United Nations approach to security sector reform, through the development of guidance and civilian capacities, coordination mechanisms and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union,

Underlining the importance of the close coordination of the range of United Nations security sector reform activities, both at Headquarters and in the field, in particular between Council-mandated missions and the United Nations country team, as appropriate, and encouraging relevant United Nations entities mandated for security sector reform activities to work through the existing coordination mechanisms, as appropriate,

Acknowledging the necessity for the United Nations to balance its support for the reform of individual components of the security sector, which in some contexts include defence, police, corrections and border and immigration services, with sector-wide initiatives that address strategic governance, management and oversight aspects in order to ensure their long-term sustainability based on the particular needs and conditions of the country in question,

Reiterating the importance of the rule of law as one of the key elements of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and reiterating the statement by its President of 21 February 2014, recalling that security sector reform must take place within a broad framework of the rule of law, and noting in this regard the contribution that effective, professional and accountable police services, that provide security to the population, can make in building trust between State authorities and communities and restoring the rule of law in post-conflict countries,

Reaffirming its commitment to address the impact of armed conflict on women and children, and recalling its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, as well as its resolutions 1261(1999) of 25 August 1999, 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict,

Recognizing that security sector reform constitutes a key element of the political processes of States recovering from conflict and of the strengthening of the rule of law institutions,

Recognizing also the interlinkages between security sector reform and other important factors of stabilization and reconstruction, such as, but not limited to, transitional justice, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as well as long-term rehabilitation of former combatants, including in particular women and children, national small arms and light weapons management, arms embargo implementation, reduction of armed violence, organized crime and anti-corruption measures, protection of civil-

ians, including in particular women and children, as well as gender equality and human rights issues,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of security sector reform in the stabilization and reconstruction of States in the aftermath of conflict, and resolves to continue to include and prioritize, as appropriate, security sector reform aspects as an integral part of the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions;

2. *Reiterates* the centrality of national ownership for security sector reform processes, and further reiterates the responsibility of the country concerned in the determination of security sector reform assistance, where appropriate, and recognizes the importance of considering the perspectives of the host countries in the formulation of relevant mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions;

3. *Encourages* Member States undertaking reform to take the lead in defining an inclusive national vision on security sector reform, informed by the needs and aspirations of the population, and acknowledges the important role of the United Nations, including its Peacebuilding Commission, and Member States and regional and subregional organizations in assisting States in this regard;

4. *Recognizes* that security sector reform needs to be in support of, and informed by, broader national political processes, inclusive of all segments of the society, including the participation of civil society, that lay the foundations for stability and peace through national dialogue and reconciliation efforts, and resolves to link security sector reform to such efforts;

5. *Stresses* that security sector reform is critical to addressing impunity for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, where applicable, and contributes to the rule of law;

6. *Encourages* Member States, when undertaking security sector reforms, to mainstream child protection, such as the inclusion of child protection in military training and standard operating procedures, as well as in military guidance as appropriate, and the establishment of child protection units in national security forces, of effective age assessment mechanisms to prevent underage recruitment, of vetting mechanisms to ensure that those responsible for violations and abuses against children are not included in the ranks of national security forces and of measures to protect schools and hospitals from attack and to prevent the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law;

7. *Stresses* the importance of security sector reform, which better integrates policing, defence, border management and security, maritime security, civil protection and other relevant functions, including through the development of professional, accessible and accountable policing capabilities that strengthen community resilience, as well as the institutions responsible for their oversight and management, and urges the effective integration as regards sector-wide and component levels of United Nations support both at Headquarters and in the field, as appropriate;

8. *Also stresses* the importance of the relevant bodies of the United Nations undertaking mission planning processes for security sector reform, where mandated, that gives full consideration to supporting national security sector reform efforts, taking into account the specific needs of the host country, and collaborating with other relevant international and regional actors providing security sector reform assistance to the national Government;

9. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening support for sector-wide initiatives that aim to enhance the governance and overall performance of the security sector and address the foundations upon which security institutions in each component area are built, such as through support to national security dialogues; national security sector reviews and mappings; national security policy and strategy; national security legislation; national security sector plans; security sector public expenditure reviews; and national security oversight, management and coordination;

10. *Also underlines* that the management of a transition from a peacekeeping operation or special political mission in relation to its security sector reform activities should be based upon a timely analysis, in consultation with the host country, of any assistance beyond the duration of the mandate to enable peacebuilding and development actors to undertake the necessary strategic planning and fundraising, working in close partnership with the national authorities, and to transfer skills and expertise to host country officials and experts as quickly as possible in order to ensure a successful and durable transition;

11. *Notes* that the United Nations is particularly well positioned to support and coordinate sector-wide reforms as necessary in specific situations and has broad experience as well as comparative advantages in this area working in close collaboration with relevant international and regional actors, and encourages Member States to continue to be engaged and to facilitate strategic discussions on strengthening the United Nations approach in this critical area, including through the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission;

12. *Also notes* the important role that United Nations police can play in supporting, and coordinating international support for, reform of national police institutions and building police capacity in a comprehensive way that emphasizes a community-oriented approach and, inter alia, builds strong governance, oversight and accountability mechanisms within the framework of a functional judicial and corrections system;

13. *Recognizes* the need for the United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions with relevant mandates and the United Nations Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force to further strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of United Nations security sector reform initiatives with the aim of ensuring the effectiveness, coordination and coherence of the support provided by the United Nations to national Governments;

14. *Encourages* Member States to provide voluntary support to security sector reform efforts, including at a sector-wide level, in accordance with the priorities set forth by national authorities;

15. *Resolves* to continue to promote the role of the Secretariat in supporting security sector reform, and requests the Secretary-General to consider undertaking the following in the context of relevant country-specific mandates:

(a) Strengthen the comprehensive approach of the United Nations in security sector reform;

(b) Develop additional guidance for relevant United Nations officials, including for Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General, and assist relevant senior United Nations management to understand how to deliver mandated security sector reform tasks;

(c) Encourage the Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General to fully take into account

the strategic value of security sector reform in their work, including through their good offices, where mandated;

(d) Highlight in his regular reports to the Security Council on specific United Nations operations mandated by the Council updates on progress of security sector reform, where mandated, in order to improve Council oversight of security sector reform activities;

(e) Continue to develop integrated technical guidance notes and related training modules, as well as other tools as appropriate, to promote coherent and coordinated United Nations support to security sector reform, and develop modalities for joint delivery of assistance to national reform efforts;

(f) Ensure that assistance related to security sector reform takes into account the operation of Council-mandated arms embargoes, where applicable, including the availability of exemptions to such embargoes specifically intended to support security sector reform;

16. *Underlines* the importance of partnerships and cooperation with regional and subregional arrangements and organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and in supporting security sector reform, as well as fostering greater regional engagement;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, consistent with the framework agreement for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, towards its efforts to strengthen its continent-wide policy framework for security sector reform, informed by and in support of the African Peace and Security Architecture, and further encourages all partners to continue to assist the African Union in building its capacities in this regard;

18. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing experiences and expertise on security sector reform among Member States and regional and subregional organizations, and in this regard encourages a deepening of South-South exchange and cooperation;

19. *Underscores* the importance of the equal and effective participation and full involvement of women in all stages of the security sector reform process, given their vital role in the prevention and resolution of conflict and peacebuilding, and in strengthening civilian protection measures in security services, including the provision of adequate training for security personnel, the inclusion of more women in the security sector and effective vetting processes in order to exclude perpetrators of sexual violence from the security sector;

20. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations and regional organizations

Security Council consideration. On 28 July [S/PV.7228], the Council held an open debate on the theme “United Nations peacekeeping operations: The United Nations and regional partnership and its evolution”. It had before it a concept note [S/2014/478] submitted by Rwanda.

The Secretary-General noted that the United Nations partnership with the African Union (AU) had benefitted from the growing involvement of the European Union (EU) in crisis management and post-conflict stabilization. The United Nations and the EU had increased their strategic partnership. By engaging

early during the planning phase, an effective division of labour had been achieved in areas such as police and security sector reform. The Secretary-General remarked that partnerships with regional organizations should continue to be based on the comparative strengths of each group. He also noted the importance of drawing detailed lessons from experiences in Africa, as the United Nations continued to work to enhance the predictability and sustainability of African-led peace support operations.

The Secretary-General stated that the United Nations, the AU and the EU, together with other key partners, had to use existing mechanisms and capacity more effectively and predictably, and in a way that would further strengthen others. He added that the United Nations stood ready to further support the efforts of the AU and the regional economic communities to fully operationalize the African Standby Force. The Secretary-General concluded by highlighting the importance of deepening and strengthening UN partnerships to meet the challenges of the future.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 7228], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2167(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/532] was submitted by Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, Jordan, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea and Rwanda.

The Security Council,

Recalling Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also all its previous relevant resolutions, including resolution 2033(2012) of 12 January 2012 on cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security, and the statements by its President underscoring the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant statutes of regional and subregional organizations,

Recalling further its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and recognizing that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security, and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter, can improve collective security,

Reaffirming its commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter, including its commitment to and respect for the principles of political independence, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States in conducting all peacekeeping activities, and the need for States to comply with their obligations under international law,

Resolving to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in peacekeeping and to ensure the effective functioning of the collective security system established by the Charter, and welcoming the announcement by the Secretary-General on 11 June 2014 of a comprehensive review of United Nations peacekeeping activities,

Reaffirming that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartial-

ity and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, is essential to the success of peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing that regional organizations are well positioned to understand the root causes of armed conflicts owing to their knowledge of the region, which can be a benefit for their efforts to influence the prevention or resolution of these conflicts, and acknowledging the efforts made by the African Union to review the scope of the African Standby Force, consistent with the recommendations of the 2013 independent Panel of Experts,

Recognizing also the role that regional and subregional organizations can play in the protection of civilians, and in particular women and children affected by armed conflict, as well as in the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, and supporting the critical role that women play in all peace and security efforts, including those to prevent and resolve conflict and mitigate its impact,

Recognizing further the valuable contribution of relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, and commending the declaration signed on 17 September 2013 by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission, in order to mainstream protection mechanisms in all peace and security activities of the African Union, in close partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as the European Union Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, including its Checklist for the Integration of the Protection of Children affected by Armed Conflict into European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Operations,

Recognizing the role that regional and subregional organizations can play in post-conflict peacebuilding, including security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, rule of law, recovery, reconstruction and development processes, and reaffirming the importance of interaction and cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and regional and subregional organizations and arrangements,

Stressing the utility of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in order to enable early responses to disputes and emerging crises and to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the prevention of conflict, and stressing that the coordination of efforts at the regional level may be necessary for the development of a comprehensive strategy to ensure effective peacekeeping activities to address threats to international peace and security,

Underlining the usefulness of sharing the experience of countries which have gone through conflict and post-conflict situations and comparable transitions, and emphasizing the importance of effective regional, South-South and triangular cooperation,

Welcoming the continuing efforts and enhanced peacekeeping role of regional and subregional organizations, consistent with the Charter and Security Council resolutions and decisions, including in preparing the ground for United Nations peacekeeping operations, and calling upon regional and subregional organizations to promote coherence and coordination of their peacekeeping efforts with

those of the peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as well as with the wider United Nations presence on the ground,

Welcoming also the initiatives already taken by regional or subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the African Union, the European Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community, the Eastern African Community, the Organization of American States, the Union of South American Nations, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and Common Market, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the League of Arab States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Arab Maghreb Union,

Welcoming further the United Nations partnership with the African Union in the field of peacekeeping, including by supporting the efforts of the African Union to develop policy, guidance and training, in particular in the areas of security sector reform, post-conflict reconstruction, women and peace and security and the protection of civilians, including child protection and the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, thereby welcoming the framework of cooperation between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the African Union signed on 31 January 2014, and calling for its implementation,

Recalling in this regard its commitment to regularly assess, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the strength, mandate and composition of peacekeeping operations with a view to making the necessary adjustments where appropriate, according to progress achieved or changing circumstances on the ground, including in security, thereby allowing, on a case-by-case basis, reconfiguration, transition or withdrawal,

Emphasizing that United Nations peacekeeping activities should be conducted in a manner so as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding, prevention of relapse into armed conflict and progress towards sustainable peace and development, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the needs and situation of the country concerned,

Recognizing that one major constraint facing some regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in effectively carrying out the mandate of maintaining regional peace and security is securing predictable, sustainable and flexible resources,

Recalling its resolution 1809(2008) of 16 April 2008, in which it welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish a joint African Union-United Nations panel to consider options for supporting regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping operations pursuant to a Security Council mandate, and welcoming the steps taken by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to generate resources from within States members of the African Union in support of peace support operations,

Political

1. *Underlines* the importance of partnership and cooperation with relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, in supporting

peacekeeping operations, including on issues relating to the protection of civilians, taking into account the respective mandates of peacekeeping operations, and peacebuilding activities as well as forging greater regional and national ownership, and furthermore reiterates that the growing contribution made by regional and subregional organizations can usefully complement the work of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security, and stresses in this regard that such contribution must be made in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, including the need for regional and subregional organizations at all times to keep the Security Council fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation for the maintenance of international peace and security;

2. *Expresses its determination* to take effective steps to further enhance the relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter;

3. *Encourages* the continuing involvement of regional and subregional organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through conflict prevention, confidence-building and mediation efforts;

4. *Welcomes and further encourages* the ongoing efforts of the African Union and the subregional organizations to strengthen their peacekeeping capacity and to undertake peacekeeping operations on the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, and to coordinate with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, response capacity such as the African Standby Force and enhanced mediation capacity, including through the Panel of the Wise;

5. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the recent steps taken by the Eastern African Community to activate its standby arrangements and generate the required contribution in the context of the African Standby Force;

6. *Underscores* the need to strengthen the role of both United Nations and regional organizations' headquarters in providing strategic guidance and support to the missions' command and control structures to ensure that operations are managed effectively;

7. *Welcomes* recent developments regarding cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union, including the contribution of the European Union to the enhancement of African Union capacities; and further encourages regional and subregional organizations to strengthen and increase cooperation among them, including efforts to enhance their respective capacities, in the maintenance of international peace and security;

8. *Recognizes* the need to further strengthen cooperation and consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries, including through triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat, and encourages active participation of all stakeholders in open and more frequent consultation processes with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the implementation of the mandates;

9. *Encourages* the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to work in close consultation with regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, with a view to ensuring more consistent and integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;

10. *Encourages* pertinent regional and subregional organizations and arrangements to help to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on children, invites them to continue the mainstreaming of child protection into their advocacy, policies, programmes and mission planning, the development and expansion of guidelines to protect children affected by armed conflict as well as the training of personnel and the inclusion of child protection staff in their peacekeeping and field operations, and reiterates its call for the establishment of child protection mechanisms within their secretariats, including through the appointment of child protection focal points;

Operational

11. *Reaffirms its intention* to consider further steps to promote closer and more operational cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and of ensuring coherence, synergy and collective effectiveness of their efforts; and in this regard, welcomes the already existing strong cooperation initiatives between the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union;

12. *Stresses* the importance for the United Nations of developing the ability of regional and subregional organizations to deploy peacekeeping forces rapidly in support of United Nations peacekeeping operations or other Security Council-mandated operations, and welcomes relevant initiatives taken in this regard;

13. *Requests*, in that context, the Secretary-General to initiate in full and close cooperation with the African Union a lessons-learned exercise on the transitions from the African Union peace operations to United Nations peacekeeping operations in Mali and the Central African Republic and to produce specific recommendations that could be used for possible future transitional arrangements, not later than 31 December 2014;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations and regional organizations, especially the African Union, to take concrete steps to strengthen their relationships and develop a more effective partnership when addressing issues of mutual interest, and underscores the need to enhance the United Nations and regional organizations' predeployment joint planning and joint mission assessment processes to increase effectiveness of peacekeeping missions;

15. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations and the African Union to work to ensure that women and gender perspectives are fully integrated into all peace and security efforts undertaken by the two organizations, including by building the necessary capacity, and encourages regional and subregional organizations to include gender expertise in peacekeeping and field operations, as appropriate, and to increase female leadership in regional and subregional peacekeeping efforts;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and regional and subregional organizations and arrangements to enhance information-sharing on their respective capabilities and lessons learned in maintaining international peace and security and to continue to compile best practices, in particular in the field of mediation, good offices and peacekeeping, and also encourages strengthening of cooperation and dialogue among regional and subregional organizations in this regard;

17. *Recognizes* the inclusive consultative processes undertaken by the Police Division of the Department

of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat in the development of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping, and encourages closer coordination and cooperation on policing issues between the United Nations Secretariat and international, regional and subregional organizations, including through training, the sharing and exchange of knowledge and thematic expertise and operational support as appropriate;

18. *Encourages* the increased engagement of the African Union Peacekeeping Support Team within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Office to the African Union, as coordinating structures, aimed at providing necessary expertise and transfer of technical knowledge to enhance the capacity of the Peace Support Operations Division of the African Union, including in mission planning and management, as well as the deployment of staff of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat to work with the African Union on the effective operationalization of the Panel of the Wise and other mediation programmes;

19. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to coordinate with and support the African Union Commission in its development of a list of needed capacities and recommendations on ways the African Union can further develop its military, police, technical, logistic and administrative capabilities, welcomes the practice of staff exchanges, especially between the United Nations and the African Union, and encourages its continuity, particularly for staff in the financial and logistical areas, and further encourages the African Union to identify its priorities in personnel training, particularly in those areas dealing with financial, logistic and administrative matters;

20. *Invites* regional and subregional organizations to accelerate the establishment of the Standby Arrangements System for conflict prevention and peacekeeping, welcomes in that regard the commitment made by African leaders at the Malabo summit, held on 26 and 27 June 2014, and steps taken by the African Union Commission to operationalize the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises, and encourages the States members of the African Union to generate substantive pledges to this initiative, and further encourages the African Union Commission to harmonize this concept with the African Standby Force;

Financial

21. *Reaffirms* its previous resolutions and the statements by its President regarding the Prodi report, including the statements of 26 October 2009, 22 October 2010 and 6 August 2013 as well as resolutions 1809(2008), 2033(2012) and 2086(2013) of 21 January 2013;

22. *Reiterates* that regional organizations have the responsibility to secure human, financial, logistical and other resources for their organizations, including through contributions by their members and support from partners, and welcomes the valuable financial support provided from partners in this regard;

23. *Stresses* the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a Security Council mandate, and recognizes the benefit of joint planning missions and assessment visits in determining the needs of regional peace support operations;

24. *Reiterates its resolve* to give peacekeeping operations clear, credible and achievable mandates matched by appropriate resources;

25. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to contribute to strengthening the capacity of regional and subregional organizations, in particular of African regional and subregional organizations, in conflict prevention and crisis management, and in post-conflict stabilization, including through the provision of human, technical and financial assistance;

26. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the support provided by the European Union through the African Peace Facility, in particular the support provided to the African Union Mission in Somalia and the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic;

27. *Further welcomes* the extensive support by bilateral partners of the African Union for the deployment of African-led operations, and encourages them to pursue these efforts;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the African Union Commission and the European Union, to produce, not later than 31 March 2015, an assessment report and recommendations on the progress of the partnerships between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations in peacekeeping operations;

29. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General. In August, the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/69/228-S/2014/560] on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations. The report described cooperation across the full range of mandate areas, from the maintenance of international peace and security and humanitarian assistance to development and the protection of human rights.

Security Council consideration. On 16 December [S/PV.7343], the Council held an open debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

The theme of the debate was “Peace operations: the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and its evolution”. The Council had before it a concept note [S/2014/879] submitted by Chad.

Briefing the Council, the Secretary-General stated that over the years, cooperation between the United Nations and its regional and subregional partners had intensified. The Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council were working closely, and there was increased support for African-led peace operations and their transition into UN peacekeeping operations, as demonstrated in Mali and the Central African Republic. The Secretary-General noted the need to build stronger political partnerships that were anchored in a clear strategic vision; and the need for a clear, agreed role for the AU and subregional organizations, as increasing the predictability of cooperation and conducting joint assessment missions and planning exercises were critical to enhancing joint peace operations. He further

stated that the United Nations, regional organizations and other partners had to cooperate to enhance joint logistical capabilities. Creative approaches were needed to provide the necessary mobility, capacity and robustness. Financing continued to pose a major challenge to African capability.

(For more information on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, see p. 1604.)

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 December [meeting 7343], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/27** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls its previous relevant resolutions and statements by its President which underscore the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant statutes of the regional and subregional organizations.

The Council recalls the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirms its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council welcomes the briefing of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and that of the African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, former President Pierre Buyoya.

The Council acknowledges the progress made in the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, and stresses the importance of further strengthening cooperation and developing effective partnership with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter, to address common collective security challenges in Africa.

The Security Council reiterates that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter can improve collective security.

The Council recognizes that regional organizations are well positioned to understand the root causes of armed conflicts owing to their knowledge of the region, which can be a benefit for their efforts to influence the prevention or resolution of these conflicts.

The Council acknowledges the role of the African Union in efforts to prevent or settle conflicts on the African continent and expresses its support for the continued efforts of the African Union to promote peace initiatives conducted by the African Union, and similar initiatives of subregional organizations.

The Council commends the increased contribution of the African Union to the maintenance of peace and security, including peacekeeping, in particular in the Sudan (Darfur), Mali, the Central African Republic and Somalia, as well as the African Union Regional Task Force, and efforts to further strengthen its capacity, including through the operationalization of both its

African Standby Force and its Rapid Deployment Capability, and welcomes the United Nations-African Union continued cooperation on different components of the African Peace and Security Architecture, including on early warning, preventive diplomacy, mediation, electoral assistance, peacekeeping, conflict prevention and resolution, promotion of human rights and the rule of law, and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.

The Council welcomes the decision by the African Union to declare 2014–2024 as the Madiba Nelson Mandela Decade of Reconciliation in Africa and to take appropriate measures to promote reconciliation as a means of securing peace, stability and development in Africa, as well as to also take appropriate steps in collaboration with its member States to promote the lessons learned from his indelible legacy in the areas of truth, reconciliation and peacebuilding.

The Council welcomes the efforts undertaken by the African Union to end impunity and ensure accountability, including by strengthening national justice institutions.

The Council stresses the importance of further strengthening cooperation with the African Union in order to assist in building its capacity to deal with common collective security challenges in Africa, including through the African Union's commitment of rapid and appropriate responses to emerging crisis situations, and the development of effective strategies for conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

The Council reiterates that regional organizations have the responsibility to secure human, financial, logistical and other resources for their organizations, including through contributions by their members and support from partners and welcomes the valuable financial support provided by partners in this regard.

The Council recognizes that one major constraint facing the African Union in effectively carrying out the mandates of maintaining regional peace and security is securing predictable, sustainable and flexible resources.

The Council encourages closer coordination and cooperation on policing issues between the United Nations Secretariat and international, regional and sub-regional organizations, including through training, the sharing and exchange of knowledge, thematic expertise and operational support as appropriate.

The Council recognizes the role that the African Union can play in the protection of civilians, and in particular women and children affected by armed conflict, as well as in the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations and supports the critical role that women play in all peace and security efforts, including those to prevent and resolve conflict and mitigate its impact.

The Council welcomes the United Nations partnership in the field of peacekeeping, including support to the efforts of the African Union to develop policy, guidance and training, in particular in the areas of security sector reform, post-conflict reconstruction, women and peace and security and the protection of civilians, including child protection and the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations.

The Council recognizes the valuable contribution of relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements for the protection of children affected by armed conflict and commends in this regard the declaration signed on 17 September 2013 by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission, in order to mainstream protection mechanisms in all peace and security activities of the African Union, in close partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund.

The Council encourages in this regard the African Union Commission to help to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on children, invites it to continue the mainstreaming of child protection into its advocacy, policies, programmes and mission planning, the development and expansion of guidelines to protect children affected by armed conflict as well as the training of personnel and the inclusion of child protection staff in its peacekeeping and field operations, and reiterates its call for the establishment of child protection mechanisms within its secretariat, including through the appointment of child protection focal points.

The Council urges Member States and relevant international organizations to contribute to strengthening the capacity of the African Union and its sub-regional organizations in conflict prevention and crisis management and in post-conflict stabilization, including through the provision of human, technical and financial assistance.

The Council reiterates the importance of establishing a more effective relationship between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council, including through achieving more effective annual consultative meetings, the holding of timely consultations, and collaborative field missions of the two Councils, as appropriate, to formulate cohesive positions and strategies on a case-by-case basis in dealing with conflict situations in Africa.

The Security Council calls for the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, including in the area of mediation efforts, and underscores the importance of developing the follow-up programme to the 2006 United Nations-African Union Ten-year Capacity-Building Programme, as an important contribution towards conflict prevention, management and resolution on the African continent. In this regard, the Council welcomes the United Nations-African Union joint decision during the fifteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, held in Abuja in March 2014 to establish a working group to start formulating a successor programme that will also reflect the support of the United Nations to Agenda 2063.

The Council welcomes the appointment of the high-level panel to review peace operations, and invites this panel to consult closely with the African Union.

The Council welcomes regular interaction between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, through the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security, and encourages the Task Force to continue to focus on strategic and country-specific issues of the African continent that

are of interest to both organizations and requests that the Task Force consider ways to enhance United Nations and African Union cooperation on conflict prevention in Africa and that it provide updates to the Council subsequent to its meetings.

The Council commends the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic on 15 September 2014 and welcomes the ongoing lessons-learned exercise on the transitions from African Union to United Nations peacekeeping operations in Mali and the Central African Republic, pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 2167(2014) and looks forward to concrete recommendations from this lessons-learned exercise, which would seek to strengthen the management of transitions from African Union to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

The Council stresses the importance of supporting the political role of the African Union, both during the transition from African Union to United Nations peacekeeping missions, as well as in the formulation and implementation of governance and other reforms to be carried out in addressing the root causes of conflict in Africa.

The Council encourages the United Nations and the African Union to take concrete steps to strengthen their relationships and develop a more effective partnership when addressing issues of mutual interest and underscores the need to enhance the United Nations and African Union predeployment joint planning and joint mission assessment processes to promote common understanding and increase effectiveness of peacekeeping missions.

The Council calls upon the Secretary-General to coordinate with and support the African Union Commission in its development of a list of needed capacities and recommendations on ways the African Union can further develop its military, civilian, police, technical, logistic and administrative capabilities, welcomes the practice of staff exchanges, especially between the United Nations and the African Union, and encourages its continuity, particularly for staff in the financial and logistic areas, and further encourages the African Union to identify its priorities in personnel training, particularly in those areas dealing with financial, logistic and administrative matters.

The Council notes the progress in the level and process of preparation for the eighth joint consultative meeting of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council, held on 6 June 2014 in New York, including the finalization in advance of the agenda for the annual consultative meeting and the joint press briefing by the President of the Security Council and the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council, and recommends that the ninth consultative meeting, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa in 2015, address the issue of follow-up to and implementation of previous communiqués.

The Security Council welcomes the adoption of the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration by African leaders on 26 May 2013, pledging to “end all wars in Africa by 2020” and “achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa”, expresses its readiness to contribute and calls upon all, in particular relevant United Nations entities to help to achieve this goal, including by consid-

ering defining a concrete five-year actionable plan in support of the goal of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2020. The Council notes in that regard that instability and violence in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, the Sahel, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan need to be addressed and resolved as a matter of urgency.

The Council recognizes the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General in Africa, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to use mediation as often as possible to help to resolve conflicts peacefully, working in coordination and closely with the African Union and its subregional organizations in that regard, as appropriate.

The Council takes note of the election of the new five members of the African Union Panel of the Wise and acknowledges the key preventive role that the Panel can play, and calls for increased political support to the Panel in the implementation of its mandate, and encourages the Panel's early engagement in deteriorating situations at risk of conflict.

The Council stresses the importance of strengthened African Union and United Nations capacities for early warning, conflict analysis, dialogue and mediation and increased African Union-United Nations collaboration in the area of good offices and between United Nations-African Union Envoys. The Council underscores the need to allocate resources to support and strengthen the Continental Early Warning System, the good offices role of Special Envoys and Representatives, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts, including through the African Solidarity Initiative.

The Council stresses the importance of a coordinated international response to causes of conflict and recognizes the need for the development of effective long-term strategies and emphasizes the need for all United Nations organs and agencies to pursue preventive strategies and to take action within their respective areas of competence to assist Member States and regional and subregional organizations to eradicate poverty, strengthen development cooperation and assistance and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Council welcomes recent developments regarding cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union, including the contribution of the European Union to the enhancement of African Union capacities, and further encourages regional and subregional organizations to strengthen and increase cooperation among them, including efforts to enhance their respective capacities, in the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council reaffirms its previous resolutions and the statements by its President regarding the Prodi report, including the statements of 26 October 2009, 22 October 2010 and 6 August 2013, as well as resolutions 1809(2008), 1863(2009), 2033(2012), 2086(2013) and 2167(2014).

The Council stresses the need to secure more financial resources from within the African continent, without prejudice to the support from the United Nations and other partners.

The Council reiterates its resolve to give peacekeeping operations clear, credible and achievable mandates matched by appropriate resources.

The Council stresses the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a Council mandate, and recognizes the benefit of joint planning missions and assessment visits in determining the needs of regional peace support operations.

The Council welcomes the renewed efforts of the African Union for the full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, and looks forward to the finalization of the ongoing Architecture assessment report, as well as to the successful conduct in 2015 of the Amani Africa II Exercise, which will validate the full operational capability of the African Standby Force.

The Council welcomes the steps taken for the operationalization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises, including through enhanced decision-making to facilitate rapid deployment.

The Council stresses the importance for the United Nations of developing the ability of the African Union and its subregional organizations to deploy peacekeeping forces rapidly in support of United Nations peacekeeping operations or other Council-mandated operations, and welcomes recent initiatives taken in this regard by the African Union.

The Council takes note of the commitments made by the European Union and Africa at the European Union-Africa Summit held in Brussels on 2 and 3 April 2014 to strengthen the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, in particular by supporting the African Standby Force and its Rapid Deployment Capacity, supported and managed in a sustainable way, as reaffirmed by the European Union Political and Security Committee and the African Union Peace and Security Council in Brussels on 15 May 2014. The Security Council further encourages initiatives aimed at creating more synergies between the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations in this endeavour, and further takes note of close cooperation between the European Union and the African Union, with the relevant regional and subregional organizations, the United Nations and its agencies, and with other international co-ordination mechanisms. The Council commends all the efforts already achieved by the European Union to this end and further welcomes the expressed intention of the European Union to allocate increased funding, including through the African Peace Facility.

The Council also takes note of the first African Union-China Strategic Dialogue for Peace and Security in Africa, launched in October 2014, which considers further cooperation measures in the peace and security area, including supporting the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises.

The Council further takes note of the first United States of America-Africa Leaders Summit and welcomes the announcement of the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership, which seeks to strengthen the capabilities of African countries to rapidly deploy peacekeepers in response to emerging conflict.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to present an annual report to the Council on ways to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union.

European Union

Security Council consideration. On 14 February [S/PV.7112], the High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy briefed the Council on cooperation between the United Nations and the EU in maintaining international peace and security. She described the contribution of the EU as threefold: direct involvement in international negotiations on behalf of the international community; capacity to implement a comprehensive approach and use a wide range of tools to solve crises; and close work with international and regional partners. The High Representative reiterated the commitment of the EU to support and work for effective multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core, in search of lasting solutions to critical international peace and security challenges.

The Secretary-General underlined the importance of establishing stronger partnerships with regional organizations and their critical role in maintaining international peace and security, including in conflict prevention, mediation, crisis management, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. He stated that UN cooperation with the EU stretched across agenda and around the world and that the EU had been a valuable partner to the Peacebuilding Commission, a champion of human rights and a steadfast partner in promoting the Millennium Development Goals, advancing gender equality and tackling climate change.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 14 February [meeting 7112], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/4** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirms its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council reiterates that cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and arrangements in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter, can improve collective security.

The Council welcomes the briefing by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union, Baroness Ashton, and commends the significant contribution that the European Union makes in support of the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council commends the involvement of the European Union in international negotiations and mediation, in particular:

(a) The Council welcomes the joint plan of action of 24 November 2013 agreed by the European Union three plus three and the Islamic Republic of Iran that entered into force on 20 January 2014 and notes the

coordinating role of the European Union in reaching an agreement on the joint plan of action. The Council emphasizes the importance of further diplomatic efforts to find a comprehensive negotiated solution that would ensure that the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear programme will be exclusively peaceful, in accordance with the resolutions of the Council;

(b) The Council welcomes the significant contribution of the European Union to the economic development and stabilization of the Western Balkans region in order to further promote democracy, economic prosperity, stability and regional cooperation, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Council, and calls upon all the parties for further constructive engagement.

The Council welcomes the comprehensive approach of the European Union to the maintenance of international peace and security, and commends the European Union and its member States for their ongoing commitment to international peacekeeping, peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance and financial as well as logistical support, in particular:

(a) The Council commends the role of the European Union in combating piracy off the coast of Somalia, notably through Operation Atalanta and through EUCAP Nestor development of seagoing maritime security capacities in the region, and in this regard the Council commends the European Union's current chairmanship of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. The Council welcomes the effort of the European Union to contribute to the stabilization of Somalia, in particular by training Somali security forces through the European Union Training Mission in Somalia, and its significant contribution to the African Union Mission in Somalia;

(b) The Council welcomes the strong engagement of the European Union in the Central African Republic, notably its humanitarian assistance, its financial contribution to the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, as well as the decision to establish a temporary operation to support the Mission. The Council notes the importance of coordination mechanisms between the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic and the Mission and the European Union operation in the Central African Republic;

(c) The Council welcomes the support of the European Union for the objectives and missions of the United Nations in Mali and the broader Sahel region, as set out in the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, notably through the work of the European Union Training Mission in Mali in cooperation with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, as well as its broader efforts in the region, through the European Union Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel and the EUCAP Sahel Niger mission.

The Council notes the extensive cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations, in particular:

(a) The Council welcomes the significant humanitarian assistance by the European Union to the affected people in the Syrian Arab Republic and in neighbouring countries, and welcomes its timely in-kind support

to the rapid establishment of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council and the European Union reiterate their shared objectives in promoting and facilitating the political solution to the Syrian conflict based on the full implementation of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012.

(b) The Council notes the role of the European Union in the meeting of the Middle East Quartet Principals held in Munich, Germany, on 1 February 2014 and reiterates its commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

(c) The Council welcomes the contribution of the European Union in promoting security, governance and development in Afghanistan, in particular the assistance for the development of the Afghan National Police and rule of law institutions accomplished through the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan and the European Gendarmerie Force.

The Council commends the role of the European Union in supporting the United Nations operations in the areas of mutual concern, in particular:

(a) The Council welcomes the ongoing cooperation in strengthening the United Nations response in promoting development cooperation and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) The Council recognizes the valuable support of the European Union on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, in particular its work on protecting women and children affected by armed conflict, as well as its engagement in the prevention of and protection from sexual violence and its support for the critical role that women play in all peace and security efforts, including those to prevent and resolve conflict and mitigate its impact;

(c) The Council recalls that justice and the rule of law are of key importance for promoting and maintaining peace, stability and development. In this regard, the Council highlights that the European Union can contribute to accountability through support for enhancing the capacity of the national justice systems, as appropriate, and through cooperation with international mechanisms, courts and tribunals, including the International Criminal Court.

The Council welcomes the close cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union and encourages both organizations to further strengthen their institutional relations and strategic partnership, including through regular briefings by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union to the Council.

Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage

On 8 May, the Council adopted **resolution 2154(2014)** (see below), by which it created a medal to honour those military, police and civilian United Nations or associated personnel who demonstrated exceptional courage in the face of extreme danger. The

medal was named after a Senegalese military officer, Mbaye Diagne, who saved the lives of many Rwandans during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, during which Hutu and others were also killed. Captain Diagne lost his life while serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR).

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 8 May [meeting 7170], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2154(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/318] was submitted by Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, which confers upon the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing the medals presented by the United Nations to those men and women in uniform who serve in United Nations field operations, and recalling its resolution 1121(1997) of 22 July 1997 establishing the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal as a tribute to the sacrifice of those who have lost their own lives as a result of service in peacekeeping operations under the operational control and authority of the United Nations,

Recalling the fundamental principles of United Nations peacekeeping, as well as other relevant principles of the United Nations activities on the ground,

Noting with deep appreciation how Captain Mbaye Diagne, of Senegal, of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, saved, unarmed and in the face of extreme danger, hundreds of, perhaps even a thousand, Rwandans from death, during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed,

Recognizing with the deepest regret how the family of Captain Diagne never received, after his death, any expressions of appreciation from the Headquarters of the United Nations for the sacrifices made by their distinguished family member,

Remembering the many other acts of bravery that military, police and civilian United Nations personnel and associated personnel have undertaken, while fulfilling the mandate of their missions or their functions, at great risk to their lives,

1. *Decides* to create the “Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage”, to be awarded to those military, police and civilian United Nations personnel and associated personnel who demonstrate exceptional courage in the face of extreme danger, while fulfilling the mandate of their missions or their functions, in the service of humanity and the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish within six months after the adoption of the present resolution the design of the medal, and to submit in due course to the Security Council the modalities for determining how the recipients of the medal shall be nominated and chosen, based on the criteria set forth in the previous paragraph;

3. *Requests* that the medal be presented by the Secretary-General to the recipient, or next of kin, in a ceremony to which all States Members of the United Nations shall be invited;

4. *Decides* that the medal will be ready for investiture within six months of the establishment of its modalities and the administrative management of the award will be provided by the Secretariat.

Conflict prevention

Security Council consideration. On 21 August [S/PV.7247], the Security Council convened an open debate on conflict prevention. It had before it a concept note [S/2014/572] prepared by the United Kingdom.

The Secretary-General highlighted the importance of early action in conflict prevention, as well as the need to improve skills, learn from collective mistakes, and foster partnerships and coalitions. There was no more important challenge than improving the ability to reach stronger and earlier consensus.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that conflict prevention was complex but achievable, and that human rights were central to conflict prevention, as patterns of violations provided early warning of escalation.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 August [meeting 7247], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2171(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/605] was submitted by Australia, Chad, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions and the statements by its President on the prevention of armed conflict, preventive diplomacy, mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in particular resolutions 1366(2001) of 30 August 2001 and 1625(2005) of 14 September 2005 and the statements by its President of 22 February 1995, 30 November 1999, 20 July 2000, 13 May 2003, 20 September 2005, 21 April 2009, 22 September 2011 and 15 April 2013,

Recalling also the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,

Recalling further all purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, and acting in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming the continuing commitment of the Council to addressing the prevention of armed conflicts in all regions of the world,

Expressing its determination to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in preventing and ending armed conflicts, their escalation, spread when they occur, and their resurgence once they end,

Recalling that the prevention of conflict remains a primary responsibility of States, and further recalling their primary responsibility to protect civilians and to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, as provided for by relevant international law, and further reaffirming the responsibility of each individual State to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Acknowledging the role that civil society can play in contributing to conflict prevention,

Reiterating the need for a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and sustainable peace, which comprises operational and structural measures for the prevention of armed conflict and addresses its root causes, including through strengthening the rule of law at the international and national levels and promoting sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, gender equality and respect for and protection of human rights,

Calling attention to the importance of early awareness and consideration of situations which may deteriorate into armed conflicts, and emphasizing that the United Nations, including the Council, should heed early warning indications of potential conflict and ensure prompt and effective action to prevent, contain or end conflicts, in accordance with the Charter,

Underlining the overriding moral, political and humanitarian imperatives as well as the economic advantages of preventing the outbreak, continuation, escalation or relapse into conflict,

Deeply concerned by the high human cost and suffering caused by armed conflicts, as well as the material and economic costs to the countries directly affected, the wider region and the international community, including through the inclusive rebuilding of States and societies in the aftermath of armed conflict, and recognizing that peace, security and development are mutually reinforcing, including in the prevention of armed conflict,

Affirming that a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy should include early warning, preventive diplomacy, mediation, preventive deployment, peacekeeping, practical disarmament and other measures to contribute to combating the proliferation of and illicit trade in arms, accountability measures as well as inclusive post-conflict peacebuilding, and recognizing that these components are interdependent, complementary and non-sequential,

Emphasizing the critical role of peacebuilding and the Peacebuilding Commission in support of countries emerging from conflict, in particular through the mobilization of sustained international support to critical national capacity needs,

Stressing the essential role of the Secretary-General in the prevention of armed conflict, including through early warning,

Stressing also the importance of the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance his role, in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Preventive diplomacy: delivering results" and the recommendations contained therein on steps to maximize the prospects of success in United Nations preventive diplomacy efforts,

Noting that terrorism is an important element in an increasing number of conflict situations and that countering incitement to terrorism motivated by extremism and intolerance, and addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, can complement conflict prevention efforts,

Stressing the importance of accountability in preventing future conflicts, avoiding the recurrence of serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and enabling sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation, and emphasizing in this context the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and, to that end, to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or other serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Stressing also that the fight against impunity and to ensure accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes in the international criminal justice system, ad hoc and mixed tribunals as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals; and recognizing in this regard the contribution of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity to national criminal jurisdictions as set out in the Rome Statute of the Court, towards holding accountable those responsible for such crimes; and reiterating its call upon the importance of State cooperation with these courts and tribunals in accordance with the States' respective obligations,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and reiterating its call to increase the equal, full and meaningful participation, representation and involvement of women in conflict prevention and mediation efforts in a mutually reinforcing manner in line with resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013,

1. *Expresses its determination* to pursue the objective of prevention of armed conflict as an integral part of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* all States to intensify efforts to secure a world free of the scourge of war and conflict;

3. *Stresses* that the prevention of conflicts remains a primary responsibility of States and actions undertaken within the framework of conflict prevention by the United Nations should support and complement, as appropriate, the conflict prevention roles of national Governments;

4. *Reaffirms* the duty of all States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means, inter alia through negotiation, enquiry, good offices, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement, or other peaceful means of their own choice;

5. *Recalls* Chapter VI, in particular Articles 33 and 34, of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirms its commitment to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and the promotion of necessary preventive action in response to disputes or situations, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security;

6. *Recognizes* that some of the tools in Chapter VI of the Charter, which can be used for conflict prevention, have not been fully utilized, including negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement and resort to regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, as well as the good offices of the Secretary-General, and stresses its determination to make and call for the greater and more effective use of such tools;

7. *Acknowledges* the important role the following can play in contributing to the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict:

- United Nations regional offices;
- Special political missions;
- Peacekeeping operations;
- The Peacebuilding Commission;

as well as regional and subregional organizations and arrangements;

8. *Also acknowledges* that sanctions imposed under relevant provisions of the Charter are an important tool in the maintenance and restoration of international peace and security and can contribute to create conditions conducive to the peaceful resolution of situations that threaten or breach international peace and security, and support conflict prevention;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue enhancing the use of his good offices, dispatching Representatives, Special Envoys and mediators, to help to facilitate durable, inclusive and comprehensive settlements, and further encourages the Secretary-General to continue his early engagement in the prevention of potential conflicts;

10. *Encourages* field-based special political missions and peacekeeping operations to enhance their assessment and analysis capabilities to prevent relapse into conflict within their existing mandates;

11. *Recognizes* that mediation is an important means for the pacific settlement of disputes, including, wherever possible, preventively and before disputes evolve into violence, and appreciates the efforts of the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen United Nations mediation support capacities, including the Mediation Support Unit as a provider of mediation support to the United Nations system, in accordance with agreed mandates;

12. *Expresses its willingness* to give prompt consideration to early warning cases brought to its attention by the Secretary-General, including to the dispatch, in appropriate circumstances, of preventive political missions, and encourages the Secretary-General to bring to its attention any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter;

13. *Acknowledges* that serious abuses and violations of international human rights or humanitarian law, including sexual and gender-based violence, can be an early indication of a descent into conflict or escalation of conflict, as well as a consequence thereof; and calls upon States which have not already done so to consider ratifying the instruments of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law and to take appropriate steps to implement these instruments domestically, which could contribute to timely prevention of conflicts;

14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to refer to the Security Council information and analyses which he believes could contribute to the prevention of

armed conflict, including on cases of serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and on potential conflict situations arising, inter alia, from ethnic, religious and territorial disputes, poverty and lack of development;

15. *Expresses its commitment* to take early and effective action to prevent armed conflict and to that end to employ all appropriate means at its disposal, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter;

16. *Recalls* the important role of the Special Advisers to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect, whose functions include acting as an early warning mechanism to prevent potential situations that could result in genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing, as well as the important role the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict can play in contributing to conflict prevention; calls upon States to recommit to prevent and fight against genocide and other serious crimes under international law, and reaffirms paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity;

17. *Recognizes* the important role the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide can play in conflict prevention, and also recognizes the role their briefings on human rights violations and hate speech play in contributing to early awareness of potential conflict;

18. *Emphasizes* the important role that women and civil society, including women's organizations and formal and informal community leaders, can play in exerting influence over parties to armed conflict; and reiterates the continuing need to increase success in preventing conflict by increasing the participation of women at all stages of mediation and post-conflict resolution and by increasing the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to conflict prevention;

19. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys and Special Representatives to United Nations missions, as part of their regular briefings, to update the Council on progress in inviting women to participate, including through consultations with civil society, including women's organizations, in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peacebuilding;

20. *Expresses its commitment* to consider and use the tools of the United Nations system to ensure that early warning of potential conflicts translates into early, concrete preventive action, including towards the goal of protecting civilians, by or in coordination with the most appropriate United Nations or regional actor, in accordance with the Charter;

21. *Encourages* the peaceful settlement of local disputes through regional arrangements in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, acknowledges the efforts undertaken to strengthen operational and institutional cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations aimed at conflict prevention, and in this regard reiterates the need to continue strengthening strategic dialogue, partnerships and more regular exchanges of views and information at the working level, with the aim

of building national and regional capacities in relation to preventive diplomacy;

22. *Calls for* enhanced cooperation and capacity-building with regional and subregional organizations and arrangements to help to prevent armed conflicts, their spread and impact, including through cooperation in early warning mechanisms, as well as to help to facilitate preventive action, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter;

23. *Reiterates its support* for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, and expresses its continued willingness to make use of the advisory, advocacy and resource mobilization roles of the Commission in peacebuilding activities;

24. *Reaffirms its willingness* to strengthen its relationship with civil society, including, as appropriate, through, inter alia, meetings in an informal and flexible manner with civil society, to exchange analyses and perspectives on the issue of the prevention of armed conflict;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council on actions taken by him to promote and strengthen conflict prevention tools within the United Nations system, including through cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, by 31 August 2015;

26. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the item on the prevention of armed conflict would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Mediation and settlement of disputes

In July, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/291 [YUN 2012, p. 35], the General Assembly considered the agenda item “Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution”.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 31 July [meeting 105], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/303** [draft: A/68/L.55 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 33 (b)].

Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/283 of 22 June 2011 and 66/291 of 13 September 2012 on strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolutions and presidential statements related to mediation and to regional and subregional organizations,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its commitment to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,

Recalling Chapter VI, including Article 33, of the Charter, and other Articles relevant to mediation, as well as Chapter VIII of the Charter and other Articles relevant

to, inter alia, the role of regional and subregional organizations in mediation,

Bearing in mind its responsibilities, functions and powers under the Charter, and thus recalling all its relevant resolutions in matters related to the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including through mediation,

Reaffirming the respective role and authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter,

Acknowledging the efforts of the Security Council to promote cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including through mediation, and encouraging the continued cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming its commitment to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence and the duty of Member States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and to uphold the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination or foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter,

Bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world,

Recalling that the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, in accordance with the Charter and international law, including through mediation, remain a primary responsibility of Member States without prejudice to Article 36 of the Charter,

Recognizing that responsible and credible mediation requires, inter alia, national ownership, the consent of parties to a particular dispute or conflict, the impartiality of the mediators, their compliance with agreed mandates, respect for national sovereignty, compliance with obligations of States and other relevant actors under international law, including applicable treaties, the operational preparedness, including process and substantive expertise, of the mediators, and coherence, coordination and complementarity of mediation efforts,

Emphasizing that justice and truth is a fundamental building block of sustainable peace,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretary-General, the Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant actors to promote the use of mediation, and in this regard taking note of the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation,

Stressing the need for Member States as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to continue to improve, as appropriate, their capacities in the

pacific settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, including mediation, for sustainable peace,

Recalling the good offices of the Secretary-General, and appreciating his efforts to continue to strengthen United Nations mediation support capacities, in accordance with agreed mandates,

Appreciating the partnerships and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the field of mediation and the efforts of the Secretary-General to work together with regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their mediation support capacities, upon request and in accordance with agreed mandates,

Encouraging the Secretary-General to support regional efforts and initiatives by Member States, as well as regional and subregional organizations, to promote mediation and to prevent and resolve conflicts, upon request and in accordance with agreed mandates,

Reaffirming the role of regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, in line with provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter, and taking note of their important role as mediators, within agreed mandates, in many regions, acting with the consent of parties to a particular dispute or conflict,

Acknowledging that regional and subregional organizations can benefit mediation efforts with their specific approaches stemming from their geographic, cultural and historical proximity to, as well as information about, specific local conflict situations within their mandates, and contribute to the prevention and resolution of such conflicts,

Recognizing the importance of the equal and effective participation and the full involvement of women at all levels, at all stages and in all aspects of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, as well as the provision of adequate gender expertise for all mediators and their teams, noting that further efforts are necessary to appoint more women as chief or lead peace mediators, and in this context reaffirming the full and effective implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions, including those on women, peace and security, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and furthermore welcoming the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in this respect,

Recognizing also national and civil society actors active in mediation, and encouraging their contributions and continued coordination to improve complementarity in mediation activities, when appropriate, in this regard,

Welcoming the increasing contribution by the African Union in efforts to settle conflicts of its members, and expressing its support for the peace initiatives conducted by the African regional and subregional organizations,

1. *Reiterates* that all Member States should strictly adhere to their obligations as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, including in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution;

2. *Welcomes* the contributions of Member States, as well as of the United Nations and of regional and subregional organizations, to mediation efforts, as appropriate;

3. *Invites* Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to continue to optimize the use of mediation and other tools mentioned in Chapter VI of the Charter for the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution;

4. *Encourages* Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, to continue to develop, where appropriate, their mediation capacities in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution;

5. *Also encourages* Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, to increase the awareness on the importance of mediation, as appropriate, through, inter alia, the organization of conferences, seminars and workshops, and in this regard welcomes regional initiatives to strengthen mediation in their regions, such as the “Mediation in the Mediterranean Initiative”;

6. *Encourages* the use, as appropriate, of the United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation in mediation efforts, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter;

7. *Encourages* Member States and regional and subregional organizations to promote equal, full and effective participation of women in all forums and at all levels of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, particularly the decision-making level;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to appoint women as chief or lead mediators and as members of mediation teams in United Nations-sponsored peace processes, as well as to ensure adequate gender expertise for all United Nations processes, and invites similar efforts by Member States as well as by regional and subregional organizations;

9. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, to use the mediation capacities of the United Nations as well as those of regional and subregional organizations, where applicable, and to promote mediation in their bilateral and multilateral relations;

10. *Invites* all Member States to consider providing sustained political support, expertise and timely and adequate resources, including through the United Nations, for mediation and, as appropriate, for the implementation of agreed outcomes of mediation processes, in order to assure their success, as well as for mediation capacity-building activities of the United Nations and of regional and subregional organizations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to offer his good offices, in accordance with the Charter and relevant United Nations resolutions, and to provide mediation support, where appropriate, to special representatives and envoys of the United Nations as well as to Member States and regional and subregional organizations, upon request;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to work with Member States and relevant regional and subregional organizations, upon request and in accordance with agreed mandates, in mediation capacity-building for the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, including through training events and staff exchanges;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to regularly hold dialogues on mediation upon mutually agreed agendas, exchange views, information and lessons learned and improve cooperation, coordination, coherence and complementarity in specific mediation contexts, in accordance with agreed mandates and as appropriate;

14. *Stresses* the importance of partnerships and cooperation of international, regional and subregional organizations with the United Nations, with each other and

with civil society, and of developing mechanisms to improve information-sharing, cooperation and coordination, in order to ensure the coherence and complementarity of efforts of actors involved in a specific mediation context;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating interaction by mediators between concerned parties and other stakeholders, as appropriate, as well as inclusive national processes in the implementation of the agreed outcomes of mediation processes;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts of regional and subregional organizations that have developed their mediation and conflict prevention and resolution capacities, structures and policy frameworks, and encourages other interested organizations, as mandated by their member States, to make similar efforts, as appropriate;

17. *Encourages* regional and subregional organizations to appoint, as appropriate, mediation focal points and to regularly communicate their contact information to the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and share this information with Member States and regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on cooperation between the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations on mediation, as well as possible ways to enhance such cooperation, and to hold regular briefings in order to promote closer consultation with Member States as well as regional and subregional organizations and to increase transparency;

19. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to brief Member States on mediation activities of the United Nations;

20. *Encourages* regional and subregional organizations to further enhance their informal thematic exchange with the Member States on mediation-related issues, as appropriate and in accordance with the Charter;

21. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution" at its seventieth session.

Conflict diamonds

The Kimberley Process at its twelfth annual session (Guangzhou, China, 11–14 November), continued its work related to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), which was established in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 55] to stop the trade in diamonds from fuelling armed conflict, protect the legitimate diamond industry and ensure implementation of UN resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds. As at 1 December, KPCS had 54 members, representing 81 countries, including the 28 members of the EU.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/128 [YUN 2013, p. 40], China, in its capacity as chair of the Kimberley Process, transmitted to the Secretary-General, on 28 November, the 2014 Kimberley Process report [A/69/622]. The report stated that since the implementation of KPCS in 2003, there had been a significant improvement in the security situation in several diamond-producing countries. In April, by **resolution 2153(2014)** (see p. 247), the Security Council decided to terminate the measures

preventing the importation by any State of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire imposed by paragraph 6 of resolution 1643(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 251], and to encourage Côte d'Ivoire to develop its diamond sector in line with the Certification Scheme standards.

With regard to monitoring the trade in rough diamonds and cooperation in implementing and enforcing the Certification Scheme in West Africa, the Process continued to provide support to the Mano River Union countries.

Following **resolution 2134(2014)** (see p. 213), by which the Security Council expressed its concern that diamond smuggling and other illicit activities were destabilizing forces in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Kimberley Process adopted an administrative decision to ensure that diamonds from the CAR did not enter the legitimate trade. The Process also agreed to expand the mandate of the subgroup of the group of experts to include research on the origin of diamonds from that country.

In May, the Chair signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Diamond Council (WDC), ensuring that WDC would continue to function as the administrative support mechanism for the Process. In November, the Plenary of the Kimberley Process adopted an administrative decision on the participation of observers in the work of the Process (revised). The Working Group of Diamond Experts, the Working Group on Monitoring, and the Working Group on Statistics also amended their respective terms of reference.

The Plenary welcomed the submission of annual reports on Certification Scheme implementation in 2013 by 52 participants representing 79 countries. Australia, China, Guinea and Guyana each received a review mission in 2014; review missions were also planned for Armenia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Togo and the EU. Angola would succeed China as Chair of the Process, effective 1 January 2015.

(For information on the import of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire, and its Expert Group, see p. 252.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/136** [draft: A/69/L.39 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 31].

The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic

in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process, as an international initiative led by the Governments of participant States, has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicant States and international organizations,

Recalling that the elimination of conflict diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process, and stressing the need to continue its activities in order to achieve this objective,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries, and calling for the consistent implementation of commitments made by Kimberley Process participant States and the diamond industry and civil society organizations, as observers,

Acknowledging the successful role that the Kimberley Process has played in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds and the significant developmental impact it has had in improving the lives of people dependent on the trade in diamonds, and noting that the plenary meeting of the Process, in looking towards the future, committed to continue to ensure that the Process remains relevant as a credible tool in curbing the illegal flow of rough diamonds,

Acknowledging also that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for promoting economic and social development, which are necessary for poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Millennium Development Goals in many producing countries, particularly in developing countries,

Bearing in mind the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of the producing, exporting and importing States,

Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1459(2003) of 28 January 2003, in which the Council strongly supported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme continues to have

a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and helps to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Acknowledging that lessons learned from the Kimberley Process may be useful for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its consideration of the countries included in its agenda, as appropriate,

Recalling its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000, 56/263 of 13 March 2002, 57/302 of 15 April 2003, 58/290 of 14 April 2004, 59/144 of 15 December 2004, 60/182 of 20 December 2005, 61/28 of 4 December 2006, 62/11 of 26 November 2007, 63/134 of 11 December 2008, 64/109 of 11 December 2009, 65/137 of 16 December 2010, 66/252 of 25 January 2012, 67/135 of 18 December 2012 and 68/128 of 18 December 2013, in which it called for the development and implementation as well as a periodic review of proposals for a simple, effective and pragmatic international certification scheme for rough diamonds,

Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, nor hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Welcoming also the decision of the 54 Kimberley Process Participants, representing 81 countries, including the 28 States members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Noting the outcomes of the twelfth plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, hosted in Guangzhou by China from 11 to 14 November 2014,

Welcoming the important contribution to fulfilling the purposes of the Kimberley Process that has been made and continues to be made by civil society organizations from across participant countries, and the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council, which represents all aspects of the diamond industry in the Process, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming also the voluntary self-regulation initiatives for the diamond industry announced by the World Diamond Council, and recognizing that a system of such voluntary self-regulation contributes, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds, to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal control for rough diamonds,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have the requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories and across their borders, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in the institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards,

Welcoming the efforts to improve the normative framework of the Kimberley Process through the elaboration of new rules and procedural norms to regulate the activities of its working bodies, Participants and observers and the streamlining of the procedures for preparation and adoption of the decisions and documents of the Process, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

1. *Reaffirms its strong and continuing support* for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Kimberley Process as a whole;

2. *Recognizes* that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme helps to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and contributes to the prevention of future conflicts fuelled by diamonds, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. *Also recognizes* the important contributions that the international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds, including the Kimberley Process, have made to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

4. *Notes* the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 15 May 2003 granting a waiver with respect to the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, effective from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2006, the decision of the General Council of 17 November 2006 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2012, and the decision of the General Council of 11 December 2012 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2018;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/128, and congratulates the participating States and the European Union, the diamond industry and civil society organizations involved in the Process for contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

6. *Acknowledges* the progress made by Kimberley Process working groups, Participants and observers during 2014 in fulfilling the objectives set by the Chair to strengthen implementation of the peer review system, increase the transparency and accuracy of statistics, promote research into the traceability of diamonds, promote inclusiveness by broadening the level of involvement by Governments, industry and civil society in the Process, foster a sense of ownership by Participants and observers, improve information and communication flows and enhance the capacity of the Process to respond to emerging challenges;

7. *Notes* that the annual reporting process on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme implementation is the main comprehensive and regular source of information on the implementation of the Process provided by Participants, and calls upon Participants to submit consistent and substantive annual reports in order to conform to this requirement;

8. *Expresses appreciation* to Australia, China, Guinea and Guyana for receiving review visits in 2014, welcomes the commitment of those countries to continuously open their certification systems to reviews and improvements, and calls upon other Participants to invite and receive review visits in accordance with the peer review system of the Kimberley Process;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation, including the organization of a study tour hosted by Australia for representatives of Participants and observers in order to increase knowledge of best practices relating to the Process and develop a cadre of experts able to participate in review visits;

10. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation and enforcement, and in particular to ensure the coordination of its actions in relation to the occurrence of fraudulent certificates, to apply vigilance and ensure the detection and reporting of shipments of suspicious origin and to facilitate the exchange of information in cases of infringement, encourages further collaboration among Participants and with relevant international organizations, including the World Customs Organization, in securing better import and export control and more transparency in the rough diamond supply chain, and welcomes the suggestion made by working bodies of the Process to consider relevant recommendations from the report of the Financial Action Task Force related to risks associated with the supply chain of rough diamonds, emphasizing that the Process already provides measures to mitigate against such vulnerabilities and risks;

11. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, encourages Member States to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by seeking membership, participating actively in the Certification Scheme and complying with its undertakings, and acknowledges the importance of the increased involvement of civil society organizations in the Process;

12. *Calls upon* the Participants of the Kimberley Process to continue to articulate and improve rules and procedures to further enhance the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes with satisfaction the systematization of the work of the Process with respect to developing transparent and uniform rules and procedures and improving the mechanism for consultations and coordination within the Process;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the willingness of Kimberley Process Participants and observers to support and provide technical assistance to those Participants experiencing temporary difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

14. *Recognizes* the impact of the Ebola epidemic on several Kimberley Process Participants, and welcomes the commitment of the Process to provide support and technical assistance to affected countries and diamond mining communities;

15. *Also recognizes* the importance of the Kimberley Process in promoting economic development, particularly in the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector, and encourages an increased focus on issues related to the implementation of the Washington Declaration on Integrating Development of Artisanal and Small Scale Diamond Mining with Kimberley Process Implementation of 2012, including through the work of the Diamond Development Initiative, within the framework of the Process;

16. *Welcomes* Security Council resolution 2153(2014) of 29 April 2014, in which the Council terminated measures outlined in its resolution 1643(2005) of 15 December 2005 to prevent the importation by any State of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire and encouraged Côte d'Ivoire to host a Kimberley Process review visit within nine months of the date of the adoption of resolution 2153(2014), notes that, in

its 2014 final communiqué, the plenary meeting of the Process accepted the invitation of Côte d'Ivoire to host a review visit in early 2015, in line with the timing and obligations set out in resolution 2153(2014), also notes that the review visit is planned for the beginning of March 2015, and encourages Côte d'Ivoire to continue to implement its transition strategy and post-embargo plan of action and to implement the recommendations in the review mission report;

17. *Encourages* the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire to continue to provide support to Côte d'Ivoire for the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, as well as for its continued participation in regional cooperation and law enforcement activities, such as the Mano River Basin initiative, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2153(2014);

18. *Encourages* the Kimberley Process to continue active collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1584(2005) of 1 February 2005, and with Côte d'Ivoire, aiming at the resumption of trade in rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire;

19. *Welcomes* the initiative of Kimberley Process Participants in West Africa to enhance their cooperation in Process implementation and policy harmonization by adopting a regional approach for the Mano River region, and encourages countries in the Mano River region, the technical team, the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development project and other implementing partners to continue this work;

20. *Notes* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process reaffirmed its administrative decision on ensuring that diamonds from the Central African Republic are not introduced into the legitimate trade, as approved by written procedure on 11 July 2014, acknowledges progress made by the Central African Republic on the implementation of its workplan and road map for addressing issues of non-compliance with Kimberley Process Certification Scheme minimum requirements and strengthening its internal control system, and encourages the Central African Republic to continue working closely with the African Union, relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127(2013) of 5 December 2013, the international community and neighbouring countries on Certification Scheme compliance issues;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation and technical cooperation, including in the export of a shipment of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic to South Africa to update the Central African Republic footprinting analysis and work on a fingerprinting analysis;

22. *Notes* the decision of the plenary meeting regarding the participation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the Kimberley Process, welcomes the special efforts made by China, as Chair of the Kimberley Process, in relation to this matter, and invites the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to continue its efforts towards full reintegration into the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme through the steps outlined in the Kimberley Process communiqué of 30 November 2012;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the role played by the Kimberley Process Administrative Support Mechanism, with the World Diamond Council acting as host for 2014;

24. *Notes* the commitment of the Kimberley Process to continue dialogue on decision-making and on the defi-

nition of "conflict diamonds", in accordance with the final communiqué of the plenary meeting held in Johannesburg in November 2013;

25. *Acknowledges* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process adopted amendments to the administrative decision on the participation of observers in the work of the Process, clarifying the nature of the participation of observers in the Process and the procedure for the participation of their representatives in the events and/or activities of the Process;

26. *Notes with appreciation* the continued support provided by the Antwerp World Diamond Centre for the further development of the Kimberley Process website, which has been enhanced significantly to make it a more efficient and effective tool;

27. *Reaffirms* the importance of the tripartite nature of the Kimberley Process, and welcomes the commitment of the plenary meeting to continue its constructive engagement with civil society in recognition of the important role that civil society plays in the Process;

28. *Encourages* further improvement in enforcement of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes the new efforts made to increase information-sharing and collaboration in enforcement;

29. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that China, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2014, has made to curbing the trade in conflict diamonds, welcomes the selection of Angola as Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2015, and takes note with appreciation of the commitments made by Angola to further consolidate the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

30. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the Process;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

Peacemaking and peacebuilding

Post-conflict peacebuilding

Security Council consideration. On 19 March [S/PV.7143], the Council held a briefing on post-conflict peacebuilding. The Deputy Secretary-General briefed the Council on progress made in the implementation of the Secretary-General's 2012 report [YUN 2012, p. 43] on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict. He appealed to the Council to take advantage of the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2015 to shape a Peacebuilding Commission that would be relevant, catalytic and effective, and in the interests of the States affected.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Security Council presidential statement S/PRST/2012/29 [YUN 2012, p. 44], the Secretary-General, in September, submitted a progress report [A/69/399-S/2014/694] on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict, which addressed three priorities: inclusivity, institution-building, and sustained international support and mutual accountability.

Since the Secretary-General's 2012 report, the United Nations had made significant gains in assisting countries to consolidate peace after conflict despite challenges. A number of countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Tunisia, which were recovering from periods of violent conflict or political crisis, were developing more stable institutions and inclusive political systems. The closure of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and the Organization's transition to a country team-only presence at the end of March 2014 underscored the progress achieved. The eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, among others, were starting to emerge from decades of violence and instability, yet faced immense challenges developing institutions and achieving social cohesion. The international community continued to grapple with relapses into violent conflict in the Central African Republic and South Sudan.

The Secretary-General stressed the importance of mechanisms for inclusive politics in post-conflict transitions. The promotion of inclusive politics was integral to genuine national ownership of peacebuilding efforts and strategies. Mechanisms for effective public participation were also critical in the reform of core State institutions. Further advancing women's participation in post-conflict political and development processes remained a top priority.

Building strong and effective institutions remained a core element of post-conflict peace consolidation and a critical task for the UN system. Effective, legitimate and accountable State institutions that delivered public services reduced incentives for violent conflict and strengthened the State's resilience in the face of possible renewed violence.

Post-conflict peacebuilding relied heavily on predictable financial, technical and political support and required coherence among a wide spectrum of actors. The transnational dimensions of conflicts, including the cross-border movement of weapons, combatants and illicit financial and natural resource flows, made regional involvement in support of post-conflict stability essential.

The Secretary-General concluded by highlighting priorities that the United Nations, Member States and the wider international community should collectively focus on, including sustaining financial, technical and political support to post-conflict countries; expanding collaboration with the World Bank and regional development banks to support the effective extension of State authority and the strengthening of public financial management; emphasizing the critical role of regional actors and neighbouring countries in creating environments conducive to sustainable peace for countries emerging from violent conflict; designing compacts to strengthen political accompaniment of national commitments; and facilitating political support for inclu-

sive institution-building. The Secretary-General urged Member States to take advantage of the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture to ensure that it better served the needs of countries emerging from conflict and that collective efforts to prevent their relapse into conflict were more successful.

Civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict

In January, the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/68/696-S/2014/5 & Corr.1] highlighting the key results achieved since his last report [YUN 2012, p. 46] in building national institutions and capacities in the aftermath of conflict, and lessons learned and plans to: improve support to institution-building, grounded on national ownership; broaden and deepen the pool of civilian expertise available for peacebuilding; and enhance regional, South-South and triangular cooperation. The Secretary-General stated that the report was the final one of the civilian capacities initiative and marked the beginning of a concerted effort across the UN system to apply key lessons on institution-building and deepen partnerships with Member States and other key actors.

In March [A/68/784], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Question (ACABQ) reiterated that the different elements described in the context of the civilian capacity initiative and the related reports did not outline precise programmatic, administrative or budgetary implications. The Committee noted the intention of the Secretary-General to phase out the stand-alone team. The Committee's comments and recommendations also covered issues such as national ownership in the development of civilian capacities, partnerships and expertise, and financial and managerial agility.

On 30 June, the General Assembly, by **decision 68/549 C**, deferred consideration of reports of the Secretary-General and ACABQ on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations: civilian capacity [YUN 2012, p. 46], until its sixty-ninth (2014) session.

Rule of law

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/116 [YUN 2013, p. 1349], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/181] on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities. The report highlighted UN rule of law activities and developments at the national and international levels over the past year, and included illustrative examples of the range of work covered by the UN entities that were members of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. It contained information on the implementation of measures to enhance the coordination and coherence of the work of the United Nations relating to the rule of law. It also included a section devoted to UN activities to enhance

access to justice, in view of the General Assembly's focus during its sixty-ninth session on the subtopic "Sharing States' national practices in strengthening the rule of law through access to justice".

On 15 September (**decision 68/662**), the Assembly decided to consider the addendum [A/68/213/Add.1] to the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities [YUN 2013, p. 1348] at its sixty-ninth (2014) session under the item entitled "The rule of law at the national and international levels".

Security Council consideration. On 19 February [S/PV.7113], the Council held an open debate on the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security. It had before it a concept note [S/2014/75] submitted by Lithuania and the Secretary-General's 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 43] on measuring the effectiveness of the support provided by the UN system for the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations. The Secretary-General briefed the Council on issues covered in his report and stressed that rule of law was intrinsically linked to peace and security. The strengthening of the rule of law was an integral part of the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, which were providing national authorities with wide-ranging support, from constitution-making to strengthening police, justice and corrections institutions, and from anti-corruption efforts to those ensuring justice and accountability for gender-based crimes.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 February [meeting 7115], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/5** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms the statement by its President of 19 January 2012 and its continued recognition of the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law, as well as emphasis on the vital importance it attaches to promoting justice and the rule of law as an indispensable element for peaceful coexistence and the prevention of armed conflict.

The Council further reaffirms its commitment to international law and the Charter of the United Nations and to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which are essential for cooperation among States in addressing common challenges, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council recalls the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, held on 24 September 2012.

The Council underscores that sustainable peace requires an integrated approach based on coherence between political, security, development, human rights, including gender equality, and rule of law and justice

activities. In this regard the Council emphasizes the importance of the rule of law as one of the key elements of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The Council reaffirms the primary responsibility of national authorities in identifying their priorities and strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding, and in this regard reiterates that national ownership, responsibility and political will as well as concerted efforts of national Governments and the international community are critical in building sustainable peace.

The Council underlines the importance of the support to the strengthening of rule of law institutions of the host country that is provided, where mandated, by a number of peacekeeping operations and special political missions within the scope of their mandates, working in coordination with relevant United Nations entities. In this regard, the Council recalls its resolution 2086(2013), in which it noted that multidimensional peacekeeping missions may be mandated to provide such support in helping national authorities to develop critical rule of law priorities and strategies to address the needs of the police, judicial institutions and the corrections system and critical interlinkages thereof, with a view to supporting the ability of States to provide critical functions in these fields, and as a vital contribution to building peace and ending impunity.

The Council, with respect to activities in the rule of law field that may be a part of mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions:

- Reiterates its resolve to give clear, credible and achievable mandates;

- Underscores that the support to the strengthening of rule of law institutions of the host country should be considered in a country-specific context;

- Emphasizes the importance of a sector-wide approach for security sector reform, which enhances the rule of law, including through the establishment of independent justice and correction systems, and reaffirms that effective security sector reform requires developing a professional, effective and accountable security sector that is under the civilian oversight of a democratic Government;

- Notes the important role that the police components of peacekeeping operations can play in strengthening the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations, by, inter alia, providing operational support to national police and other law enforcement agencies and supporting the reform, restructuring and rebuilding of such agencies, including through technical assistance, collocation, training and mentoring programmes;

- Stresses the importance of avoiding duplication and overlaps in the United Nations rule of law structures and activities and improving the manner in which coordination is conducted;

- Highlights the responsibility of United Nations mission leadership in guiding and overseeing United Nations rule of law activities and coordinating United Nations country support in the field;

- Emphasizes that mission planning processes for mandated rule of law activities undertaken by peacekeeping operations and special political missions should give full consideration to supporting national

efforts to build rule of law institutions, taking into account the specific needs of the host country;

—Underlines the importance of partnerships and cooperation with Member States and subregional, regional and international partners in delivering rule of law activities, and calls upon them to promote coherence and coordination of their peacebuilding plans and programmes with those of the peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as well as the wider United Nations presence on the ground;

—Further underlines that managing a transition from a peacekeeping operation or special political mission in relation to its rule of law activities should be based upon a timely analysis, in consultation with the host country, of any assistance beyond the duration of the mandate to enable peacebuilding and development actors to undertake the necessary strategic planning and fundraising, working in close partnership with the national authorities, and to transfer skills and expertise to host country officials and experts as quickly as possible in order to ensure a successful and durable transition.

The Council notes the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces in the context of the relevant United Nations rule of law activities.

The Council reiterates its concern about the situation of vulnerable groups affected by armed conflict, in particular women, children and displaced persons. The Council expresses particular concern about sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses against children in situations of armed conflict. The Council recognizes the importance of ending impunity for such acts through strengthened police, justice and corrections capacity and the incorporation of gender and child protection perspectives in all rule of law programmes, including through justice sector reform and training on sexual violence, child protection and gender-based violence. The Council recalls in this regard its resolutions 1325(2000), 1612(2005), 1820(2008), 1882(2009), 1888(2009), 1889(2009), 1960(2010), 1998(2011), 2068(2012), 2106(2013) and 2122(2013). The Council reiterates its intention, when establishing and renewing the mandates of United Nations missions, to include provisions for the protection of children and on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, including through the appointment of child protection and gender advisers and provisions to protect children's rights and to facilitate women's full participation and access to justice through legal, judicial and security sector reforms and wider post-conflict reconstruction processes.

The Council notes with concern the particular challenges that transnational organized crime, including trafficking in illicit weapons, drugs and persons, as well as piracy, armed robbery at sea and terrorism, may pose to the security of countries on its agenda, including post-conflict States. The Council encourages the coordination of United Nations actions, including through peacekeeping operations and special political missions, where mandated, as well as actions by Member States in fighting these threats through implementation of

applicable national and international norms, relevant international long-term capacity-building efforts and regional initiatives.

The Council reaffirms its strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. The Council emphasizes the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity in order to prevent these crimes, avoid their recurrence and seek sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation. The Council welcomes concerted efforts at the national and international levels to this end.

The Council recognizes the contribution of national justice systems to the fight against impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law and underlines the importance of strengthening national accountability mechanisms with full respect for due process and the rights of the defence, including building investigative, prosecutorial and witness protection capacities, in post-conflict countries. The Council also highlights that regional and subregional organizations and arrangements can contribute to accountability through support for enhancing the capacity of national justice systems.

The Council stresses that the fight against impunity and to ensure accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes in the international criminal justice system, ad hoc and mixed tribunals as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals. The Council recognizes in this regard the contribution of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity to national criminal jurisdictions as set out in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, towards holding accountable those responsible for such crimes. In this regard, the Council reiterates its call on the importance of State cooperation with these courts and tribunals in accordance with the States' respective obligations. The Council further reiterates its intention to continue forcefully to fight impunity and uphold accountability with appropriate means. The Council notes the issuance by the Secretary-General of the latest guidance on contacts with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the International Criminal Court.

The Council notes the designation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme as the joint global focal point for the police, justice and corrections areas.

The Council notes the report of the Secretary-General on measuring the effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system for the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations and the recommendations contained therein.

Peacebuilding Commission

In response to Security Council resolutions 1645(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 94] and General Assembly resolution 60/180 [ibid.], the Peacebuilding

Commission submitted a report on its eighth session [A/69/818-S/2015/174], reviewing its activities in 2014. As mandated by Assembly resolution 65/7 [YUN 2010, p. 56] and Council resolution 1947(2010) [ibid.], both organs were to launch a further comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture in 2015. The report reflected the findings of the Commission's advance preparation for this review, which drew upon lessons learned from the implementation of recommendations from the 2010 review.

Through its country-specific configurations and its broader policy advisory role, the Commission continued to carry out its three core functions of advocacy, accompaniment and sustaining attention; resource mobilization and partnerships; and forging coherence. The Commission further strengthened linkages at the country level with the programmatic activity of the Peacebuilding Fund. New avenues included the convening of the annual session, which addressed international support and strategies to promote domestic resource mobilization in countries emerging from conflict.

First annual session. In the report on its seventh session [YUN 2013, p. 44], the Commission decided to convene an annual session to commemorate "Peacebuilding Day", and to enable closer interaction and engagement among the stakeholders in New York and from the capitals of Member States on key challenges to international peacebuilding. The first annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission (New York, 23 June)—a critical step in the continuing evolution of the work of the Commission and its orientation—was convened on the theme "Sustainable support for peacebuilding: domestic and international aspects". The selection of the theme marked the Commission's shift towards more practical means of performing its core function of resource mobilization beyond traditional fundraising. Two interactive substantive working sessions addressed the mobilization of international and domestic resources and revenue generation; and lessons learned on the development of national capacities and sustainability of resources in the context of transitions of UN missions. The working sessions brought together Member States, UN entities, international financial institutions, the African Development Bank and representatives of specialized civil society organizations. The interactive discussion in the first working session enabled the Commission to identify four areas for further policy development in support of post-conflict countries: capacity development to generate domestic revenues, including the capacity to negotiate natural resource contracts; transparency and accountability of extractive industries and applicable tax regimes; the fight against illicit financial flows by developing international frameworks that would help increase mutual accountability and international cooperation on tax regimes, and address tax avoidance and trade mis-

pricing; and addressing inappropriate banking privacy laws, which were critical components of some illicit financial flows. As a follow-up to the annual session, the Commission planned to pursue the four identified policy areas and to explore practical ways to advocate on behalf of post-conflict countries in deliberations taking place in relevant intergovernmental forums.

2015 review. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/7 and Council resolution 1947(2010), which called for a further review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (made up of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office), to be conducted five years after the conclusion of the 2010 review [YUN 2010, p. 55], the Organizational Committee, between May and October, embarked on advance preparation for the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture. In parallel, the Secretary-General initiated a process, endorsed by his Policy Committee in February, to develop a collective contribution to the review from the United Nations system (see below). That process generated recommendations on the strategic orientation and utility of the Commission. Both preparatory processes were designed to address a key shortcoming of the 2010 review, namely the lack of both ownership of its outcome and of recommendations from both Member States and the UN system. On 3 November, the Chair submitted the outcome of the Commission's advance preparation to the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council for consideration.

Advisory function. The Commission continued to explore ways to strengthen the advisory function to, and improve interaction with, the Security Council. The Commission had pursued two tracks in its relations with the Council: a thematic focus on the transitions of UN missions coordinated by the Working Group on Lessons Learned under the chairmanship of Japan; and periodic stock-taking, at the expert level, coordinated by Rwanda. The stock-taking exercise examined the scope of the Commission's advisory function with regard to the Council and the modality of their interaction when countries were on the agenda of both bodies. In addition, the third informal interactive dialogue among members of the Council and the Commission's group of chairs addressed "the recurring relapse into conflict" witnessed in recent years.

Other topics covered included Commission working methods, emerging cross-cutting issues such as response to the outbreak of Ebola and participation of women in peacebuilding.

The report concluded with Commission actions relating to the follow-up to the first and preparation for the second annual session; integrating the perspectives of regional actors; focused and sustained attention on the long-term impacts of the Ebola outbreak; im-

proving the advisory function with regard to and the modality of interaction with the General Assembly and the Security Council; developing a strategy to strengthen the gender perspective in country-specific engagement; as well as improving certain aspects of the Commission's working methods.

Security Council consideration. On 15 July [S/PV.7217], the Council had a briefing on post-conflict peacebuilding to consider the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its seventh session [YUN 2013, p. 44]. A subsequent informal interactive dialogue was held on the same day between the Members of the Council, the members of the PBC Chairs Group and the countries on the Commission's agenda to reflect on developments and the Commission's advisory role to the Council.

Communications. The Secretary-General, by identical letters to the Assembly and the Council dated 24 October [A/69/553-S/2014/763], presented the UN system inputs to the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture. The Secretary-General stated that the 2015 peacebuilding review offered an opportunity to clarify the areas of strength and potential utility of the Commission; identify more flexible and dynamic modes of its engagement; and identify the situations and settings that were most appropriate for such engagement.

By a 15 December letter [A/69/674-S/2014/911], the Assembly and the Council presented to the Secretary-General a proposal on the scope, terms of reference and modalities for the upcoming 2015 review of the UN peacebuilding architecture. The terms of reference reflected the outcome of an extensive consultative intergovernmental process within the framework of the Peacebuilding Commission, consolidated through further consultations undertaken by respective Offices. Also attached was a letter from Brazil containing the list of five countries that had agreed to be the subject of the case studies that the terms of reference called for to underpin the 2015 review.

By an 8 December letter [A/69/654-S/2014/882], Egypt transmitted to the Secretary-General the outcome report of the Cairo workshop on regional aspects of peacebuilding: identifying gaps, challenges and opportunities.

By a 30 December letter [S/2014/954], the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission transmitted to the Security Council a report which summarized the conversations and meetings held during the Chair's December visit to Burundi, as well as his observations on the future of the Peacebuilding Commission's engagement with Burundi in 2015.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the item on the report of the Peacebuilding Commission would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Peacebuilding Fund

In response to Assembly resolution 63/282 [YUN 2009, p. 49], the Secretary-General submitted the annual report [A/69/745] on the Peacebuilding Fund, which was established in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 57] as a mechanism for extending critical support at the early stages of a peace process. The report covered the Fund's operations and activities during 2014.

The Peacebuilding Fund achieved its target through the allocation of \$99.4 million to 16 countries. A new business plan for 2014–2016, which introduced innovations in funding mechanisms, was endorsed by the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group. Programmes focused on reducing the risk of relapse into violence were restarted in the Central African Republic, and a new cross-border programming was piloted in the Sahel region, with expanded use of the Immediate Response Facility. The second Gender Promotion Initiative was launched. Mali was declared eligible for the Fund, and an exploratory mission was undertaken in Madagascar in support of subregional peacebuilding efforts. Overall, the Fund was active in more than 20 countries. Total contributions in the amount of \$78.2 million were made by 21 Member States.

Protection issues

Responsibility to protect

Report of Secretary-General. In response to the 2005 World Summit Outcome [YUN 2005, p. 48], which dealt with, among other things, the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and Assembly resolution 63/308 [YUN 2009, p. 50], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/68/947-S/2014/449] on international assistance and the responsibility to protect. The report outlined the ways in which national, regional and international actors could assist States in fulfilling their responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. It also drew on the first report of the Secretary-General, in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 50], on implementing the responsibility to protect, which established the three pillar framework for the responsibilities enshrined in the principle.

Focusing on pillar II, the Secretary-General recalled the nature and dynamics of the atrocity crimes outlined in the World Summit Outcome, identified the approach and principles that should guide efforts to assist States in the fulfilment of their protection responsibilities and the various actors that could contribute to the responsibility to assist. The core section elaborated on three main forms of pillar II support, namely, encouragement, capacity-building and protection assistance, and provided examples of good national, regional and international practice.

The Secretary-General highlighted two forms of encouragement. First, international actors could encourage States to fulfil their pillar I responsibilities through awareness-raising and norm dissemination. Second, international actors could use confidential or public dialogue to remind States under stress of the importance of meeting their responsibility to protect and addressing signs of impending crisis. Regarding capacity-building, the Secretary-General stated that international assistance could build two sets of capacities. The first set was aimed at creating effective, legitimate and inclusive governance, while the second set was directed at creating “inhibitors”—capacities, institutions and actors that helped to prevent escalation from risk to imminent crisis—to the commission of atrocity crimes. In addition to capacity-building assistance, States under stress or facing an impending crisis could request temporary international help, either to deny those with the motivation to commit atrocity crimes the means of doing so or to boost their existing protection capacities.

The three main forms of international action under pillar II could support States to succeed in meeting their pillar I responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and avoid more controversial measures under pillar III. Successful implementation of the pillar II agenda would necessitate coordinated action. A key precondition for coordination was a shared understanding of the core priorities: intensifying efforts to encourage States to meet their responsibility to protect; investing in capacity-building programmes that addressed horizontal inequalities and buttressed specific inhibitors of atrocity crimes; and deploying additional capacity to States under stress to boost their ability to protect populations.

The report concluded by identifying challenges to the implementation of pillar II of the responsibility to protect and provided recommendations on advancing this agenda. The Secretary-General also set out possible next steps for Member States to continue considering the responsibility to protect, given the approaching 10-year anniversary of the 2005 World Summit.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

Security Council consideration. On 12 February, the Security Council held an open debate [S/PV.7109] on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Council had before it a concept note [S/2014/74] submitted by Lithuania, as well as the Secretary-General’s 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 48]. Briefings were given by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and

the Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 February [meeting 7109], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/3** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its commitment regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict and to the continuing and full implementation of all its previous relevant resolutions, including resolutions 1265(1999), 1296(2000), 1674(2006), 1738(2006) and 1894(2009), as well as all of its resolutions on women and peace and security, children and armed conflict and peacekeeping, and all relevant statements by its President.

The Council notes that the year 2014 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the progressive consideration by the Council of the protection of civilians in armed conflict as a thematic issue and acknowledges the enduring need for the Council and Member States to strengthen further the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Council remains committed to addressing the impact of armed conflict on civilians.

The Council reaffirms its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security and its commitment and readiness to strive for sustainable peace in all situations under its consideration.

The Council recalls that States bear the primary responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of their citizens, as well as all individuals within their territory, as provided for by relevant international law, and reaffirms the responsibility of each individual State to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The Council reaffirms that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians and urges parties to armed conflict to meet their basic needs and give attention to the specific needs of women and children, refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as other civilians who may have specific vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities and older persons.

The Council reiterates its strong condemnation of all violations of applicable international law and demands that parties to armed conflict comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, as well as implement all relevant decisions of the Council.

The Council stresses the need to end impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and reaffirms that those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for such violations and abuses must be brought to justice.

The Council recalls its determination to upgrade the strategic oversight of peacekeeping operations, mindful of the important role peacekeeping operations play for the protection of civilians, and reaffirms its support to the efforts made by the Secretary-General to review peacekeeping operations and to provide enhanced planning and support and renews its encouragement to

deepen these efforts, in partnership with troop- and police-contributing countries and other relevant stakeholders.

The Council reaffirms the need for peacekeeping missions with protection of civilians mandates to ensure their implementation, and stresses the importance of continued and further engagement by senior mission leadership, with a view to ensuring that all mission components and all levels of the chain of command are properly informed of and are involved in the mission's protection mandate and their relevant responsibilities. The Council reiterates the need for strong leadership in peacekeeping missions, and also encourages further coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional institutions, as appropriate, on issues relating to the protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations.

The Council takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict of 22 November 2013 and the recommendations made therein.

The Council recognizes the contribution of the updated aide-memoire for the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, contained in the annex to the present statement, to the protection of civilians, and as a practical tool that provides a basis for improved analysis and diagnosis of key protection issues, and stresses the need to continue its use on a more systematic and consistent basis.

ANNEX

Aide-memoire

For the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict

Enhancing the protection of civilians in armed conflict is at the core of the work of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security. In order to facilitate the Council's consideration of protection of civilians concerns in a given context, including at the time of the establishment or renewal of peacekeeping mandates, in June 2001, members of the Council suggested that an aide-memoire, listing the relevant issues, be drafted in cooperation with the Council. On 15 March 2002, the Council adopted the aide-memoire as a practical guide for its consideration of protection of civilians issues and agreed to review and update its contents periodically. It was subsequently updated twice and adopted as an annex to the presidential statements of 15 December 2003 and 22 November 2010.

This is the fifth edition of the aide-memoire and is based on the previous deliberations of the Council on the protection of civilians, including resolutions 1265(1999), 1296(2000), 1674(2006), 1738(2006) and 1894(2009). It is the result of consultation between the Council and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, as well as between the Office and concerned United Nations departments and agencies, and other relevant humanitarian organizations.

The aide-memoire is intended to facilitate the Council's consideration of issues relevant to the protection of civilians in armed conflict. To this end, it highlights primary objectives for Council action; offers, on the basis of the Council's past practice, specific issues for consideration in meeting those objectives; and provides,

in the addendum, a selection of agreed language from Council resolutions and presidential statements that refer to such concerns.

Bearing in mind that each peacekeeping mandate has to be elaborated on a case-by-case basis, the aide-memoire is not intended as a blueprint for action. The relevance and practicality of the various measures described has to be considered and adapted to the specific conditions in each situation.

Most frequently, civilians are caught in circumstances of dire need where a peacekeeping operation has not been established. Such situations may require the urgent attention of the Council. The present aide-memoire may, therefore, also provide guidance in circumstances where the Council may wish to consider action outside the scope of a peacekeeping operation.

I. General protection concerns pertaining to the conflict-affected population

A. Protection of, and assistance to, the conflict-affected population

Parties to armed conflict to take the necessary measures to protect and meet the basic needs of the conflict-affected population

Issues for consideration:

— Stress the responsibility of parties to armed conflict to respect, protect and meet the basic needs of civilian populations within their effective control.

— Express concern at acts, threats or situations of violence against civilians, condemn violations of applicable international humanitarian law as well as human rights law violations and abuses, and call upon all parties to immediately cease such violations and abuses.

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law, including with regard to:

- The prohibition against violence to life and person, in particular murder, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; enforced disappearances; outrages upon personal dignity; and rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and any other form of sexual violence.
- The prohibition against arbitrary deprivation of liberty; corporal punishment; collective punishment; and the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgement pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all judicial guarantees which are generally recognized as indispensable.
- The prohibition against the taking of hostages.
- The prohibition against ordering the displacement of the civilian population for reasons related to the conflict, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand.
- The prohibition against the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict in violation of applicable international law.
- The prohibition against slavery and the slave trade in all their forms and uncompensated or abusive forced labour.

- The prohibition against wilfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under international humanitarian law.
 - The prohibition of persecution on political, religious, racial or gender grounds.
 - The prohibition of any adverse distinction in the application of international humanitarian law and human rights law based on race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, wealth, birth or other status.
 - The obligation to respect and protect, to whichever party they belong, the wounded and sick, to take all possible measures, particularly after an engagement, to search for and collect the wounded and sick and to provide, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required by their condition without distinction on any grounds other than medical ones.
- Call upon all parties to ensure access for relevant organizations, as applicable, to all prisons and places of detention.
- Mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, to impartially contribute to the protection of the civilian population, including those under imminent threat of physical violence, within their zones of operation. In doing so, request:
- That the protection of civilians is prioritized in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources, including information and intelligence resources, in the implementation of mandates.
 - The development of clear guidelines/directives as to what missions can do to protect civilians, including practical protection measures such as intensified and systematic patrolling in potential volatile areas, joint protection teams or early warning cells.
 - Systematic coordination, between the civil and military components of the mission and between the mission and humanitarian actors, in order to consolidate expertise on the protection of civilians.
 - That missions communicate with the civilian population to raise awareness and understanding about their mandate and activities and to collect reliable information on violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses perpetrated against civilians.
- Request that United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions develop comprehensive protection strategies in consultation with United Nations country teams and other relevant actors, and maximize the use of their capacities for the implementation of these comprehensive protection strategies.
- Expressly authorize missions to use all necessary means to carry out their protection mandates.
- Condemn wilful impediments to the implementation of the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions, in particular attacks against their staff and bureaucratic hurdles, and call upon parties to conflict to immediately cease interfering with the

activities of these missions in the implementation of their mandates. Request that reports of the Secretary-General on country-specific situations include information on the protection of civilians, including internally displaced persons and refugees, and the implementation of the Secretary-General's human rights due diligence policy.

— Request missions to monitor, help to investigate, and report publicly and to the Security Council, on a regular basis, on the situation with regard to human rights and international humanitarian law in host countries.

— Request that United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions develop benchmarks and indicators of progress regarding the protection of civilians to measure specific developments in the implementation of their protection mandates.

— Request troop- and police-contributing countries to ensure the provision of appropriate training to heighten the awareness and responsiveness to protection concerns of their personnel participating in United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council to protect civilians.

— Urge relevant regional and/or subregional bodies to develop and implement policies, activities and advocacy for the benefit of civilians affected by armed conflict.

B. Displacement

Parties to armed conflict and other relevant actors to refrain from, and take the necessary measures to prevent and respond to, the displacement of the civilian population

Issues for consideration:

— Condemn, and call for the immediate cessation of, displacement in violation of applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law.

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, including with regard to:

- The prohibition against deportation, forcible transfer or displacement of the civilian population, in whole or in part, unless the security of the civilians concerned or imperative military reasons so demand.
- The obligation, in case of displacement, to ensure to the greatest practicable extent that the civilians concerned are received under satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety and nutrition and that members of the same family are not separated and that basic needs are met during displacement.
- The right to freedom of movement and to leave one's country and seek asylum.
- The right to non-refoulement under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the protection of which does not extend to any person with respect to whom there are serious reasons for considering that she or he has been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

— Underline the primary responsibility of States to respect and maintain the security and civilian character of camps for refugees and internally displaced persons, including disarming armed elements, separating com-

batants, curbing the flow of small arms in camps and preventing recruitment by armed groups in and around camps.

— Mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council to take all feasible measures to ensure security in and around such camps and for their inhabitants.

— Request that reports of the Secretary-General on country-specific situations include the protection of displaced persons as a specific aspect of the report.

— Urge relevant regional and/or subregional bodies to develop and implement policies, activities and advocacy for the benefit of internally displaced persons and refugees.

— Consider applying targeted and graduated measures against parties to armed conflict who commit violations of applicable international law related to forced displacement.

Durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, including safe, voluntary and dignified return and reintegration

Issues for consideration:

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law, refugee law and human rights law, including with regard to:

- Respect for the right of refugees and displaced persons to voluntary return in safety and dignity to their homes.
- Respect for the property rights of refugees and displaced persons, without adverse distinction on the basis of gender, age or other status.

— Stress the importance of achieving durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons, including voluntary, safe and dignified return, and of ensuring their full participation in the planning and management of these solutions.

— Call upon all parties concerned to create the conditions conducive to allowing the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return, local integration or resettlement of refugees and displaced persons.

— Request United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions to contribute to the re-establishment of security conditions conducive to voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable returns, including through police patrols in areas of return.

— Call upon all parties concerned to ensure non-discriminatory treatment of returning refugees and internally displaced persons.

— Call upon all parties concerned to ensure the participation of refugees and internally displaced persons and inclusion of their needs, including their right to voluntary, safe and dignified return and reintegration, in all peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning and programmes.

— Encourage United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council, as appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, to support domestic mechanisms for addressing housing, land and property issues or their establishment by national authorities.

— Encourage United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council, as appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, to prevent the illegal appropriation and confiscation of land and property belonging to refugees and internally displaced persons and to ensure the protection of returning refugees and internally displaced persons.

C. *Humanitarian access and safety and security of humanitarian workers*

Parties to armed conflict to agree to and facilitate relief operations that are humanitarian and impartial in character and to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of relief consignments, equipment and personnel

Issues for consideration:

— Condemn, and call for the immediate removal of, impediments to humanitarian access in violation of applicable international humanitarian law.

— Condemn all cases of arbitrary denial of humanitarian access, and recall that arbitrarily depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supply and access, can constitute a violation of international humanitarian law.

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law, including:

- The prohibition against using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare by depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under applicable international humanitarian law.
- Agreeing to relief actions which are humanitarian and impartial in character and conducted without any adverse distinction.

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict and third States with their obligations under applicable international humanitarian law to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of relief consignments, equipment and personnel subject to their right to prescribe technical arrangements, including search, under which such passage is permitted.

— Mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council, where appropriate and as requested, to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance.

— Consider applying targeted and graduated measures against parties to armed conflict who are responsible for obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance in violation of international humanitarian law, including by participating in attacks against humanitarian actors and assets.

Parties to armed conflict to respect and protect humanitarian workers and facilities

Issues for consideration:

— Condemn, and call for the immediate cessation of, attacks deliberately targeting humanitarian workers.

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law, including the duty to respect and protect relief personnel and installations, material, units and vehicles involved in humanitarian assistance.

— Mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council to contribute, as requested and within capabilities, to the creation of the security conditions necessary for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

— Encourage the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Security Council situations in which humanitarian assistance is denied as a consequence of violence directed against humanitarian personnel and facilities.

— Request that States include key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the Optional Protocol thereto, such as those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of United Nations operations, the criminalization of such attacks and the prosecution or extradition of offenders in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated with the United Nations.

Relevant international actors, including donors and United Nations humanitarian agencies, to increase humanitarian assistance and improve the reach, quantity and quality of humanitarian aid

Issues for consideration:

— Call upon Member States to contribute to consolidated appeals processes.

— Consider adopting general exemptions to targeted economic and financial sanctions adopted by the Security Council in order to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance.

— Stress the need for all relevant actors to uphold and respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in order to increase the reach and quality of humanitarian aid.

D. Conduct of hostilities

Parties to armed conflict to take all feasible precautions to spare civilians from the effects of hostilities

Issues for consideration:

— Condemn, and call for the immediate cessation of, all acts of violence or abuses committed against civilians in violation of applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law.

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law, including the prohibitions against:

- Directing attacks against the civilian population or against individual civilians not taking a direct part in hostilities.
- Directing attacks against civilian objects.
- Launching an attack that is indiscriminate, i.e., of a nature to strike military objectives and civilians or civilian objects without distinction.
- Launching an attack which may be expected to cause incidental loss of life or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects or a combination thereof which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.
- Directing attacks against personnel, installations, material, units or vehicles involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as long as they are entitled to the protection given

to civilians or civilian objects under international humanitarian law.

- Utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations.
- Rape and other forms of sexual violence.
- Directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives.
- Directing attacks against buildings, material, medical units and transport, and personnel using the distinctive emblems of the Geneva Conventions in conformity with international law.
- Destroying or seizing the property of the adversary unless required by military necessity.
- Using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare by depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under applicable international humanitarian law.

— Request regular reporting by United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council on concrete steps taken to ensure the protection of the civilian population in the conduct of hostilities and on measures to ensure accountability for violations of applicable international humanitarian law.

— Request parties to conflict, including United Nations-authorized missions with a mandate to conduct or support offensive operations, to adopt and implement specific measures to mitigate the risk of harm being caused to civilians or civilian objects as a consequence of hostilities in violation of international humanitarian law.

E. Small arms and light weapons, mines and explosive remnants of war

Protection of the civilian population through the control and reduction in the availability of illicit small arms and light weapons

Issues for consideration:

— Express concern at the detrimental impact of the proliferation of arms, in particular small arms, on the security of civilians by fuelling armed conflict, and request the mission to monitor the presence of arms among the civilian population.

— Request States and regional and subregional organizations to adopt measures to curb and reduce illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, such as voluntary collection and destruction; effective stockpile management; arms embargoes; sanctions; and legal measures against corporate actors, individuals and entities involved in such activities.

— Urge States to consider signing and ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible.

— Encourage strengthened practical cooperation between United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council aimed at monitoring and preventing the cross-border movement of small arms and light weapons.

— Mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council to collect and dispose of or secure illicit and/or

surplus small arms and light weapons as well as surplus ammunition stockpiles.

— Consider imposing arms embargoes and other measures aimed at preventing the sale or supply of arms and related materiel of all types to parties to armed conflict that commit violations of applicable international law.

— Encourage strengthened practical cooperation among relevant sanctions monitoring groups of the Security Council, peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Council and States.

— Request the establishment of a baseline arms inventory as well as arms marking and registration systems in situations where a United Nations arms embargo coincides with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts.

Protection of the civilian population through the marking, clearance, removal or destruction of mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munition remnants

Issues for consideration:

— Call upon parties to armed conflict, after the cessation of active hostilities and as soon as feasible, to mark, clear, remove or destroy mines and explosive remnants of war in affected territories under their control, prioritizing areas affected by mines and explosive remnants of war which are assessed to pose serious humanitarian risk.

— Call upon parties to armed conflict to record and retain information on the use of mines and explosive ordnance or the abandonment of explosive ordnance, to facilitate rapid marking and clearance, removal or destruction of mines and explosive remnants of war and risk education, and to provide the relevant information to the party in control of, and civilian populations in, the territory.

— Call upon parties to armed conflict to take all feasible precautions in the territory under their control affected by mines and explosive remnants of war to protect the civilian population, in particular children, including issuing warnings, undertaking risk education, and marking, fencing and monitoring territory affected by mines and explosive remnants of war.

— Call upon parties to armed conflict to protect United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council, as well as humanitarian organizations, from the effects of mines and explosive remnants of war and to make available information on the location of mines and explosive remnants of war that they are aware of in the territory where the missions/organizations are or will be operating.

— Call upon parties to armed conflict, States and other relevant actors to provide technical, financial, material or human resources assistance to facilitate the marking, clearance, removal or destruction of mines and explosive remnants of war.

— Call upon parties to armed conflict, States and other relevant actors to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and economic and social reintegration of victims of explosive remnants of war and their families and communities.

F. Compliance, accountability and the rule of law

Compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law

Issues for consideration:

— Call upon parties to armed conflict to take appropriate measures to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law, including by:

- Enforcing appropriate military disciplinary measures and upholding the principle of command responsibility.
- Training troops on applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law.
- Vetting armed and security forces to ensure that personnel have a reliably attested record of not having been involved in violations of international humanitarian law or human rights law.

— Consider applying targeted and graduated measures against parties to armed conflict that threaten peace, attack or obstruct the action of United Nations peacekeeping or other relevant missions, or commit violations of applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law.

— Stress that the support of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions to military operations led by national armed forces is strictly conditioned on the compliance of those armed forces with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law and on joint planning of such operations.

— Call upon United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions to intercede with national armed forces if elements of the latter receiving support from the mission are suspected of committing violations of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law and, if the situation persists, to withdraw the mission's support.

— Request the mission to provide military training, including in the area of human rights, international humanitarian law, child protection and the prevention of gender-based and sexual violence, to the armed forces.

Accountability for persons suspected of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or serious violations of human rights law

Issues for consideration:

— Stress the importance of ending impunity for violations of applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law as part of a comprehensive approach to seeking sustainable peace, justice, truth and national reconciliation.

— Call upon States to comply with their obligations to investigate, search for, prosecute or extradite persons suspected of committing genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, irrespective of their status or political affiliation.

— Stress the need for the exclusion of, and reject any form of or endorsement of, amnesty for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or other serious violations of human rights in conflict resolution processes and ensure that no such amnesty previously granted is a bar to prosecution before any court created or assisted by the United Nations.

— Mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council to promote, in cooperation with relevant States, the estab-

lishment of effective arrangements for investigating and prosecuting violations of international humanitarian law or other serious violations of human rights law.

- Request the cooperation of States and United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council in the apprehension and surrender of alleged perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or other serious violations of human rights law.

- Stress the need for comprehensive, independent and impartial investigation, consistent with international standards, into alleged human rights abuses and violations and violations of international humanitarian law.

- Consider the establishment of ad hoc judicial mechanisms and reparation programmes at the national or international level to investigate and prosecute war crimes and serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and ensure the implementation of applicable provisions on the right to reparations for violations of individual rights. Consider the referral of situations involving genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes to the International Criminal Court.

Protection of civilians through the restoration and enforcement of the rule of law, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and security sector reform

Issues for consideration:

- Call upon States to ensure equal protection under the law and equal access to justice for victims, including women and children, of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law and to take the necessary measures to ensure the protection of victims and witnesses.

- Mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council to support restoration of the rule of law, including the provision of assistance in monitoring, restructuring and reforming the justice sector.

- Request the rapid deployment of qualified and well-trained international civilian police, and justice and corrections experts as a component of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council.

- Call upon States and regional and subregional organizations to provide technical assistance for local police, judiciary and penitentiaries (e.g., mentoring, legislative drafting).

- Stress the importance of permanently disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating former combatants of national armed groups and disarming, demobilizing, repatriating, resettling and reintegrating foreign armed groups, and assisting the victims in conflict-affected communities.

- Stress the importance of security sector reform and urge all international partners to support the efforts to professionalize, and ensure the civilian oversight of, the national security forces and the police, including through vetting for human rights violations and training on human rights, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence.

- Mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions to provide good offices, advice and support to host Governments for the design

of comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes as well as disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programmes for combatants not suspected of war crimes or other serious violations of human rights, and to provide support for the implementation of these plans, in full compliance with the United Nations human rights due diligence policy.

Build confidence and enhance stability by promoting truth and reconciliation mechanisms

Issues for consideration:

- Mandate the establishment of appropriate, locally adapted mechanisms for truth and reconciliation (e.g., technical assistance, funding and reintegration of civilians within communities).

- Request, where appropriate, the establishment by the Secretary-General of commissions of inquiry and similar measures with regard to situations involving genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or serious violations of human rights law.

G. Media and information

Protection of journalists, other media professionals and associated personnel

Issues for consideration:

- Condemn, and call for the immediate cessation of, attacks against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel operating in situations of armed conflict.

- Call for compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law and respect for the civilian status of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel as well as their equipment and installations.

- Demand that States take all necessary steps to prosecute those responsible for attacks against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in violation of applicable international humanitarian law.

Counter occurrences of speech used to incite violence

Issues for consideration:

- Condemn, and call for the immediate cessation of, incitements to discrimination, hostility, hatred and violence against civilians in situations of armed conflict.

- Demand that States bring to justice individuals who incite or otherwise cause such violence.

- Impose targeted and graduated measures in response to media broadcasts inciting genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or other serious violations of human rights law.

- Mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council to promote the establishment of media monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective monitoring, reporting and documenting of any incidents, origins and contents that incite “hate media”.

Promote and support accurate management of information on the conflict

Issues for consideration:

- Urge parties to armed conflict to respect the professional independence of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel.

— Encourage United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council to include a mass-media component that can disseminate information about international humanitarian law and human rights law while also giving objective information about the activities of the United Nations.

— Request relevant actors to provide technical assistance to States in drafting and enforcing anti-hate speech legislation.

II. *Specific protection concerns arising from Security Council discussions on children affected by armed conflict*

Parties to armed conflict to take the necessary measures to meet the specific protection, health, education and assistance needs of children

Issues for consideration:

— Condemn, and call for the immediate cessation of, violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, including the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict in violation of applicable international law; the killing or maiming of children; rape and other forms of sexual violence against children; abduction of children; attacks against schools or hospitals; and denial of humanitarian access for children.

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law relating to children affected by armed conflict.

— Call upon relevant parties to develop and implement concrete time-bound action plans to halt recruitment and use of children and other grave violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in close collaboration with United Nations peacekeeping missions, United Nations country teams and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

— Call upon all parties concerned to implement the recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

— Call upon all parties to armed conflict to protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasize the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups.

— Include specific provisions for the protection of children in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council, in particular:

- Request the mission, in collaboration with relevant entities of the United Nations country team, to establish and implement a country-level monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations perpetrated against children, pursuant to resolution 1612(2005).
- Request the mission to support the host Government in promoting child protection and developing and implementing action plans to halt the recruitment and use of children and other grave violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict.

- Request the mission to support the host Government in taking into account the specific needs of children in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes.
- Request the appointment of child protection advisers within the mission.

— Request that reports of the Secretary-General on country-specific situations include the protection of children as a specific aspect of the report.

— Call upon all parties concerned to ensure that the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict are specifically integrated into peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning and programmes, including measures for family tracing and reunification, the rehabilitation and reintegration of separated children and the release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups.

— Urge States, United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and other concerned parties to take appropriate measures to control illicit subregional and cross-border activities harmful to children, as well as other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict in violation of applicable international law.

— Urge relevant regional and/or subregional bodies to develop and implement policies, activities and advocacy for the benefit of children affected by armed conflict.

— Consider applying targeted and graduated measures against parties to armed conflict that commit grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

III. *Specific protection concerns arising from Security Council discussions on women affected by armed conflict*

Parties to armed conflict and other relevant actors to refrain from, and take the necessary measures to prevent and respond to, sexual violence

Issues for consideration:

— Condemn, and call for the immediate cessation of, acts of sexual violence committed in the context of, and associated with, armed conflict.

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict with the rules of international humanitarian law and human rights law prohibiting rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization or any other form of sexual violence.

— Call upon parties to armed conflict to take appropriate measures to refrain from, prevent and protect all persons from all forms of sexual violence, including by:

- Issuing clear orders through chains of command prohibiting sexual violence, enforcing appropriate military disciplinary measures in a timely manner and upholding the principle of command responsibility.
- Training troops on the categorical prohibition of all forms of sexual violence.
- Debunking myths that fuel sexual violence.
- Vetting armed and security forces to ensure that personnel have a reliably attested record of not having been involved in the perpetration of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

- Evacuating to safety civilians under imminent threat of sexual violence.
- Making and implementing specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, in accordance with resolution 2106(2013).

— Request that reports of the Secretary-General on country-specific situations include sexual violence as a specific aspect of the report, including, to the extent possible, disaggregated data as to gender and age of victims; and request the development of mission-specific strategies and plans of action for preventing and responding to sexual violence, as part of a broader protection of civilians strategy.

— Include specific provisions addressing sexual violence in situations of armed conflict in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council, in particular:

- Request the mission, in collaboration with relevant entities of the United Nations country team, to establish and implement country-level monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on grave violations perpetrated against children, pursuant to resolution 1960(2010).
- Request the mission to support the host Government in addressing sexual violence explicitly, in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, security sector reform processes and justice sector reform initiatives, and in developing and implementing concrete and time-bound action plans to combat conflict-related sexual violence.

— Request the appointment of women's protection advisers within the mission.

— Urge relevant regional and/or subregional bodies to develop and implement policies, activities and advocacy for the benefit of civilians affected by sexual violence.

— Request troop- and police-contributing countries to deploy higher numbers of women peacekeepers or police, and to ensure the provision of appropriate training to their personnel participating in United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions on the protection of civilians, including women and children, and the prevention of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Parties to armed conflict to take the necessary measures to meet the specific protection, health and assistance needs of women and girls

Issues for consideration:

— Condemn, and call for the immediate cessation of, violations and abuses committed against women and girls in situations of armed conflict.

— Call for strict compliance by parties to armed conflict with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law relating to the protection of women and girls affected by armed conflict.

— Call upon all parties concerned to ensure that the protection, rights and well-being of women and girls affected by armed conflict are specifically integrated into all peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning and programmes.

— Call upon the host Government to develop and implement nationally owned multisectoral strategies for preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence.

— Include specific provisions for the protection of women and girls in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions authorized by the Security Council, requesting in particular the mission to support the efforts of host Governments in developing and implementing nationally owned multisectoral strategies for preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence.

— Request that reports of the Secretary-General on country-specific situations include the protection of women and girls as a specific aspect of the report.

— Urge relevant regional and/or subregional bodies to develop and implement policies, activities and advocacy for the benefit of women and girls affected by armed conflict.

Equal participation and full involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict

Issues for consideration:

— Urge States, United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and other concerned parties to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict.

— Call upon all actors involved in negotiating and implementing peace agreements to adopt a gender perspective, including by considering:

- The needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

- Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in the implementation mechanisms of peace agreements.

- Measures that ensure the protection of, and respect for, the human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary.

— Urge the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys to ensure the participation of women in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding, and encourage all parties to such talks to facilitate the equal and full participation of women at all decision-making levels.

— Ensure that Security Council missions take into account gender considerations and the rights of women and girls, including through consultation with local and international women's groups.

— Urge troop- and police-contributing countries to expand the role, numbers and contribution of women in United Nations operations, and especially among military observers and civilian police.

Sexual exploitation and abuse

Issues for consideration:

— Urge humanitarian and development organizations to take appropriate action to prevent sexual

exploitation and abuse by their personnel, including predeployment and in-theatre awareness training and, in the case of United Nations actors, to promote and ensure compliance, including by civilian staff of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions, with the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

—Urge troop- and police-contributing countries to take appropriate action to prevent sexual exploitation

and abuse by their personnel, including predeployment and in-theatre awareness training to promote and ensure compliance with the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

—Urge troop- and police-contributing countries to ensure full accountability in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving their personnel and to report to the Secretary-General on action taken.

ADDENDUM

Selection of agreed language

I. General protection concerns pertaining to the conflict-affected population

A. Protection of, and assistance to, the conflict-affected population

Express concern at acts, threats or situations of violence against civilians, and condemn violations of applicable international humanitarian and human rights law	Reiterating its strong condemnation of all violations of international law committed against and/or directly affecting civilians, including women and girls, in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, including those involving rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, killing and maiming, obstructions to humanitarian aid and mass forced displacement,	Resolution 2122(2013), ninth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2113(2013), fourteenth preambular para.; 2109(2013), para. 20; 2088(2013), para. 13; 2046(2012), sixth, ninth and eleventh preambular paras.; 2042(2012), fourth preambular para.; 2040(2012), para. 4; 2021(2011), eleventh preambular para.; 2009(2011), fourth preambular para.; 1990(2011), ninth preambular para.; 1975(2011), ninth preambular para.; 1925(2010), eleventh preambular para. and para. 18; 1923(2010), fourth preambular para.; 1919(2010), twelfth preambular para. and para. 4; 1910(2010), sixteenth preambular para. and para. 16; 1906(2009), sixth preambular para. and para. 10; 1828(2008), para. 11; 1674(2006), paras. 3, 5, 11 and 26; 1574(2004), para. 11; 1556(2004), eighth preambular para.; 1493(2003), para. 8; 1468(2003), para. 2; 1296(2000), paras. 2 and 5; and presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, seventh para.
	Underlining its particular concern at reports of the targeted violence against representatives of ethnic and religious groups and increasing tensions between communities,	Resolution 2121(2013), eighth preambular para.	
	Expresses deep concern over the increased localized conflicts, increased criminality and violence and their effect on civilians, and particularly over the sharp increase in inter-tribal clashes, and calls upon all parties urgently to put an end to such clashes and to pursue reconciliation and dialogue ...	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 23	
	Expressing grave concern at the continuing human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and incidents of extrajudicial killings, as well as looting of property, by armed groups and by national security institutions ... as well as the inability of the authorities to hold those responsible to account,	Resolution 2109(2013), ninth preambular para.	
	Strongly condemning all abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, sexual and gender-based violence and forced amputations, as well as killing, maiming, recruitment and use of children, attacks against schools and hospitals, forced displacements and destruction of cultural and historical heritage, committed in [the affected country] by any group or individuals, ... strongly condemning the reports of retaliatory attacks, including those based on ethnicity and those allegedly perpetrated by members of the ... defence and security forces [of the affected country] against civilians, and calling upon all parties to bring an end to such violations and abuses and to comply with their obligations under applicable international law,	Resolution 2100(2013), ninth preambular para.	
	Condemns all attacks against civilians in [the affected country], calls for the immediate cessation of all acts of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, or abuses committed against civilians, including women and children, and humanitarian personnel in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, ...	Resolution 2093(2013), para. 26	
	Demands that all groups in the [affected areas of the affected country] cease all abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including targeted attacks against the civilian population, sexual violence, recruitment of child soldiers and forced displacements, and recalls in this regard all its relevant resolutions on ... protection of civilians in armed conflicts;	Resolution 2071(2012), para. 5	
	Expressing its concern about the continuing precarious and volatile security ...	Resolution 2000(2011), eighth preambular para.	

Call for compliance with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law	... reiterates its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, and stresses the need for parties to take all required measures to avoid civilian casualties and to respect and protect the civilian population;	Resolution 2117(2013), para. 13	See also, for example, resolutions 2122(2013), tenth preambular para.; 2121(2013), para. 6; 2100(2013), para. 24; 2067(2012), sixteenth preambular para.; 2051(2012), para. 11; 1979(2011), eleventh preambular para.; 1975(2011), ninth preambular para.; 1964(2010), seventeenth preambular para.; 1935(2010), twelfth preambular para. and para. 9; 1906(2009), third preambular para. and para. 11; 1892(2009), para. 15; 1890(2009), fifteenth preambular para.; 1883(2009), eleventh preambular para.; 1872(2009), thirteenth preambular para.; 1861(2009), fourth preambular para.; 1860(2009), third and fourth preambular paras.; 1801(2008), para. 13; 1794(2007), fifth preambular para. and para. 7; 1790(2007), eighteenth preambular para.; 1776(2007), twelfth preambular para.; 1674(2006), para. 6; 1574(2004), para. 11; 1564(2004), tenth preambular para.; 1493(2003), para. 8; 307(1971), para. 3; and presidential statements S/PRST/2013/2, fourth, fifth, sixth and eighteenth paras.; and S/PRST/2004/46.
	... calls for strict adherence by the [armed forces] to international humanitarian, human rights and refugee laws, and in this context recalls the importance of training in human rights, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence to security and law enforcement agencies;	Resolution 2112(2013), para. 24	
	Recalling ... the statement by its President of 12 February 2013, in which it recognized that States bear the primary responsibility to protect civilians as well as to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction as provided for by relevant international law, reaffirmed that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians, urged parties to armed conflict to meet the basic needs of civilians ...	Resolution 2109(2013), eleventh preambular para.	
	Re-emphasizing the importance of the Government of ... being able to respond proportionately to threats to the security of all citizens in [the affected country], and calling upon the Government to ensure that its security forces remain committed to upholding human rights and applicable international law,	Resolution 2101(2013), tenth preambular para.	
	... emphasizes the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations, as applicable, to all prisons and places of detention in [the affected country], and calls for full respect for relevant international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law ...	Resolution 2096(2013), para. 39	
	Underscores the primary responsibility of the Government of [the affected country] to maintain law and order, promote security and protect the civilian population, including foreign nationals, with full respect for the rule of law, human rights, and applicable international humanitarian law ...	Resolution 2088(2013), para. 10	
	... reaffirming that all parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians, especially women, children and displaced persons, calling for all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians, ...	Resolution 2069(2012), twenty-fourth preambular para.	
	... reaffirming that all parties should continue to take all feasible steps and to develop modalities to ensure the protection of affected civilians, including children, women and members of religious and ethnic minority groups, and should create conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons or local integration of internally displaced persons, ...	Resolution 2061(2012), eleventh preambular para.	
	Calls upon the Government of [the affected country] to end prolonged, arbitrary detention, and establish a safe, secure and humane prison system, drawing on advice and technical assistance from and in cooperation with international partners, ...	Resolution 2057(2012), para. 17	
	... further decides that [the United Nations-authorized international mission] shall act in compliance with applicable international humanitarian and human rights law ...	Resolution 2036(2012), para. 1	
	... calls upon the Government ... to ensure that the conditions of protection and detention of ... detainees are in line with international obligations, including with regard to access by relevant organizations with a mandate to monitor detention centres, and to fulfil their prosecutions and trials in accordance with international obligations relating to due process and fair trial requirements;	Resolution 2000(2011), para. 11	
	Demands that the authorities [of the affected country] comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law, and take all measures to protect civilians and meet their basic needs and to ensure the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian assistance;	Resolution 1973(2011), para. 3	
	Calls upon the States in the region to ensure that any military actions against armed groups are carried out in accordance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law and that they take appropriate measures to protect civilians and reduce the impact of military actions upon the civilian population, including through regular contacts with and early warning of the civilian population on potential attacks;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 17	

	... stresses the responsibility of all parties and armed groups in [the affected country] to take appropriate steps to protect the civilian population in the country, consistent with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate or excessive use of force in populated areas;	Resolution 1863(2009), para. 19	
	The Council recognizes the needs of civilians under foreign occupation and stresses ... in this regard, the responsibilities of the occupying Power.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2009/1, fourth para.	
Role of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions and actors	... encouraging the efforts to ensure adequate human rights capacity and expertise within [the Mission] to carry out its human rights promotion, protection and monitoring activities,	Resolution 2116(2013), eleventh preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2121(2013), para. 10; 2119(2013), para. 19; 2075(2012), para. 14;
	... requests [the mission] to continue to support local conflict resolution mechanisms, including with civil society organizations and authorizes the ... [Head of the relevant mission] to conduct mediation and reconciliation efforts involving [national] armed groups ...	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 23	2063(2012), para. 3; 2053(2012), para. 24; 2003(2011), paras. 3 and 21; 1935(2010), para. 2; 1925(2010), paras. 12 (a), (b) and (c), and 17; 1919(2010), para. 4;
	Urges the Government ... to take concrete and discernible steps to prevent and mitigate intercommunal violence by seeking a broad national consensus on addressing effectively identity and land tenure issues;	Resolution 2112(2013), para. 18	1906(2009), para. 5; 1828(2008), para. 7; 1794(2007), para. 2;
	Notes the priority of the mandated tasks of [the mission]... for the protection of civilians and for the achievement of an improved security environment, urges [the mission] to deploy its assets accordingly ...	Resolution 2109(2013), para. 3	1778(2007), paras. 1, 2 and 6; 1769(2007), para. 15; 1701(2006), para. 12; 1674(2006), para. 16; 1590(2005), para. 4; and 1565(2004), para. 4.
	Underscores that the protection of civilians mandate of [the mission] as set out in [relevant provision] includes taking the actions necessary to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence;	Resolution 2104(2013), para. 4	
	... requests that [the mission] take fully into account the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk to civilians, including, in particular, women, children and displaced persons, and civilian objects in the performance of its mandate as defined in [provisions mandating the mission to provide active support to national authorities in their actions against armed groups], where undertaken jointly with the [national] defence and security forces, in strict compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;	Resolution 2100(2013), para. 26	
	Authorizes [the mission], through its civilian component, to contribute, in coordination with the United Nations country team ... to the following tasks: (a) Monitor, report and follow-up on human rights violations and abuses, and support the United Nations system in-country to ensure that any support provided by the United Nations in [affected areas] shall be consistent with international humanitarian law and human rights law and refugee law as applicable;	Resolution 2098(2013), para. 15 (a)	
	... urges [the mission] to enhance its efforts to prevent civilian casualties;	Resolution 2093(2013), para. 9	
	... reaffirms that the protection of civilians must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources, and encourages further the use of innovative measures implemented by [the mission] in the protection of civilians;	Resolution 2053(2012), para. 1	
	Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate: Protection and security ... <i>Support for efforts to promote and protect human rights</i> To contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in [the affected country], with special attention to grave violations and abuses committed against children and women, notably sexual and gender-based violence, in close coordination with the Independent Expert [on the situation of human rights in the affected country]; To bring to the attention of the Security Council all individuals identified as perpetrators of serious human rights violations and to keep the Security Council Committee established pursuant to [relevant resolution] regularly informed of developments in this regard;	Resolution 2000(2011), para. 7 (g)	
	Recalls its authorization and stresses its full support given to the [the mission], while impartially implementing its mandate, to use all means necessary to carry out its mandate to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment, including to prevent the use of heavy weapons against the civilian population, and requests the Secretary-General to keep it urgently informed of measures taken and efforts made in this regard;	Resolution 1975(2011), para. 6	

	Emphasizes that the protection of civilians must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources, and authorizes [the mission] to use all necessary means, within the limits of its capacity and in the areas where its units are deployed, to carry out its protection mandate;	Resolution 1925(2010), para. 11	
	Reaffirms its practice of ensuring that mandates of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions include, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, provisions regarding the protection of civilians, stresses that mandated protection activities must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources, including information and intelligence resources, in the implementation of mandates; and recognizes that the protection of civilians when and as mandated requires a coordinated response from all relevant mission components;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 19	
	Decides ... that [the peacekeeping mission] shall have the mandate, within the limits of its capabilities and in its areas of deployment, to assist [the affected State] in establishing a stable security environment ... and, to that end: <i>Protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel and facilities</i> (a) To ensure the protection of civilians, including humanitarian personnel, under imminent threat of physical violence; (b) To contribute to the improvement of the security conditions in which humanitarian assistance is provided, and assist in the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons; (c) To ensure the protection of United Nations personnel, facilities, installations and equipment; (d) To ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel; (e) To carry out joint patrols with the riot control units of the national police to improve security in the event of civil disturbance;	Resolution 1756(2007), para. 2	
	Recognizes the increasingly valuable role that regional organizations and other intergovernmental institutions play in the protection of civilians, and encourages the Secretary-General and the heads of regional and other intergovernmental organizations to continue their efforts to strengthen their partnership in this regard;	Resolution 1674(2006), para. 24	
Condemn impediments to, and call for the facilitation of, the implementation of the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations	Expressing concern at the continuing threats posed by the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons to the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers and their effectiveness in implementing peacekeeping mandates ...	Resolution 2117(2013), ninth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2113(2013), twelfth preambular para. and para. 11; 2109(2013), fourteenth preambular para. and paras. 19 and 35; 2104(2013), para. 14; 2076(2012), para. 14; and 2035(2012), para. 10.
	Expressing deep concern at the hindrances to [the mission] in the implementation of its mandate, including movement and access restrictions,	Resolution 2113(2013), sixteenth preambular para.	
	... expresses deep concern at increased restrictions and bureaucratic impediments placed by the Government ... upon the movement and operations of [the mission], particularly to areas of recent conflict; calls upon all parties in [the affected area] to remove all obstacles to the full and proper discharge by [the mission] of its mandate, including by ensuring its security and freedom of movement; and in this regard demands that the Government comply with the status-of-forces agreement fully and without delay, particularly regarding the movement of patrols, flight and equipment clearances, the removal of all obstacles to the use of the aerial assets of [the mission], and the timely provision of visas for [mission] personnel and processing of its equipment at the port of entry to [the affected country]; ... welcomes some progress made in the provision of such visas but deplores continued delays, which threaten seriously to undermine the ability of [the mission] to implement its mandate; and demands that the Government respect the rights of [mission] personnel under the status-of-forces agreement;	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 12	
	Demands that the Government ... and all relevant parties cooperate fully in the deployment, operations, and monitoring, verification and reporting functions of [the mission], in particular by guaranteeing the safety, security and unrestricted freedom of movement of United Nations personnel, as well as of associated personnel throughout the territory of [the affected country], further demands that the Government refrain from placing restrictions on the movements of [the mission], and in this regard strongly condemns all attacks on [the mission's] troops and staff, including [specific attack], ... and demands that there be no recurrence of such attacks or impunity for the perpetrators;	Resolution 2109(2013), para. 10	

	Reiterating its call upon all parties to cooperate fully with [the mission] and its condemnation of any and all attacks against peacekeepers, ... and recalling its decision to extend sanctions measures outlined in [relevant provisions of resolution prescribing sanctions] to individuals and entities who plan, sponsor or participate in attacks against peacekeepers of [the mission],	Resolution 2098(2013), twenty-sixth preambular para.	
	... condemns the attacks, threats, and acts of obstruction and violence perpetrated by [armed forces], militias and mercenaries against United Nations personnel, obstructing them from protecting civilians and monitoring and helping to investigate human rights violations and abuses, stresses that those responsible for such crimes under international law must be held accountable, and calls upon all parties ... to fully cooperate with the [relevant United Nations mission] and to cease interfering with its activities in implementation of its mandate;	Resolution 1975(2011), para. 4	
Protection strategies and practical protection measures	Underlines the need for [the mission] to continue to make full use of its mandate and capabilities, giving priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources to (a) the protection of civilians across [the affected area], including through the full implementation of its mission-wide early warning strategy with associated early warning indicators; proactive military deployment and increased patrols in areas at high risk of conflict; enhanced efforts to respond promptly and effectively to threats of violence against civilians; securing, through increased police patrols, internally displaced persons camps, adjacent areas and areas of return; and supporting the development and training of community policing for internally displaced persons camps and areas of return; ... and requests [the mission] to maximize the use of its capabilities, in cooperation with the United Nations country team and other international and non-governmental actors, in the implementation of its mission-wide comprehensive strategy for the achievement of these objectives;	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 4	See also, for example, resolutions 2112(2013), para. 6; 2109(2013), paras. 3 and 5; 2003(2011), para. 3; 1996(2011), para. 3; 1935(2010), para. 4; 1933(2010), para. 16; 1919(2010), paras. 6 and 10; 1906(2009), para. 9; and 1794(2007), para. 18.
	Encourages [the mission] to enhance its interaction with the civilian population to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities through a comprehensive public outreach programme, and to collect reliable information on violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights perpetrated against civilians, consistent with [relevant provisions];	Resolution 2098(2013), para. 25	
	The Council ... emphasizes the importance of ensuring that peacekeeping missions with protection of civilians mandates develop mission-wide protection strategies for incorporation in the overall mission implementation plans and contingency plans in consultation with the host Government, local authorities, troop- and police-contributing countries and other relevant actors. The Council stresses the importance of ensuring the widest possible dissemination of tools created to develop mission-wide strategies ... The Council welcomes progress made by the Secretary-General in elaborating a conceptual framework, outlining resource and capability requirements and developing operational tools for the implementation of protection of civilians mandates ...	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, twenty-second para.	
	Encourages [the mission] and the United Nations country team to reconfigure within their existing capacities and reinforce their field presence, in order to enhance their coordinated support to the local authorities throughout [the affected country], in areas where civilians are at greater risk, particularly but not only in [the relevant areas of the affected country];	Resolution 2062(2012), para. 6	
	Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate: Protection and security (a) <i>Protection of civilians</i> ... To revise the comprehensive strategy for the protection of civilians and coordinate it with the United Nations protection of civilians strategy in liaison with the United Nations country team, to take into account the new realities on the ground and the specific needs of vulnerable groups, and to include measures to prevent gender-based violence pursuant to resolutions 1960(2010) and 1882(2009); To work closely with humanitarian agencies, particularly in relation to areas of tension and of return of displaced persons, to collect information on and identify potential threats against the civilian population, as well as reliable information on violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, to bring them to the attention of the ... authorities as appropriate, and to take appropriate action in accordance with the United Nations system-wide protection strategy in harmonization with the protection strategy of [the mission];	Resolution 2000(2011), para. 7 (a)	

	Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate in this order of priority: <i>Protection of civilians</i> ... (f) To implement the United Nations system-wide protection strategy in [the affected country], operationalizing it with [the mission]'s protection strategy built on best practices and extend useful protection measures, such as the joint protection teams, community liaison interpreters, joint investigation teams, surveillance centres and women's protection advisers;	Resolution 1925(2010), para. 12 (f)	
	... requests the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant peacekeeping missions with protection mandates incorporate comprehensive protection strategies into the overall mission implementation plans and contingency plans which include assessments of potential threats and options for crisis response and risk mitigation and establish priorities, actions and clear roles and responsibilities under the leadership and coordination of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, with the full involvement of all relevant actors and in consultation with United Nations country teams;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 24	
	... calls upon [the mission] to strengthen its conflict management capacity by completing, as soon as possible, its integrated strategy to support local tribal conflict resolution mechanisms in order to maximize protection of civilians; welcomes the development of a comprehensive strategy on the protection of civilians and encourages [the mission] to continue and complete its work on the strategy in a timely manner; and calls again upon [the mission], consistent with its current mandate and capabilities, to proactively conduct patrols in areas at high risk of localized conflict;	Resolution 1870(2009), para. 15	
Implementation of the United Nations human rights due diligence policy	Underlines that the [United Nations] support [to the armed forces of the host Government] outlined in [relevant paragraph] of the present resolution must be in full compliance with the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, further underlines its expectation that the Secretary-General will report on all support by [the United Nations mission] to the [national armed forces] including on the implementation of the United Nations human rights due diligence policy ...	Resolution 2124(2013), para. 15	See also, for example, resolutions 2112(2013), para. 23; 2109(2013), para. 16; and 2098(2013), para. 15.
	Takes note of the elaboration of the human rights due diligence policy, encourages [the mission] to implement it fully, and requests the Secretary-General to include progress made in implementing the policy in his reports to the Council;	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 18	
	Recalling ... the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces as a tool to enhance compliance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, including to address sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations,	Resolution 2106(2013), twelfth preambular para.	
	... requests that [the mission] take fully into account the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk to civilians, including, in particular, women, children and displaced persons, and civilian objects in the performance of its mandate as defined in [provisions mandating the mission to provide active support to national authorities in their actions against armed groups], where undertaken jointly with the [national] defence and security forces, in strict compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;	Resolution 2100(2013), para. 26	
	Authorizes [the mission], through its military component, in pursuit of the objectives described in [relevant provision], to take all necessary measures to perform the following tasks, through its regular forces and its Intervention Brigade as appropriate: ... <i>Neutralizing armed groups through the Intervention Brigade</i> In support of the authorities of [the affected country] ... carry out targeted offensive operations ... either unilaterally or jointly with the [national armed forces], ... in strict compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces ...	Resolution 2098(2013), para. 12 (b)	
	Reiterates ... that the support of [the mission] to [the] military operations against ... armed groups ... is strictly conditioned on [the] compliance [of the armed forces] with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law and on an effective joint planning of these operations, decides that the military leadership of [the mission] shall confirm, prior to providing any support to such operations, that sufficient joint planning has been undertaken, especially regarding the protection of the civilian population, calls upon [the mission] to intercede with the [armed forces] command if elements of a ... unit receiving support from [the mission] are suspected of having committed grave violations of such laws, and, if the situation persists, calls upon [the mission] to withdraw support from those ... units;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 22	

Reporting	... recognizing the importance of the ongoing monitoring and reporting to the United Nations Security Council, including by the [United Nations-authorized international military force], on the situation of civilians and, in particular, civilian casualties, and noting in this regard the work of the Civilian Casualty Mitigation Team [of the United Nations-authorized international military force],	Resolution 2120(2013), twenty-fourth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2104(2013), para. 1; 2098(2013), paras. 15 and 34; 2091(2013), para. 6; 2085(2012), para. 18; 2062(2012), para. 22; 2035(2012), para. 8; 1933(2010), para. 22; 1906(2009), para. 40; 1833(2008), para. 6; 1794(2007), para. 7; 1790(2007), para. 5; 1674(2006), para. 25; 1529(2004), para. 9; and presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, twenty-second and twenty-fourth paras.
	Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Council every 90 days on ... on progress on the political track, the security and humanitarian situation, including in the internally displaced persons sites and refugee camps, the actions of all parties with respect to ... human rights, violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, early recovery and on all restrictions and bureaucratic impediments to the freedom of movement of [the mission]...	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 14	
	Takes note of the elaboration of the human rights due diligence policy, encourages [the mission] to continue to fully implement it, and requests the Secretary-General to include progress made in implementing the policy in his reports to the Council;	Resolution 2109(2013), para. 16	
	Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Council every 90 days on progress made towards implementing across [the affected region] the mandate of [the mission], including on progress towards and obstacles to the implementation of the [mission's protection] strategy ..., also including an assessment of progress against the benchmarks and indicators set out in the [relevant report of the Secretary-General] as well as on progress in the security and humanitarian situation, including in the internally displaced persons sites and refugee camps, human rights, violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and early recovery and compliance by all parties with their international obligations;	Resolution 2003(2011), para. 13	
	Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate: Protection and security ... <i>Support for efforts to promote and protect human rights</i> ... To monitor, help to investigate, and report publicly and to the Security Council on human rights and humanitarian law violations with a view to preventing violations, developing a protecting environment and ending impunity, and to this end to strengthen its human rights monitoring, investigation and reporting capacity; To bring to the attention of the Security Council all individuals identified as perpetrators of serious human rights violations and to keep the Security Council Committee established pursuant to [relevant resolution] regularly informed of developments in this regard;	Resolution 2000(2011), para. 7 (g)	
	... authorizes [the mission] to perform the following tasks: (b) Support the Government of [the affected country] in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution and protect civilians through: ... (iii) Monitoring, investigating, verifying and reporting regularly on human rights and potential threats against the civilian population as well as actual and potential violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, working as appropriate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, bringing these to the attention of the authorities as necessary, and immediately reporting gross violations of human rights to the Security Council;	Resolution 1996(2011), para. 3 (b)	
	... requests the Panel of Experts [informing the sanctions committee] to ... assess in its interim and final reports ... violations of international humanitarian or human rights law or other atrocities, including sexual and gender-based violence ...	Resolution 1945(2010), para. 4	
	... requests the Secretary-General to provide a full report on the situation in [the affected country] and on the activities of [the mission] ..., in order to prepare the strategic review ..., and requests that this full report include: (a) Specific information on the challenges of the role of [the mission] in the protection of civilians, an assessment of existing protection mechanisms ..., and assessment of special measures for protection from sexual violence;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 41 (a)	
	Recognizes the important role of the Secretary-General in providing timely information to the Council on protection of civilians in armed conflict, in particular through thematic and country-specific reports and through briefings;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 31	

	Requests the Secretary-General to include in his reports to the Council on country-specific situations more comprehensive and detailed information relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including on protection-related incidents and actions taken by parties to armed conflict to implement their obligations to respect and protect the civilian population, including information specific to the protection needs of refugees, internally displaced persons, women, children and other vulnerable groups;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 32	
Protection benchmarks	Emphasizes that future reconfigurations of [the mission] should be determined on the basis of the evolution of the situation on the ground and on the achievement of an improved capacity of the Government ... to effectively protect the population through the establishment of sustainable and effective security forces and by reform of the justice sector, including courts and prisons, with a view to progressively taking over the security role of [the mission];	Resolution 2116(2013), para. 6	See also, for example, resolutions 2119(2013), para. 3; 2098(2013), para. 11; 1925(2010), para. 6; and 1923(2010), para. 2.
	... The Council reaffirms its practice of requiring mission-specific benchmarks, as and where appropriate, to measure and review progress made in the implementation of peacekeeping mandates and, in this regard, underlines the importance of clear mission-specific benchmarks in the context of mission transition.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, twenty-fourth para.	
	Stresses the importance of achievable and realistic targets against which the progress of United Nations peacekeeping operations can be measured, requests the Secretary-General to continue reporting to the Security Council every 90 days on progress made towards implementing across [the affected region] the mandate of [the mission], including on progress towards and obstacles to the implementation of the [protection] strategy ..., also including an assessment of progress against the benchmarks set out in ... the report of the Secretary-General ...	Resolution 1935(2010), para. 8	
	... stresses the importance of including indicators of progress regarding the protection of civilians in benchmarks for relevant missions;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 27	
	Notes that, in this context, the Government of [the affected country] commits itself to working towards the achievement of the following benchmarks related to the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers, in accordance with international humanitarian law ... (i) Voluntary return and resettlement in secure and sustainable conditions of internally displaced persons; (ii) Demilitarization of refugee and internally displaced persons camps as evidenced by a decrease in arms, violence and human rights abuses; (iii) Improvement in the capacity of [national] authorities in [the area affected by violence], including national law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and the prison system, to provide the necessary security for refugees, internally displaced persons, civilians and humanitarian workers with respect for international human rights standards;	Resolution 1923(2010), para. 3	
	Requests the Government of [the affected country] and the Secretary-General to establish a joint Government .../United Nations High-level Working Group to assess on a monthly basis the situation on the ground with respect to the protection of civilians, the measures adopted by the Government of [the affected country] ... to progress towards meeting the [protection] benchmarks ...	Resolution 1923(2010), para. 4	
Relations and complementarity between the mission, the United Nations country team and other stakeholders	Stressing the importance of continued efforts to enhance effective working between the military, civilian and police components of [the mission], and between [the mission] and humanitarian organizations in [the affected region], in the implementation of the mandate of [the mission],	Resolution 2113(2013), twenty-third preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2116(2013), para. 13; 2109(2013), para. 30; 2098(2013), paras. 17 and 18; 2063(2012), para. 16; 2062(2012), para. 19; 1925(2010), para. 16; 1880(2009), para. 28; and presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, twenty-second and twenty-third paras.
	Requests the Secretary-General to conduct a review of the mandate of [the mission] by undertaking an analysis of the respective comparative advantages of [the mission] and the United Nations country team, and further requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council in his midterm report on its findings, including a detailed report and accompanying matrix reflecting the current division of labour between [the mission] and the United Nations country team, and recommendations, ... pursuant to the review with a view to transferring those tasks where the United Nations country team has a comparative advantage to the United Nations country team or, where appropriate, to the Government ..., and expresses its intention to keep the mandate of [the mission] under review on the basis of this report;	Resolution 2112(2013), para. 10	

	Reaffirms the inter-mission cooperation arrangements provided for in its [relevant resolution], and calls upon the United Nations in [relevant countries], including all components of [relevant missions], within their respective mandates, capabilities and areas of deployment, to enhance their inter-mission cooperation for the stabilization of the border area, including through the development of a shared, strategic vision and plan, in support of the [relevant national] authorities;	Resolution 2066(2012), para. 13	
	Underscores the need for coherent United Nations activities in [the affected country], which requires clarity about roles, responsibilities and collaboration between [the mission] and the United Nations country team based on their comparative advantages, and noting the need for cooperation with other relevant actors in the region, including the [relevant actors],	Resolution 2057(2012), sixth preambular para.	
	Recalls that the protection of civilians requires a coordinated response from all relevant mission components, and encourages [the mission] to enhance interaction, under the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, between its civil and military components at all levels and humanitarian actors, in order to consolidate expertise on the protection of civilians;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 8	
	Encourages [the mission] to enhance its interaction with the civilian population to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities and to collect reliable information on violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses perpetrated against civilians;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 14	
Training for peacekeeping personnel	... requests the Secretary-General to ensure that technical support is provided, in predeployment and in theatre, to the troop- and police-contributing countries of [the mission] to include guidance and training for military and police personnel on the protection of civilians from imminent threat and appropriate responses, including on human rights, sexual violence and gender issues;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 13	See also, for example, resolutions 1325(2000), para. 6; and 1296(2000), para. 19.
	Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant actors, to ensure that peacekeeping missions with protection of civilians mandates, in keeping with the strategic plans that guide their deployment, conduct mission-wide planning, predeployment training and senior leadership training on the protection of civilians, and requests troop- and police-contributing countries to ensure the provision of appropriate training of their personnel participating in United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions to heighten the awareness and responsiveness to protection concerns, including training on HIV/AIDS and zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping missions;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 23	
	Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations personnel involved in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building activities have appropriate training in international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, including child and gender-related provisions, negotiation and communication skills, cultural awareness and civilian-military coordination, and urges States and relevant international and regional organizations to ensure that appropriate training is included in their programmes for personnel involved in similar activities;	Resolution 1265(1999), para. 14	
B. Displacement			
Protection of refugees and internally displaced persons, including prevention of forced displacement	Expressing deep concern ... at the significant increase in population displacements in [year] and the consequent increase in humanitarian assistance and protection needs, and at the fact that approximately [figure] internally displaced persons and refugees remain displaced, further expressing deep concern at the deteriorating conditions for internally displaced persons in [the affected area] as well as for new refugees in neighbouring countries and [nationals of neighbouring country] who have fled [the affected area], and at the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons unable to reach camps, and therefore vulnerable to ongoing violence or lacking humanitarian assistance, stressing the importance of continued international support to address these needs, recognizing that some displaced will settle permanently in urban areas, but underlining the need to ensure security in areas of return,	Resolution 2113(2013), seventeenth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2111(2013), sixth and thirteenth preambular paras.; 2099(2013), twelfth preambular para.; 2098(2013), twelfth preambular para.; 2076(2012), eighth preambular para.; 2063(2012), fourteenth preambular para.; 1975(2011), para. 10; 1944(2010), twelfth preambular para.; and 1674(2006), para. 12.
	... strongly condemning all intimidation, threats and attacks committed against refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in [the affected country] ...	Resolution 2112(2013), sixth preambular para.	

	... expressing its concern at the reports of violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, violence against women, children and journalists, arbitrary detention and pervasive sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in camps for internally displaced persons ...	Resolution 2102(2013), ninth preambular para.
	Expresses concern at the security situation in camps for internally displaced persons and settlements, condemns all human rights violations and abuses, including sexual violence, committed against internally displaced persons by all parties, including armed groups and militias, and calls for the strengthening of protection of internally displaced person camps;	Resolution 2093(2013), para. 28
	Recalls the relevant prohibition of the forced displacement of civilians in armed conflict, and stresses the importance of fully complying with international humanitarian law and other applicable international law in this context;	Resolution 2093(2013), para. 29
	... strongly condemning all intimidation, threats and attacks committed against refugees and internally displaced persons in [the affected country] ...	Resolution 2062(2012), seventh preambular para.
	Urges the international community to provide support and assistance to enable States to fulfil their responsibilities regarding the protection of refugees and other persons protected under international humanitarian law;	Resolution 1674(2006), para. 13
	Notes that the overwhelming majority of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups in situations of armed conflict are civilians and, as such, are entitled to the protection afforded to civilians under existing international humanitarian law;	Resolution 1296(2000), para. 3
Asylum and non-refoulement	The Council reaffirms the importance of the principle of non-refoulement and the right of refugees to return voluntarily to [the affected country] and encourages countries neighbouring [the affected country] to protect all people fleeing the violence in [the affected country], including [people from a specific area in the region]. It urges all Member States, based on burden-sharing principles, to support these countries in assisting refugees and affected communities ...	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/15, sixteenth para.
	Acknowledges the cooperative policy of neighbouring States, including [list of relevant States] in keeping their borders open for refugees ... and encourages these States to continue this policy and contribute to a stabilization of the situation wherever possible;	Resolution 2056(2012), para. 15
	Recalling also the right to seek and enjoy asylum reflected in article 14 of the Universal Declaration [of Human Rights] and the non-refoulement obligation of States under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees adopted on 28 July 1951, together with its Protocol adopted on 31 January 1967 ("the Refugees Convention and its Protocol"), and also recalling that the protections afforded by the Refugees Convention and its Protocol shall not extend to any person with respect to whom there are serious reasons for considering that he has been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations,	Resolution 1624(2005), seventh preambular para.
	The Council reaffirms the principle of non-refoulement of refugees, as provided for in relevant instruments of international law, welcomes recent efforts of countries neighbouring [the affected State] to support the voluntary repatriation of ... refugees in safety and dignity, and urges those host States to continue to provide international protection to [those] refugees in need of it. It encourages the international community to provide the necessary assistance in this regard.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2000/12, seventh para.
	The Council is particularly concerned at the withdrawal of refugee status from and the consequent ending of assistance to many refugees from [the neighbouring State] ... The decisions of [the affected State] in this regard may lead to the involuntary return of tens of thousands of people to an area that is neither safe nor prepared to receive them. The Council stresses the importance of the principle of non-refoulement set out in the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, to which [the affected State] is a party. The Council urges [the affected State] to continue to provide asylum to all refugees regardless of their origin.	Presidential statement S/PRST/1995/49, second para.

Civilian character of camps and settlements of refugees and internally displaced persons	... the Council calls upon all actors to take adequate and necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and obligations under refugee law, including the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, twentieth para.	See also, for example, resolutions 1834(2008), twelfth preambular para.; 1778(2007), twelfth preambular para. and para. 5; 1325(2000), para. 12; 1286(2000), para. 12; 1272(1999), para. 12; and presidential statement S/PRST/1999/32, fifth para.
	Calls upon all parties to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites ...	Resolution 2076(2012), para. 12	
	Encourages [the mission] and the United Nations country team to continue to assist the Government ... to prevent the recruitment of refugees and children by armed groups and to maintain the civilian nature of refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites, in coordination with [national security forces] and the humanitarian community;	Resolution 1923(2010), para. 23	
	Calls upon all parties to armed conflicts to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements and ensure the protection of all civilians inhabiting such camps, in particular women and girls, from all forms of violence, including rape and other sexual violence, and to ensure full, unimpeded and secure humanitarian access to them;	Resolution 1889(2009), para. 12	
	Emphasizing the need to respect international refugee law, preserve the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites and prevent any recruitment of individuals, including children, which might be carried out in or around the camps and sites by armed groups,	Resolution 1861(2009), thirteenth preambular para.	
	Reaffirms the need to maintain the security and civilian character of refugee and internally displaced person camps, stresses the primary responsibility of States in this regard, and encourages the Secretary-General, where necessary and in the context of existing peacekeeping operations and their respective mandates, to take all feasible measures to ensure security in and around such camps and of their inhabitants;	Resolution 1674(2006), para. 14	
	Invites the Secretary-General to bring to its attention situations where refugees and internally displaced persons are vulnerable to the threat of harassment or where their camps are vulnerable to infiltration by armed elements and where such situations may constitute a threat to international peace and security, expresses, in this regard, its willingness to consider such situations and, where necessary, adopt appropriate steps to help to create a secure environment for civilians endangered by conflicts, including by providing support to States concerned in this regard ...	Resolution 1296(2000), para. 14	
Durable solutions, including safe, voluntary and dignified return and reintegration	Notes that a range of measures by the international community is needed to share the burden borne by African States hosting refugees and to support their efforts to ensure the security and civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, including in the areas of law enforcement, disarmament of armed elements, curtailment of the flow of arms in refugee camps and settlements, separation of refugees from other persons who do not qualify for international protection afforded refugees or otherwise do not require international protection, and demobilization and reintegration of former combatants;	Resolution 1208(1998), para. 6	See also, for example, resolutions 2063(2012), para. 18; 2001(2011), eleventh preambular para.; 1959(2010), para. 14; 1923(2010), seventh preambular para.; 1917(2010), paras. 38 and 39; 1895(2009), eighth preambular para.; 1883(2009), eleventh preambular para.; 1826(2008), para. 8; 1812(2008), para. 18; 1716(2006), para. 9; 1591(2005), seventh preambular para.; 1564(2004), para. 6; 1556(2004), nineteenth preambular para.;
	Stresses the importance of achieving dignified and durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons and of ensuring their full participation in the planning and management of these solutions, demands that all parties to the conflict in [the affected area] create the conditions conducive to allowing the voluntary, informed, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons or their local integration, ... stresses the importance of the [relevant mechanism] in verifying the extent to which these returns are voluntary and informed in nature, and expresses deep concern over some bureaucratic obstacles that undermine its effectiveness and independence;	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 21	
	Concerned about the residual threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war in [the affected area], which hinders the safe return of displaced persons to their homes and safe migration,	Resolution 2104(2013), twenty-sixth preambular para.	
	... reaffirming that all parties ... should create conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons or local integration of internally displaced persons, welcoming commitments and encouraging continued efforts of the Government [of the affected country] for the relief of internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees, and noting the important role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, based on its mandate, in providing continued advice and support to the Government, in coordination with [the mission] on these issues,	Resolution 2061(2012), eleventh preambular para.	

	Welcomes ... the progress towards achieving dignified durable solutions for refugees living in [neighbouring country], and encourages a sustained effort to find solutions with regard to the residual ... refugee caseload [from the affected country], in compliance with relevant international law;	Resolution 1959(2010), para. 14	1545(2004), thirteenth preambular para.; 1494(2003), para. 15; 1272(1999), para. 12; 1096(1997), para. 8; and presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, nineteenth para.
	Calls upon all parties concerned to ensure that all peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning have regard for the special needs of women and children and include specific measures for the protection of civilians, including ... (iii) the creation of conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons ...	Resolution 1674(2006), para. 11	
	Reaffirms the unacceptability of the demographic changes resulting from the conflict, reaffirms also the inalienable rights of all refugees and internally displaced persons affected by the conflict, and stresses that they have the right to return to their homes in secure and dignified conditions ...	Resolution 1615(2005), para. 18	
	Welcomes the commitment of the parties to the right of all refugees and displaced persons freely to return to their homes of origin or to other places of their choice ... in safety ... and stresses the importance of facilitating the return or resettlement of refugees and displaced persons, which should be gradual and orderly and carried out through progressive, coordinated programmes that address the need for local security, housing and jobs ...	Resolution 1088(1996), para. 11	
Housing, land and property	Urges the Government of [the affected country], with support from [the mission], to ... address the underlying causes of instability, in particular the impact of the return of displaced persons and refugees and possible land-related social tensions;	Resolution 2053(2012), para. 20	
	Urges the signatories to the [peace agreement] to work towards a sustainable solution for the voluntary return, reinstallation, reintegration and security of displaced persons, including by addressing land tenure issues, with the support of the United Nations system, and to fulfil in this regard their commitments in accordance with the ... Agreement and their obligations under international law;	Resolution 1933(2010), para. 14	
	The Council is deeply concerned that in spite of its previous requests there has been little progress on the issue of the return of [refugees from ethnic minority group] and urges [the Government] to adopt a comprehensive approach in order to facilitate the return of refugees ... to their homes of origin throughout [the affected State]. It deplores the continued failure by [the affected State] to safeguard effectively their property rights, especially the situation where many of those [ethnic minority refugees] who have returned to the former sectors have been unable to regain possession of their properties. The Council calls upon [the affected State] to apply immediately proper procedures to the question of property rights and to stop all forms of discrimination against the [minority population] in the provision of social benefits and reconstruction assistance.	Presidential statement S/PRST/1996/48, fourth para.	
	Reaffirms its support for the established principles that all declarations and actions made under duress, particularly those regarding land and ownership, are null and void, and that all displaced persons should be enabled to return in peace to their former homes;	Resolution 941(1994), para. 3	
Role of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions and actors	Requests the [Government] to ensure the protection and well-being of all internally displaced persons, including from sexual violence and exploitation, paying particular attention to ensuring that the human rights of internally displaced persons in [the country] are respected in relation to relocations, and to ensure a fully consultative process, providing prior notice and ensuring safe, sanitary new sites that have basic services, as well as full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian organizations;	Resolution 2124(2013), para. 21	See also, for example, resolutions 2100(2013), para. 16; 1812(2008), para. 18; 1778(2007), para. 1; 1756(2007), para. 2; 1674(2006), para. 16; 1565(2004), para. 5; 1545(2004), paras. 5 and 13; 1509(2003), para. 6; 1419(2002), para. 11; 1244(1999), para. 11; and 1145(1997), para. 13.
	Underlines the need for [the mission] to continue to make full use of its mandate and capabilities, giving priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources to (a) the protection of civilians across [the affected area], including through ... securing, through increased police patrols, internally displaced persons camps, adjacent areas and areas of return; and supporting the development and training of community policing for internally displaced persons camps and areas of return ...	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 4	
	... demands that all parties to the conflict in [the affected area] create the conditions conducive to allowing the voluntary, informed, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons or their local integration ...	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 21	
	Calls upon the Governments of [relevant countries] to continue to enhance their cooperation, particularly with respect to the border area, including ... in developing and implementing a shared border strategy to, inter alia, support ... the voluntary return of refugees;	Resolution 2066(2012), para. 12	

	Encourages [the mission] to continue assisting the Government ... in providing adequate protection to the civilian population, with particular attention to the needs of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, especially women and children, including through joint community policing in the camps, along with strengthened mechanisms to address sexual and gender-based violence ...	Resolution 2012(2011), para. 15	
	Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate in this order of priority: <i>Protection of civilians</i> ... (g) Support the efforts of the Government ..., along with international partners and neighbouring countries, to create an environment conducive to the voluntary, safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees, or voluntary local integration or resettlement;	Resolution 1925(2010), para. 12 (g)	
	Decides to extend ... the multidimensional presence in [the affected countries] intended to help to create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons, inter alia, by contributing to the protection of refugees, displaced persons and civilians in danger, by facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance in [the affected region] and by creating favourable conditions for the reconstruction and economic and social development of those areas;	Resolution 1861(2009), para. 1	
	Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate in [the affected country], in liaison with the United Nations country team ... <i>Security and protection of civilians</i> ... (c) To liaise with the ... Government of [the affected country] and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in support of their efforts to relocate refugee camps which are in close proximity to the border, and to provide to the Office of the High Commissioner, on availability and on a cost-reimbursable basis, logistical assistance for that purpose; ... (e) To support the initiatives of national and local authorities in [the affected country] to resolve local tensions and promote local reconciliation efforts, in order to enhance the environment for the return of internally displaced persons;	Resolution 1861(2009), paras. 6 (c) and (e)	
	Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations ... decides that [the peacekeeping mission] shall have the following mandate: ... (b) To monitor and report on the human rights situation, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including on the situation of returned refugees and displaced persons;	Resolution 1542(2004), para. 7, sect. III (b)	
	Recalls that the [opposition group] bears a particular responsibility to protect the returnees and to facilitate the return of the remaining displaced population, and requests further measures to be undertaken [by United Nations agencies] to create conditions conducive to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, ... to develop their skills and to increase their self-reliance, with full respect for their inalienable right to return to their homes in secure and dignified conditions;	Resolution 1494(2003), para. 15	
Targeted and graduated measures in response to violations of applicable international law related to forced displacement	Decides that the measures referred to in paragraph 3 above shall apply to the following individuals and, as appropriate, entities, as designated by the ... Committee ... (e) Individuals or entities operating in [the affected country] and committing serious violations involving the targeting of children or women in situations of armed conflict, including ... forced displacement;	Resolution 2078(2012), para. 4 (e)	
	Encourages all States to submit to the Committee for inclusion on its list of designees, individuals ... [operating in the affected country and committing serious violations of international law involving ... forced displacement], as well as any entities owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the submitted individuals or entities or individuals or entities acting on behalf of or at the direction of the submitted entities;	Resolution 1952(2010), para. 21	
C. Humanitarian access and safety and security of humanitarian workers			
Condemn, and call for the cessation of, attacks against humanitarian workers and the obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian aid	The Council ... condemns all cases of denial of humanitarian access, and recalls that arbitrarily depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supply and access, can constitute a violation of international humanitarian law.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/15, eleventh para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2109(2013), thirteenth preambular para.; 2063(2012), para. 14; 2041(2011), fourteenth preambular para.;
	Expressing concern at the continuing threats posed by the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons ... to the safety and security of humanitarian workers and their effective provision of humanitarian assistance,	Resolution 2117(2013), ninth preambular para.	

	... expresses serious concern that access to populations in conflict-affected areas remains constrained, deplores the increased restrictions on humanitarian access in [the affected area] resulting from increased insecurity, attacks against humanitarian workers, denial of access by the parties to the conflict and bureaucratic impediments imposed by the Government ... stressing the need for the timely issuance of visas and travel permits for humanitarian organizations ...	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 16	2003(2011), para. 15; 2002(2011), eleventh preambular para.; 1964(2010), sixteenth preambular para.; 1935(2010), para. 10; 1917(2010), fifteenth preambular para.; 1894(2009), para. 16; 1840(2008), para. 16; 1828(2008), twelfth preambular para. and para. 8; 1780(2007), para. 13; 1769(2007), thirteenth preambular para. and para. 14; and 1265(1999), paras. 8 and 9.
	Notes with concern the continued high incidence of attacks against humanitarian workers, condemns these attacks in the strongest terms, emphasizing that the attacks impede efforts to aid the people of [the affected country], and underlines the need for all parties to ensure full, safe and unhindered access of all humanitarian actors, including United Nations staff and associated personnel, and to comply fully with applicable international humanitarian law;	Resolution 2096(2013), para. 29	
	Condemning all attacks against ... humanitarian personnel, regardless of the perpetrators, and emphasizing that those responsible for such attacks must be brought to justice,	Resolution 2053(2012), thirteenth preambular para.	
	Strongly condemning the targeting, obstruction or prevention of the delivery of humanitarian aid in [the affected country] by any parties, especially armed groups, and deploring any attacks on humanitarian personnel,	Resolution 2010(2011), fourteenth preambular para.	
	Concerned at armed activities and banditry in [the affected countries] which threaten the security of the civilian population, the conduct of humanitarian operations in those areas and the stability of those countries, and which result in serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law,	Resolution 1923(2010), fourth preambular para.	
	Reiterating its serious concern at the worsening humanitarian situation in [the affected country], strongly condemning the targeting and obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian aid by armed groups in [the affected country], which has prevented the delivery of such aid in some areas, deploring the repeated attacks on humanitarian personnel, expressing its condemnation in the strongest terms of all acts of violence or abuses committed against civilians and humanitarian personnel, in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and reaffirming the importance of the fight against impunity,	Resolution 1910(2010), fourteenth preambular para.	
	Condemns any attack against personnel or facilities of [the mission], and demands that no acts of intimidation or violence be directed against United Nations and associated personnel or facilities or other actors engaged in humanitarian, development or peacekeeping work;	Resolution 1892(2009), para. 14	
Call for compliance with applicable international humanitarian law and the observance of humanitarian principles	The Council calls upon all parties to respect the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance and stresses the importance of such assistance being delivered on the basis of need, devoid of any political prejudices and aims.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/15, third para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2109(2013), para. 13; 2076(2012), para. 11; 2075(2012), para. 13; 2063(2012), twelfth preambular para.; 2053(2012), para. 26; 2047(2012), para. 11; 2032(2011), para. 9; 2014(2011), para. 10; 2010(2011), thirteenth preambular para.; 2003(2011), para. 15; 1828(2008), para. 7; 1814(2008), para. 12; 1794(2007), para. 17; 1778(2007), para. 17; 1769(2007), para. 14; 1674(2006), paras. 8 and 22; 1574(2004), para. 11; 1565(2004), paras. 20 and 21;
	The Council also recalls that, under international humanitarian law, the wounded and sick must receive, to the fullest extent practicable, and with the least possible delay, medical care and attention required by their condition and that medical and humanitarian personnel, facilities and transport must be respected and protected. To this end, the Council urges free passage to all areas for medical personnel and supplies, including surgical items and medicine.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/15, tenth para.	

Calls upon parties to armed conflict ... to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, facilities and relief consignments, and to take measures to eradicate the negative impact of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on humanitarian actors, and take all required steps to facilitate the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of relief consignments, equipment and personnel;	Resolution 2117(2013), para. 14	1545(2004), para. 12; 1533(2004), para. 5; 1509(2003), sixth preambular para. and para. 8; 1502(2003), para. 4; 1497(2003), paras. 11 and 12; and presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, thirteenth and fourteenth paras.
... calling upon all parties to ... urgently facilitate unhindered humanitarian access in accordance with international law, including applicable international humanitarian law, and guiding principles of humanitarian assistance ...	Resolution 2113(2013), fourteenth preambular para.	
Requests the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative ..., to continue to direct the operations of an integrated [mission], coordinate all activities of the United Nations system in [the affected country], and support a coherent international approach to a stable peace in [the affected country], while respecting United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence;	Resolution 2109(2013), para. 2	
Emphasizing the need for all parties to uphold and respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in order to ensure the continued provision of humanitarian assistance, the safety of civilians receiving assistance and the security of humanitarian personnel operating in [the affected country], and stressing the importance of humanitarian assistance being delivered on the basis of need,	Resolution 2100(2013), eighth preambular para.	
Urging all those concerned, as set forth in international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907, to allow full unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to all people in need of assistance and to make available, as far as possible, all necessary facilities for their operations, and to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and their assets,	Resolution 2061(2012), twelfth preambular para.	
Strongly urges [the affected country] and [armed groups] ... to permit humanitarian access to the affected population in [the affected areas], ensuring in accordance with applicable international law, including applicable international humanitarian law, and guiding principles of emergency humanitarian assistance the safe, unhindered and immediate access of United Nations and other humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting the conflict-affected civilian population;	Resolution 2046(2012), para. 4	
Reaffirms the obligation of all parties to implement fully the rules and principles of international humanitarian law, particularly those regarding the protection of humanitarian personnel, and furthermore requests all the parties involved to provide humanitarian personnel with immediate, free and unimpeded access to all persons in need of assistance, in accordance with applicable international law;	Resolution 1923(2010), para. 22	
Calls for the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout [the affected territory] of humanitarian assistance, including food, fuel and medical treatment;	Resolution 1860(2009), para. 2	
Welcomes the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid;	Resolution 1860(2009), para. 3	
Calls upon all parties concerned to ensure that all peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning ... include specific measures for the protection of civilians, including ... the facilitation of the provision of humanitarian assistance ...	Resolution 1674(2006), para. 11	
Calls upon all Member States to ensure the free, unhindered and expeditious movement to [the affected State] of all personnel, as well as equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods, including vehicles and spare parts, which are for the exclusive and official use of [the peacekeeping operation];	Resolution 1590(2005), para. 8	
Calls upon [the affected State to facilitate] international relief for the humanitarian disaster by means of a moratorium on all restrictions that might hinder the provision of humanitarian assistance and access to the affected populations ...	Resolution 1556(2004), para. 1	

	Underlines the importance of safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian personnel to civilians in armed conflicts, calls upon all parties concerned, including neighbouring States, to cooperate fully with the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator and United Nations agencies in providing such access, invites States and the Secretary-General to bring to its attention information regarding the deliberate denial of such access in violation of international law, where such denial may constitute a threat to international peace and security, and in this regard expresses its willingness to consider such information and, when necessary, to adopt appropriate steps;	Resolution 1296(2000), para. 8
	Expresses its intention, where appropriate, to call upon the parties to a conflict to make special arrangements to meet the protection and assistance requirements of women, children and other vulnerable groups, including through the promotion of "days of immunization" and other opportunities for the safe and unhindered delivery of basic necessary services;	Resolution 1296(2000), para. 10
Humanitarian assistance and preparedness	The Council also urges all Member States to respond swiftly to the United Nations humanitarian appeals to meet the spiralling needs of people inside [the affected country], in particular internally displaced persons, and ... refugees [from the affected country] in neighbouring countries, and to ensure that all pledges are honoured in full. It further urges all Member States, in coordination with international financial institutions and United Nations agencies, to increase their support to address the increasing political, socioeconomic and financial impact of the refugee crisis on hosting countries.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/15, seventeenth para.
	Underscores the importance of humanitarian aid operations, condemns any politicization of humanitarian assistance, or misuse or misappropriation, and calls upon Member States and the United Nations to take all feasible steps to mitigate the aforementioned practices in [the affected country];	Resolution 2060(2012), para. 5
	Expressing serious concern that the United Nations consolidated appeal for [the affected country] is not fully funded, stressing the need for urgent mobilization of resources to those in need, and calling upon all Member States to contribute to current and future consolidated humanitarian appeals,	Resolution 2010(2011), fifteenth preambular para.
	Expressing the importance of addressing humanitarian issues confronting the ... people [of the affected country], and stressing the need to continue to form a coordinated response and to provide adequate resources to address these issues,	Resolution 2001(2011), tenth preambular para.
	Stressing the need to further improve the reach, quality and quantity of humanitarian aid, ensuring efficient, effective and timely coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance, including through enhanced coordination among the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes under the authority of the Special Representative [of the Secretary-General] and between the United Nations and other donors, especially where it is most needed, emphasizing in this regard the need for all, within the framework of humanitarian assistance, of upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence,	Resolution 1974(2011), nineteenth preambular para.
	Expressing its concern at the significant decline in humanitarian funding for [the affected country], and calling upon all Member States to contribute to current and future consolidated humanitarian appeals,	Resolution 1964(2010), eighteenth preambular para.
	... noting the importance of contingency planning,	Resolution 1933(2010), sixth preambular para.
	Stressing the ongoing importance of providing humanitarian and development assistance to the civilian populations throughout [the affected country], encouraging comprehensive preparedness efforts by the United Nations ... including the need for increased humanitarian and development assistance ... and the need for continued cooperation among the [parties to the peace agreement], the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, and urging donors to support implementation of the [peace agreement] and to honour all pledges of financial and material support,	Resolution 1919(2010), thirteenth preambular para.
	Expressing its concern at the significant decline in humanitarian funding for [the affected country], and calling upon all Member States to contribute to current and future consolidated humanitarian appeals,	Resolution 1910(2010), fifteenth preambular para.

Role of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions and actors	The Council further urges the ... authorities to take immediate steps to facilitate the expansion of humanitarian relief operations and lift bureaucratic impediments and other obstacles, including through:	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/15, thirteenth para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2104(2013), para. 14; 2093(2013), para. 1; 2086(2013), para. 8; 2073(2012), para. 1; 2000(2011), para. 7; 1996(2011), para. 3; 1933(2010), para. 16; 1894(2009), paras. 12 and 14; 1778(2007), para. 6; 1772(2007), para. 9 (d); 1769(2007), para. 15; 1756(2007), para. 2; 1701(2006), para. 12; 1674(2006), para. 16; 1590(2005), para. 16; 1565(2004), paras. 4 and 5; 1542(2004), para. 9; 1528(2004), para. 6; 1509(2003), para. 3 (k); 1502(2003), para. 5 (a); and 1270(1999), para. 14.
	(a) Expediting the approval of further domestic and international non-governmental organizations to engage in humanitarian relief activities;		
	(b) Easing and expediting the procedures for the operationalization of further humanitarian hubs, the entry and movement of humanitarian personnel and convoys by granting the necessary visas and permits in a predictable manner, the importation of goods and equipment, such as communication tools, protective armoured vehicles and medical and surgical equipment, needed for humanitarian operations;		
	(c) Promptly facilitating safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need, through the most effective ways, including across conflict lines and, where appropriate, across borders from neighbouring countries in accordance with the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance; and		
	(d) Accelerating approval for the implementation of humanitarian projects, including those in the revised ... Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan.		
	The Council also urges all parties:	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/15, fourteenth para.	
	...		
	(b) To immediately demilitarize medical facilities, schools and water stations, refrain from targeting civilian objects and agree on the modalities to implement humanitarian pauses, as well as key routes to enable promptly—upon notification from relief agencies—the safe and unhindered passage of humanitarian convoys along these routes to access people in need; and		
	(c) To designate empowered interlocutors with the necessary authority to discuss with humanitarian actors operational and policy issues.		
	Decides ... that the mandate of [the mission] shall be the following:	Resolution 2112(2013), para. 6 (g)	
	...		
	(g) <i>Support humanitarian assistance</i>		
	To facilitate, as necessary, unhindered humanitarian access and to help to strengthen the delivery of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected and vulnerable populations, notably by contributing to enhancing security for its delivery;		
	... The Council recognizes the need for consistent engagement by humanitarian agencies with all parties to armed conflict for humanitarian purposes, including activities aimed at ensuring respect for international humanitarian law. The Council stresses the need to ensure simplified and expedited procedures for humanitarian personnel and goods in order to better deliver quick support to civilians on the ground. The Council also underlines the importance of systematic monitoring and analysis of constraints on humanitarian access.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, seventeenth para.	
	Decides to authorize the deployment of an African-led International Support Mission in [the affected country] for an initial period of one year, which shall take all measures necessary, in compliance with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law and in full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of [the affected country], to carry out the following tasks:	Resolution 2085(2012), para. 9 (e)	
	...		
	(e) To support the [national] authorities to create a secure environment for the civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance ..., as requested, within its capabilities and in close coordination with humanitarian actors;		
	Expresses its intention:	Resolution 1894(2009), paras. 15 (a) and (b)	
	(a) To call upon parties to armed conflict to comply with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law to take all steps required to protect civilians and to facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of relief consignments, equipment and personnel;		
	(b) To mandate United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions, where appropriate, to assist in creating conditions conducive to safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian assistance;		
	Invites the Secretary-General to continue the systematic monitoring and analysis of constraints on humanitarian access, to include, as appropriate, observations and recommendations in his briefings and country-specific reports to the Council;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 17	
	... underlines, in particular, that [the mission] is authorized to take all necessary measures to provide security for key infrastructure and to contribute, as may be requested and within its capabilities and existing mandate, to the creation of the necessary security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance;	Resolution 1863(2009), para. 2	

	Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, (a) Decides that [the mission] shall be authorized to take all necessary measures, within its capabilities and its area of operations ..., to fulfil the following functions, in liaison with the Government of [the affected country]: ... (ii) To facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel by helping to improve security in the area of operations;	Resolution 1861(2009), para. 7 (a) (ii)	
	Reiterates its support for the contribution made by some States to protect the World Food Programme maritime convoys, calls upon States and regional organizations, in close coordination with each other and as notified in advance to the Secretary-General, and at the request of [the Government], to take action to protect shipping involved with the transportation and delivery of humanitarian aid ... and United Nations-authorized activities, calls upon troop-contributing countries to [the regional peacekeeping mission], as appropriate, to provide support to this end, and requests the Secretary-General to provide his support to this effect;	Resolution 1814(2008), para. 11	
Accountability for attacks against humanitarian workers	Condemning all attacks against United Nations peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel, regardless of the perpetrators, and emphasizing that those responsible for such attacks must be brought to justice,	Resolution 2053(2012), thirteenth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 1991(2011), eleventh preambular para.; 1925(2010), fourteenth preambular para.; 1674(2006), para. 23; and 1265(1999), para. 10.
	Emphasizing that there are existing prohibitions under international law against attacks knowingly and intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission undertaken in accordance with the Charter [of the United Nations] which in situations of armed conflict constitute war crimes, and recalling the need for States to end impunity for such criminal acts,	Resolution 1502(2003), fifth preambular para.	
	Expresses its strong condemnation of all forms of violence, including, inter alia, murder, rape and sexual assault, intimidation, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which those participating in humanitarian operations are increasingly exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of their property; Urges States to ensure that crimes against such personnel do not remain unpunished;	Resolution 1502(2003), paras. 1 and 2	
	Expresses its determination to take appropriate steps in order to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including, inter alia, by: (a) Requesting the Secretary-General to seek the inclusion of, and requesting that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of United Nations operations, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements;	Resolution 1502(2003), para. 5 (a)	
Targeted and graduated measures as a response to the obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian aid and to attacks against humanitarian workers	Urges the Government ... to respond to the ... requests [from the Committee appointed to oversee the implementation of the relevant sanctions regime] on ... investigations conducted and accountability measures undertaken for attacks against ... humanitarian personnel; and the situation of civilian populations in [specific areas], where the Panel of Experts, [the mission] and humanitarian agencies and personnel have been denied access, and measures taken to allow unimpeded and regular access for humanitarian relief to these areas;	Resolution 2091(2013), para. 11	See also, for example, resolutions 1894(2009), paras. 4 and 17; 1727(2006), para. 12; 1296(2000), para. 5; and 1265(1999), para. 10.
	Decides that the [provisions relating to travel bans and freezing of assets and economic resources] shall apply to individuals [and] entities, designated by the [sanctions committee]: ... (c) As obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to [the affected State], or access to or distribution of humanitarian assistance in [the affected State];	Resolution 2002(2011), para. 1 (c)	
	Expresses its determination to take appropriate steps in order to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including, inter alia, by: ... (b) Encouraging the Secretary-General, in accordance with his prerogatives under the Charter of the United Nations, to bring to the attention of the Security Council situations in which humanitarian assistance is denied as a consequence of violence directed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel;	Resolution 1502(2003), para. 5 (b)	

Exceptions to United Nations restrictive measures on humanitarian grounds	Decides that until [date] and without prejudice to humanitarian assistance programmes conducted elsewhere, the measures imposed by [paragraph of Security Council resolution prohibiting making available financial or economic resources to individuals listed by the relevant sanctions committee] shall not apply to the payment of funds, other financial assets or economic resources necessary to ensure the timely delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance in [the affected country] by the United Nations, its specialized agencies or programmes, humanitarian organizations having observer status in the General Assembly that provide humanitarian assistance and their implementing partners, including bilaterally or multilaterally funded non-governmental organizations participating in the United Nations Consolidated Appeal for [the affected country];	Resolution 2111(2013), para. 22	
	Decides also that the ban [on all flights in the airspace of the affected State] imposed by [relevant paragraph] shall not apply to flights whose sole purpose is humanitarian, such as delivering or facilitating the delivery of assistance, including medical supplies, food, humanitarian workers and related assistance, or evacuating foreign nationals from [the affected State] ...	Resolution 1973(2011), para. 7	
D. Conduct of hostilities			
Condemn, and call for the cessation of, violations of applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law	Recalling ... the statement by its President of 12 February 2013, in which it ... condemned all violations of international law against civilians, in particular the deliberate targeting of civilians, indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks, and sexual and gender-based violence,	Resolution 2109(2013), eleventh preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2091(2013), seventh and eighth preambular paras.; 2069(2012), twenty-first preambular para.; 2041(2012), thirty-third preambular para.; 2010(2011), para. 22; 1868(2009), para. 12; 1806(2008), para. 12; 1674(2006), para. 26; 1574(2004), para. 11; 1493(2003), para. 8; 1468(2003), para. 2; and 1296(2000), paras. 2 and 5.
	Remaining greatly concerned by ... the persistent high levels of violence and abuses and violations of international law, condemning in particular those involving the targeted attacks against civilians, widespread sexual and gender-based violence, the systematic recruitment and use of children by certain parties to the conflict, the displacement of significant numbers of civilians, extrajudicial executions and arbitrary arrests ...	Resolution 2098(2013), sixteenth preambular para.	
	Condemns in the strongest terms all attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations and abductions, targeting civilians and [national] and international forces ..., and condemns further the use by the [armed groups] of civilians as human shields;	Resolution 2096(2013), para. 28	
	Strongly condemns the continued violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including the recruitment and use of children, the killing and maiming of civilians, including of children, rape and sexual slavery and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence and abductions, and the targeting of ethnic minorities perpetrated by armed groups ...	Resolution 2088(2013), para. 13	
	Expressing its deep concern at the deteriorating security situation in some parts of [the affected area], including ceasefire violations, attacks by rebel groups, aerial bombardment by the Government of [the affected country], inter-tribal fighting, attacks on humanitarian personnel and peacekeepers, which have restricted humanitarian access to conflict areas where vulnerable civilian populations reside, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General ..., and the displacement of tens of thousands of civilians, and calling upon all parties to cease hostilities, including all acts of violence committed against civilians, ...	Resolution 2003(2011), thirteenth preambular para.	
	Condemns all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism;	Resolution 1860(2009), para. 5	
	Demanding an end to attacks on civilians, from any quarter, including by aerial bombing, and the use of civilians as human shields,	Resolution 1828(2008), thirteenth preambular para.	
	Recalls that deliberately targeting civilians and other protected persons in situations of armed conflict is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, reiterates its condemnation in the strongest terms of such practices, and demands that all parties immediately put an end to such practices;	Resolution 1674(2006), para. 3	
Call for compliance with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law	Underlines the importance of [the mission] abiding by all requirements applicable to it under international human rights and humanitarian law, further underlines in particular the need for [the mission] to ensure that any detainees in its custody, including disengaged combatants, are treated in strict compliance with applicable obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law, including ensuring their humane treatment and further requests [the mission] to allow appropriate access to detainees by a neutral body and to establish standard operating procedures for the handover of any detainees, including children, who come into its custody during a military operation;	Resolution 2124(2013), para. 12	See also, for example, resolutions 2085(2012), para. 9; 1974(2011), twenty-third preambular para.; 1964(2010), para. 15; 1806(2008), para. 13; 1794(2007), para. 7;

	The Council recalls that all obligations under international humanitarian law must be respected in all circumstances. It recalls, in particular, the obligation to distinguish between civilian populations and combatants and the prohibition against indiscriminate attacks and attacks against civilians and civilian objects, as well as the prohibition on the use of chemical weapons and the employment of weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare which are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering. The Council urges all parties to immediately cease and desist from all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and calls upon all parties to fully respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and to take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including by desisting from attacks directed against civilian objects, such as medical centres, schools and water stations, and also calls upon all parties to avoid establishing military positions in populated areas ...	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/15, ninth para.	1776(2007), twelfth preambular para.; 1574(2004), para. 11; 1564(2004), tenth preambular para.; 1493(2003), para. 8; and 1265(1999), para. 4.
	... reaffirming that all parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians, calling for all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians ...	Resolution 2096(2013), thirtieth preambular para.	
	... stresses the responsibility of all parties in [the affected country] to comply with their obligations to protect the civilian population from the effects of hostilities, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate attacks or excessive use of force, and underscores the need to end impunity, uphold human rights and hold those who commit crimes accountable;	Resolution 2093(2013), para. 26	
	... stresses the responsibility of all parties and armed groups in [the affected State] to take appropriate steps to protect the civilian population ..., consistent with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate attacks on populated areas;	Resolution 1814(2008), para. 17	
	Affirming the importance for all parties, including foreign forces, promoting the maintenance of security and stability in [the affected State] to act in accordance with international law, including relevant obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, and to cooperate with the relevant international organizations ... and underscoring that all parties, including foreign forces, should take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians,	Resolution 1790(2007), eighteenth preambular para.	
	Demands that all parties concerned comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international [humanitarian, human rights and refugee] law, in particular those contained in the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 and in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, as well as with the decisions of the Security Council;	Resolution 1674(2006), para. 6	
Call for the adoption of specific measures to prevent civilian harm	... noting the importance of conducting continuous reviews of tactics and procedures and after-action reviews and investigations in cooperation with the Government of ... in cases where civilian casualties have occurred and when the Government finds these joint investigations appropriate, as well as continuing cooperation with the [national security forces] towards the further institutionalization of the protection of civilians, especially women and girls,	Resolution 2120(2013), twenty-sixth preambular para.	
	Requests that [the mission] take fully into account the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk to civilians, including, in particular, women, children and displaced persons, and civilian objects in the performance of its mandate as defined in [provisions mandating the mission to provide active support to national authorities in their actions against armed groups], where undertaken jointly with the [national] defence and security forces, in strict compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;	Resolution 2100(2013), para. 26	
	Authorizes [the mission], through its military component, in pursuit of the objectives described in [relevant provision], to take all necessary measures to perform the following tasks ... (a) <i>Protection of civilians</i> (i) mitigate the risk to civilians before, during and after any military operation; ... (b) <i>Neutralizing armed groups</i> ...	Resolution 2098(2013), paras. 12 (a) and (b)	
	In support of the authorities of [the affected country], on the basis of information collation and analysis, and taking full account of the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk before, during and after any military operation, carry out targeted offensive operations ... in strict compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations [security] forces ...		

... urging [the international military force] and other international forces to continue to undertake enhanced efforts to prevent civilian casualties, including the increased focus on protecting the [national] population as a central element of the mission, and noting the importance of conducting continuous reviews of tactics and procedures and after-action reviews and investigations in cooperation with the [national] Government in cases where civilian casualties have occurred and when the [national] Government finds these joint investigations appropriate, as well as continuing cooperation with the [national security forces] towards the further institutionalization of the protection of civilians,

Resolution 2069(2012), twenty-fifth preambular para.

E. Small arms and light weapons, mines and explosive remnants of war

Condemn the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons	Recalling with grave concern that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons fuel armed conflicts and have a wide range of negative human rights, humanitarian, development and socioeconomic consequences, in particular on the security of civilians in armed conflict, including the disproportionate impact on violence perpetrated against women and girls, and exacerbating sexual and gender-based violence and the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict in violation of applicable international law,	Resolution 2117(2013), tenth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2111(2013), fifth preambular para.; 2104(2013), twenty-fifth preambular para.; 2063(2012), para. 20; 2040(2012), ninth preambular para.; 2021(2011), sixth preambular para.; 2017(2011), seventh preambular para.; 1944(2010), twelfth preambular para.; 1919(2010), para. 15; 1296(2000), para. 21; and 1265(1999), para. 17.
	Condemns the reported continuing violations of the measures contained in [resolutions prescribing arms embargo], as modified in its subsequent resolutions, and recalls the mandate of the Committee, as defined in [relevant provision of resolution prescribing sanctions], to examine and take appropriate action on information regarding alleged violations or non-compliance with those measures;	Resolution 2095(2013), para. 12	
	Remaining seriously concerned over ... the continued proliferation of weapons from within and outside the region that threaten peace, security and stability of States in the region,	Resolution 2085(2012), fifth preambular para.	
	Condemning the continuing illicit flow of weapons within and into [the affected State] in violation of resolutions [prescribing sanctions], declaring its determination to continue to monitor closely the implementation of the arms embargo and other measures set out in its resolutions concerning [the affected State],	Resolution 2078(2012), seventh preambular para.	
	Notes that the excessive accumulation and destabilizing effect of small arms and light weapons pose a considerable impediment to the provision of humanitarian assistance and have the potential to exacerbate and prolong conflicts, endanger civilians and undermine security and the confidence required for a return to peace and stability ...	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 29	
	Recognizes the deleterious impact of the proliferation of arms, in particular small arms, on the security of civilians, including refugees and other vulnerable populations, particularly children, and in this regard recalls resolution 1209(1998) of 19 November 1998 ...	Resolution 1261(1999), para. 14	
Call for compliance with international measures on small arms and light weapons	Reminds Member States of their obligation to fully and effectively comply with Security Council-mandated arms embargoes and to take appropriate measures, including all legal and administrative means, against any activity that violates such arms embargoes, and including, in accordance with relevant Council resolutions, through cooperating with all relevant United Nations entities; by making available to relevant sanctions committees all pertinent information on any alleged violations of arms embargoes; by acting on credible information to prevent the supply, sale, transfer or export of small arms and light weapons in contravention of Council-mandated arms embargoes; by facilitating unhindered access by relevant Council-mandated personnel in accordance with Council mandates; and by applying relevant international standards such as the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons;	Resolution 2117(2013), para. 2	See also, for example, resolutions 2079(2012), para. 8; 1952(2010), seventh preambular para.; 1937(2010), sixth preambular para.; and 1209(1998), para. 3.
	Urges States to consider signing and ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible, and encourages States and intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations that are in a position to do so to render assistance in capacity-building to enable States parties to fulfil and implement the Treaty's obligations;	Resolution 2117(2013), para. 19	
	Encourages the Government of [the affected country] to enhance stockpile security, accountability and management of arms and ammunition, with the assistance of international partners as necessary and requested, and to urgently implement a national weapons marking programme, in particular for State-owned firearms, in line with the standards established by the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States;	Resolution 2078(2012), para. 12	

	Emphasizing the importance of full compliance with the prohibition on sales and supply of arms and related materiel established by [relevant sanctions resolution],	Resolution 2004(2011), eighth preambular para.	
	Urges Member States, in accordance with the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to take effective action through, inter alia, conflict resolution and the development and implementation of national legislation, in a manner which is consistent with existing responsibilities of States under relevant international law, to control the illicit trade of small arms to parties in armed conflict that do not respect fully the relevant provisions of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict;	Resolution 1460(2003), para. 7	
	Calls for effective international action to prevent the illegal flow of small arms into areas of conflict;	Resolution 1318(2000), annex, sect. VI	
	Stresses the importance of all Member States, in particular States involved in the manufacturing or marketing of weapons, restricting arms transfers which could provoke or prolong armed conflicts or aggravate existing tensions or armed conflicts ...	Resolution 1209(1998), para. 3	
	... stresses the need to implement the Programme of Action [to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects] and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, in order to make real progress in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. In particular, States are encouraged to strengthen physical security and stockpile management, destroy surplus and obsolete small arms and light weapons, ensure all small arms and light weapons are marked at the time of manufacture and import, and strengthen export and border controls and control brokering activities.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2007/24, sixth para.	
Role of United Nations peacekeeping missions and other relevant actors in preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons	Requests [the mission] to continue to support the ... authorities in their efforts to control the flow of small arms, the development of a weapons registry, the revision of current laws on importation and possession of arms, reform of the weapons permit system and the development and implementation of a national community policing doctrine;	Resolution 2119(2013), para. 24	See also, for example, resolutions 2112(2013), para. 6; 2098(2013), para. 12; 2095(2013), paras. 7 and 11; 2070(2013), para. 23; 2063(2012), para. 20; 2021(2012), paras. 11 and 16; 1959(2010), para. 9; and 1946(2010), para. 12.
	... requests [the mission] to ... monitor whether any arms or related materiel are present in [the affected area] in accordance with its mandate as set out in [relevant provision of Security Council resolution], and in this context, to continue to cooperate with the Panel of Experts established pursuant to [relevant resolution] ...	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 23	
	Calls upon the ... authorities of [the affected country], with the assistance of [the mission], consistent with [relevant provision], and international partners, to address the issue of the proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in accordance with the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in order to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked or illicitly held weapons, and further stresses the importance of the full implementation of its [relevant resolution];	Resolution 2100(2013), para. 28	
	Encourages the Government of [the affected country] to enhance stockpile security, accountability and management of arms and ammunition, with the assistance of international partners, as necessary and requested, and to urgently implement a national weapons marking programme, in particular for State-owned firearms, in line with the standards established by the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States;	Resolution 2078(2012), para. 12	
	... requests [the mission] to observe and report on any flow of personnel, arms and related materiel across the border with [relevant country];	Resolution 2057(2012), para. 6	

	Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate: Protection and security ... (c) <i>Monitoring of the arms embargo</i> To monitor the implementation of the [arms embargo] imposed by [relevant provision], in cooperation with the Group of Experts established pursuant to [relevant resolution], including by inspecting, as they deem it necessary and when appropriate without notice, all weapons, ammunition and related materiel regardless of location, ... To collect, as appropriate, arms and any related materiel brought into [the affected country] in violation of the [arms embargo] imposed by [relevant provision], and to dispose of such arms and related materiel as appropriate; (d) <i>Collection of weapons</i> To continue to assist the national authorities, ... in collecting, registering, securing and disposing of weapons and in clearing explosive remnants of war, as appropriate, ... To support the Government ... in coordination with other partners to develop and implement community weapons collection programmes, which should be linked to community violence reduction and reconciliation; To coordinate with the Government ... in ensuring that the collected weapons are not disseminated or reutilized outside a comprehensive national security strategy ...	Resolution 2000(2011), paras. 7 (c) and (d)	
	Recognizes the detrimental impact of the proliferation of arms, in particular small arms, on the security of civilians by fuelling armed conflict, encourages [the mission] to continue its efforts in providing assistance to the Government of [the affected area] with regard to the civilian disarmament process, in particular by strengthening the capacity of local authorities to deter inter-communal conflicts and by monitoring forced civilian disarmament initiatives in an effort to avert disarmament operations that could exacerbate insecurity in [the affected area];	Resolution 1919(2010), para. 15	
Targeted and graduated measures as a response to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons	Acknowledging the important contribution of Council-mandated arms embargoes in countering the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons, mitigating the intensity of conflict and creating conditions conducive to the peaceful resolution of situations that threaten or breach international peace and security, and acknowledging also the contribution that Council-mandated arms embargoes make in supporting conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform,	Resolution 2117(2013), twelfth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 1907(2009), para. 12; and 1521(2003), para. 2 (a).
	Decides ... that the arms embargo shall not apply to the supplies of non-lethal equipment intended solely to enable the [national] security forces to use only appropriate and proportionate force while maintaining public order, as approved in advance by [the sanctions committee];	Resolution 1946(2010), para. 5	
	Underlines that it is fully prepared to impose targeted measures against persons to be designated by the [sanctions] Committee ... who are determined to be, among other things: ... (f) Acting in violation of the measures imposed by [paragraph providing for arms embargo];	Resolution 1946(2010), para. 6 (f)	
	Decides that all Member States shall immediately take the measures necessary to prevent the sale or supply to [the affected State], by their nationals or from their territories or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical assistance, training, and financial and other assistance related to military activities or to the provision, manufacture, maintenance or use of these items, whether or not originating in their territories;	Resolution 1907(2009), para. 5	
	Decides that all States shall take the following measures, as previously imposed by [the Security Council sanctions resolutions on certain illegal armed groups] and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them ... (c) Prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities;	Resolution 1904(2009), para. 1 (c)	

	... reaffirms its intention to consider imposing, through country-specific resolutions, targeted and graduated measures, such as, inter alia, a ban on the export and supply of small arms and light weapons and of other military equipment and on military assistance, against parties to situations of armed conflict which are on the agenda of the Security Council and are in violation of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict;	Resolution 1612(2005), para. 9
	Expresses its intention to consider taking appropriate steps, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to address the linkages between armed conflict and terrorism, the illicit trade in precious minerals, the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and other criminal activities, which can prolong armed conflict or intensify its impact on civilian populations, including children;	Resolution 1379(2001), para. 6
International and regional cooperation in preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons	Calls upon all Member States, in particular States of the region, acting nationally or through regional organizations or arrangements, in order to ensure strict implementation of the arms embargo established by [provision of the relevant resolution], to inspect in their territory, including seaports and airports, and on the high seas, vessels and aircraft bound to or from [the affected State], if the State concerned has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that the cargo contains items, the supply, sale, transfer or export of which is prohibited by [paragraph of the relevant resolution] ... , including the provision of armed mercenary personnel, calls upon all flag States of such vessels and aircraft to cooperate with such inspections, and authorizes Member States to use all measures commensurate to the specific circumstances to carry out such inspections;	Resolution 1973(2011), para. 13
	Encourages enhanced cooperation between all States, particularly those in the region, [the mission] and the Group of Experts [informing the sanctions committee], and encourages further all parties and all States to ensure cooperation with the Group of Experts [informing the sanctions committee] by individuals and entities within their jurisdiction or under their control;	Resolution 1952(2010), para. 17
	Urges, in this context, that all parties [in the affected country] and all States, particularly those in the region, ensure: The safety of the members of the Group of Experts [informing the sanctions committee]; Unhindered access by the Group of Experts [informing the sanctions committee], in particular to persons, documents and sites, in order for the Group of Experts to execute its mandate;	Resolution 1946(2010), para. 16
	Urges all States, relevant United Nations bodies, the [regional organization] and other interested parties, to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel of Experts [informing the sanctions committee], in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on implementation of the measures imposed by [resolutions imposing sanctions];	Resolution 1945(2010), para. 5
	Requests the Governments of [the affected State] and of all States, particularly those in the region, the United Nations Organization Mission in [the affected State] and the Group of Experts to cooperate intensively, including by exchanging information regarding arms shipments, trading routes and strategic mines known to be controlled or used by armed groups, flights from the ... region to [the affected State] and from [the affected State] to the ... region, the illegal exploitation of and trafficking in natural resources, and activities of individuals and entities designated by the [sanctions] Committee pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 1857(2008);	Resolution 1896(2009), para. 10
	Further demands that all parties and all States ensure cooperation with the Group of Experts by individuals and entities within their jurisdiction or under their control, and in this regard requests all States to identify a focal point to the Committee in order to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the Group of Experts;	Resolution 1896(2009), para. 12
	... calls upon the countries of the region to reinforce their cooperation with the Security Council Committee and the Group of Experts ... in enforcing the arms embargo in [the affected State] and to combat cross-border trafficking in illicit small arms, light weapons and illicit natural resources as well as the movement of combatants, and reiterates its demand that [States in the region] take measures to prevent the use of their respective territories in support of the activities of armed groups present in the region;	Resolution 1653(2006), para. 16
	Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that his [Special Representatives for neighbouring countries] coordinate the activities of [their respective missions], share military information at their disposal, in particular concerning cross-border movements of armed elements and arms trafficking, and pool their logistic and administrative resources, to an extent that does not affect the ability to carry out their respective mandates, in order to maximize efficiency and cost-effectiveness;	Resolution 1545(2004), para. 20

Mine action and explosive remnants of war	Expressing concern about the serious threat that anti-personnel mines, remnants of war and improvised explosive devices pose to the civilian population, and stressing the need to refrain from the use of weapons and devices prohibited by international law,	Resolution 2096(2013), thirty-first preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2104(2013), twenty-sixth preambular para.; and 1986(2011), fifteenth preambular para.
	Notes, in this regard, that multidimensional peacekeeping missions may be mandated by the Security Council, inter alia: ... (d) To provide for rapid response in mine action as well as advisory services and training tailored to needs of national authorities, upon request, with a view to enabling risk reduction, victim assistance, demining and stockpile management and disposal;	Resolution 2086(2013), para. 8 (d)	
	Demands that the [relevant Governments] facilitate the deployment of the United Nations Mine Action Service to ensure freedom of movement for [the relevant personnel] as well as the identification and clearance of mines in [the affected area];	Resolution 2075(2012), para. 12	
	Demands that [the relevant countries] facilitate the deployment of the United Nations Mine Action Service as well as the identification and clearance of mines in [the affected areas];	Resolution 2047(2012), para. 10	
	Noting the ratification by [the affected country] of the Convention on Cluster Munitions,	Resolution 2011(2011), twenty-second preambular para.	
	Welcomes the achievements to date in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme for [the affected country], and encourages the Government of [the affected country], with the support of the United Nations and all the relevant actors, to continue its efforts towards the removal of anti-personnel landmines, anti-tank landmines and explosive remnants of war in order to reduce the threats posed to human life and peace and security in the country; and expresses the need to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation, and economic and social reintegration of victims, including persons with disabilities;	Resolution 1917(2010), para. 19	
	... calls upon parties to armed conflict to take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population, including children, from the effects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, and in this regard encourages the international community to support country efforts in clearing landmines and other explosive remnants of war and to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and economic and social reintegration of victims, including persons with disabilities;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 29	
	Welcomes the continued contribution of [the peacekeeping mission] to operational demining ..., encourages further assistance in mine action by the United Nations to [the affected State] in support of both the continued development of its national mine action capacity and emergency demining activities ..., commends donor countries for supporting these efforts through financial and in-kind contributions and encourages further international contributions, takes note of the communication to [the affected State] and [the peacekeeping mission] of maps and information on the location of mines, and stresses the necessity to provide [the affected State] and [the peacekeeping mission] with any additional maps and records on the location of mines;	Resolution 1525(2004), para. 9	
	The Council expresses deepest worry at the presence in very high numbers of unexploded ordnance in [the region of the affected country], including cluster munitions. It deplores the death and injury of dozens of civilians, as well as of several deminers, caused by those munitions since the cessation of hostilities. It supports in this context the request by the Secretary-General to [the party to the conflict] to provide to the United Nations detailed data on its use of cluster munitions in [the territory of the affected State].	Presidential statement S/PRST/2007/12, thirteenth para.	

F. Compliance, accountability and the rule of law

Dissemination of, and training on, international humanitarian law and human rights law standards	Welcomes the continued cooperation between and the conduct of coordinated activities by [the mission] and the [armed forces], and calls for strict adherence by [the armed forces] to international humanitarian, human rights and refugee laws, and in this context recalls the importance of training in human rights, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence for security and law enforcement agencies;	Resolution 2112(2013), para. 24	See also, for example, resolutions 2053(2012), twelfth preambular para.; and 1265(1999), eighth preambular para. and para. 5.
	Urges Member States and regional and international organizations to provide coordinated assistance, expertise, training, including on human rights and international humanitarian law, and capacity-building support to the [national defence and security forces], consistent with their domestic requirements ...	Resolution 2085(2012), para. 7	

	Encouraging ... the efforts to ensure adequate human rights presence, capacity and expertise within [the mission] to carry out human rights promotion, protection and monitoring activities,	Resolution 2066(2012), ninth preambular para.	
	... recalls the importance of training in human rights, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence for security and law enforcement agencies;	Resolution 2062(2012), para. 17	
	Reiterates its call upon States that have not already done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the relevant instruments of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, and to take appropriate legislative, judicial and administrative measures to implement their obligations under these instruments;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 5	
	<p>Calls upon all parties concerned:</p> <p>(a) To ensure the widest possible dissemination of information about international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law;</p> <p>(b) To provide training for public officials, members of armed forces and armed groups, personnel associated with armed forces, civilian police and law enforcement personnel, and members of the judicial and legal professions; and to raise awareness among civil society and the civilian population on relevant international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, as well as on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations, to achieve full and effective compliance;</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) To seek, where appropriate, support from United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions, as well as United Nations country teams and the International Committee of the Red Cross and, where appropriate, other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, on training and awareness-raising on international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law;</p>	Resolution 1894(2009), paras. 7 (a), (b) and (d)	
Promoting compliance through targeted and graduated measures	<p>Regrets that some individuals affiliated with the Government ... and armed groups in [the affected area] continue to commit violence against civilians, impede the peace process and disregard the demands of the Council, expresses its intention to impose targeted sanctions against individuals and entities that meet the listing criteria in [relevant provision of resolution prescribing sanctions, including being responsible for violations of international humanitarian or human rights law or other atrocities], and encourages the Panel of Experts, in coordination with the joint African Union-United Nations mediation, to provide to the Committee, when appropriate, the names of any individuals, groups or entities that meet the listing criteria;</p>	Resolution 2091(2013), para. 7	See also, for example, resolutions 2100(2013), para. 6; 2035(2012), para. 9; 1988(2011), para. 1; 1975(2011), para. 12; 1970(2011), para. 9; 1946(2010), para. 6; and 1727(2006), para. 12.
	<p>Decides that the measures [travel ban and assets freeze] in [provisions of the relevant resolution] shall apply to individuals, and that the [relevant provisions] of that resolution shall apply to entities, designated by the Committee:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) As being political or military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflicts in [the affected country] in violation of applicable international law;</p> <p>(e) As being responsible for violations of applicable international law in [the affected country] involving the targeting of civilians, including children and women, in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on schools and hospitals and abduction and forced displacement;</p>	Resolution 2002(2011), paras. 1 (d) and (e)	
	<p>Underlines that it is fully prepared to impose targeted measures against persons to be designated by the [sanctions] Committee ... who are determined to be, among other things:</p> <p>(a) A threat to the peace and national reconciliation process in [the affected country], in particular by blocking the implementation of the peace process, as referred to in the [relevant political agreement];</p> <p>(b) Attacking or obstructing the action of [the mission], the [national armed forces] which support it and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for [the affected country];</p> <p>(c) Responsible for obstacles to the freedom of movement of [the mission] and of the ... forces supporting it;</p> <p>(d) Responsible for serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in [the affected country];</p> <p>(e) Publicly inciting hatred and violence;</p> <p>(f) Acting in violation of the measures imposed by [paragraphs imposing an arms embargo];</p>	Resolution 1980(2011), para. 10	

	Decides ... that all Member States shall freeze without delay all funds, other financial assets and economic resources which are on their territories, which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the individuals or entities listed in [annex to the resolution imposing sanctions] or [designated by the sanctions committee and involved in or complicit in ordering, controlling or otherwise directing the commission of serious human rights abuses against persons in the affected State, including by being involved in or complicit in planning, commanding, ordering or conducting attacks, in violation of international law, including aerial bombardments, on civilian populations and facilities; or by individuals or entities acting on their behalf or individuals and entities acting for such individuals or on their behalf or at their direction], and decides further that all Member States shall ensure that any funds, financial assets or economic resources are prevented from being made available by their nationals or by any individuals or entities within their territories, to or for the benefit of the individuals or entities listed in [annex to the resolution imposing sanctions] or individuals designated by the Committee;	Resolution 1970(2011), para. 17	
	... all States shall take the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of all persons designated by [the sanctions committee] ...	Resolution 1807(2008), para. 9	
Accountability	Reiterating that all perpetrators of [violations of international humanitarian and human rights law perpetrated in the affected country] must be held accountable and that some of those acts may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to which [the affected country] is a State party, recalling in this regard the statement made by the Prosecutor of the Court on [date],	Resolution 2121(2013), fifth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2113(2013), twenty-first preambular para.; 2111(2013), sixth preambular para.; 2102(2013), para. 8; 2078(2012), tenth preambular para. and para. 19; 2071(2012), fourteenth preambular para.; 2067(2012), seventeenth preambular para. and para. 15; 2027(2011), para. 10; 2000(2011), fifteenth preambular para.; 1975(2011), eleventh preambular para.; 1959(2010), para. 11; 1952(2010), para. 12; 1906(2009), para. 3; 1902(2009), eleventh preambular para. and para. 18; 1863(2009), tenth preambular para.; 1828(2008), eighth preambular para.; 1826(2008), ninth preambular para.; 1816(2008), para. 11; 1769(2007), twelfth preambular para.; 1674(2006), paras. 8 and 11; 1591(2005), fifth preambular para.; 1577(2004), para. 2; 1565(2004), para. 19; 1564(2004), ninth preambular para. and para. 7; 1556(2004), tenth preambular para. and para. 6;
	... stressing the importance of investigating [alleged human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law], including those that occurred throughout the ... crisis, committed by all parties, irrespective of their status or political affiliation, reaffirming that those responsible for such violations must be held accountable and brought to justice irrespective of their political affiliation, while respecting the rights of those in detention ..., and urging the Government ... to increase and expedite its efforts to combat impunity,	Resolution 2112(2013), eleventh preambular para.	
	Expressing grave concern at ... the inability of the authorities to hold those responsible [for human rights violations] to account,	Resolution 2109(2013), ninth preambular para.	
	... calling for all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or abuses of human rights, as applicable, including those involving violence or abuses against children and acts of sexual and gender-based violence, to be swiftly apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable,	Resolution 2098(2013), nineteenth preambular para.	
	Calling upon the Government ... to fulfil all its commitments, including ... undertaking effective efforts to ensure accountability for serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, by whomsoever perpetrated,	Resolution 2091(2013), seventeenth preambular para.	
	Recalling ...its resolutions reaffirming that there can be no peace without justice, and recalling the importance that the Security Council attaches to ending impunity and to ensuring justice for crimes committed in [the affected country/area] ...	Resolution 2063(2012), fifth preambular para.	
	Stresses that all those responsible for human rights violations and abuses must be held accountable, and underlines the need for a comprehensive, independent and impartial investigation consistent with international standards into alleged human rights abuses and violations, to prevent impunity and ensure full accountability;	Resolution 2051(2012), para. 7	
	Calls upon the authorities of [the affected country] to combat impunity and to hold accountable all perpetrators of human rights and international humanitarian law violations, including those committed by illegal armed groups or elements of the [national] Security Forces;	Resolution 1996(2011), para. 13	
	... stressing that those responsible for or complicit in attacks targeting the civilian population, including aerial and naval attacks, must be held to account,	Resolution 1973(2011), fourteenth preambular para.	

	... urges the Government [of the affected country] to ensure the full implementation of its "zero-tolerance policy" with respect to discipline and human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, committed by elements of the [armed forces] and further urges that all reports of such violations be thoroughly investigated, with the support of [the mission], and that all those responsible be brought to justice through a robust and independent process;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 11	1479(2003), para. 8; 1468(2003), para. 2; 1296(2000), para. 17; 1291(2000), para. 15; 1289(2000), para. 17; and presidential statement
	Affirms its strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and emphasizes in this context the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of international humanitarian law in order to prevent violations, avoid their recurrence and seek sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 10	S/PRST/2013/2, eighth para.
	Reiterates its call upon the [national] authorities to put an end to impunity, including by bringing to justice without delay perpetrators of grave violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, and to take into account, when they select candidates for official positions, including key posts in the armed forces, national police and other security services, the past actions of the candidates in terms of respect for international humanitarian law and human rights;	Resolution 1756(2007), para. 12	
	Strongly condemns the acts of violence systematically perpetrated against civilians, including the massacres, as well as other atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, in particular sexual violence against women and girls, stresses the need to bring to justice those responsible, including those at the command level, and urges all parties, including [the affected State], to take all necessary steps to prevent further violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular those committed against civilians;	Resolution 1493(2003), para. 8	
	Reaffirms that all parties to the conflict are bound to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and, in particular, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and that persons who commit or order the commission of grave breaches of the Conventions are individually responsible in respect of such breaches;	Resolution 1193(1998), para. 12	
Establishment of ad hoc judicial mechanism and commissions of inquiry	Underscoring the importance of transitional justice mechanisms in promoting lasting reconciliation among all the people of [the affected country], taking note of the draft law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission developed by the Government ... and passed to Parliament on [date], and recalling in this context the commitment of the Government to establishing transitional justice mechanisms consistent with the results of the ... national consultations, [relevant] Security Council resolution ... as well as [the relevant agreement],	Resolution 2090(2013), eleventh preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2112(2013), para. 16; 2097(2013), eighth preambular para.; 2027(2011), para. 12; 2014(2011), seventh preambular para.;
	Urges the [national] Government to pass legislation on transitional justice to support reconciliation without further delay;	Resolution 2051(2012), para. 10	1948(2010), para. 3; 1902(2009), para. 17; 1888(2009), eighth preambular para.;
	Expressing concern about the violent events of [date], and welcoming the establishment by the Government ... of a special independent commission of inquiry to investigate the events and determine the facts and circumstances through independent and impartial proceedings that meet international standards, in order to hold accountable those responsible,	Resolution 2025(2011), eleventh preambular para.	1674(2006), para. 7; and presidential statement
	... calls upon all parties to fully cooperate with the independent international commission of inquiry put in place by the Human Rights Council on [date] to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the allegations of serious abuses and violations of human rights committed in [the affected country] ..., and requests the Secretary-General to transmit this report to the Security Council and other relevant international bodies;	Resolution 1975(2011), para. 8	S/PRST/2013/2, eighth and ninth paras.
	Decides that all States shall cooperate fully with the [ad hoc judicial mechanism] ... and that, consequently, all States shall take any measures necessary under their domestic law to implement the provisions of the ... resolution [instituting the ad hoc judicial mechanism] and the statute of the Mechanism, including the obligation of States to comply with requests for assistance or orders issued by the Mechanism pursuant to its statute;	Resolution 1966(2010), para. 9	
	Recalls that accountability for ... serious crimes must be ensured by taking measures at the national level and by enhancing international cooperation in support of national mechanisms, draws attention to the full range of justice and reconciliation mechanisms to be considered, including national, international and "mixed" criminal courts and tribunals, and truth and reconciliation commissions, as well as national reparation programmes for victims and institutional reforms; and underlines the role of the Council in ending impunity;	Resolution 1894(2009), para. 11	

	Requests that the Secretary-General rapidly establish an international commission of inquiry in order immediately to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law ... by all parties, to determine also whether or not acts of genocide have occurred, and to identify the perpetrators of such violations with a view to ensuring that those responsible are held accountable, calls upon all parties to cooperate fully with such a commission ...	Resolution 1564(2004), para. 12	
	Emphasizes the responsibility of States to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law, affirms the possibility, to this end, of using the International Fact-Finding Commission established by article 90 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions ...	Resolution 1265(1999), para. 6	
	Decides hereby, having received the request of [the affected State], to establish an international tribunal for the sole purpose of prosecuting persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory [of the affected State] and citizens [of the affected State] responsible for genocide and other such violations committed in the territory of neighbouring States, between [dates]	Resolution 955(1994), para. 1	
	Decides hereby to establish an international tribunal for the sole purpose of prosecuting persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of [the affected State] between [dates]	Resolution 827(1993), para. 2	
	... encouraging the Government ... to continue its close cooperation with the International Criminal Court,	Resolution 2101(2013), sixteenth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2112(2013), thirteenth preambular para.; 2098(2013), twentieth preambular para.; 2095(2013), sixth preambular para. and para. 4; 1991(2011), para. 19; 1970(2011), para. 4; 1906(2009), tenth preambular para.
	Reiterating, in this regard, that all perpetrators of ... acts [of violence in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law] must be held accountable and that some of those acts referred to in [relevant provision] may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and noting that the ... authorities of [the affected country] referred the situation in [the affected country] since [date] to the Court on [date] and that the Prosecutor of the Court opened, on [date], an investigation into alleged crimes committed on the territory of [the affected country] since [date],	Resolution 2100(2013), tenth preambular para.	
	The Council notes that the fight against impunity and accountability for the most serious crimes of international concern has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes in the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the Rome Statute, in ad hoc and "mixed" tribunals as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals. In this regard, the Council reiterates its previous call regarding the importance of State cooperation with these courts and tribunals in accordance with the respective obligations of States, and expresses its commitment to effective follow up of Council decisions in this regard. The Council intends to forcefully continue to fight impunity and also draws attention to the full range of justice and reconciliation mechanisms, including truth and reconciliation commissions, national reparation programmes and institutional and legal reforms, including guarantees of non-recurrence. The Council reaffirms its readiness to adopt appropriate measures aimed at those who violate international humanitarian law and human rights law.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, ninth para.	
Referral of situations involving genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes to the International Criminal Court and cooperation with the Court	Stresses the importance of the [affected] Government ... actively seeking to hold accountable those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country and of regional cooperation to this end, including through its ongoing cooperation with the International Criminal Court, and encourages [the mission] to use its existing authority to assist the [affected] Government in this regard;	Resolution 2078(2012), para. 19	
	Decides ... that the ... authorities [of the affected country] shall cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the International Criminal Court and the Prosecutor pursuant to [resolution referring the situation to the Court] and, while recognizing that States not party to the Rome Statute of the Court have no obligation under the Rome Statute, urges all States and concerned regional and other international organizations to cooperate fully with the Court and the Prosecutor;	Resolution 1970(2011), para. 5	
	Welcoming the commitments made by the Government of [the affected country] to hold accountable those responsible for atrocities in the country, noting the cooperation of the Government [of the affected country] with the International Criminal Court, and stressing the importance of actively seeking to hold accountable those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country and of regional cooperation to this end,	Resolution 1925(2010), twelfth preambular para.	

	Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, Decides to refer the situation ... to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court; Decides ... that [the affected State] and all other parties to the conflict ... shall cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the International Criminal Court and the Prosecutor pursuant to the present resolution and, while recognizing that States not party to the Rome Statute of the Court have no obligation under the Statute, urges all States and concerned regional and other international organizations to cooperate fully; Invites the Court and [relevant regional organizations] to discuss practical arrangements that will facilitate the work of the Prosecutor and of the Court, including the possibility of conducting proceedings in the region, which would contribute to regional efforts in the fight against impunity;	Resolution 1593(2005), sixth preambular para. and paras. 1 to 3	
Restoration of the rule of law	Expressing deep concern at the security situation in [the affected country], characterized by a total breakdown in law and order and the absence of the rule of law, and further expressing its grave concern about the consequences of instability in [the affected country] on the ... region and beyond, and stressing in this regard the need to respond swiftly,	Resolution 2121(2013), third preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2116(2013), para. 19; 2070(2012), twenty-fifth preambular para.; 2067(2012), para. 11; 2066(2012), paras. 8 and 18; 2012(2011), twenty-first and twenty-third preambular paras.; 1917(2010), para. 33; 1906(2009), para. 3; 1896(2009), eleventh preambular para.; 1892(2009), seventh and ninth preambular paras.; and 1868(2009), fifteenth preambular para. and para. 23.
	Stressing, in this context, the importance of further progress by the Government of ... in ending impunity and strengthening judicial institutions, in the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector, and the rule of law and respect for human rights within [the affected country], including for women and girls, ... and welcoming in this regard the National Police Plan and the objectives set therein for increased training in human rights, including gender issues ...	Resolution 2120(2013), twenty-eighth preambular para.	
	Reiterates the importance of the full, sequenced, timely and coordinated implementation of [national justice programmes], by all the relevant [national] institutions and other actors, in view of accelerating the establishment of a fair and transparent justice system, eliminating impunity and contributing to the affirmation of the rule of law throughout the country;	Resolution 2041(2012), para. 37	
	Recognizing that strengthening national human rights institutions and respect for human rights, due process, combating criminality and sexual and gender based violence, and putting an end to impunity are essential to ensuring the rule of law and security in [the affected country],	Resolution 2012(2011), eighteenth preambular para.	
	Calls upon the Government ... to take the steps necessary to re-establish and reinforce relevant institutions, including the judiciary and the police and corrections services, and further to ensure the effective protection of human rights and accountability for all perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses in [the affected country];	Resolution 2000(2011), para. 10	
	Welcomes the steps taken towards the reform of rule of law institutions, requests [the mission] to continue to provide necessary support in this regard, and encourages the ... authorities [of the affected country] to take full advantage of that support, notably in modernizing key legislation and in the implementation of the justice reform plan, to take the necessary steps, including nominations, that will allow superior judicial institutions to function adequately and to address the issue of prolonged pretrial detentions and prison overcrowding, with special regard to children;	Resolution 1892(2009), para. 15	
	... invites [the affected State], with the assistance of the international community, to continue to work towards the establishment of a fair and transparent justice system, including the reconstruction and reform of the correctional system, in order to strengthen the rule of law throughout the country and eliminate impunity ...	Resolution 1746(2007), para. 13	
	Urging [the affected State] to undertake, in coordination with the international community, a comprehensive reform of the police, judiciary and correctional systems, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to end impunity,	Resolution 1702(2006), ninth preambular para.	
	Calls upon all parties concerned to ensure that all peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning ... include specific measures for the protection of civilians, including ... (v) the re-establishment of the rule of law ...	Resolution 1674(2006), para. 11	

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration	Demands that [specific armed group] elements and all other armed groups lay down their arms immediately, and urges them to participate in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes or disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programmes;	Resolution 2121(2013), para. 8	See also, for example, resolutions 2101(2013), eighth preambular para.; 2088(2013), para. 12; 2062(2012), sixth preambular para.; 2031(2011), para. 7; 1991(2011), para. 15.
	... urges the Government to implement expeditiously the disarmament and demobilization of [figure] former combatants by the end of [year] and to complete the process by [year] ... and in this regard emphasizes the need to develop solutions for the sustained social and economic integration of former combatants, including former female combatants, and further encourages the United Nations country team to facilitate the planning and implementation of programmes which support this process, in consultation with [the mission] and the Government and in close collaboration with all international partners;	Resolution 2112(2013), para. 11	
	Underlines the urgent need for continued progress in addressing the threat of foreign and national armed groups, including through further progress in the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration process, urges the international community and donors to support the Government of [the affected country] and [the mission] in disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration activities, calls upon the Government [of the affected country] and neighbouring States to remain engaged in the process, and urges the Government to make progress on the national programme for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of residual [national] armed elements in [affected areas], with the support of [the mission];	Resolution 2053(2012), para. 22	
	... stressing the urgency of implementing comprehensive security sector reform and of achieving, as appropriate, the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration of [national] armed groups and the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of foreign armed groups for the long-term stabilization of [the affected country], considering the need to create the security conditions for ensuring sustainable economic development, and stressing the importance of the contribution made by international partners in these fields,	Resolution 1925(2010), fourth preambular para.	
	... stressing ... the importance of ... permanently disarming, demobilizing, resettling or repatriating, as appropriate, and reintegrating [national] and foreign armed groups for the long-term stabilization of [the affected country], and of the contribution made by international partners in this field,	Resolution 1906(2009), third preambular para.	
	... urges the ... parties to make further progress to advance the reunification and disarmament processes, and encourages the international donors to continue to provide their support to them, as appropriate;	Resolution 1880(2009), para. 13	
Security sector reform	Decides that until [date] the arms embargo on [country] shall not apply to deliveries of weapons or military equipment or the provision of advice, assistance or training intended solely for the development of the Security Forces [of the affected country], to provide security for the ... people [of the affected country], except in relation to deliveries of the items set out in [annex to the resolution];	Resolution 2111(2013), para. 6	See also, for example, resolutions 2121(2013), para. 17; 2120(2013), twelfth preambular para.; 2112(2013), ninth and tenth preambular paras.; 2103(2013), para. 9; 2093(2013), twelfth preambular para.; 2076(2012), para. 17; 2069(2012), twelfth preambular para. and paras. 4 and 6; 2031(2011), para. 9; 2030(2011), para. 5; 2000(2011), ninth preambular para.; 1991(2011), para. 2; 1974(2011), twenty-second preambular para.; 1959(2010), para. 8; 1949(2010), seventh preambular para.; 1925(2010), para. 5; 1906(2009), third preambular para. and paras. 3
	Reiterates the importance of increasing, in a comprehensive framework, the functionality, professionalism and accountability of the [affected country's] security sector through appropriate vetting procedures, training, mentoring, equipping and empowerment efforts, for both women and men, in order to accelerate progress towards the goal of self-sufficient and ethnically balanced [affected country's] security forces providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country, and stresses the importance of the long-term commitment by the international community, beyond [year], to ensure a capable, professional and sustainable ... national security force;	Resolution 2096(2013), para. 24	
	Underlining the importance of capacity-building of the Security Forces of the ... Government ..., and in this regard reaffirming the importance of the re-establishment, training, equipping and retention of [national] security forces, which is vital for the long-term stability and security of [the affected country], expressing support for the ongoing ... [international] capacity-building programmes, and emphasizing the importance of increased coordinated, timely and sustained support from the international community,	Resolution 2093(2013), sixth preambular para.	
	Underscores the importance of security sector reform, and urges all international partners, together with [the mission], to continue supporting [the affected country's] efforts to professionalize and enhance the capacity of the national security services and the police, in particular through vetting for human rights violations, training on human rights and sexual and gender-based violence and promoting strong civilian oversight and monitoring, with a view to consolidating security sector governance;	Resolution 2090(2013), para. 11	

	Underlines the need for an overall [national] security sector reform strategy that focuses on the professionalization of security sector institutions, including oversight bodies, and that helps to ensure coherence and efficiency and avoid duplications or gaps, encourages at the same time the Government of [the affected country] to engage in a new strategic partnership with [the mission] in the area of security sector reform in order to identify the priorities of each component of the security sector and possible new approaches for [the mission] to support [national] authorities in the area of security sector reform to build the capacity of the military, police, justice and other security institutions to consolidate [national] State authority, and requests the Secretary-General to report on these priorities and approaches in an annex to his report in [date of the report];	Resolution 2053(2012), para. 9	and 4; 1896(2009), tenth preambular para.; and 1872(2009), ninth preambular para.
	Stressing the importance of the implementation of security sector reform, including effective and responsible civilian control over the security forces, as a crucial element for long-term stability in [the affected country], as envisaged in [the relevant document], and underlining the responsibility of police forces in [the affected country] to protect State institutions and the civilian population,	Resolution 2048(2012), twelfth preambular para.	
	Welcomes the resumption of training and promotions of recruits for the ... National Police, stresses the necessity of accountability and a robust vetting process, and underscores the vital importance of maintaining and increasing the support of the international community for capacity-building of the [national police], particularly through enhanced mentoring and training of specialized units;	Resolution 2012(2011), para. 10	
	Reiterates its call upon the ... authorities [of the affected State], with the support of [the mission], to establish an effective vetting mechanism, in accordance with international standards, for the [armed forces] and the national security forces, to ensure the exclusion of those persons associated with violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses and to trigger the judicial process against such persons where appropriate;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 32	
	Calls upon the ... Government to develop ... the legal and policy framework for the operation of its security forces including governance, vetting and oversight mechanisms, ensuring respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights;	Resolution 1872(2009), para. 10	
Role of United Nations peacekeeping missions and other relevant actors in restoring the rule of law and promoting accountability	Decides that the mandate of [the mission] shall be reinforced and updated as follows: ... (d) <i>Promotion and protection of human rights:</i> ... To help to strengthen the capacities of the judicial system, including transitional justice mechanisms, and of the national human rights institutions and assist with national reconciliation efforts;	Resolution 2121(2013), para. 10 (d)	See also, for example, resolutions 2119(2013), para. 14; 2109(2013), paras. 15 and 22; 2102(2013), para. 2; 2100(2013), paras. 16 and 27; 2095(2013), para. 7; 2090(2013), para. 7; 2066(2012), para. 8; 2062(2012), para. 13; 2027(2011), paras. 9 and 11; 1996(2011), paras. 3 and 18; 1936(2010), seventh preambular para.; 1927(2010), para. 6; 1923(2010), para. 8; 1906(2009), para. 39; 1892(2009), para. 10; 1890(2009), para. 4; 1872(2009), para. 9; 1868(2009), para. 4; 1756(2007), para. 3; 1589(2005), para. 9; 1564(2004), para. 9; 1547(2004), para. 4; and 1528(2004), para. 6.
	Strongly urges the Government ... to ensure in the shortest possible time frame that, irrespective of their status or political affiliation, all those responsible for serious abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those committed during and after ... crisis in [the affected country], are brought to justice in accordance with its international obligations and that all detainees receive clarity about their status in a transparent manner, and urges the Government to continue its cooperation with the International Criminal Court;	Resolution 2112(2013), para. 15	
	... urges the [national] authorities to take all necessary measures to protect human rights, put an end to impunity, initiate investigations to identify the perpetrators of such acts and bring them to justice and take action to protect witnesses in order to ensure due process, and urges them to take steps to mitigate the climate of fear resulting from restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly;	Resolution 2103(2013), para. 6	
	Authorizes [the mission], through its military component, in pursuit of the objectives described in [relevant provision], to take all necessary measures to perform the following tasks, through its regular forces and its Intervention Brigade as appropriate: ... <i>Provision of support to national and international judicial processes</i> Support and work with the Government ... to arrest and bring to justice those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country, including through cooperation with States of the region and the International Criminal Court;	Resolution 2098(2013), para. 12 (d)	

Calls upon [the mission], where consistent with its authorities and responsibilities, to continue to support national and international efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of grave abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in [the affected country], irrespective of their status or political affiliation;	Resolution 2062(2012), para. 13
Encourages the Government of [the affected country] to ratify and implement key international human rights treaties and conventions, including those related to women and children, refugees and statelessness, and requests [the mission], with other United Nations actors, to advise and assist the Government [of the affected country] in this regard;	Resolution 2057(2012), para. 13
Requests [the mission] to continue to provide interim law enforcement and to ensure the maintenance of public security in those districts and units in which the [national police] has yet to resume primary policing responsibilities and, following the resumption of primary policing responsibilities by the [national police], to provide operational support to the [national police] ...	Resolution 1969(2011), para. 8
Requests that [the mission] focus on and support the Government of [the affected country] in the following areas: (a) Strengthening the independence, capacities and legal frameworks of key national institutions, in particular judicial and parliamentary institutions, in line with international standards and principles; ... (c) Supporting efforts to fight impunity, particularly through the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms ..., and providing operational support to the functioning of these bodies;	Resolution 1959(2010), paras. 3 (a) and (c)
Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate in this order of priority: <i>Protection of civilians</i> ... (c) To support the efforts of the Government of [the affected country] to ensure the protection of civilians from violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, to promote and protect human rights and to fight impunity, including through the implementation of the Government's "zero-tolerance policy" with respect to discipline and human rights and humanitarian law violations committed by elements of the security forces, in particular the newly integrated elements; (d) To support national and international efforts to bring perpetrators to justice, including by establishing prosecution support cells to assist the military justice authorities ... in prosecuting persons arrested by the [military forces]; ... <i>Stabilization and peace consolidation</i> (l) Taking fully into account the leading role of the Government of [the affected country], to support, in close cooperation with other international partners, the efforts of the [national] authorities to strengthen and reform security and judicial institutions; ... (o) To develop and implement, in close consultation with the [national] authorities ..., a multi-year joint United Nations justice support programme in order to develop the criminal justice chain, the police, the judiciary and prisons in conflict-affected areas and a strategic programmatic support at the central level ... (p) To support, in close cooperation with other international partners, the efforts of the Government of [the affected country] to consolidate State authority in the territory freed from armed groups through the deployment of trained [national police forces] and to develop rule of law institutions and territorial administration ...	Resolution 1925(2010), paras. 12 (c), (d), (l), (o) and (p)
Requests [the mission] to continue to contribute ... to the promotion and protection of human rights in [the affected country], with special attention to violence committed against children and women, to monitor and help to investigate human rights violations with a view to ending impunity ..., and further requests the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports to the Council relevant information on progress in this area;	Resolution 1880(2009), para. 26

	Decides that [the peacekeeping mission], consistent with its existing mandate ... to assist with the restructuring and maintenance of the rule of law, public safety and public order, shall provide assistance and advice to the [national authorities], in consultation with relevant actors, in monitoring, restructuring, reforming and strengthening of the justice sector, including through technical assistance to review all relevant legislation, the provision of experts to serve as professional resources, the rapid identification and implementation of mechanisms to address prison overcrowding and prolonged pretrial detention and the coordination and planning of these activities, and invites [the affected State] to take full advantage of that assistance;	Resolution 1702(2006), para. 14	
	Underlines the importance of civilian police as a component of peacekeeping operations, recognizes the role of police in assuring the safety and well-being of civilians, and in this regard acknowledges the need to enhance the capacity of the United Nations for the rapid deployment of qualified and well-trained civilian police;	Resolution 1265(1999), para. 15	
Role of United Nations peacekeeping missions and other relevant actors in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and in security sector reforms	Decides that the mandate of [the mission] shall be the following: ... <i>Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and collection of weapons</i> To assist the Government ... in close coordination with other bilateral and international partners, in implementing without further delay the new national programme for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and dismantling of militias and self-defence groups, taking into account the rights and needs of the distinct categories of persons to be disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated, including children and women; To support the registration and screening of former combatants and assist in assessing and verifying the reliability of the listings of former combatants; To support the disarmament and repatriation of foreign armed elements, where relevant in cooperation with [mission in neighbouring country] and United Nations country teams in the region; To assist the national authorities, including [relevant institution], in collecting, registering, securing and disposing of weapons and in clearing explosive remnants of war, as appropriate, in accordance with [relevant] resolution ... To coordinate with the Government ... in ensuring that the collected weapons are not disseminated or reutilized outside a comprehensive national security strategy ... <i>Reconstitution and reform of security institutions</i> To assist the Government ... in implementing, without delay and in close coordination with other international partners, its comprehensive national security strategy; To support the Government ... in providing effective, transparent and harmonized coordination of assistance, including the promotion of a clear division of tasks and responsibilities, by international partners to the security sector reform process; To advise the Government ... as appropriate, on security sector reform and the organization of the future national army, to facilitate the provision, within its current resources and as requested by the Government and in close coordination with other international partners, of training in human rights, child protection and protection from sexual and gender-based violence to the security and law enforcement institutions, as well as capacity-building support by providing technical assistance, co-location and mentoring programmes for the police, gendarmerie, justice and corrections officers and to contribute to restoring their presence throughout [the affected country] and to offer support to the development of a sustainable vetting mechanism for personnel that will be absorbed into security sector institutions;	Resolution 2112(2013), paras. 6 (c) and (d)	See also, for example, resolutions 2121(2013), para. 10; 2112(2013), paras. 8, 11 and 12; 2109(2013), para. 24; 2100(2013), paras. 22 and 23; 2085(2012), paras. 8 and 9; 2053(2012), paras. 8 to 11 and 22; 2040(2012), para. 6; 2030(2011), para. 6; 2027(2011), para. 6; 2012(2011), para. 9; 2000(2011), paras. 7 (e) and (f); 1996(2011), para. 3; 1991(2011), paras. 11 and 12; 1964(2010), paras. 6, 8, 11 and 12; and 1880(2009), para. 27.
	Authorizes [the mission], through its civilian component, to contribute, in coordination with the United Nations country team ..., to the following tasks: ... (d) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government ... for the design of a single overarching plan for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and for disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration for foreign and [national] combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or gross violations of human rights, including members of the [national armed forces], and support, when appropriate, the implementation of this plan; ... (f) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government ... for the reform of the police, including by contributing, in compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations [security] forces, to the provision of training to battalions of the ... National Police;	Resolution 2098(2013), paras. 15 (d) and (f)	

... urges all international partners, together with [the mission], to continue supporting [the affected country]'s efforts to professionalize and enhance the capacity of the national security services and the police, in particular through vetting for human rights violations, training on human rights and sexual and gender-based violence and promoting strong civilian oversight and monitoring, with the view to consolidating security sector governance;	Resolution 2090(2013), para. 11
Urges the [national] Government to develop and implement expeditiously a national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, with clear and strict eligibility criteria, a new secure and transparent database and the creation of a central authority to oversee all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration aspects, and to find solutions for the sustained social and economic integration of former combatants, and further encourages the United Nations country team to facilitate the planning and the implementation of programmes which support this process, in consultation with the [national] Government and in close collaboration with all international partners;	Resolution 2062(2012), para. 7
Reaffirms the importance that the Government of [the affected country] continues the review and reform of the security sector in [the affected country], in particular the need to delineate roles and responsibilities between [the national security forces of the affected country], to strengthen legal frameworks and to enhance civilian oversight and accountability mechanisms of both security institutions, supports the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to promote security sector professionalization, and requests [the mission] to continue to support the Government [of the affected country], as requested, in its efforts in the country;	Resolution 2037(2012), para. 4
Reiterates that future reconfigurations of [the mission] should be determined on the basis of the evolution of the situation on the ground and on the achievement of the following objectives to be pursued by the Government of [the affected country] and the United Nations Mission: ... (b) An improved capacity of the Government ... to effectively protect the population through the establishment of professional, accountable and sustainable security forces with a view to progressively taking over the security role of [the mission];	Resolution 1991(2011), para. 4 (b)
Encourages [the mission], consistent with its mandate, and within authorized levels of civilian police, to continue efforts to assist the parties to the [peace agreement] in promoting the rule of law, restructuring the police and corrections services throughout [the affected country], particularly in the [region of the affected country], owing to the lack of development of the police services, and assisting in the training of civilian police and corrections officers;	Resolution 1919(2010), para. 17
... encourages [the mission] to work closely with the [national] Armed Forces ... to reinvigorate the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and to assist in voluntary disarmament and weapons collection and destruction efforts in implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process..., to ensure the timely provision of sustainable reintegration programmes, which will help to promote continued and enhanced funding support from donors for the reintegration phase, and to coordinate with local authorities and with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes initiatives that strengthen disarmament, demobilization and reintegration with the creation of economic opportunities for reintegrated individuals, further urges donors to respond to calls for assistance to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, in particular the reintegration phase, calls upon donors to honour all obligations and pledges of assistance, and takes note in this context of the need to also assist the victims in conflict-affected communities;	Resolution 1919(2010), para. 18
Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist the Government [of the affected country] in developing the transitional security institutions, including the [national police force and the national security force], and to continue to support the Government [of the affected country] in developing a national security strategy which reflects respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights, including plans for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, justice and corrections capacities, as well as the legal and policy framework for the operation of its security forces, including governance, vetting and oversight mechanisms;	Resolution 1910(2010), para. 12
Further requests [the mission] to provide military training, including in the area of human rights, international humanitarian law, child protection and the prevention of gender-based and sexual violence, to the [armed forces] ..., as part of broader international efforts to support security sector reform;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 31

	... requests [the mission] ... to also continue to contribute ... to assisting the Government of [the affected country] in restoring a civilian policing presence throughout [the affected country], and to advise the Government [of the affected country] on the restructuring of the internal security services, and in re-establishing the authority of the judiciary and the rule of law throughout [the affected country];	Resolution 1880(2009), para. 27	
G. Media and information			
Protection of journalists	Calls for full respect for and protection for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those of human rights defenders, and of international humanitarian law throughout [the affected country], welcomes the growth in ... free media, but notes with concern the continued restrictions on freedom of the media and attacks against journalists ...	Resolution 2096(2013), para. 42	See also, for example, resolution 1738(2006), eleventh preambular para.
	The Council ... expresses deep concern about acts of violence against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in armed conflict, in particular deliberate attacks in violation of international humanitarian law, and calls upon all parties to armed conflict to put an end to such practice. The Council recalls, in this regard, that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians and shall be respected and protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians. The Council recalls its demand that all parties to an armed conflict comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including journalists, media professionals and associated personnel.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, sixteenth para.	
	... recalls the obligation of the ... Government ... with respect to the protection of journalists, the prevention of violence against them, and the fight against impunity for perpetrators of such acts;	Resolution 2093(2013), para. 30	
	Condemns the use of [national television channel] and other media to incite discrimination, hostility, hatred and violence, including against [relevant United Nations mission], as well as acts of intimidation and violence against journalists, and calls for the lifting of all restrictions placed on the exercise of the right of freedom of expression in [the affected country];	Resolution 1975(2011), para. 9	
	Condemning also acts of violence and intimidation committed by the authorities [of the affected country] against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel and urging these authorities to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law as outlined in [relevant resolution],	Resolution 1973(2011), sixth preambular para.	
	Condemns intentional attacks against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel, as such, in situations of armed conflict, and calls upon all parties to put an end to such practices;	Resolution 1738(2006), para. 1	
	Recalls ... that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians and shall be respected and protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians. This is without prejudice to the right of war correspondents accredited to the armed forces to the status of prisoners of war provided for in article 4.A, paragraph 4, of the Third Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949;	Resolution 1738(2006), para. 2	
	Recalls ... that media equipment and installations constitute civilian objects, and in this respect shall not be the object of attack or of reprisals, unless they are military objectives;	Resolution 1738(2006), para. 3	
	Urges States and all other parties to an armed conflict to do their utmost to prevent violations of international humanitarian law against civilians, including journalists, media professionals and associated personnel;	Resolution 1738(2006), para. 6	
	Decides that [the affected States] shall take the following actions with immediate effect unless otherwise specified below: ... (vi) Immediately cease hostile propaganda and inflammatory statements in the media ...	Resolution 2046(2012), para. 1 (vi)	See also, for example, resolutions 1962(2010), para. 12; and 1727(2006), para. 12.
Countering incitement to violence	Condemning unequivocally all provocative action and statements that constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility, hatred and violence made by any party,	Resolution 1975(2011), eighth preambular para.	

	Underlines that it is fully prepared to impose targeted measures against persons to be designated by the [sanctions] Committee ... who are determined to be, among other things:	Resolution 1946(2010), para. 6 (e)	
	...		
	(e) Publicly inciting hatred and violence ...		
	Urges every [citizen of the affected State] to refrain from any call for hatred, intolerance and violence, notes with interest that in his report ... the Secretary-General encouraged the Security Council to impose targeted sanctions against media actors who fan political tension and incite violence, and reiterates that it is fully prepared to impose targeted measures ..., including against persons who are determined to be a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process in [the affected country] or to be publicly inciting hatred and violence;	Resolution 1933(2010), para. 10	
	Reaffirms its condemnation of all incitements to violence against civilians in situations of armed conflict, further reaffirms the need to bring to justice, in accordance with applicable international law, individuals who incite such violence, and indicates its willingness, when authorizing missions, to consider, where appropriate, steps in response to media broadcast inciting genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law;	Resolution 1738(2006), para. 4	
	Decides ... that all States shall take the necessary measures, for a period of twelve months, to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of all persons ... who constitute a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process in [the affected State], [including] any other person who publicly incites hatred and violence ... provided that nothing in the present paragraph shall oblige a State to refuse entry into its territory to its own nationals;	Resolution 1572(2004), para. 9	
	Reaffirms its condemnation of all incitements to violence against civilians in situations of armed conflict, also reaffirms the need to bring to justice individuals who incite or otherwise cause such violence, and indicates its willingness, when authorizing missions, to consider, where appropriate, steps in response to media broadcasts inciting genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law;	Resolution 1296(2000), para. 17	
Accurate management of information on the conflict	Urges all parties involved in situations of armed conflict to respect the professional independence and rights of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel as civilians;	Resolution 1738(2006), para. 8	
	Affirms that, where appropriate, United Nations peacekeeping missions should include a mass-media component that can disseminate information about international humanitarian law and human rights law, including peace education and protection of children, while also giving objective information about the activities of the United Nations, and further affirms that, where appropriate, regional peacekeeping operations should be encouraged to include such mass-media components;	Resolution 1296(2000), para. 18	
II. Specific protection concerns arising from Security Council discussions on children affected by armed conflict			
Condemn, and call for the cessation of, violations against children	Expressing its serious concern about the high number of civilian casualties in [the affected country], in particular women and children, the increasingly large majority of which are caused by ... armed groups, condemning in the strongest terms the high number of attacks targeting schools, including their burning and forced closure, their use by armed groups and the intimidation, abduction and killing of education personnel, particularly those attacks targeting girls' education by armed groups ... and welcoming in this context the listing of [specific armed group] in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2068(2012), condemning also the increased targeted killing of women and girls ...	Resolution 2120(2013), twenty-fourth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2095(2013), seventh preambular para.; 2068(2012), seventh preambular para.; 2060(2012), seventh preambular para.; 2057(2012), para. 10; 2051(2012), para. 8; 2041(2012), para. 32; 2012(2011), para. 16; 1998(2011), para. 1; 1964(2010), para. 16; 1944(2010), para. 14; 1892(2009), para. 19; 1882(2009), para. 1; 1840(2008), para. 21; 1806(2008), para. 14; 1780(2007), para. 17; 1539(2004), para. 1; and 1493(2003), para. 13.

	Demands that all parties immediately cease ... violations and abuses against children in violation of applicable international law, such as their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, abduction and attacks against schools and hospitals ...	Resolution 2109(2013), para. 14	
	Expresses its strong concern about the recruitment and use of children by [anti-government] forces in [the affected country], as well as the killing and maiming of children as a result of the conflict, reiterates its strong condemnation of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and all other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in particular attacks against schools, education and health-care facilities, and the use of children in suicide attacks, and calls for those responsible to be brought to justice;	Resolution 2096(2013), para. 32	
	Noting with great concern the persistence of serious human rights abuses and humanitarian law violations against civilians in [the affected area of the affected country], including ... large-scale recruitment and use of child soldiers committed by [relevant armed groups],	Resolution 2078(2012), ninth preambular para.	
	Expressing its serious concern about the high number of civilian casualties in [the affected country], in particular, casualties among ... children, the increasingly large majority of which are caused by [relevant armed groups], condemning in the strongest terms the high number of attacks targeting schools, including their burning and forced closure, their use by armed groups and the intimidation, abduction and killing of education personnel, particularly those attacks targeting girls' education by armed groups including [relevant armed groups], and welcoming in this context the listing of [relevant armed groups] in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict [in the affected country] pursuant to Council resolution 1998(2011) ...	Resolution 2069(2012), twenty-fourth preambular para.	
	Strongly condemns all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict, as well as their re-recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, attacks on schools and/or hospitals as well as denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict, and demands that all relevant parties immediately put an end to such practices and take special measures to protect children;	Resolution 2068(2012), para. 2	
	Expressing deep concern about attacks as well as threats of attacks in contravention of applicable international law against schools and/or hospitals and protected persons in relation to them as well as the closure of schools and hospitals in situations of armed conflict as a result of attacks and threats of attacks, and calling upon all parties to armed conflict to immediately cease such attacks and threats,	Resolution 1998(2011), eleventh preambular para.	
	... strongly condemns continuing forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular violence aimed at preventing girls from attending school ...	Resolution 1868(2009), para. 29	
	Strongly condemns the recruitment and use of child soldiers by parties to armed conflict in violation of international obligations applicable to them and all other violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict;	Resolution 1612(2005), para. 1	
Call for compliance with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law	Demands that all armed groups, including [list of relevant armed groups], prevent the recruitment and use of children, calls upon relevant armed groups, in particular [relevant armed groups], to implement the provisions of the action plans signed with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in [date] immediately and furthermore demands that all parties protect and treat as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups; and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed groups;	Resolution 2088(2013), para. 14	See also, for example, resolutions 2088(2013), eleventh preambular para.; 1998(2011), para. 4; 1923(2010), para. 24; 1906(2009), para. 15; 1479(2003), para. 15; and 1296(2000), para. 10.
	... The Council calls upon all parties to armed conflict to put an end to [attacks against schools, threats and attacks against teachers and other protected persons in relation to schools and the use of schools for military purposes] and to refrain from attacks against teachers and other protected persons in relation to schools, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status of civilians.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, fifteenth para.	
	Calling upon all parties to armed conflicts to comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international law for the protection of children in armed conflict, including those contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict, as well as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,	Resolution 1998(2011), third preambular para.	

	Recalling that international humanitarian law affords general protection to women and children as part of the civilian population during armed conflicts and special protection due to the fact that they can be placed particularly at risk,	Resolution 1960(2010), tenth preambular para.	
	... demands that all armed groups ... immediately stop recruiting and using children and release all children associated with them;	Resolution 1794(2007), para. 3	
	... calls upon all parties concerned to abide by the international obligations applicable to them relating to the protection of children affected by armed conflict, as well as the concrete commitments they have made to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund and other agencies of the United Nations system, and to cooperate fully with the United Nations peacekeeping missions and United Nations country teams ... in the follow-up and implementation of those commitments;	Resolution 1612(2005), para. 15	
	... reiterates its call upon parties to armed conflict [listed in the relevant report of the Secretary-General] that have not already done so to prepare and implement, without further delay, concrete time-bound action plans to halt the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and to address all violations and abuses against children in close cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General [for Children and Armed Conflict], as well as with the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations country task forces on monitoring and reporting.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2008/6, eighteenth para.	
Accountability for perpetrators of grave violations against children	The Council stresses further that the fight against impunity and to ensure accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes in the international criminal justice system, ad hoc and mixed tribunals as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals. The Council highlights in this regard the contribution of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity to national criminal jurisdictions as set out in the Rome Statute, towards holding accountable those responsible for such crimes. In this regard, the Council reiterates its call on the importance of State cooperation with these courts and tribunals in accordance with the respective obligations of the States.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/8, fifteenth para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2098(2013), nineteenth preambular para.; 2067(2012), para. 18; 2062(2012), eighth preambular para.; 1998(2011), eighth preambular para. and para. 11; and presidential statement S/PRST/2010/10.
	Calling for all perpetrators, including individuals responsible for violence against children and acts of sexual violence, to be apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable for violations of applicable international law,	Resolution 2078(2012), tenth preambular para.	
	Stressing the need for alleged perpetrators of crimes against children in situations of armed conflict to be brought to justice through national justice systems and, where applicable, international justice mechanisms and mixed criminal courts and tribunals in order to end impunity,	Resolution 2068(2012), tenth preambular para.	
	Expresses deep concern that certain perpetrators persist in committing violations and abuses against children in situations of armed conflict in open disregard of its resolutions on the matter and, in this regard: (a) Calls upon Member States concerned to bring to justice those responsible for such violations through national justice systems and, where applicable, international justice mechanisms; (b) Reiterates its readiness to adopt targeted and graduated measures against persistent perpetrators, taking into account relevant provisions of resolutions 1539(2004), 1612(2005), 1882(2009) and 1998(2011);	Resolution 2068(2012), para. 3	
	Calls upon Member States concerned to take decisive and immediate action against persistent perpetrators of violations and abuses against children in situations of armed conflict, and further calls upon them to bring to justice those responsible for such violations that are prohibited under applicable international law, including with regard to recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and attacks or threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals through national justice systems and, where applicable, international justice mechanisms and mixed criminal courts and tribunals, with a view to ending impunity for those committing crimes against children;	Resolution 1998(2011), para. 11	

Role of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions and actors	... demands that all armed groups, in particular [specific armed group] elements, prevent the recruitment and use of children, further demands that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed groups;	Resolution 2121(2013), para. 15	See also, for example, resolutions 2068(2012), fourth and eighth preambular paras.; 2063(2012), para. 22; 2057(2012), para. 12; 2003(2011), para. 23; 2000(2011), para. 7; 1998(2011), para. 14; 1923(2010), para. 23; 1917(2010), para. 22; 1882(2009), paras. 11 and 12; 1828(2008), para. 14; 1806(2008), para. 14; 1780(2007), para. 17; 1612(2005), paras. 12 and 18; 1565(2004), para. 5 (g); 1509(2003), para. 3; 1460(2003), para. 15; 1296(2000), para. 9; and 1265(1999), para. 13.
	Demands, furthermore, that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all violations and abuses against children, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure (a) continued monitoring and reporting, including as part of the reports referred to in [relevant paragraph] above, of the situation of children, including through enhanced cooperation with child protection actors, and (b) continued dialogue with the parties to the conflict towards the development and implementation of time-bound action plans to end the recruitment and use of children and other violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law committed against children;	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 26	
	... further requests the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in United Nations system activities in [the affected country], including through the continued deployment of child protection advisers within [the mission], and ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children, and welcomes the work of the United Nations country task force on the monitoring and reporting mechanism established in [month/year];	Resolution 2109(2013), para. 17	
	The Council reaffirms the important role being played by child protection advisers in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and political missions deployed in line with the relevant country-specific resolutions of the Council and in accordance with the Policy Directive on Mainstreaming the Protection, Rights and Well-being of Children Affected by Armed Conflict of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, and in this regard expresses its intention to further strengthen provisions for the protection of children in all mandates of relevant United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and political missions, including through ensuring the consistent deployment of child protection advisers.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/8, eighteenth para.	
	Decides that the mandate of [the mission] shall be as follows: ... (d) To help to build the capacity of the ... Government of [the affected country]; ... (ii) To promote child protection and to implement the relevant action plans on children and armed conflict signed by the ... Government ..., including through the provision of child protection advisers; ... (e) To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Security Council on, and help to prevent: ... (ii) Any violations or abuses committed against children in [the affected country];	Resolution 2102(2013), paras. 2 (d) and (e)	
	... requests [the mission] to ensure that child protection concerns are integrated into all operations and strategic aspects of the work of [the mission] ...	Resolution 2098(2013), para. 12 (a) (iii)	
	Recalls paragraph 16 of resolution 1379(2001), and requests the Secretary-General to also include in the annexes to his reports on children and armed conflict those parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law: (a) In recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals; (b) In recurrent attacks or threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals in situations of armed conflict, bearing in mind all other violations and abuses committed against children, and notes that the present paragraph will apply to situations in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 16 of resolution 1379(2001);	Resolution 1998(2011), para. 3	
	... authorizes [the mission] to perform the following tasks: ... (v) Facilitating a protective environment for children affected by armed conflict, through implementation of a monitoring and reporting mechanism;	Resolution 1996(2011), para. 3 (c) (v)	
	Encourages the [mission] to continue to share all relevant information with the Group of Experts [informing the sanctions committee], especially information on the recruitment and use of children, and on the targeting of women and children in situations of armed conflict;	Resolution 1952(2010), para. 13	

Stresses the responsibility of the United Nations country-level task forces on monitoring and reporting and United Nations country teams, consistent with their respective mandates, to ensure effective follow-up to Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, to monitor and report progress to the Secretary-General in close cooperation with his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and ensure a coordinated response to issues related to children and armed conflict;

Requests the Secretary-General to include more systematically in his reports on children and armed conflict specific information regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the [Security Council] Working Group [on Children and Armed Conflict];

Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that, in all his reports on country-specific situations, the matter of children and armed conflict is included as a specific aspect of the report, and expresses its intention to give its full attention to the information provided therein, including the implementation of relevant Council resolutions and of the recommendations of the Working Group [on Children and Armed Conflict], when dealing with those situations on its agenda;

Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures including, where applicable, to bring the monitoring and reporting mechanism to its full capacity, to allow for prompt advocacy and effective response to all violations and abuses committed against children and to ensure that information collected and communicated by the mechanism is accurate, objective, reliable and verifiable;

Welcomes recent initiatives by regional and subregional organizations and arrangements for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, and encourages continued mainstreaming of child protection into their advocacy, policies and programmes; development of peer review and monitoring and reporting mechanisms; establishment, within their secretariats, of child-protection mechanisms; inclusion of child-protection staff and training in their peace and field operations; subregional and interregional initiatives to end activities harmful to children in times of conflict, in particular cross-border recruitment and abduction of children, illicit movement of small arms, and illicit trade in natural resources through the development and implementation of guidelines on children and armed conflict;

Urges all parties concerned, including Member States, United Nations entities and financial institutions, to support the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions and local civil society networks for advocacy, protection and rehabilitation of children affected by armed conflict to ensure the sustainability of local child-protection initiatives;

The Council reiterates the need for stronger focus by all parties concerned, including Governments and the donor community, on the long-term effects of armed conflict on children and the impediments to their full rehabilitation and reintegration into their families and communities, by, inter alia, addressing the need for providing appropriate health care, enhancing their exchange of information about programmes and best practices, and ensuring the availability of adequate resources, funding and technical assistance to support national strategies or action plans in the area of child protection and welfare, and community-based programmes, bearing in mind the Paris principles to protect children from unlawful recruitment by armed forces or groups, with a view to ensuring the long-term sustainability and success of their programmatic response to the release, rehabilitation and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups.

Resolution 1882(2009), para. 8
Resolution 1882(2009), para. 9
Resolution 1882(2009), para. 10
Resolution 1882(2009), para. 17
Resolution 1612(2005), para. 13
Resolution 1612(2005), para. 17
Presidential statement S/PRST/2008/28, tenth para.

Action plans and specific, time-bound commitments

Welcomes the signing on [date] by the [national] authorities and the United Nations of an action plan to eliminate the killing and maiming of children, noting that this is the first such action plan to be signed, and calls upon the [national] authorities to vigorously implement both this action plan and the action plan on the recruitment and use of child soldiers of [date] ...

Requests the Secretary-General to ensure (a) continued monitoring and reporting, as part of the reports referred to in [relevant paragraph] above, of the situation of children, including close cooperation with child protection actors, and (b) continued dialogue with the parties to the conflict towards the development and implementation of time-bound action plans to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers and other violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law against children;

Resolution 2067(2012), para. 17

Resolution 2063(2012), para. 22

See also, for example, resolutions 2113(2013), para. 26; 2098(2013), para. 22; 2093(2013), para. 32; 2088(2013), para. 14; 2053(2012), eleventh preambular para.; 1991(2011), para. 16; 1974(2011), para. 23; 1935(2010), para. 19; 1882(2009), paras. 5 and 13; and 1612(2005), para. 7.

Welcomes the signing by the Government of [the affected country] on [date] of a new action plan to end child recruitment reaffirming the commitment to release all children from the [national security force], acknowledges the measures taken by the Government [of the affected country] to implement the new action plan, calls for the further implementation of the action plan, requests [the mission] to advise and assist the Government [of the affected country] in this regard ...	Resolution 2057(2012), para. 12
Recalls the conclusions on children and armed conflict in [the affected country] endorsed by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, calls upon all parties to end grave violations and abuses committed against children in [the affected country], urges the ... Government to develop and implement a concrete time-bound action plan to halt the recruitment and use of children, requests the Secretary-General to continue his dialogue with the ... Government in this regard, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to strengthen the child protection component of [the Mission] and to ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children in [the affected country];	Resolution 2010(2011), para. 24
While noting that some parties to armed conflict have responded to its call upon them to prepare and implement concrete time-bound action plans to halt recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law: (a) Reiterates its call upon those parties to armed conflict listed in the annexes to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict that have not already done so to prepare and implement, without further delay, action plans to halt recruitment and use of children and the killing and maiming of children, in violation of applicable international law, as well as rape and other sexual violence against children; (b) Calls upon those parties that have existing action plans and have since been listed for multiple violations to prepare and implement separate action plans, as appropriate, to halt the killing and maiming of children, recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and recurrent attacks or threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals, in violation of applicable international law, as well as rape and other sexual violence against children; (c) Calls upon those parties listed in the annexes to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict that commit, in contravention of applicable international law, recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and recurrent attacks or threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals, in situations of armed conflict, to prepare without delay concrete time-bound action plans to halt those violations and abuses; (d) Further calls upon all parties listed in the annexes to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict to address all other violations and abuses committed against children and undertake specific commitments and measures in this regard;	Resolution 1998(2011), paras. 6 (a) to (d)
Calls upon the Government of [the affected country] and the [armed forces] to renew the action plan (signed by the United Nations and the armed forces ...) to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers that expired in [date], and requests [the mission] to advise and assist the Government [of the affected country] in this regard; and further requests the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in United Nations system activities in [the affected country] and ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children;	Resolution 1996(2011), para. 10
Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate ... (e) To work closely with the Government ... to ensure the implementation of its commitments to address serious violations against children, in particular the finalization of the action plan to release children present in the [armed forces] and to prevent further recruitment, with the support of the monitoring and reporting mechanism;	Resolution 1925(2010), para. 12 (e)
Welcomes the adoption by the [armed group] of an action plan to release all children still associated with its forces by the end of [the year], and in order to achieve this goal, calls for timely implementation of this action plan ...	Resolution 1919(2010), para. 19
In this context, encourages Member States to devise ways, in close consultation with the United Nations country-level task forces on monitoring and reporting and United Nations country teams, to facilitate the development and implementation of time-bound action plans, and the review and monitoring by the United Nations country-level task forces of obligations and commitments relating to the protection of children in armed conflict;	Resolution 1882(2009), para. 6

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children	Decides that the mandate of [the mission] shall be the following: ... (v) To assist the ... authorities of [the affected country] in developing and implementing programmes for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and the dismantling of militias and self-defence groups, consistent with the objectives of reconciliation and taking into account the specific needs of demobilized children;	Resolution 2100(2013), para. 16 (a) (v)	
	Stresses that effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for children, building on best practices identified by the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant child protection actors, including the International Labour Organization, are crucial for the well-being of all children who, in contravention of applicable international law, have been recruited or used by armed forces and groups, and are a critical factor for durable peace and security, and urges national Governments and donors to ensure that these community-based programmes receive timely, sustained and adequate resources and funding;	Resolution 1998(2011), para. 18	
	... requests [the mission], consistent with its mandate and in coordination with the relevant parties and with particular emphasis on the protection, release and reintegration with their families of children recruited to and participating with armed forces and armed groups, to increase its support for the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Coordination Council and the ... Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commissions and to monitor the reintegration process;	Resolution 1919(2010), para. 19	
Training for peacekeeping personnel	Further requests [the mission] to provide military training, including in the area of human rights, international humanitarian law, child protection and the prevention of gender-based and sexual violence, to the [armed forces] ... as part of broader international efforts to support security sector reform;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 31	See also, for example, resolution 1265(1999), para. 14.
	Reiterates the importance of compliance with relevant provisions of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law and of providing appropriate training in such law, including child and gender-related provisions, as well as in negotiation and communications skills, cultural awareness, civil-military coordination and sensitivity in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, to personnel involved in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, requests the Secretary-General to disseminate appropriate guidance and to ensure that such United Nations personnel have the appropriate training, and urges relevant Member States, as necessary and feasible, to disseminate appropriate instructions and to ensure that appropriate training is included in their programmes for personnel involved in similar activities;	Resolution 1296(2000), para. 19	
Children and peace processes	The Council underlines the importance of engaging armed forces and armed groups on child protection concerns during peace talks and calls upon Member States, United Nations entities and other parties concerned to ensure that child protection provisions, including those relating to the release and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups, are integrated into all peace negotiations and peace agreements.	Presidential statement S/PRST/2013/8, sixteenth para.	See also, for example, resolutions 1882(2009), para. 15; 1826(2008), para. 6; 1674(2006), para. 11; and 1612(2005), para. 14.
	Calls upon Member States, United Nations entities, including the Peacebuilding Commission, and other parties concerned to ensure that the protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children affected by armed conflict are integrated into all peace processes and that post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning, programmes and strategies prioritize issues concerning children affected by armed conflict;	Resolution 1998(2011), para. 19	
	Calls upon all concerned parties to ensure that the protection of children is addressed in the implementation of the [peace agreement], and requests the Secretary-General to ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children and continued dialogue with parties to the conflict toward the preparation of time-bound action plans to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers and other violations against children;	Resolution 1769(2007), para. 17	

Targeted and graduated measures in response to violations of applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law related to children	Expresses deep concern that certain perpetrators persist in committing violations and abuses against children in situations of armed conflict in open disregard of its resolutions on the matter, and in this regard: ...	Resolution 2068(2012), para. 3 (b)	See also, for example, resolutions 2078(2012), para. 4; 1998(2011), para. 9; and 1807(2008), paras. 9, 11 and 13 (d) and (e).
	(b) Reiterates its readiness to adopt targeted and graduated measures against persistent perpetrators, taking into account relevant provisions of resolutions 1539(2004), 1612(2005), 1882(2009) and 1998(2011);		
	Decides that the measures [travel ban and assets freeze] in [provisions of the relevant resolution] shall apply to individuals, and that the [relevant provisions] of that resolution shall apply to entities, designated by the Committee: ...	Resolution 2002(2011), paras. 1 (d) and (e)	
	(d) As being political or military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflicts in [the affected country] in violation of applicable international law; (e) As being responsible for violations of applicable international law in [the affected country] involving the targeting of civilians, including children and women, in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on schools and hospitals and abduction and forced displacement;		
	Reiterates its determination to ensure respect for its resolutions on children and armed conflict, and in this regard: (a) Welcomes the sustained activity and recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, as called for in paragraph 8 of resolution 1612(2005), and invites the Working Group to continue reporting regularly to the Council; (b) Requests enhanced communication between the Working Group and relevant Security Council sanctions committees, including through the exchange of pertinent information on violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict; (c) Reaffirms its intention to take action against persistent perpetrators in line with paragraph 9 of resolution 1612(2005);	Resolution 1882(2009), para. 7	
	... requests the Secretary-General also to include in the annexes to his reports on children and armed conflict those parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, in situations of armed conflict, bearing in mind all other violations and abuses against children, and notes that the present paragraph will apply to situations in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 16 of resolution 1379(2001);	Resolution 1882(2009), para. 3	

III. Specific protection concerns arising from Security Council discussions on women affected by armed conflict

Condemn, and call for the cessation of, violations against women and girls	Expressing deep concern at the full range of threats and human rights violations and abuses experienced by women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, recognizing that those women and girls who are particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged may be specifically targeted or at increased risk of violence, and recognizing in this regard that more must be done to ensure that transitional justice measures address the full range of violations and abuses of the human rights of women and the differentiated impacts on women and girls of these violations and abuses as well as forced displacement, enforced disappearances and destruction of civilian infrastructure,	Resolution 2122(2013), seventh preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 1974(2011), para. 36; 1960(2010), para. 3; 1917(2010), para. 35; 1820(2008), eighth preambular para.; and 1806(2008), para. 28.
	Expressing its concern about the continued reports, including those reported by the Secretary-General in [relevant report], of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including against women and children, and the reports of increased incidents of sexual violence, in particular those attributed to armed men, stressing the importance of investigating such alleged violations and abuses ... committed by all parties, irrespective of their status or political affiliation, reaffirming that those responsible for such violations must be held accountable and brought to justice irrespective of their political affiliation, while respecting the rights of those in detention ..., urging the Government ... to increase and expedite its efforts to combat impunity,	Resolution 2112(2013), eleventh preambular para.	
	Recognizes that, despite progress achieved on gender equality, enhanced efforts, including towards measurable and action-oriented objectives, are necessary to secure the rights of women and girls and to ensure all women and girls in [the affected country] are protected from violence and abuse, enjoy equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, strongly condemns discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular violence aimed at preventing girls from attending school, and stresses the importance of implementing resolutions 1325(2000), 1820(2008), 1888(2009), 1889(2009) and 1960(2010), noting the mainstreaming commitments introduced therein, and of ensuring that women fleeing domestic violence are able to find safe and secure refuge;	Resolution 2096(2013), para. 43	

	Strongly condemns the continued violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including ... rape and sexual slavery and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence ... perpetrated by armed groups, and specifically [list of relevant armed groups] that threaten the population as well as peace and stability of [the affected country] and the subregion ...	Resolution 2088(2013), para. 13	
	Recalling its resolutions 1325(2000) ..., 1820(2008) ..., 1888(2009) ..., 1889(2009) ... and 1960(2010) ... on women and peace and security, concerned about the high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence, welcoming the continuing efforts of [the mission] and the Government ... to promote and protect the rights of civilians, in particular women and children, and reaffirming the importance of appropriate gender expertise and training in missions mandated by the Security Council,	Resolution 2008(2011), fifteenth preambular para.	
	Demands that all parties ... immediately cease all forms of violence and human rights abuses against the civilian population in [the affected country], in particular gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse ..., with a view to specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence in accordance with resolution 1960(2010) ...	Resolution 1996(2011), para. 9	
	Strongly condemns all violations of applicable international law committed against women and girls in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict situations, demands all parties to conflicts to cease such acts with immediate effect, and emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for all forms of violence committed against women and girls in armed conflicts, including rape and other sexual violence;	Resolution 1889(2009), para. 3	
	Reiterating its deep concern that, despite its repeated condemnation of violence against women and children, including all forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, and despite its calls addressed to all parties to armed conflict for the cessation of such acts with immediate effect, such acts continue to occur, and in some situations have become systematic or widespread,	Resolution 1888(2009), third preambular para.	
Call for compliance with applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law	Calls upon all parties to ... issue clear orders regarding sexual violence, in line with its resolution 1960(2010), calls upon parties to the conflict to facilitate immediate access for victims of sexual violence to available services, and encourages donors to support the increase of services to address the needs of victims, and welcomes the commitments made to prevent and address sexual violence; including [relevant document and date] between the United Nations and the Government of [the affected country] and other parties to the conflict;	Resolution 2088(2013), para. 15	See also, for example, resolutions 2121(2013), para. 16; 2046(2012), para. 7; 2040(2012), para. 3; 1889(2009), para. 2; and 1888(2009), sixth and tenth preambular paras.
	Reiterating the necessity for all States and non-State parties to conflicts to comply fully with their obligations under applicable international law, including the prohibition on all forms of sexual violence,	Resolution 1960(2010), fourth preambular para.	
	Recalling that international humanitarian law affords general protection to women and children as part of the civilian population during armed conflicts and special protection due to the fact that they can be placed particularly at risk,	Resolution 1960(2010), tenth preambular para.	
	Calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol thereto, relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto of ... 1999 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the two Optional Protocols thereto of ... 2000, and to bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;	Resolution 1325(2000), para. 9	
Women and the prevention and resolution of conflict	Urges Member States, United Nations entities and intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations to take further measures to facilitate full and meaningful participation of women in all policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat and eradicate the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and calls in this regard upon all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and justice and security sector reform efforts to take into account the particular needs of women and children associated with armed forces and armed groups, with the participation of women, and to provide for their full access to these programmes, inter alia, through consultation with civil society, including women's organizations, as appropriate;	Resolution 2117(2013), para. 12	See also, for example, resolutions 2122(2013), thirteenth preambular para.; 2112(2013), twelfth preambular para.; 2086(2013), twelfth preambular para.; 2067(2012), para. 8; 2062(2012),

Emphasizing the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as recognized in resolutions 1325(2000) ..., 1820(2008) ..., 1888(2009) ... and 1889(2009) ..., welcoming the mission's work in this regard, and underlining that a gender perspective must continue to inform the implementation of relevant aspects of the mandate of [the mission],	Resolution 2103(2013), sixteenth preambular para.	thirteenth preambular para.; 2061(2012), ninth preambular para.; 2041(2012), para. 14; 2009(2011), para. 3; 1935(2010), para. 3; 1889(2009), para. 8; 1888(2009), thirteenth and fourteenth preambular paras. and para. 16;
... recalls that women play a vital role in the peace process, as recognized in Council resolution 1325(2000) and related resolutions, therefore reiterates the need for the full, equal and effective participation of women at all stages of peace processes, and urges their involvement in the development and implementation of post-conflict strategies in order to take account of their perspectives and needs ...	Resolution 2096(2013), para. 14	1880(2009), twelfth preambular para.; 1826(2008), para. 6; 1674(2006), para. 11; and 1325(2000), paras. 1 and 15.
Welcoming the increased representation of women in Parliament, commending the [national] authorities, and underlining the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,	Resolution 2067(2012), fourteenth preambular para.	
Reaffirms the vital role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction, and stresses the need for the United Nations and the African Union to work to ensure that women and gender perspectives are fully integrated into all peace and security efforts undertaken by the two organizations, including by building the necessary capacity;	Resolution 2033(2012), para. 12	
Urges Member States and international and regional organizations to take further measures to improve the participation of women during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding, including by enhancing their engagement in political and economic decision-making at early stages of recovery processes, by, inter alia, promoting women's leadership and capacity to engage in aid management and planning, supporting women's organizations and countering negative societal attitudes about women's capacity to participate equally;	Resolution 1889(2009), para. 1	
Encourages Member States in post-conflict situations, in consultation with civil society, including women's organizations, to specify in detail the needs and priorities of women and girls and to design concrete strategies, in accordance with their legal systems, to address those needs and priorities, which cover, inter alia, support for greater physical security and better socioeconomic conditions, through education, income-generating activities, access to basic services, in particular health services, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and mental health, gender-responsive law enforcement and access to justice, as well as enhancing capacity to engage in public decision-making at all levels;	Resolution 1889(2009), para. 10	
Emphasizing the importance of addressing sexual violence issues from the outset of peace processes and mediation efforts, in order to protect populations at risk and promote full stability, in particular in the areas of pre-ceasefire humanitarian access and human rights agreements, ceasefires and ceasefire monitoring, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform arrangements, justice and reparations, post-conflict recovery and development,	Resolution 1888(2009), twelfth preambular para.	
Calls upon all parties concerned to ensure that the protection of women and children is addressed in the implementation of the [peace agreement] as well as in the post-conflict reconstruction and recovery phases, including continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of women and children, and that all reported abuses are investigated and those responsible brought to justice;	Resolution 1880(2009), para. 14	
Urges the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys to invite women to participate in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding, and encourages all parties to such talks to facilitate the equal and full participation of women at decision-making levels;	Resolution 1820(2008), para. 12	
Calls upon all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including: (a) The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement, and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction; (b) Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements; (c) Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for the human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary;	Resolution 1325(2000), para. 8	

Condemn and call for the cessation of sexual violence	Recognizing the significant challenges that remain across all sectors, including continuing problems with violent crime, in particular the high rates of sexual and gender-based violence, especially involving children, recalling its resolutions 1325(2000) ..., 1820(2008) ..., 1888(2009) ..., 1889(2009) ..., 1960(2010) ... and 2106(2013) ... on women and peace and security ...	Resolution 2116(2013), fourteenth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2116(2013), para. 10; 2112(2013), para. 17; 2109(2013), para. 14; 2098(2013),
	Reiterates its demand for the complete cessation with immediate effect by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence and its call for these parties to make and implement specific time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, which should include, inter alia, issuance of clear orders through chains of command prohibiting sexual violence and accountability for breaching these orders, the prohibition of sexual violence in codes of conduct, military and police field manuals or equivalent, and to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses and further calls upon all relevant parties to armed conflict to cooperate in the framework of such commitments, with appropriate United Nations mission personnel who monitor their implementation, and calls upon the parties to designate, as appropriate, a high-level representative responsible for ensuring implementation of such commitments;	Resolution 2106(2013), para. 10	nineteenth preambular para.; 2066(2012), tenth preambular para.; 2063(2012), para. 21; 2062(2012), eighth preambular para.; 2040(2012), seventh preambular para.; 2035(2012), eighth preambular para.; 2010(2011), para. 25; 2009(2011), fifth preambular para.;
	Expressing deep concern about reports of sexual violence during the conflict in [the affected country] against women, men and children, including in prison facilities and detention centres ...	Resolution 2095(2013), seventh preambular para.	1960(2010), third preambular para. and paras. 1 and 2; 1944(2010), twelfth preambular para. and para. 14; and 1938(2010),
	Strongly condemns the ... widespread rape and other sexual abuse of women and girls ...	Resolution 2070(2012), para. 18	sixteenth preambular para.
	Demands that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence and human rights abuses against the civilian population in [the affected country], in particular gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence ...	Resolution 2057(2012), para. 10	
	Condemns the persistence of reported human rights and humanitarian law violations against civilians in different parts of the country, including numerous acts of sexual violence met with impunity, calls upon all parties [in the affected country], with the continued support of [the mission], to ensure the protection of civilians, especially women, children and displaced persons, stresses that the perpetrators must be brought to justice, calls upon all parties to take appropriate measures to refrain from, prevent and protect civilians from all forms of sexual violence ...	Resolution 1962(2010), para. 9	
	Demands that the parties to the conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and children, from all forms of sexual violence, in line with resolution 1820(2008) ...	Resolution 1935(2010), para. 18	
Role of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions and actors	Demands that all parties to armed conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and children, from all forms of sexual violence, including measures such as enforcing appropriate military disciplinary measures and upholding the principle of command responsibility, training troops on the categorical prohibition of all forms of sexual violence against civilians, debunking myths that fuel sexual violence and vetting candidates for national armies and security forces to ensure the exclusion of those associated with serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including sexual violence;	Resolution 1888(2009), para. 3	
	... welcoming the commitment by the Government ... to develop and implement [the country's] national action plan for resolution 1325(2000) and to identify further opportunities to support the participation of women in the ... peace and reconciliation process ..., the presentation by the Government of its first progress report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and efforts to continue to accelerate full implementation of the National Action Plan for the Women of [the affected country], to integrate its benchmarks into the national priority programmes and to develop a strategy to implement fully the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women,	Resolution 2120(2013), twenty-fifth preambular para.	See also, for example, resolutions 2122(2013), paras. 2 and 5; 2116(2013), paras. 10 and 12; 2109(2013), para. 40; 2106(2013), paras. 6, 7 and 12; 2100(2013), paras. 16 and 25; 2098(2013), eighteenth

<p>Demands that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all acts of sexual violence, and make and implement specific and time-bound commitments to combat such violence, in accordance with resolution 2106(2013); and requests [the mission] to report on sexual and gender-based violence as well as to assess progress towards the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence, including through the timely appointment of women's protection advisers, notes the inclusion of protection for women and children from sexual violence and gender-based violence, as part of the mission-wide protection of civilians strategy identified in [relevant paragraph] above, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the relevant provisions of resolution 1325(2000) and associated resolutions on women and peace and security are implemented by [the mission], including supporting the participation of women during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding, including women's civil society organizations, and through the appointment of gender advisers, and to include information on this in his reporting to the Council;</p>	<p>Resolution 2113(2013), para. 25</p>	<p>preambular para. and para. 12 (a) (iii); 2093(2013), paras. 14 and 27; 2086(2013), paras. 8 and 12; 2066(2012), para. 11; 2037(2012), para. 17; 2003(2011), para. 22; 1996(2011), para. 24; 1960(2010), fifth preambular para.; 1945(2010), para. 4; 1944(2010), para. 12; 1906(2009), para. 18; 1889(2009), fourteenth preambular para.; 1888(2009), para. 12; 1828(2008), para. 15; 1794(2007), para. 18; 1674(2006), para. 19; 1590(2005), para. 15; 1565(2004), para. 5 (g); 1528(2004), para. 6 (n); 1325(2000), paras. 5 and 7; 1265(1999), para. 13; and presidential statement S/PRST/2007/40.</p>
<p>Decides ... that the mandate of [the mission] shall be the following:</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>Support for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law</i></p> <p>To contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in [the affected country], with special attention to grave violations and abuses committed against children and women, notably sexual and gender-based violence, in close coordination with the independent expert established under [the relevant] Human Rights Council resolution ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>To support the efforts of the Government ... in combating sexual and gender-based violence, including through contributing to the development of a nationally owned multisectoral strategy in cooperation with United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict entities;</p> <p>To provide specific protection for women affected by armed conflict, including through the deployment of women's protection advisers, to ensure gender expertise and training, as appropriate and within existing resources, in accordance with [relevant] resolutions ...</p>	<p>Resolution 2112(2013), para. 6 (f)</p>	
<p>Requests the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations entities to assist national authorities, with the effective participation of women, in addressing sexual violence concerns explicitly in:</p> <p>(a) Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, including by establishing protection mechanisms for women and children in cantonment sites, as well as for civilians in close proximity to cantonment sites and in communities of return, and by offering trauma and reintegration support to women and children formerly associated with armed groups, as well as ex-combatants;</p> <p>(b) Security sector reform processes and arrangements, including through the provision of adequate training for security personnel, encouraging the inclusion of more women in the security sector and effective vetting processes in order to exclude from the security sector those who have perpetrated or are responsible for acts of sexual violence;</p> <p>(c) Justice sector reform initiatives, including through legislative and policy reforms that address sexual violence; training in sexual and gender-based violence of justice and security sector professionals and the inclusion of more women at professional levels in these sectors; and judicial proceedings that take into account the distinct needs and protection of witnesses as well as survivors of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and their family members;</p>	<p>Resolution 2106(2013), para. 16</p>	
<p>... decides that the mandate of [the mission] shall be as follows:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) To help to build the capacity of the Government of [the affected country]:</p> <p>(i) To promote respect for human rights and women's empowerment, including through the provision of gender advisers and human rights advisers;</p> <p>...</p> <p>(iii) To prevent conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, including through the provision of women's protection advisers;</p> <p>...</p> <p>(e) To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Security Council on, and help to prevent:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(iii) Any violations or abuses committed against women, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict;</p>	<p>Resolution 2102(2013), paras. 2 (d) and (e)</p>	

	... encourages all actors in the [national] Government, the international community and civil society to renew their efforts to ... improve response to rape complaints and access to justice for the victims of rape and other sexual crimes;	Resolution 2070(2012), para. 18	
	Encourages the Secretary-General to include in his annual reports submitted pursuant to resolutions 1820(2008) and 1888(2009) detailed information on parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape or other forms of sexual violence, and to list in an annex to these annual reports the parties that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Council agenda; and expresses its intention to use this list as a basis for more focused United Nations engagement with those parties, including, as appropriate, measures in accordance with the procedures of the relevant sanctions committees;	Resolution 1960(2010), para. 3	
	Requests the Secretary-General to establish monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, including rape in situations of armed conflict and in post-conflict and other situations relevant to the implementation of resolution [on women and peace and security], as appropriate, and taking into account the specificity of each country, that ensure a coherent and coordinated approach at the field level, and encourages the Secretary-General to engage with United Nations actors, national institutions, civil society organizations, health-care service providers and women's groups to enhance data collection and analysis of incidents, trends and patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence to assist the consideration by the Council of appropriate actions, including targeted and graduated measures, while respecting fully the integrity and specificity of the monitoring and reporting mechanism implemented under [Council resolutions on children and armed conflict];	Resolution 1960(2010), para. 8	
	Requests the Secretary-General to develop effective guidelines and strategies to enhance the ability of relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations, consistent with their mandates, to protect civilians, including women and girls, from all forms of sexual violence and to systematically include in his written reports to the Council on conflict situations his observations concerning the protection of women and girls and recommendations in this regard;	Resolution 1820(2008), para. 9	
	Requests the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations agencies, inter alia, through consultation with women and women-led organizations, as appropriate, to develop effective mechanisms for providing protection from violence, including in particular sexual violence, to women and girls in and around United Nations-managed refugee and internally displaced persons camps, as well as in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, and in justice and security sector reform efforts assisted by the United Nations;	Resolution 1820(2008), para. 10	
	Urges all parties concerned, including Member States, United Nations entities and financial institutions, to support the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions, in particular of judicial and health systems, and of local civil society networks in order to provide sustainable assistance to victims of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations;	Resolution 1820(2008), para. 13	
	Urges appropriate regional and subregional bodies, in particular, to consider developing and implementing policies, activities and advocacy for the benefit of women and girls affected by sexual violence in armed conflict;	Resolution 1820(2008), para. 14	
	Also urges the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel;	Resolution 1325(2000), para. 4	
Comprehensive strategies and time-bound commitments	Demands that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all acts of sexual violence and make and implement specific and time-bound commitments to combat such violence, in accordance with resolution 2106(2013); ... notes the inclusion of protection for women and children from sexual violence and gender based violence, as part of the mission-wide protection of civilians strategy identified in [relevant paragraph] above ...	Resolution 2113(2013), para. 25	See also, for example, resolutions 2112(2013), para. 6; 2109(2013), para. 14; 2088(2013), para. 15; 2065(2012), ninth preambular para.; 1996(2011), para. 9; 1889(2009), para. 4; 1885(2009), fourteenth preambular para.; 1881(2009), para. 14; and 1880(2009), para. 16.
	Reiterates its demand for the complete cessation with immediate effect by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence and its call for these parties to make and implement specific time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, which should include, inter alia, issuance of clear orders through chains of command prohibiting sexual violence and accountability for breaching these orders, the prohibition of sexual violence in codes of conduct, military and police field manuals or equivalent, and to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses and further calls upon all relevant parties to armed conflict to cooperate in the framework of such commitments, with appropriate United Nations mission personnel who monitor their implementation, and calls upon the parties to designate, as appropriate, a high-level representative responsible for ensuring implementation of such commitments;	Resolution 2106(2013), para. 10	

Training for peacekeeping personnel	... emphasizes the importance of [the mission] supporting the Government of [the affected country] in developing and implementing a national strategy for preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence;	Resolution 2102(2013), para. 8	See also, for example, resolutions 2066(2012), tenth preambular para.; 1960(2010), para. 15; 1898(2009), para. 10; 1325(2000), para. 6; 1296(2000), para. 19; and 1265(1999), para. 14
	Decides that [the mission] shall have the following mandate: Protection and security (g) <i>Support for efforts to promote and protect human rights</i> ...	Resolution 2000(2011), para. 7 (g)	
	To support the efforts of the Government [of the affected country] in combating sexual and gender-based violence, including by contributing to the development of a nationally owned multisectoral strategy in cooperation with United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict entities, to appoint women's protection advisers and to ensure gender expertise and training, as appropriate and from within existing resources, in accordance with resolutions 1888(2009), 1889(2009) and 1960(2010);		
	Calls upon parties to armed conflict to make and implement specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, which should include, inter alia, issuance of clear orders through chains of command prohibiting sexual violence and the prohibition of sexual violence in codes of conduct, military field manuals, or equivalent; and further calls upon those parties to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable;	Resolution 1960(2010), para. 5	
	Requests the Secretary-General to track and monitor implementation of these commitments by parties to armed conflict on the Council agenda that engage in patterns of rape and other sexual violence, and to regularly update the Council in relevant reports and briefings;	Resolution 1960(2010), para. 6	
	... encourages troop- and police-contributing countries to provide all military and police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities, and relevant United Nations entities to make available appropriate guidance or training modules, including in particular the United Nations predeployment scenario-based training on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence;	Resolution 2122(2013), para. 9	
	Reaffirms the importance of appropriate gender expertise and training in missions mandated by the Council in accordance with resolutions 1325(2000), 1820(2008) and 2106(2013) ...	Resolution 2109(2013), para. 40	
	Recognizes the role of United Nations peacekeeping contingents in preventing sexual violence, and, in this respect, calls for all predeployment and in-mission training of troop- and police-contributing country contingents to include training on sexual and gender-based violence, which also takes into account the distinct needs of children, and further encourages troop- and police-contributing countries to increase the number of women recruited and deployed in peace operations;	Resolution 2106(2013), para. 14	
	... further requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide and deploy guidance on addressing sexual violence for predeployment and induction training of military and police personnel, and to assist missions in developing situation-specific procedures to address sexual violence at the field level and to ensure that technical support is provided to troop- and police-contributing countries in order to include guidance for military and police personnel on addressing sexual violence in predeployment and induction training;	Resolution 1960(2010), para. 16	
	... requests the Secretary-General to ensure that technical support is provided, in predeployment and in theatre, to troop- and police-contributing countries of [the mission] to include guidance and training for military and police personnel on the protection of civilians from imminent threat and appropriate responses, including on human rights, sexual violence and gender issues;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 13	
	Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Council, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group and relevant States, as appropriate, to develop and implement appropriate training programmes for all peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed by the United Nations in the context of missions as mandated by the Council to help them to better prevent, recognize and respond to sexual violence and other forms of violence against civilians;	Resolution 1820(2008), para. 6	
	Encourages troop- and police-contributing countries, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to consider steps they could take to heighten awareness and the responsiveness of their personnel participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, including women and children, and prevent sexual violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, including, wherever possible, the deployment of a higher percentage of women peacekeepers or police;	Resolution 1820(2008), para. 8	

Targeted and graduated measures in response to violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law related to women	Urges existing sanctions committees, where within the scope of the relevant criteria for designation, and consistent with resolution 1960(2010), to apply targeted sanctions against those who perpetrate and direct sexual violence in conflict, and reiterates its intention, when adopting or renewing targeted sanctions in situations of armed conflict, to consider including, where appropriate, designation criteria pertaining to acts of rape and other forms of serious sexual violence;	Resolution 2106(2013), para. 13	See also, for example, resolutions 1820(2008), para. 5; and 1807(2008), para. 13 (e).
	Decides that the measures referred to in [relevant] paragraph ... above [travel ban and assets freeze] shall apply to the following individuals, and, as appropriate, entities, as designated by the ... Committee ... (e) Individuals or entities operating in [the affected country] and committing serious violations involving the targeting of ... women in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement;	Resolution 2078(2012), para. 4 (e)	
	... all States shall take the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of all persons designated by [the sanctions committee] ...	Resolution 1807(2008), para. 9	
	Decides ... that all States shall, during the period of enforcement of the measures ..., immediately freeze the funds, other financial assets and economic resources which are on their territories from the date of adoption of the present resolution, which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by persons or entities designated by [the sanctions committee], or that are held by entities owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by them or by any persons or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction ..., and decides that all States shall ensure that no funds, financial assets or economic resources are made available by their nationals or by any persons within their territories to or for the benefit of such persons or entities;	Resolution 1807(2008), para. 11	
Accountability for the perpetrators of sexual violence	Calls upon all parties to armed conflict in [the affected country], including [specific armed group] elements, to issue clear orders against sexual violence, and further calls upon those parties to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable, in line with its resolution 1960(2010), and to facilitate immediate access for victims of sexual violence to available services;	Resolution 2121(2013), para. 16	See also, for example, resolutions 2122(2013), para. 12; 2106(2013), para. 18; 2078(2012), tenth preambular para.; 1902(2009), para. 19; 1591(2005), tenth preambular para.; 1493(2003), para. 8; and 1468(2003), para. 2.
	Recalling the inclusion of a range of sexual violence offences in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the statutes of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals,	Resolution 2106(2013), ninth preambular para.	
	Notes that sexual violence can constitute a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide; further recalls that rape and other forms of serious sexual violence in armed conflict are war crimes; calls upon Member States to comply with their relevant obligations to continue to fight impunity by investigating and prosecuting those subject to their jurisdiction who are responsible for such crimes, encourages Member States to include the full range of crimes of sexual violence in national penal legislation to enable prosecutions for such acts, and recognizes that effective investigation and documentation of sexual violence in armed conflict is instrumental both in bringing perpetrators to justice and ensuring access to justice for survivors;	Resolution 2106(2013), para. 2	
	Reiterates its calls upon the Government of [the affected country] to continue to combat sexual and gender-based violence and, in coordination with [the mission], to continue to combat impunity for perpetrators of such crimes and to provide redress, support and protection to victims, including through the strengthening of national police capacity in this area and by raising awareness of existing national legislation on sexual violence;	Resolution 2066(2012), para. 9	
	Expressing its concern about the continued reports of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including against women and children, including reports of increased incidents of sexual violence in particular those attributed to armed men, stressing the importance to investigate such alleged violations and abuses committed by all parties, irrespective of their status or political affiliation, including those that occurred throughout the [relevant] crisis, including ..., reaffirming that those responsible for such violations must be held accountable, and noting [relevant entity] commitments in this regard,	Resolution 2062(2012), eighth preambular para.	
	Reiterating ... the need for civilian and military leaders, consistent with the principle of command responsibility ... to combat impunity and enforce accountability, and that inaction can send a message that the incidence of sexual violence in conflicts is tolerated,	Resolution 1960(2010), fifth preambular para.	

	Recognizing the need for civilian and military leaders, consistent with the principle of command responsibility, to demonstrate commitment and political will to prevent sexual violence and to combat impunity and enforce accountability, and that inaction can send a message that the incidence of sexual violence in conflicts is tolerated,	Resolution 1888(2009), eleventh preambular para.	
	Notes that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide, stresses the need for the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes, and calls upon Member States to comply with their obligations for prosecuting persons responsible for such acts and to ensure that all victims of sexual violence, particularly women and girls, have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, and stresses the importance of ending impunity for such acts as part of a comprehensive approach to seeking sustainable peace, justice, truth and national reconciliation;	Resolution 1820(2008), para. 4	
	Condemning, in particular, sexual violence perpetrated by [militias and armed groups as well as elements of the national armed and police forces] and other security and intelligence services, stressing the urgent need for [the affected State], in cooperation with [peacekeeping mission] and other relevant actors, to end such violence and bring the perpetrators, as well as the senior commanders under whom they serve, to justice, and calling upon Member States to assist in this regard and to continue to provide medical, humanitarian and other assistance to victims,	Resolution 1794(2007), fourteenth preambular para.	
Sexual exploitation and abuse	Welcomes the efforts being undertaken by [the mission] to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;	Resolution 2084(2012), para. 4	See also, for example, resolutions 2075(2012), para. 15; 2070(2012), para. 19; 2064(2011), para. 9; 1996(2011), para. 28; 1840(2008), para. 22; 1674(2006), para. 20; 1565(2004), para. 25; 1460(2003), para. 10; and 1436(2002), para. 15
	Recalling its resolutions ... on women and peace and security, ... recognizing the challenges that remain in addressing the serious issues of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, and calling upon Member States to increase support to the Government in its efforts,	Resolution 1938(2010), sixteenth preambular para.	
	Requests the Secretary-General to continue to fully investigate the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by civilian and military personnel of [the mission], and to take the appropriate measures set out in the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;	Resolution 1906(2009), para. 12	
	... requests the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and urges troop- and police-contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, including predeployment and in-theatre awareness training, and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;	Resolution 1820(2008), para. 7	
	Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to achieve actual compliance in [the peacekeeping mission] with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, including the development of strategies and appropriate mechanisms to prevent, identify and respond to all forms of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and the enhancement of training for personnel to prevent misconduct and ensure full compliance with the United Nations code of conduct, and to further take all necessary action in accordance with the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, including conducting predeployment awareness training and ... post-deployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;	Resolution 1769(2007), para. 16	

On 7 March, the Security Council adopted **resolution 2143(2014)** (see p. 879), aimed at addressing the widespread impact of armed conflict on children.

Protection of humanitarian personnel

Security Council consideration. On 19 August [S/PV.7244], the Council held a briefing to mark World Humanitarian Day. The briefing focused on the protection of humanitarian workers, under the agenda item on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Council had before it a concept note [S/2014/571] submitted by the United Kingdom. Addressing the Council, the Deputy Secretary-General stated that it was essential not to politicize humanitarian action and to make a clear distinction between humanitarian actors and political or military actors, even when the military objective was the protection of civilians. He suggested four important actions for the Council: routinely call on parties to conflict to uphold their legal obligations and condemn parties when they did not; ensure that measures to safeguard peace and security, such as the negotiation of peace agreements or the deployment of UN peacekeeping operations, did not blur the lines between political, military and humanitarian objectives; impose targeted measures against parties to conflict who violated their obligations to respect and protect humanitarian workers and the civilian population; and use all the tools at its disposal to seek accountability for those who perpetrated attacks against humanitarian workers and assets. The ICRC President and Director and co-founder of The Liaison Office also briefed the Council.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 August [meeting 7256], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2175(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/640] was submitted by Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Reiterating its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this context, the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

Recalling its resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003 on the protection of humanitarian personnel, its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, as well as other relevant resolutions and statements by its President on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and on the protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones,

Recalling also the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances,

Recalling further the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the Optional Protocol thereto,

Recalling all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 68/101, entitled “Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel”, and 68/102, entitled “Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations”, of 13 December 2013,

Reaffirming the need for all parties to armed conflict to respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in order to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance, the safety of civilians receiving assistance and the security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

Recalling the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under the international law of armed conflict, as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

Emphasizing the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, in order to prevent these crimes, avoid their recurrence and seek sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation, and in this regard reaffirming the need to end impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving attacks against humanitarian personnel,

Stressing that the fight against impunity and to ensure accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes in the international criminal justice system, ad hoc and mixed tribunals as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals; and recognizing in this regard the contribution of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity to national criminal jurisdictions as set out in the Rome Statute, towards holding accountable those responsible for such crimes, and reiterating its call on the importance of State cooperation with these courts and tribunals in accordance with the States’ respective obligations,

Recalling that the primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel lies with the Government hosting a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter or its agreements with relevant organizations,

Gravely concerned at the growing number of acts of violence in many parts of the world against national and international personnel of humanitarian organizations, United Nations personnel and associated personnel, and humanitarian assets, including humanitarian supplies, facilities and transports, in particular deliberate attacks which are in violation of international humanitarian law, as well as other applicable international law, and the adverse impact of such violence, including on humanitarian access, exacerbated by the presence of armed actors, including non-State armed groups and terrorist and criminal networks, and their activities,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all parties involved in an armed conflict to comply with international humanita-

rian law, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, to ensure the respect and protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, as well as with the rules and principles of international human rights law and refugee law;

2. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence and intimidation, including murder, rape and sexual assault, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which those participating in humanitarian operations are increasingly exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of their assets;

3. *Urges* all parties involved in an armed conflict to allow full unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to all people in need of assistance and to make available, as far as possible, all necessary facilities for their operations, and to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and their assets;

4. *Urges* States to ensure that crimes against humanitarian personnel do not remain unpunished, affirming the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against such personnel do not operate with impunity, and that perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

5. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel to observe and respect the laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and underlines the importance for humanitarian organizations to uphold the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in their humanitarian activities;

6. *Expresses its determination* to take appropriate steps in order to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including by:

(a) Ensuring that the mandates of relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations can, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, help to contribute to a secure environment to enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance by humanitarian organizations, in accordance with humanitarian principles;

(b) Requesting the Secretary-General to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, including those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of United Nations operations, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements;

(c) Encouraging the Secretary-General, in accordance with his prerogatives under the Charter, to bring to the attention of the Security Council situations in which humanitarian assistance is unable to reach people in need as a consequence of violence directed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel;

(d) Issuing the declaration of exceptional risk for the purposes of article 1 (c) (ii) of the Convention, in situations where in its assessment circumstances would support such a declaration, and inviting the Secretary-General to advise the Council, where in his assessment circumstances would support such a declaration;

(e) Calling upon all States to consider becoming parties to the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, and urging States parties to take steps to enable its effective implementation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in all his country-specific situation reports, and other relevant reports which address the protection of civilians, the issue of the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including recording specific acts of violence against such personnel, remedial actions taken to prevent similar incidents and actions taken to identify and hold accountable those who commit such acts, and to provide the Council with recommendations on measures to prevent similar incidents, ensure accountability and enhance the safety and security of such personnel.

Protection of journalists

The General Assembly, by **resolution 69/185** of 18 December (see p. 826), welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (see p. 826) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, and unequivocally condemned all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers. The resolution called on States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference.

Special political missions

Comprehensive review of special political missions

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/85 [YUN 2013, p. 50], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/325] on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards ensuring transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender participation, expertise and effectiveness in respect of all special political missions.

The Secretary-General observed that special political missions continued to play a critical role in UN efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, and to build a sustainable peace. National ownership remained a core component of the work carried out by special political missions, and only national actors could address the needs and goals of their societies in a sustainable manner. In that regard, special political missions had a supporting role, aimed at assisting national counterparts and regional partners in resolving conflict and consolidating peace. The Secretary-General also observed that continued support from Member States to special political missions was key to their ability to implement their mandate success-

fully. That support included political unity behind the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Representatives and Special Envoys, for whom the backing of the international community was the most important currency and source of legitimacy, as well as funding of special political missions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/69/456], adopted **resolution 69/95** without vote [agenda item 53].

Comprehensive review of special political missions

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 67/123 of 18 December 2012 and 68/85 of 11 December 2013 on the comprehensive review of special political missions,

Reaffirming its commitment to respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,

Recalling the primary role of the United Nations and the respective roles and authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter, and recalling also in this context the contribution of regional and subregional arrangements, as appropriate,

Encouraging enhanced exchanges of information, in an appropriate manner, among the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat, on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions,

Reaffirming the principles of impartiality, consent of the parties, national ownership and national responsibility, and stressing the significance of the views of and dialogue with countries hosting special political missions,

Recalling the relevant reports on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions, which addressed the financial and administrative arrangements pertaining to such missions, recognizing that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

Stressing the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the pacific settlement of disputes, including mediation, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Acknowledging the significant increase in the number and complexity of special political missions and the challenges faced by them,

Recognizing the role of the special political mission as a flexible tool for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing also the need for system-wide coherence between special political missions and the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of close cooperation between special political missions, peacekeeping operations and United Nations country teams for maintaining sustainable peace, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Recognizing further the need for special political missions to operate under clear, credible and achievable mandates, including through the articulation of their goals and purposes, and the need to review their progress as stipulated in their respective mandates,

Recognizing the importance of efforts towards improving broad geographical representation, gender balance and expertise in the composition of all special political missions,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and recognizing the importance of the equal and effective participation and the full involvement of women at all levels, at all stages and in all aspects of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Noting the announcement by the Secretary-General of the establishment of a high-level independent panel to conduct a review of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 68/85;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold regular, inclusive and interactive dialogue on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, and encourages the Secretariat to reach out to Member States prior to the holding of such dialogue to ensure wide and meaningful participation;

3. *Respects* the purview of the mandate of special political missions, as stipulated in the respective relevant resolutions, recognizes the specificity of each mandate of such missions, and emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in discussing the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards improving transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender participation, expertise and effectiveness in respect of all special political missions, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to ensure the inclusion of relevant detailed information on these matters in the report;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of special political missions" and to consider the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General under that item.

Political and peacebuilding missions in 2014

During 2014, 13 UN political and peacebuilding missions were in operation: 8 in Africa, 3 in the Asia and the Pacific region, and 2 in the Middle East.

The Security Council, extended, by **resolution 2145(2014)** of 17 March (see p. 408), the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) until 17 March 2015; and by **resolution 2169(2014)** of 30 July (see p. 457), the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) until 31 July 2015.

The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) completed its Security Council mandate on 31 March 2014.

The Council extended, by **resolution 2134(2014)** of 28 January (see p. 213), the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) until 31 January 2015. On 10 April, by **resolution 2149(2014)** (see p. 220), the Council subsumed the presence of BINUCA into a peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

The mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), by **resolution 2157(2014)** of 29 May (see p. 276) and **resolution 2186(2014)** of 25 November (see p. 279), was extended twice—to 30 November 2014 and 28 February 2015, respectively.

By **resolution 2137(2014)** of 13 February (see p. 209), the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) until the end of the year, and requested the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations electoral observer mission at the end of the BNUB mandate. BNUB completed its mandate on 31 December 2014 and transferred its responsibilities to the United Nations country team.

On 10 [S/2014/103] and 13 [S/2014/104] February, respectively, the Secretary-General and the Council exchanged letters through which the mandate of the United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) was extended until 31 August 2015.

The Council extended by **resolution 2144(2014)** of 14 March (see p. 378), the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until 13 March 2015; and by **resolution 2158(2014)** of 29 May (see p. 354), the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) for a period of 12 months.

(For Financing of UN political and peacebuilding missions, see PART FIVE, Chapter II.)

Roster of 2014 political missions and offices

The information for the following missions and offices reflects the status as at 31 August 2014.

UNSCO

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Established: 1 October 1999.

Mandate: To act as the focal point for the UN contribution to the peace process and to enhance UN humanitarian and development assistance.

Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority: Robert H. Serry (Netherlands).

Strength: 28 international civilian staff, 30 local civilian staff.

UNOWA

United Nations Office for West Africa

Established: 29 November 2001.

Mandate: To enhance the contribution of the United Nations towards the achievement of peace and security in West Africa.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Said Djinnit (Algeria).

Strength: 22 international civilian staff, 19 local civilian staff, 3 military advisers.

UNAMA

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Established: 28 March 2002.

Mandate: To assist the Government and the people of Afghanistan in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Ján Kubiš (Slovakia).

Strength: 336 international civilian staff, 1,154 local civilian staff, 14 military advisers, 2 police, 69 UN Volunteers.

UNAMI

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Established: 14 August 2003.

Mandate: To promote political dialogue, assist the Government and the Independent High Electoral Commission in electoral processes, promote human rights, regional dialogue, and reconstruction and development.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Nickolay Mladenov (Bulgaria).

Strength (staff based in Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait): 349 international civilian staff, 474 local civilian staff, 270 troops, 2 police.

UNSCOL

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon

Established: 16 February 2007.

Mandate: To represent the Secretary-General politically and coordinate UN work in Lebanon.

Special Coordinator for Lebanon: Derek Plumbly (United Kingdom).

Strength: 18 international civilian staff, 57 local civilian staff.

UNRCCA

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

Established: 10 December 2007.

Mandate: To liaise with Governments of the region and other parties on preventive diplomacy issues;

monitor and analyse the situation on the ground and provide the Secretary-General with information related to conflict prevention; maintain contact with regional organizations; and support the UN system in promoting an integrated approach to preventive development and humanitarian assistance.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Miroslav Jenča (Slovakia).

Strength: 7 international civilian staff, 2 local civilian staff.

UNIOGBIS

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

Established: 1 January 2010.

Mandate: To support an inclusive political dialogue and a national reconciliation process; assist in strengthening democratic institutions; provide strategic and technical advice and support for national security sector reform and rule of law; and assist national authorities in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Miguel Trovoada (São Tomé and Príncipe).

Strength: 48 international civilian staff, 57 local civilian staff, 2 military advisers, 13 police, 6 UN Volunteers.

BNUB

United Nations Office in Burundi

Established: 1 January 2011.

Mandate: To strengthen key national institutions; promote and facilitate dialogue between national actors; support efforts to fight impunity through the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms; promote and protect human rights; and ensure that economic strategies and policies focused on peacebuilding and equitable growth.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Parfait Onanga-Anyanga (Gabon).

Strength: 43 international civilian staff, 59 local civilian staff, 1 military adviser, 1 police, 3 UN Volunteers.

UNOCA

United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

Established: 1 January 2011.

Mandate: To assist Member States and sub-regional organizations in consolidating peace and preventing potential conflicts.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Abdoulaye Bathily (Senegal).

Strength: 14 international civilian staff, 8 local civilian staff, 1 military adviser.

UNSMIL

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Established: 16 September 2011.

Mandate: To support the Libyan government to ensure the transition to democracy; promote the rule of law and monitor and protect human rights; control unsecured arms and related material and counter their proliferation; and build governance capacity.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Bernardino León (Spain).

Strength: 150 international civilian staff, 77 local civilian staff, 4 police, 3 UN Volunteers.

UNSOM

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

Established: 3 June 2013.

Mandate: To provide policy advice to the Federal Government and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on peacebuilding and state-building in the areas of: governance, security sector reform and rule of law (including the disengagement of combatants), development of a federal system (including state formation), constitutional review, democratisation (including preparations for the 2016 political transition) and coordination of international donor support.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Nicholas Kay (United Kingdom).

Strength: 58 international civilian staff, 21 local civilian staff, 5 military advisers, 3 police, 7 UN Volunteers.

Threats to international peace and security

International terrorism

Security Council consideration. On 19 December [S/PV.7351], the Council held an open debate on threats to international peace and security: terrorism and cross-border crime. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations to help States and subregional and regional entities in Africa in fighting terrorism [S/2014/9] and a concept note submitted by Chad [S/2014/869] on the item under consideration. Briefing the Council, the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) highlighted the Secretary-General's report that recounted that terrorists increasingly relied on cross-border criminality to further their agenda and that those linkages posed a major threat to peace and stability. The CTITF Chairmen outlined ways in which the Task Force articulated the UN response to terrorism and cross-border crime, namely, by monitoring

and analysing the threat, and assessing the needs of Member States; implementing tailored capacity-building projects; and delivering that assistance in a coordinated and coherent manner to multiply impact. The Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations noted that cross-border criminal activities in Africa had both contributed to the onset of conflicts and complicated subsequent management and resolution efforts, and made several recommendations for combating that threat.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 7351], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2195(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/917] was submitted by Australia, Chad, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda and the United States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Reaffirming also that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed,

Reaffirming further that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization,

Stressing that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States and international and regional organizations to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate the terrorist threat,

Gravely concerned by the financing of and financial and other resources obtained by terrorists, and underscoring that these resources will support their future terrorist activities,

Reaffirming the need to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts,

Expressing concern that terrorists benefit from transnational organized crime in some regions, including from the trafficking in arms, persons, drugs and artefacts and from the illicit trade in natural resources, including gold and other precious metals and stones, minerals, wildlife, charcoal and oil, as well as from kidnapping for ransom and other crimes, including extortion and bank robbery,

Stressing that the development and maintenance of fair and effective criminal justice systems should be a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism and transnational organized crime,

Noting the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council summit on countering violent extremism and terrorism, held in Nairobi on 2 September 2014, and calling upon United Nations counter-terrorism entities, within existing mandates, and Member States to provide assistance and capacity-building towards Africa's efforts to counter violent extremism and terrorism,

Gravely concerned that in some cases individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida continue to profit from involvement in transnational organ-

ized crime, and stressing in this regard the need for robust implementation of the measures in paragraph 1 of resolution 2161(2014) of 17 June 2014 as a significant tool in combating terrorist activity,

Urging, in this respect, all Member States to participate actively in maintaining and updating the list created pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999, 1333(2000) of 19 December 2000 and 1989(2011) of 17 June 2011 (the AlQaida Sanctions List) by contributing additional information pertinent to current listings, submitting delisting requests when appropriate, and by identifying and nominating for listing additional individuals, groups, undertakings and entities which should be subject to the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 2161(2014),

Recalling its recent condemnation in resolution 2170(2014) of 15 August 2014 of any engagement in direct or indirect trade involving Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and its reiteration that such engagement could constitute financial support for entities designated by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) (the Committee) and may lead to further listings by the Committee,

Deeply concerned that terrorist groups benefiting from transnational organized crime may contribute to undermining affected States, specifically their security, stability, governance and social and economic development,

Reaffirming the need to increase attention to women and peace and security issues in all relevant thematic areas of work on its agenda, including in threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and noting the importance of incorporating the participation of women and youth in developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism,

Emphasizing the need to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism,

Emphasizing also that the combined presence of terrorism, violent extremism and transnational organized crime may exacerbate conflicts in affected regions, including in Africa, and noting that terrorist groups benefiting from transnational organized crime can, in some cases and in some regions, complicate conflict prevention and resolution efforts,

Seriously concerned, in this regard, by recent examples of terrorist groups, including those benefiting from transnational organized crime, attacking United Nations personnel,

Recalling its resolution 2133(2014) of 27 January 2014 and strongly condemning incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions, and expressing its determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to secure the safe release of hostages without ransom payments or political concessions, in accordance with applicable international law,

Noting recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress international terrorism, noting the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, in particular its recent adoption of a comprehensive set of good practices to address the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, and its

publication of several other framework documents and good practices, including in the areas of countering violent extremism, criminal justice, prisons, kidnapping for ransom, providing support to victims of terrorism, and community-oriented policing, to assist interested States with the practical implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism legal and policy framework and to complement the work of the relevant United Nations counter-terrorism entities in these areas,

Reaffirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including applicable international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, stressing in this regard the important role the United Nations plays in leading and coordinating this effort,

Recognizing that a comprehensive approach to defeat terrorism is required, involving national, subregional, regional and multilateral action,

Noting the important contribution that public-private partnerships can make in efforts to prevent and combat criminal activities, such as transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter,

Reiterating the obligation of Member States to prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups, in accordance with applicable international law, by, inter alia, effective border controls,

1. *Stresses* the need to work collectively to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including terrorism benefiting from transnational organized crime;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen border management to effectively prevent the movement of terrorists and terrorist groups, including those benefiting from transnational organized crime;

3. *Urges*, as a matter of priority, that Member States ratify, accede to and implement the relevant international conventions, such as the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003, and the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols;

4. *Requests* the relevant United Nations entities to assist Member States, upon their request, and within existing mandates and resources, to implement the relevant international legal instruments relating to terrorism and to develop their capacity to effectively respond to, prevent, investigate and prosecute terrorist acts;

5. *Stresses* the importance of good governance and the need to fight against corruption, money-laundering and illicit financial flows, in particular through the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the comprehensive international standards set forth in the Financial Action Task Force revised Forty Recommendations on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation, including by adopting and effectively implementing legislative and

regulatory measures, to enable the competent domestic authorities to freeze or seize, confiscate and manage criminal assets, in order to combat illicit financial activity, including terrorist financing and money-laundering, and encourages the States of the African region to further their engagement within the Financial Action Task Force-style regional bodies, such as the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force, in promoting capacity and cooperation;

6. *Recalls* the obligations referred to in paragraph 2 (e) of resolution 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, and recalls them in particular with regard to terrorist attacks against United Nations staff, peacekeepers and installations;

International and regional cooperation

7. *Further stresses* the importance of strengthening transregional and international cooperation on a basis of a common and shared responsibility to counter the world drug problem and related criminal activities, and underlines that it must be addressed in a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary manner;

8. *Encourages* Member States and relevant organizations, as appropriate, to enhance cooperation and strategies to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime, and to build the capacity to secure their borders against and investigate and prosecute such terrorists and transnational organized criminals working with them, including through the strengthening of national, regional and global systems to collect, analyse and exchange information, including law enforcement and intelligence information;

9. *Commends*, in this regard, the regional cooperative mechanisms in Africa, notably, the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit, the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel-Saharan Region, the African Union-led Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army and the Lake Chad Basin Commission Multinational Joint Task Force and its Regional Intelligence Fusion Unit, as well as the Economic Community of West African States;

10. *Also commends* the initiatives to strengthen security and border control in the region of North Africa and the Sahel-Saharan region, with the adoption of the action plan on border security during the first Regional Ministerial Conference on Border Security, held in Tripoli on 11 and 12 March 2012, and the creation of a regional training centre to enhance border security, during the second Regional Ministerial Conference, held in Rabat on 14 November 2013, as well as other subregional initiatives supported by the United Nations;

11. *Urges* all Member States, notably Sahel and Maghreb States, to coordinate their efforts to prevent the serious threat posed to international and regional security by terrorist groups crossing borders and seeking safe havens in the Sahel region, to enhance cooperation and coordination in order to develop inclusive and effective strategies to combat in a comprehensive and integrated manner the activities of terrorist groups, and to prevent the expansion of those groups as well as to limit the proliferation of all arms and transnational organized crime;

12. *Welcomes and supports* the establishment of the African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL), and takes note of the elaboration of an African arrest warrant for persons charged with or convicted of terrorist acts;

13. *Calls upon* Member States in Africa to support the implementation of the African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013–2017);

Capacity-building and the United Nations coordination

14. *Calls upon* Member States to help build the capacity of other Member States where necessary and appropriate and upon request, to address the threat posed by terrorism benefiting from transnational organized crime, and welcomes and encourages bilateral assistance by Member States to help build such national, subregional or regional capacity;

15. *Recognizes* the significant capacity and coordination challenges many Member States face in countering terrorism and violent extremism, and preventing terrorist financing, recruitment and all other forms of support to terrorist organizations, including terrorists benefiting from transnational organized crime, commends work under way by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate to identify capacity gaps and to facilitate technical assistance to strengthen the implementation of resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005, encourages Member States to continue to cooperate with the Committee and its Executive Directorate on the development of comprehensive and integrated national, subregional and regional counter-terrorism strategies, highlights the important role that Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and other providers of capacity-building assistance should play in technical assistance delivery, and requests the relevant entities of the United Nations, whenever appropriate and within existing resources, to take into account in their technical assistance to counter terrorism the elements necessary for addressing terrorism benefiting from transnational organized crime;

16. *Calls upon* relevant entities of the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations to support the development and strengthening of the capacities of national and regional institutions to address terrorism benefiting from transnational organized crime, in particular law enforcement and counter-terrorism agencies, and in this regard notes the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission, in accordance with its mandate;

17. *Encourages* the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to consider expanding its Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative to the countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel and Central Africa, upon their request;

18. *Reiterates* that United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions, may, if mandated by the Security Council, assist in capacity-building for host Governments, as requested, to implement commitments under existing global and regional instruments and to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including through weapons collection, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, enhancing physical security and stockpile management practices, record-keeping and tracing capacities, development of national export and import control systems, enhancement of border security, and

strengthening judicial institutions, policing and other law enforcement capacities;

19. *Encourages* information-sharing, where relevant and appropriate, between Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Development Programme, within existing mandates and resources, when considering means to address, in a comprehensive and integrated manner, transnational organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism which can be conducive to terrorism;

Reporting

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council a report on the efforts of the United Nations entities to address the threat of terrorists benefiting from transnational organized crime in affected regions, including Africa, with respect to matters of which the Council is seized, with input from the relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and other relevant Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities;

21. *Also requests* that the report include recommendations of concrete options for strengthening Member States' capabilities, including financing such proposed United Nations projects and activities to build capacity with existing resources and contributions in the United Nations system, as well as United Nations activities to reduce the negative impacts of terrorists benefiting from transnational organized crime, including those relevant to its conflict resolution efforts with a focus on border security, counter-terrorist financing and anti-money-laundering, and that the report be submitted to the Council no later than six months from the adoption of the present resolution;

22. *Recalls* the request, in resolution 2178(2014) of 24 September 2014, to the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, to report to the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) within 180 days on the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters recruited by or joining Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and reiterates that this report should also focus on trends related to foreign terrorist fighters joining and working with all terrorist groups listed on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, and should include an oral briefing to the Committee and a Committee brief to the Council at the next regular briefing on counter-terrorism on those operating in Africa.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

In January (see p. 130), the Security Council called upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or political concessions, and to secure the safe release of hostages.

In July (see p. 131), the Council expressed its grave concern over reports of access to and seizure of oil-fields and pipelines in Syria and Iraq and stressed the obligation of all States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism.

In August (see p. 133), the Security Council called on all United Nations Member States to act to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, financing and other support to Islamist extremist groups in Iraq and Syria, including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 January [meeting 7101], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2133(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/38] was submitted by Australia, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and further reaffirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions and the statements by its President concerning threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Reiterating the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts,

Recalling relevant international counter-terrorism instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages,

Strongly condemning incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions,

Expressing concern at the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, in particular the increase in kidnappings by Al-Qaida and its affiliated groups, and underscoring that the payment of ransoms to terrorists funds future kidnappings and hostage-takings, which creates more victims and perpetuates the problem,

Expressing its determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to secure the safe release of hostages without ransom payments or political concessions, in accordance with applicable international law, and in this regard noting the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, in particular its publication of several framework documents and good practices, including in the area of kidnapping for ransom, to complement the work of the relevant United Nations counter-terrorism entities,

Recognizing the need to further strengthen efforts to support victims and those affected by incidents of kidnap-

ping for ransom and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to give careful consideration to protecting the lives of hostages and those kidnapped, and reaffirming that States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law, as appropriate,

Noting the decision of the Summit of the Group of Eight held at Lough Erne on 17 and 18 June 2013 to address the threat posed by kidnapping for ransom by terrorists and the preventive steps the international community can take in this regard and to encourage further expert discussion, including at the Roma-Lyon Group, to deepen understanding of this problem, and further noting that in paragraph 225.6 of its Final Document the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries condemned criminal incidences of hostage-taking with resultant demands for ransoms and/or other political concessions by terrorist groups,

Expressing its commitment to support efforts to reduce access by terrorist groups to funding and financial services through the ongoing work of United Nations counter-terrorism bodies and the Financial Action Task Force to improve anti-money laundering and terrorist financing frameworks worldwide,

Expressing concern at the increased use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters of new information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet, for the purposes of recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as for the financing, planning and preparation of their activities,

Recalling its resolutions 1904(2009) of 17 December 2009, 1989(2011) of 17 June 2011 and 2083(2012) of 17 December 2012, which, inter alia, confirm that the requirements of paragraph 1 (a) of these resolutions also apply to the payment of ransoms to individuals, groups, undertakings or entities on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List,

Reaffirming that acts, methods and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and that knowingly financing, planning and inciting terrorist acts are also contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001 and in particular its decisions that all States shall prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists;

2. *Also reaffirms* its decision taken in resolution 1373(2001) that all States shall prohibit their nationals or any persons and entities within their territories from making any funds, financial assets or economic resources or financial or other related services available, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of persons who commit or attempt to commit or facilitate or participate in the commission of terrorist acts, of entities owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by such persons and of persons and entities acting on behalf of or at the direction of such persons;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages;

4. *Also calls upon* all Member States to cooperate closely during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;

5. *Reaffirms* its decision taken in resolution 1373(2001) that all States shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorist acts;

6. *Recognizes* the need to continue expert discussions on kidnapping for ransom by terrorists, and calls upon Member States to continue such expert discussions within the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum, on additional steps the international community could take to prevent kidnappings and to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from using kidnapping to raise funds or gain political concessions;

7. *Notes* that ransom payments to terrorist groups are one of the sources of income which support their recruitment efforts, strengthen their operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks and incentivize future incidents of kidnapping for ransom;

8. *Encourages* the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) to hold, with the assistance of appropriate expertise, a special meeting with the participation of Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to discuss measures to prevent incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups to raise funds or gain political concessions, and requests the Counter-Terrorism Committee to report to the Council on the outcomes of this meeting;

9. *Recalls* the adoption by the Global Counterterrorism Forum of the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists, and encourages the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to take it into account, as appropriate, consistent with its mandate, including in its facilitation of capacity-building to Member States;

10. *Calls upon* all Member States to encourage private sector partners to adopt or to follow relevant guidelines and good practices for preventing and responding to terrorist kidnappings without paying ransoms;

11. *Also calls upon* all Member States to cooperate and engage in dialogue with all relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, as appropriate, to improve their capacities to counter the financing of terrorism, including from ransoms;

12. *Encourages* the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988(2011) and other relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies to cooperate closely when providing information on the measures taken by Member States on this issue and on relevant trends and developments in this area;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

On 17 June, the Council, by **resolutions 2160(2014)** (see p. 435) and **2161(2014)** (see p. 441), adopted measures to combat, through sanctions, the threat to peace in Afghanistan and elsewhere posed

by the violent and terrorist activities conducted by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other illegal armed groups.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 7226], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/14** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls its resolutions 1267(1999), 1373(2001), 1989(2011), 2129(2013), 2133(2014) and 2161(2014), stresses the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, and expresses grave concern over the reports of access to and seizure of oilfields and pipelines in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq by terrorist groups listed by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011), namely “Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant” and “Jabhat al-Nusra”, and underscores in this regard that any trade in oil with these entities would be inconsistent with the resolutions of the Council and that all States are required to ensure that their nationals and any persons within their territory do not trade in oil with these entities.

The Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, and in this regard strongly condemns any engagement in direct or indirect trade in oil from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq involving terrorist groups. The Council also emphasizes that such engagement constitutes financial support for terrorists and may lead to further sanctions listings if those groups are listed by the Committee as associated with Al-Qaida.

The Council notes with concern that any oilfields and related infrastructure controlled by terrorist organizations could generate material income for terrorists, which would support their recruitment efforts, including of foreign terrorist fighters, and strengthen their operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks.

The Council reminds all States that they are required to ensure that their nationals and any persons within their territory do not engage in any commercial or financial transactions with or for the benefit, directly or indirectly, of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Jabhat al-Nusra, notably with respect to oil in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

The Council also emphasizes the importance of all Member States upholding their obligation to ensure that their nationals and persons within their territory do not make donations to individuals and entities designated by the Committee.

The Council calls upon all Member States, should any information on such activities be available to them, to bring it to the notice of the Committee and cooperate closely with the Council in this regard.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 15 August [meeting 7242], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2170(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/589] was submitted by Australia, Chad,

Chile, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999, 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, 1618(2005) of 4 August 2005, 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005, 2083(2012) of 17 December 2012, 2129(2013) of 17 December 2013, 2133(2014) of 27 January 2014 and 2161(2014) of 17 June 2014 and the relevant statements by its President,

Reaffirming also the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, and reaffirming further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming further that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed,

Expressing its gravest concern that territory in parts of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic is under the control of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front and about the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology and actions on stability in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and the region, including the devastating humanitarian impact on the civilian populations which has led to the displacement of millions of people, and about their acts of violence that foment sectarian tensions,

Reiterating its condemnation of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida for ongoing and multiple criminal terrorist acts aimed at causing the deaths of civilians and other victims, destruction of property and of cultural and religious sites and greatly undermining stability, and recalling that the asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo requirements in paragraph 1 of resolution 2161(2014) apply to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities associated with Al-Qaida,

Reaffirming that terrorism, including the actions of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization,

Stressing that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States and international and regional organizations to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate the terrorist threat,

Reaffirming that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism, including while implementing the present resolution, comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, and underscoring that effective counter-terrorism measures and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing, and are an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort, and noting the importance of respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and combat terrorism,

Reaffirming also that those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations or abuses of human rights in Iraq

and the Syrian Arab Republic, including persecution of individuals on the basis of their religion or belief, or on political grounds, must be held accountable,

Gravely concerned by the financing of, and financial and other resources obtained by, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and underscoring that these resources will support their future terrorist activities,

Strongly condemning incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, expressing its determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to secure the safe release of hostages without ransom payments or political concessions, in accordance with applicable international law, calling upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, and reaffirming the need for all Member States to cooperate closely during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups,

Expressing concern at the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and the scale of this phenomenon,

Expressing concern also at the increased use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters of new information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet, for the purposes of recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as for the financing, planning and preparation of their activities, and underlining the need for Member States to act cooperatively to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology, communications and resources to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law,

Condemning in the strongest terms the incitement of terrorist acts, and repudiating attempts at the justification or glorification (apologie) of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts,

Underlining the primary responsibility of Member States to protect civilian populations on their territories, in accordance with their obligations under international law,

Urging all parties to protect the civilian population, in particular women and children, affected by the violent activities of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, especially against any form of sexual violence,

Reaffirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter and international law, including applicable international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, stressing in this regard the important role the United Nations plays in leading and coordinating this effort,

Noting with concern the continued threat posed to international peace and security by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individ-

uals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and reaffirming its resolve to address all aspects of that threat,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. *Deplores and condemns in the strongest terms* the terrorist acts of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and its violent extremist ideology, and its continued gross, systematic and widespread abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law;

2. *Strongly condemns* the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians, numerous atrocities, mass executions and extrajudicial killings, including of soldiers, persecution of individuals and entire communities on the basis of their religion or belief, kidnapping of civilians, forced displacement of members of minority groups, killing and maiming of children, recruitment and use of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence, arbitrary detention, attacks on schools and hospitals, destruction of cultural and religious sites and obstructing the exercise of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to education, especially in the Syrian governorates of Raqqah, Dayr al-Zawr, Aleppo and Idlib, and in northern Iraq, especially in Tamim, Salaheddine and Nineveh provinces;

3. *Recalls* that widespread or systematic attacks directed against any civilian populations because of their ethnic or political background, religion or belief may constitute a crime against humanity, emphasizes the need to ensure that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida are held accountable for abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and urges all parties to prevent such violations and abuses;

4. *Demands* that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida cease all violence and terrorist acts and disarm and disband with immediate effect;

5. *Urges* all States, in accordance with their obligations under resolution 1373(2001), to cooperate in efforts to find and bring to justice individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front, who perpetrate, organize and sponsor terrorist acts, and in this regard underlines the importance of regional cooperation;

6. *Reiterates its call upon* all States to take all measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law to counter incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance perpetrated by individuals or entities associated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and Al-Qaida and to prevent the subversion of educational, cultural and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters;

Foreign terrorist fighters

7. *Condemns* the recruitment by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida of foreign terrorist fighters, whose presence is exacerbating conflict and contributing to violent radicalization, demands that all foreign terrorist fighters associated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and other terrorist

groups withdraw immediately, and expresses its readiness to consider listing those recruiting for or participating in the activities of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida under the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, including through financing or facilitating, for Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant or Al-Nusrah Front, of travel of foreign terrorist fighters;

8. *Calls upon* all Member States to take national measures to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to, and bring to justice, in accordance with applicable international law, foreign terrorist fighters of, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and reiterates further the obligation of Member States to prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups, in accordance with applicable international law, by, inter alia, effective border controls, and in this context to exchange information expeditiously and improve cooperation among competent authorities to prevent the movement of terrorists and terrorist groups to and from their territories, the supply of weapons for terrorists and financing that would support terrorists;

9. *Encourages* all Member States to engage with those within their territories at risk of recruitment and violent radicalization to discourage travel to the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq for the purposes of supporting or fighting for Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida;

10. *Reaffirms* its decision that States shall prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities, as well as its calls for States to find ways of intensifying and accelerating the exchange of operational information regarding traffic in arms, and to enhance coordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;

Terrorist financing

11. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1373(2001) and in particular its decisions that all States shall prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists;

12. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 2161(2014) that all States shall ensure that no funds, financial assets or economic resources are made available, directly or indirectly for the benefit of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front or any other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, by their nationals or by persons within their territory, and reaffirms its decision in resolution 1373(2001) that all States shall prohibit their nationals or any persons and entities within their territories from making any funds, financial assets or

economic resources or financial or other related services available, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of persons who commit or attempt to commit or facilitate or participate in the commission of terrorist acts, or for the benefit of entities owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by such persons and of persons and entities acting on behalf of or at the direction of such persons;

13. *Notes with concern* that oilfields and related infrastructure controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida are generating income which supports their recruitment efforts and strengthens their operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks;

14. *Condemns* any engagement in direct or indirect trade involving Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and reiterates that such engagement could constitute financial support for entities designated by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) (the Committee) and may lead to further listings by the Committee;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of all Member States complying with their obligation to ensure that their nationals and persons within their territory do not make donations to individuals and entities designated by the Committee or those acting on behalf of or at the direction of designated entities;

16. *Expresses its concern* that aircraft or other transport departing from territory controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant could be used to transfer gold or other valuable items and economic resources for sale on international markets or to make other arrangements that could result in violations of the asset freeze;

17. *Confirms* that the requirements in paragraph 1 (a) of resolution 2161(2014) shall also apply to the payment of ransoms to individuals, groups, undertakings or entities on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, regardless of how or by whom the ransom is paid;

Sanctions

18. *Observes* that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant is a splinter group of Al-Qaida, recalls that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front are included on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, and in this regard expresses its readiness to consider listing individuals, groups, undertakings and entities providing support to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant or to Al-Nusrah Front, including those who are financing, arming, planning or recruiting for Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant or Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida through information and communications technologies, including the internet and social media or through any other means;

19. *Decides* that the individuals specified in the annex to the present resolution shall be subject to the measures imposed in paragraph 1 of resolution 2161(2014) and added to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

20. *Directs* the Committee to make accessible on the Committee website the narrative summaries of reasons for listing the individuals specified in the annex to the present resolution as agreed by the Council, and confirms that the provisions of resolution 2161(2014) and subsequent relevant

resolutions shall apply to the names specified in the annex for so long as they remain on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

21. *Encourages* the submission of listing requests to the Committee by Member States of individuals and entities supporting Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and further encourages the Committee to urgently consider additional designations of individuals and entities supporting Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front;

Reporting

22. *Directs* the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to submit a report to the Committee within 90 days on the threat, including to the region, posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front, their sources of arms, funding, recruitment and demographics, and recommendations for additional action to address the threat, and requests that, after a Committee discussion of this report, the Chair of the Committee brief the Council on its principal findings;

23. *Requests* the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, within its mandate, capabilities and its areas of operation, to assist the Committee and the Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526(2004) of 30 January 2004, including by passing information relevant to the implementation of the measures in paragraph 1 of resolution 2161(2014);

24. *Decides* to remain seized of this matter.

ANNEX

1. Abdelrahman Mouhamad Zafir al Dabidi al Jahani

Abdelrahman Mouhamad Zafir al Dabidi al Jahani is associated with Al-Qaida or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of or in support of" and "recruiting for" Jabhat al-Nusra, an a.k.a. of Al-Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant (QE.A.137.14).

2. Hajjaj bin Fahd al Ajmi

Hajjaj bin Fahd al Ajmi is associated with Al-Qaida or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of or in support of" Al-Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant (QE.A.137.14).

3. Abou Mohamed al Adnani

Abou Mohamed al Adnani is associated with Al-Qaida or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of or in support of" Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an a.k.a. of Al-Qaida in Iraq (QE.J.115.04).

4. Said Arif

Said Arif is associated with Al-Qaida or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of or in support of" and "recruiting

for” Jabhat al-Nusra, an a.k.a. of Al-Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant (QE.A.137.14).

5. *Abdul Mohsen Abdallah Ibrahim al Charekh*

Abdul Mohsen Abdallah Ibrahim al Charekh is associated with Al-Qaida or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof for “participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of or in support of” Jabhat al-Nusra, listed as an a.k.a. of Al-Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant (QE.A.137.14).

6. *Hamid Hamad Hamid al-Ali*

Hamid Hamad Hamid al-Ali is associated with Al-Qaida or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof for “participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of or in support of” Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an a.k.a. of Al-Qaida in Iraq (QE.J.115.04), and Jabhat al-Nusra, an a.k.a. of Al-Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant (QE.A.137.14).

Foreign terrorist fighters

Security Council consideration. On 24 September [S/PV.7272], the Council held a high-level open debate on the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. It had before it a concept note submitted by the United States [S/2014/648]. The Secretary-General briefed the Council on the evolving nature of the terrorist threat, noting that thousands of foreign terrorist fighters from over 80 Member States had joined ISIL and the Al-Nusrah Front, and underscored the value of a multilateral, multifaceted strategy to defeat terrorism and avoid further radicalization.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 September [meeting 7272], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2178(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/688] was submitted by 104 Member States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and remaining determined to contribute further to enhancing the effectiveness of the overall effort to fight this scourge on a global level,

Noting with concern that the terrorism threat has become more diffuse, with an increase, in various regions of the world, of terrorist acts, including those motivated by intolerance or extremism, and expressing its determination to combat this threat,

Bearing in mind the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and affirming Member States’ determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict and to deny terrorist groups the ability to put down roots and establish safe havens to address better the growing threat posed by terrorism,

Emphasizing that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization,

Recognizing that international cooperation and any measures taken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism must comply fully with the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, underscoring that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counter-terrorism measures, and are an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort, noting the importance of respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, and noting that failure to comply with these and other international obligations, including under the Charter, is one of the factors contributing to increased radicalization and fosters a sense of impunity,

Expressing grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or providing or receiving terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict, and resolving to address this threat,

Expressing grave concern also about those who attempt to travel to become foreign terrorist fighters,

Concerned that foreign terrorist fighters increase the intensity, duration and intractability of conflicts, and also may pose a serious threat to their States of origin, the States they transit and the States to which they travel, as well as States neighbouring zones of armed conflict in which foreign terrorist fighters are active and that are affected by serious security burdens, and noting that the threat of foreign terrorist fighters may affect all regions and Member States, even those far from conflict zones, and expressing grave concern that foreign terrorist fighters are using their extremist ideology to promote terrorism,

Expressing concern that international networks have been established by terrorists and terrorist entities among States of origin, transit and destination through which foreign terrorist fighters and the resources to support them have been channelled back and forth,

Expressing particular concern that foreign terrorist fighters are being recruited by and are joining entities such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and other cells, affiliates, splinter groups or derivatives of Al-Qaida, as designated by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011), recognizing that the foreign terrorist fighter threat includes, among others, individuals supporting acts or activities of Al-Qaida and its cells, affiliates, splinter groups and derivative entities, including by recruiting for or otherwise supporting acts or activities of such entities, and stressing the urgent need to address this particular threat,

Recognizing that addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters requires comprehensively addressing underlying factors, including by preventing radicalization to terrorism, stemming recruitment, inhibiting foreign terrorist

fighter travel, disrupting financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, countering violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, countering incitement to terrorist acts motivated by extremism or intolerance, promoting political and religious tolerance, economic development and social cohesion and inclusiveness, ending and resolving armed conflicts, and facilitating reintegration and rehabilitation,

Recognizing also that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone, and underlining the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as outlined in pillar I of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Expressing concern over the increased use by terrorists and their supporters of communications technology for the purpose of radicalizing to terrorism, recruiting and inciting others to commit terrorist acts, including through the Internet, and financing and facilitating the travel and subsequent activities of foreign terrorist fighters, and underlining the need for Member States to act cooperatively to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology, communications and resources to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law,

Noting with appreciation the activities undertaken in the area of capacity-building by United Nations entities, in particular entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and also the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to facilitate technical assistance, specifically by promoting engagement between providers of capacity-building assistance and recipients, in coordination with other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to assist Member States, upon their request, in implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Noting recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress international terrorism, and noting the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, in particular its recent adoption of a comprehensive set of good practices to address the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, and its publication of several other framework documents and good practices, including in the areas of countering violent extremism, criminal justice, prisons, kidnapping for ransom, providing support to victims of terrorism, and community-oriented policing, to assist interested States with the practical implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism legal and policy framework and to complement the work of the relevant United Nations counter-terrorism entities in these areas,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including through global law enforcement information-sharing enabled by the use of its secure communications network, databases and system of advisory notices, procedures to track stolen, forged identity papers and travel documents, and INTERPOL's counter-terrorism forums and foreign terrorist fighter programme,

Having regard to and highlighting the situation of individuals of more than one nationality who travel to their States of nationality for the purpose of the perpetration,

planning, preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, and urging States to take action, as appropriate, in compliance with their obligations under their domestic law and international law, including international human rights law,

Calling upon States to ensure, in conformity with international law, in particular international human rights law and international refugee law, that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, including by foreign terrorist fighters,

Reaffirming its call upon all States to become party to the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols as soon as possible, whether or not they are a party to regional conventions on the matter, and to fully implement their obligations under those to which they are a party,

Noting the continued threat to international peace and security posed by terrorism, and affirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, including those perpetrated by foreign terrorist fighters,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. *Condemns* the violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, sectarian violence and the commission of terrorist acts by foreign terrorist fighters, and demands that all foreign terrorist fighters disarm and cease all terrorist acts and participation in armed conflict;

2. *Reaffirms* that all States shall prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective border controls and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through measures for preventing counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents, underscores in this regard the importance of addressing, in accordance with their relevant international obligations, the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and encourages Member States to employ evidence-based traveller risk assessment and screening procedures, including collection and analysis of travel data, without resorting to profiling based on stereotypes founded on grounds of discrimination prohibited by international law;

3. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with domestic and international law, to intensify and accelerate the exchange of operational information regarding actions or movements of terrorists or terrorist networks, including foreign terrorist fighters, especially with their States of residence or nationality, through bilateral or multilateral mechanisms, in particular the United Nations;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including by preventing the radicalization to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, including children, preventing foreign terrorist fighters from crossing their borders, disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, and developing and implementing prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters;

5. *Decides* that Member States shall, consistent with international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, prevent and suppress the recruiting, organizing, transporting or equipping of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts

or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, and the financing of their travel and of their activities;

6. *Recalls* its decision, in resolution 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, that all Member States shall ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice, and decides that all States shall ensure that their domestic laws and regulations establish serious criminal offences sufficient to provide the ability to prosecute and to penalize in a manner duly reflecting the seriousness of the offence:

(a) Their nationals who travel or attempt to travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality, and other individuals who travel or attempt to travel from their territories to a State other than their States of residence or nationality, for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training;

(b) The wilful provision or collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds should be used, or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to finance the travel of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training; and

(c) The wilful organization, or other facilitation, including acts of recruitment, by their nationals or in their territories, of the travel of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training;

7. *Expresses its strong determination* to consider listing pursuant to resolution 2161(2014) of 17 June 2014 individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida who are financing, arming, planning or recruiting for them, or otherwise supporting their acts or activities, including through information and communications technologies, such as the Internet, social media or any other means;

8. *Decides* that, without prejudice to entry or transit necessary in the furtherance of a judicial process, including in furtherance of such a process related to arrest or detention of a foreign terrorist fighter, Member States shall prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of any individual about whom that State has credible information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that he or she is seeking entry into or transit through their territory for the purpose of participating in the acts described in paragraph 6 above, including any acts or activities indicating that an individual, group, undertaking or entity is associated with Al-Qaida, as set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 2161(2014), provided that nothing in the present paragraph shall oblige any State to deny entry into or require the departure from its territories of its own nationals or permanent residents;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to require that airlines operating in their territories provide advance passenger information to the appropriate national authorities in order to detect the departure from their territories, or attempted entry into or transit through their territories, by means of civil aircraft, of individuals designated by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) (the Committee), and further calls upon

Member States to report any such departure from their territories, or such attempted entry into or transit through their territories, of such individuals to the Committee, as well as sharing this information with the State of residence or nationality, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic law and international obligations;

10. *Stresses* the urgent need to implement fully and immediately the present resolution with respect to foreign terrorist fighters, underscores the particular and urgent need to implement the present resolution with respect to those foreign terrorist fighters who are associated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and other cells, affiliates, splinter groups or derivatives of Al-Qaida, as designated by the Committee, and expresses its readiness to consider designating, under resolution 2161(2014), individuals associated with Al-Qaida who commit the acts specified in paragraph 6 above;

International cooperation

11. *Calls upon* Member States to improve international, regional and subregional cooperation, if appropriate through bilateral agreements, to prevent the travel of foreign terrorist fighters from or through their territories, including through increased sharing of information for the purpose of identifying foreign terrorist fighters, the sharing and adoption of best practices, and improved understanding of the patterns of travel by foreign terrorist fighters, and for Member States to act cooperatively when taking national measures to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology, communications and resources to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law;

12. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 1373(2001) that Member States shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal investigations or proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorist acts, including assistance in obtaining evidence in their possession necessary for the proceedings, and underlines the importance of fulfilling this obligation with respect to such investigations or proceedings involving foreign terrorist fighters;

13. *Encourages* INTERPOL to intensify its efforts with respect to the foreign terrorist fighter threat and to recommend or put in place additional resources to support and encourage national, regional and international measures to monitor and prevent the transit of foreign terrorist fighters, such as expanding the use of INTERPOL Special Notices to include foreign terrorist fighters;

14. *Calls upon* States to help to build the capacity of States to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including to prevent and interdict foreign terrorist fighter travel across land and maritime borders, in particular the States neighbouring zones of armed conflict where there are foreign terrorist fighters, and welcomes and encourages bilateral assistance by Member States to help to build such national capacity;

Countering violent extremism in order to prevent terrorism

15. *Underscores* that countering violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including preventing radicalization, recruitment and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups and becoming foreign terrorist

fighters, is an essential element of addressing the threat to international peace and security posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and calls upon Member States to enhance efforts to counter this kind of violent extremism;

16. *Encourages* Member States to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including by empowering youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, and all other concerned groups of civil society and adopt tailored approaches to countering recruitment to this kind of violent extremism and promoting social inclusion and cohesion;

17. *Recalls* its decision in paragraph 14 of resolution 2161(2014) with respect to improvised explosive devices and individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and urges Member States, in this context, to act cooperatively when taking national measures to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology, communications and resources, including audio and video, to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to cooperate and consistently support each other's efforts to counter violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including through capacity-building, coordination of plans and efforts, and sharing lessons learned;

19. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the importance of Member States' efforts to develop non-violent alternative avenues for conflict prevention and resolution by affected individuals and local communities to decrease the risk of radicalization to terrorism, and of efforts to promote peaceful alternatives to violent narratives espoused by foreign terrorist fighters, and underscores the role education can play in countering terrorist narratives;

United Nations engagement on the foreign terrorist fighter threat

20. *Notes* that foreign terrorist fighters and those who finance or otherwise facilitate their travel and subsequent activities may be eligible for inclusion on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List maintained by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) where they participate in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of or in support of Al-Qaida, supplying, selling or transferring arms and related materiel to, or recruiting for, or otherwise supporting acts or activities of Al-Qaida or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof, and calls upon States to propose such foreign terrorist fighters and those who facilitate or finance their travel and subsequent activities for possible designation;

21. *Directs* the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, to devote special focus to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters recruited by or joining Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida;

22. *Encourages* the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to coordinate its efforts to monitor and respond to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters with other United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force;

23. *Requests* the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, in close cooperation with other United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, to report to the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) within 180 days, and provide a preliminary oral update to the Committee within 60 days, on the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters recruited by or joining Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, including:

(a) A comprehensive assessment of the threat posed by these foreign terrorist fighters, including their facilitators, the most affected regions and trends in radicalization to terrorism, facilitation, recruitment, demographics and financing; and

(b) Recommendations for actions that can be taken to enhance the response to the threat posed by these foreign terrorist fighters;

24. *Requests* the Counter-Terrorism Committee, within its existing mandate and with the support of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, to identify principal gaps in Member States' capacities to implement Council resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005 that may hinder States' abilities to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as to identify good practices to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters in the implementation of resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005), and to facilitate technical assistance, specifically by promoting engagement between providers of capacity-building assistance and recipients, especially those in the most affected regions, including through the development, upon their request, of comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies that encompass countering violent radicalization and the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, recalling the roles of other relevant actors, for example the Global Counterterrorism Forum;

25. *Underlines* that the increasing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters is part of the emerging issues, trends and developments related to resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005) that, in paragraph 5 of resolution 2129(2013) of 17 December 2013, the Council directed the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to identify, and therefore merits close attention by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, consistent with its mandate;

26. *Requests* the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee to update the Council on their respective efforts pursuant to the present resolution;

27. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

International cooperation on combating terrorism and violent extremism

Security Council consideration. On 19 November [S/PV.7316], the Council held a high-level open debate on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: international cooperation on combating terrorism and violent extremism. It had

before it a concept note [S/2014/787] submitted by Australia. The Secretary-General, and the Chairs of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 265] and 1989(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 341] concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61] concerning counter-terrorism, briefed the Council on UN efforts to support States in addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 19 November [meeting 7316], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/23** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

The Council emphasizes that the threat of terrorism is expanding and intensifying, affecting a greater number of Member States across most regions, owing to, inter alia, global recruitment networks, the spread of violent extremist ideologies that can be conducive to terrorism, ease of movement of terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters, and access to significant funding streams.

The Council reiterates its grave concern about Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and other terrorist entities associated with Al-Qaida and the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology, and actions on the stability of Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and the region, including the devastating humanitarian impact on the civilian populations which has led to the displacement of millions of people, and about their acts of violence that foment sectarian tensions.

The Council further expresses its concern that, according to reports, more than 15,000 foreign terrorist fighters from over 80 countries have travelled to join or fight for terrorist entities associated with Al-Qaida, including in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Somalia and Yemen, as well as several countries in the Maghreb and Sahel regions.

The Council recalls its resolutions 1267(1999), 1373(2001), 1624(2005), 2161(2014) 2170(2014) and 2178(2014), and underlines the importance of Member States taking urgent action to implement their obligations therein.

The Council reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council reaffirms that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with the Charter and all their other obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

The Council recognizes that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone, and underlines the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as outlined in pillar I of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and reiterates the need to address the factors driving recruitment and radicalization to terrorism, and furthermore recognizes that a comprehensive approach to defeat terrorism is required, involving national, subregional, regional and multilateral action.

The Council recognizes the significant capacity and coordination challenges many Member States face in countering terrorism and violent extremism and preventing terrorist financing, recruitment and all other forms of support to terrorist organizations; commends work under way by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate to identify capacity gaps and to facilitate technical assistance to strengthen the implementation of resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005) which supports compliance with 2178(2014); encourages Member States to continue to cooperate with the Committee and the Executive Directorate on the development of comprehensive and integrated national, subregional and regional counter-terrorism strategies; highlights the important role that Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, including the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and other providers of capacity-building assistance should play in technical assistance delivery; and in this respect notes the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters to countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as States neighbouring zones of armed conflict in which foreign terrorist fighters are active.

The Council calls upon Member States to help to build the capacity of other Member States, where necessary and upon request, to address the threat posed by terrorism, and welcomes and encourages bilateral assistance by Member States to help to build such national, subregional or regional capacity.

The Council welcomes recent listings by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) of foreign terrorist fighters and recruiters, and urges Member States to identify and propose additional foreign terrorist fighters and those individuals who facilitate or finance their travel and subsequent activities for possible designation by the Committee.

The Council expresses its determination to consider listing pursuant to resolution 2161(2014) individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida who are financing, arming, planning or recruiting for them, or otherwise supporting their acts or activities, including through information and communications technologies, such as the Internet, social media or any other means.

The Council welcomes recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, notes the work of the Global Counter-terrorism Forum, in particular its recent adoption of a comprehensive set of good practices to address the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon and the establishment of its Working Group on Foreign Terrorist

Fighters, and the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism and the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law Enforcement Organizations.

The Council takes note of the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council summit on countering violent extremism and terrorism, held in Nairobi on 2 September 2014, and calls upon United Nations counter-terrorism entities, within existing mandates, and Member States to provide assistance and capacity-building towards Africa's efforts to counter violent extremism and terrorism.

Travel and transit

The Security Council urges Member States to improve bilateral, international, regional and sub-regional cooperation, to prevent the travel of foreign terrorist fighters from or through their territories, including through increased sharing of information for the purpose of identifying foreign terrorist fighters, understanding patterns of travel by foreign terrorist fighters and sharing practices in evidence-based traveller risk assessment and border screening, noting the need to address the challenges posed by evasive travel routes of foreign terrorist fighters.

The Council reiterates, as called for in resolutions 2161(2014) and 2178(2014), its call upon Member States to make use of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) databases and to require that airlines under their jurisdiction provide advance passenger information to detect the departure from, entry into or transit through their territories of individuals on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, and additionally encourages that they provide passenger name records, where appropriate, to the appropriate national authorities, and requests the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to report, within 180 days, to the Counter-Terrorism Committee on gaps in the use of advance passenger information and make recommendations to expand the use of advance passenger information, including plans to facilitate the required capacity-building in this regard, working with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and relevant Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, including the International Civil Aviation Organization, as well as industry representatives such as the International Air Transport Association.

The Council reiterates that the increasing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters is part of the emerging issues, trends and developments related to resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005), and encourages the Counter-Terrorism Committee to hold Special Meetings in 2015 with the participation of Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to discuss ways to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and to prevent terrorists from exploiting the Internet and social media to recruit and incite terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law; and in this regard notes the importance of the Committee holding meetings in affected regions on issues related to the mandate of the Committee.

The Council calls upon Member States to ensure, in conformity with international law, in particular international human rights law and international refugee law, that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, including by foreign terrorist fighters.

Countering terrorist narratives and violent extremism

The Council expresses grave concern at the spread of violent extremist ideologies that underpin the terrorist narrative, and that foreign terrorist fighters are using their extremist ideologies to promote terrorism, and reiterates the need to counter violent extremism through effective national responses including by building community resilience, as well as through cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels, with a strong role for the United Nations in supporting these efforts, and underscores the role education can play in countering terrorist narratives.

The Council highlights the continued need to improve the visibility and effectiveness of the role of the United Nations in countering the spread of violent extremist ideologies that are conducive to terrorism, including through strategic communications, and underscores the need to enhance the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States to tackle this issue more effectively and for further steps in this regard.

The Council encourages the sharing of national and regional experiences in countering violent extremism, and welcomes the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, with the support of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, to conduct dialogue with Member States and to hold open briefings on these issues to support efforts to counter incitement and violent extremism, and notes the need for the sharing of experiences to address the threat posed by terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters, including on rehabilitation and reintegration.

The Council notes that terrorism and violent extremism is impacting a growing number of conflict situations, including in States that host United Nations field missions, and in this regard encourages information-sharing, where relevant and appropriate, between Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and other relevant Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, within existing mandates and resources.

The Council recommends that United Nations regional offices located in regions that face terrorist threats undertake regional information analysis and inter-mission information-sharing on terrorism and violent extremism, within existing mandates and resources.

The Council expresses concern over the increased use by terrorists and their supporters of communications technology for the purpose of radicalizing to terrorism, recruiting and inciting others to commit terrorist acts, including through the Internet, and financing and facilitating the travel and subsequent activities of foreign terrorist fighters.

The Council urges Member States to act cooperatively to prevent terrorists from recruiting, to counter their violent extremist propaganda and incitement on the Internet and social media, including by developing effective counter-narratives, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with obligations under international law, stresses the importance of cooperation with civil society and the private sector in this endeavour, and encourages relevant Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities to support regional initiatives in this regard.

Financing

The Council expresses its deep concern that oilfields and related infrastructure controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and potentially other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida are generating a significant portion of the groups' income, which supports their recruitment efforts and strengthens their operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks.

The Council reaffirms that States are required by resolution 2161(2014) to ensure that their nationals and those in their territory do not make assets or economic resources, directly or indirectly, available to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and notes that this obligation applies to the direct and indirect trade in oil and oil products.

The Council encourages Member States to report to the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) seizures or transfers of oil that they have reason to believe originated from territory controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front and seizures of oil refining and related material believed to be for transfer into territory controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front; encourages the Committee to immediately consider designations of individuals and entities engaged in these activities; and expresses its intention to consider additional measures to disrupt this source of terrorism financing, including prohibitions on the transfer of oil, oil products and oil refining and related material to and from territory controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida.

The Council stresses that donations from individuals and entities have played a role in developing and sustaining Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front, and that Member States have an obligation to ensure that such support is not made available to those terrorist groups and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida by their nationals and persons within their territory, and urges Member States to address this directly through enhanced vigilance of the international financial system and by working with their non-profit and charitable organizations to ensure that financial flows through charitable giving are not diverted to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front or any other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida.

The Council expresses its concern that aircraft or other transport departing from territory controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front could be used to transfer gold or other valuable items and economic resources for sale on international markets, or to transfer arms and materiel for use by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front, and notes that individuals or entities engaged in such activities may be eligible for listing by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011); expresses its concern regarding reports that items of archaeological, historical, cultural and religious importance are being illegally removed from territory controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front which may be generating income for those groups, and calls upon Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent such illegal trade; and in this regard reminds all States that they are required to ensure that no funds, financial assets or economic resources are made available, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida; and looks forward to thorough consideration by the Committee of the relevant recommendations regarding new measures to disrupt such activities contained in the report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2170(2014), with a view to further disrupting the activities of those groups.

The Council strongly condemns incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, notes with concern that ransoms paid to terrorists are used as one of the sources of funding for their activities, including further kidnappings, expresses its determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to secure the safe release of hostages without ransom payments or political concessions, in accordance with applicable international law, calls upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, and reaffirms the need for all Member States to cooperate closely during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups.

The Council highlights the relevance of Financial Action Task Force recommendations in support of implementing resolutions 2170(2014) and 2178(2014), including its recommendation to States to implement cash declaration/disclosure systems for both incoming and outgoing transportation of currency, and other measures to address the threat that some foreign terrorist fighters and facilitators are acting as cash couriers for terrorist organizations.

The Council expresses its concern regarding the connection, in some cases, between terrorism and transnational organized crime and illicit activities such as drugs, arms and human trafficking, and money-laundering.

The Council reiterates that States are required to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front

and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities, as well as its calls for States to find ways of intensifying and accelerating the exchange of operational information regarding traffic in arms, and to enhance coordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels.

The Council further reminds all States of their obligation to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts is brought to justice and ensure that such terrorist acts are established as serious criminal offenses in domestic laws and regulations and that the punishment duly reflects the seriousness of such terrorist acts, and encourages the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to provide guidance upon request.

The Council stresses that the intolerance, violence and hatred that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and other groups associated with Al-Qaida espouse must be countered, and expresses its determination to defeat the threat to international peace and security posed by terrorism.

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

In 2014, the United Nations continued to strengthen its efforts to combat and eliminate international terrorism. The General Assembly examined the Secretary-General's July report [A/69/209] on measures to eliminate international terrorism, submitted in response to Assembly resolutions 50/53 [YUN 1995, p. 1330] and 68/119 [YUN 2013, p. 1332]. The report contained information on measures taken at the national and international levels, based on submissions from Governments and international organizations; a list of international legal instruments relating to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism; and information on workshops and training courses on combating crimes connected with international terrorism.

In **resolution 69/39** of 2 December (see p. 644) on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, the Assembly urged Member States to strengthen measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring such weapons, their means of delivery, and materials and technologies related to their manufacture. By **resolution 69/127** of 10 December (see p. 1517), the Assembly reaffirmed its strong condemnation of acts of terrorism and called upon Member States to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects and without delay.

Communications. On 26 March [A/68/816-S/2014/226], Iran transmitted to the Secretary-General the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the

Islamic Republic of Iran, on news about the possible murder of one of the five Iranian border guards abducted on 7 February by an extremist terrorist group.

On 8 May [A/68/873-S/2014/324], the Syrian Arab Republic reported to the Secretary-General and the Security Council on the bombing of the Carlton Hotel in the city of Aleppo on 8 May. On 23 June [A/68/912-S/2014/433], Syria reported alleged attacks by armed terrorist groups in the Hama countryside and in Homs on 19 and 20 June. On 10 July [A/68/949-S/2014/484], Syria reported alleged attacks by armed terrorist groups in the Hama countryside on 9 July.

On 3 October [A/69/426-S/2014/719] and 16 October [A/69/531-S/2014/742], Syria transmitted to the Secretary-General and the Security Council information concerning alleged interference by Turkey in the internal affairs of the Syria and Turkish support of armed terrorist groups.

On 9 October [A/69/523-S/2014/736], the Russian Federation transmitted the Communiqué of the 13th Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations, adopted in Sochi on 10 April. The Meeting continued to perform its mission of strengthening the global counter-terrorism system under the overall coordination of the United Nations.

By a 17 November note verbale [A/69/602], Bahrain transmitted to the Secretary-General the Manama Declaration on Combating the Financing of Terrorism.

By a 24 November note verbale [A/69/625], addressed to the Secretary-General, Cuba requested that their contribution to the Victims of Terrorism Support Portal (annex) be distributed to the Members of the United Nations in its original language (Spanish).

Counter-Terrorism Committee

In 2014, the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61], known as the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), held 13 formal meetings. The CTC Chairman submitted on 28 March its work programme for 2014 [S/2014/233]. The Chairman briefed the Council on 28 May [S/PV.7184] and 9 December [S/PV.7331]. CTC was assisted in its work by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

On 2 January [S/2014/2], the Security Council announced that it had elected Raimonda Murmokaite (Lithuania) as Chairman of CTC for the period ending 31 December 2014.

By a 7 November letter [S/2014/807], the CTC Chairman submitted to the Council a preliminary analysis of the principal gaps in Member States' capacities to implement Council resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 102] that could hinder their abilities to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters pursuant to Council resolution 2178(2014) (see p. 135). In resolution 2178(2014), the Council addressed the

threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and requested CTED to support CTC in three key areas: identification of gaps in Member States' implementation of Council resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005); identification of good practices in States' implementation efforts; and facilitation of the necessary technical assistance. In an effort to address the first requirement, the Executive Directorate prepared a preliminary, non-State-specific analysis of the principal gaps that might affect the abilities of Member States to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters. That included gaps in legal and judicial frameworks; law enforcement and border control measures; counter-financing of terrorism measures; countering violent extremism; and compliance with human rights obligations and the rule of law.

Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Review of implementation

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 66/282 [YUN 2012, p. 58], the Secretary-General submitted an April report [A/68/841] on the activities of the UN system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted by Assembly resolution 60/288 [YUN 2006, p. 66]. The report outlined trends, challenges and opportunities in the counter-terrorism landscape. It also recorded some of the activities of the UN system in support of the Strategy since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General [YUN 2012, p. 57], with inputs from all members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and concluded with a number of observations and recommendations. The report also contained a summary matrix of counter-terrorism projects implemented by UN entities around the world and submissions by Member States and regional and subregional organizations and other relevant organizations on their efforts to implement the Strategy.

The Secretary-General affirmed that the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy rested with Member States. The United Nations, through the framework of the Task Force and together with its partners, was committed to providing the assistance necessary to address terrorism in a more dynamic, creative and systematic manner. Despite the best efforts of Member States and the adoption of the Strategy in 2006, terrorism had continued in new and more challenging forms spreading to new areas, in particular in Africa. The comprehensive nature of the terrorist threat demanded a comprehensive response from both Member States and the UN system. The Secretary-General stated that the most effective tool to combat terrorism was by working to achieve the UN core goals of strengthening peace and security, the promotion of human development and the observance of human rights and the rule of law.

The Strategy's success depended on a balanced implementation of all its four pillars. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General recommended that, in the run-up to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Strategy, the international community make a concerted and focused effort on the preventive aspects of counter-terrorism. That required addressing conditions conducive to terrorism as set out in pillar I. Community-led partnerships and prevention programmes to build resilience against violent extremism should be fostered. Women in particular could play a significant role in Governments, communities, schools and their homes in preventing extremist violence and building resilience against it.

Moreover, strengthening Member States' criminal justice systems was priority under pillar II of the Strategy, as was the delivery of security services by accountable and rule of law-based security sector institutions. Task Force entities should increase capacity-building support to Member States, at their request, in developing rule of law-based criminal justice systems. Contributing to security sector reform should become a priority for Task Force entities, as well as Member States. The Secretary-General also outlined the need to extend law enforcement cooperation in newly emerging areas of vulnerability. The Internet, in particular, was of concern as terrorists had abused it to radicalize, recruit, plan and promote their agendas. Fostering public-private partnerships could have significant beneficial impact in curbing the abuse of the Internet, particularly of social media, by terrorists. The Secretary-General expressed concern for human rights violations in countries that had seen an upsurge in terrorism and urged national authorities, particularly security and judicial bodies that were directly responsible for combating terrorism, to make more concerted efforts to mainstream human rights and the rule of law in their counter-terrorism policies and practices.

General Assembly consideration. Pursuant to resolution 66/282, the Assembly conducted the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy during meetings held on 12 June [A/68/PV.94 & 95] and 13 June [A/68/PV.96 & 97]. The Assembly examined the report of the Secretary-General (see above), as well as the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the Strategy. A statement on behalf of the Assembly President was delivered. Representatives of Member States and observers also addressed the meetings. The first review of the Strategy was conducted in 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 63], the second in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 77], and the third in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 57].

On 13 June (**decision 68/554**), the Assembly, on the proposal of its President, decided, without setting a precedent, to invite Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, to make a statement at its 97th plenary meeting.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 13 June [meeting 97], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/276** [draft: A/68/L.50] without vote [agenda item 119].

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, and recalling Assembly resolution 66/282 of 29 June 2012, which called for, inter alia, an examination in two years of progress made in the implementation of the Strategy and for consideration to be given to updating it to respond to changes, as provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the Strategy,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 66/10 of 18 November 2011, and noting with appreciation that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre has initiated its activities and will contribute to strengthening the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts,

Recognizing the important work carried out by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre established within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/10 and the role of the Centre in building the capacity of Member States to counter and respond to terrorism, and encouraging Member States to provide resources and voluntary contributions to the Centre in this regard,

Renewing its unwavering commitment to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Noting with appreciation the continued contribution of United Nations entities and the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force,

Recognizing that international cooperation and any measures taken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism must fully comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the purposes and principles thereof, and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Recognizing also the need for Member States to prevent the abuse of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations by and for terrorists, and calling upon non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations to prevent and oppose, as appropriate, attempts by terrorists to abuse the status of those organizations, while reaffirming the need to fully respect the rights to freedom of expression and association of individuals in civil society and to freedom of religion or belief of all persons,

Convinced that the General Assembly is the competent organ, with universal membership, to address the issue of international terrorism,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, within their mandates, in the implementation of the Strategy,

Underlining the fact that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force should continue to carry out its activities within the framework of its mandate, with policy guidance offered by Member States through interaction with the General Assembly on a regular basis,

Reaffirming that the acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, at threatening territorial integrity and the security of States and at destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in a unified manner,

Reiterating the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to criminalize the wilful provision or collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories, with the intention that the funds be used, or with the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to carry out terrorist acts,

Recognizing the role of the partnerships of regional and subregional organizations with the United Nations in combating terrorism, and encouraging the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, in accordance with its mandate, to closely cooperate and coordinate with regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to combat terrorism,

Alarmed by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism, violence, including sectarian violence, and terrorism in various parts of the world, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction and displace people, and rejecting the use of violence, regardless of motivation,

Expressing deep concern about the connections, in some cases, between some forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism, and emphasizing the need to enhance cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen responses to this evolving challenge,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace, and determined to condemn acts of violent extremism and incitement to commit terrorist acts that spread hate and threaten lives,

Recognizing also the role that victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations can play, including in countering the appeal of terrorism, and emphasizing the need to promote international solidarity in support of victims of terrorism and to ensure that victims of terrorism are treated with dignity and respect,

Noting the important contribution of women to the implementation of the Strategy, and encouraging Member States, United Nations entities and international, regional and subregional organizations to consider the participation of women in efforts to prevent and counter terrorism,

Reaffirming the commitment of Member States to take measures aimed at addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of the rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socioeconomic

marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism,

1. *Reiterates its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes;*

2. *Reaffirms the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, which constitute an ongoing effort, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner and in all its aspects;*

3. *Stresses the importance of keeping the Strategy relevant and contemporary in the light of emerging new threats and evolving trends of international terrorism;*

4. *Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", welcomes the new summary matrix of counter-terrorism projects implemented by United Nations entities around the world and the efforts deployed by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office in this regard, and underlines the importance of providing the necessary resources for the implementation of these projects;*

5. *Also takes note of the measures that Member States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations have adopted within the framework of the Strategy, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General, which are to be considered at the fourth biennial review of the Strategy, on 12 and 13 June 2014, all of which strengthen cooperation to fight terrorism, including through the exchange of best practices;*

6. *Reaffirms the principal responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy, while further recognizing the need to enhance the important role that the United Nations, including the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, plays, in coordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, in facilitating and promoting coordination and coherence in the implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels and in providing assistance, upon request by Member States, especially in the area of capacity-building;*

7. *Affirms the importance of the integrated and balanced implementation of all pillars of the Strategy, recognizing the importance of redoubling efforts for even attention paid to and even implementation of all the pillars of the Strategy;*

8. *Stresses the significance of a sustained and comprehensive approach, including through stronger efforts, where necessary, to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, bearing in mind that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone;*

9. *Recognizes the principal responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy, while encouraging the further elaboration and development of national, subregional and regional plans, as appropriate, to support the implementation of the Strategy;*

10. *Encourages civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to engage, as appropriate, in efforts to enhance the implementation of the Strategy, including through interaction with Member States and the*

United Nations system, and encourages Member States and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its entities to enhance engagement with civil society in accordance with their mandates, as appropriate, and to support its role in the implementation of the Strategy;

11. *Calls upon Member States and the United Nations entities involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as due process and the rule of law, while countering terrorism;*

12. *Urges all States to respect and protect the right to privacy, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including in the context of digital communication, also while countering terrorism, in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights law, and to take measures to ensure that interferences with or restrictions on that right are not arbitrary, are adequately regulated by law, and are subject to effective oversight and to appropriate redress, including through judicial review or other legal means;*

13. *Urges Member States to ensure that any measures taken or means employed to counter terrorism, including the use of remotely piloted aircraft, comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality;*

14. *Recognizes the work done and efforts made by the relevant United Nations bodies and entities and other international, regional and subregional organizations aimed at supporting, recognizing and protecting the rights of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and urges them to step up their efforts to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of programmes of assistance and support for victims of terrorism;*

15. *Deeply deplores the suffering caused by terrorism to the victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to their families, expresses its profound solidarity with them, encourages Member States to provide them with proper support and assistance while taking into account, inter alia, when appropriate, considerations regarding remembrance, dignity, respect, justice and truth, in accordance with international law;*

16. *Welcomes the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to increase its transparency, accountability and effectiveness, and calls upon the Task Force and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre to improve the strategic nature and impact of their programmes and policies;*

17. *Calls upon States that have not done so to consider becoming parties in a timely manner to the existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism, and upon all States to make every effort to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and recalls the commitments of Member States with regard to the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism;*

18. *Underlines, in that regard, the importance of greater coordination among United Nations entities and of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the*

counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system, as well as the need to continue promoting transparency and to avoid duplication in their work;

19. *Recognizes* the continued need to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism activities and ensure greater cooperation, coordination and coherence among United Nations entities, with a view to maximizing synergies, promoting transparency and greater efficiencies and avoiding duplication of their work;

20. *Reaffirms* the need for enhanced dialogue among the counter-terrorism officials of Member States to promote international, regional and subregional cooperation and wider dissemination of knowledge of the Strategy in order to counter terrorism, and in that regard recalls the role of the United Nations system, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, in promoting international cooperation and capacity-building as elements of the Strategy;

21. *Recognizes* the role of the regional organizations, structures and strategies in combating terrorism, and encourages them to consider using best practices developed by other regions in their fight against terrorism, as appropriate, taking into account their specific regional and national circumstances;

22. *Recalls* that all States must cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts or provides safe havens;

23. *Emphasizes* that tolerance and dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect among peoples, including at the national, regional and global levels, while avoiding the escalation of hatred, are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation, in combating terrorism and in countering violent extremism, and welcomes the various initiatives to this end;

24. *Urges* all Member States to unite against violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations as well as sectarian violence, encourages the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of violent extremism and discrimination and to evolve strategies to address these causes, and underlines that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity;

25. *Expresses concern* over terrorist acts committed by lone terrorists in various parts of the world, and recognizes the need to address this issue;

26. *Underlines* the importance of multilateral efforts in combating terrorism and refraining from any practices and measures inconsistent with international law and the principles of the Charter;

27. *Expresses its concern* at the increasing use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet and other media, and the use of such technologies to commit, incite, recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts, notes the importance of cooperation among stakeholders in the implementation of the Strategy, including among Member States, international, regional and sub-

regional organizations, the private sector and civil society, to address this issue, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and complying with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter, and reiterates that such technologies can be powerful tools in countering the spread of terrorism, including by promoting tolerance and dialogue among peoples and peace;

28. *Expresses concern* at the increase, in some regions, in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, notes that ransoms paid to terrorists are used as one of the sources of funding for their activities, including further kidnappings, calls upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments and political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, in accordance with applicable legal obligations, and encourages Member States to cooperate, as appropriate, during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;

29. *Encourages* all Member States to collaborate with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force;

30. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken in the area of capacity-building by United Nations entities, including the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, inter alia, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to assist Member States, upon their request, in implementing the Strategy, and encourages the Task Force to ensure focused delivery of capacity-building assistance, including in the framework of the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative;

31. *Expresses its concern* at the increasing flow of international recruits to terrorist organizations, including foreign terrorist fighters, and at the threat it poses for all Member States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, encourages all Member States to address this threat by enhancing their cooperation and developing relevant measures to prevent and tackle this phenomenon, including information-sharing, border management to detect travel, and appropriate criminal justice response, and to consider the use of United Nations instruments, such as sanctions regimes, as well as cooperation;

32. *Recognizes* the need to continue to take measures to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, and in this regard encourages United Nations entities to cooperate with Member States and to continue to provide assistance, upon their request, in particular, to help them to fully implement their respective international obligations to combat the financing of terrorism;

33. *Calls upon* all States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts, prevent such conduct and deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of such conduct;

34. *Calls for* the enhanced engagement of Member States with the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force;

35. *Requests* the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to continue its positive efforts in interacting with Member States, and further requests the Task Force to continue to provide quarterly briefings and to provide a periodic workplan for the Task Force, including the activities of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre;

36. *Encourages* the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to work closely with Member States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to identify and share best practices to prevent terrorist attacks on potentially vulnerable targets, and recognizes the importance of developing public-private partnerships in this area;

37. *Recalls* all resolutions of the General Assembly on measures to eliminate international terrorism and relevant resolutions of the Assembly on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and all resolutions of the Security Council relating to international terrorism, and calls upon Member States to cooperate fully with the relevant bodies of the United Nations in the fulfilment of their tasks, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in implementing these resolutions;

38. *Encourages* all relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and forums involved in the fight against terrorism to cooperate with the United Nations system and Member States in supporting the Strategy, noting recent initiatives in this regard;

39. *Underscores* the role, within the United Nations, of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, including in assessing issues and trends relating to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001 and 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005, in accordance with its mandate and Council resolution 2129(2013) of 17 December 2013, and in sharing information, as appropriate, with relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations;

40. *Recognizes* that Al-Qaida and its affiliates continue to pose a widespread challenge in the fight against terrorism, encourages Member States to integrate the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999 and 1889(2011) of 17 June 2011, into their national and regional counter-terrorism strategies, including by proposing for inclusion on the Al-Qaida sanctions list the names of individuals and entities, takes note of the significant contribution of the Office of the Ombudsperson, since its establishment, in providing fairness and transparency to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, and stresses the need to continue efforts to ensure that procedures are fair and clear;

41. *Underlines* the importance of enhancing counter-terrorism efforts undertaken by all relevant United Nations agencies and bodies in accordance with their existing mandates, and encourages the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to continue its collaboration with those agencies and bodies;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, no later than April 2016, a report on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy since its adoption in September 2006, which could contain suggestions for its future implementation by the United Nations system, as well as on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

43. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" in order to undertake, by June 2016, an examination of the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 42 above, as well as of the implementation of the Strategy by Member States, and to consider updating the Strategy to respond to changes.

Terrorist attacks in 2014

In 2014, terrorist attacks resulted in the deaths of many innocent civilians and injuries to others. Such attacks were condemned by the Security Council, Member States and the Secretary-General.

Afghanistan

On 17 January, the Security Council, by a press statement [SC/11251], condemned the terrorist attack at a restaurant in Kabul, Afghanistan, which caused a number of deaths and injuries to Afghan civilians and international personnel, including UN staff, responsibility for which had been claimed by the Taliban.

On 18 March [SC/11324], the Council condemned the terrorist attack in Faryab Province, Afghanistan, which resulted in numerous deaths and injuries of civilians.

On 21 March [SC/11334], the Council condemned the terrorist attack on 20 March at a hotel in Kabul, which caused a number of deaths and injuries to Afghan civilians, including children, and international personnel, responsibility for which had been claimed by the Taliban.

On 23 May [SC/11411], the Council condemned the attack on the Indian Consulate in Herat Province, Afghanistan.

On 6 June [SC/11431], the Council condemned the attack in Kabul, which caused a number of deaths and injuries to civilians and security personnel.

On 15 July [SC/11476], the Council condemned the suicide attack in Paktika, Afghanistan, which caused many deaths and injuries to civilians, including children, as well as the attack in Kabul on the same day, which caused a number of deaths and injuries to civilians, for which the Taliban had claimed responsibility.

On 24 November [SC/11664], the Council condemned the suicide attack on 23 November in Paktika, Afghanistan, which caused many deaths and injuries to civilians, including many children.

On 27 November [SC/11678], the Council condemned the attack on a United Kingdom Embassy vehicle in Kabul, which resulted in a number of deaths and injuries to civilians and security personnel, for which the Taliban had claimed responsibility.

On 11 December [SC/11695], the Council condemned the suicide attack at the French Institute of Afghanistan in Kabul, which caused deaths and inju-

ries to numerous civilians, for which the Taliban had claimed responsibility.

Algeria

On 24 April [SC/11364], the Security Council condemned the terrorist attack against Algerian nationals that occurred in Tizi Ouzou, Algeria, on 19 April, causing numerous deaths and injuries.

On 24 September [SC/11581], the Council condemned the murder of Hervé Gourdel, a French citizen, by the Jund al-Khilafa, which, it stated, demonstrated the brutality of those who declared themselves affiliated to ISIL.

Belgium

On 28 May [SC/11418], the Security Council condemned the terrorist attack against the Jewish Museum in Brussels, Belgium, on 24 May, which resulted in loss of life and injuries, and with a possible anti-Semitic motivation behind it.

China

On 2 March [SC/11304], the Security Council condemned the terrorist attack on 1 March in Kunming Train Station, China, which caused numerous deaths and injuries of civilians.

Egypt

On 16 February [SC/11284], the Security Council condemned the terrorist attack targeting a bus with tourists from the Republic of Korea on board in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, killing at least four people and injuring.

On 24 October [SC/11615], the Council condemned the terrorist attacks in the Sinai Peninsula, which killed and injured dozens of Egyptian soldiers.

Greece

On 13 December [SC/11700], the Security Council condemned the terrorist attack against the Embassy of Israel in Athens, Greece, on 12 December, involving dozens of shots fired at the Embassy building.

Iraq

On 11 June, the Security Council, by a press statement [SC/11437], condemned the events in the city of Mosul in Iraq where elements of the terrorist organization ISIL had attacked Iraqi security personnel and civilians, taken over significant parts of the city, including the Turkish Consulate and many government buildings, and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

On 5 August [SC/11509], the Council condemned the attacks on Sinjar and Tal Afar in Iraq's Ninewa Province by ISIL, and expressed their concern about the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis—many of them

from vulnerable minority communities, especially Yazidis—displaced by the ISIL attacks and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

On 7 August [SC/11515], the Council condemned the attacks in Iraq's Ninewa Province, including Sinjar and Tal Afar, by ISIL and expressed their outrage about the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis—many of them from vulnerable minority communities, especially Yazidis and Christians—displaced by the ISIL attacks and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

On 17 October [SC/11605], the Council condemned the string of suicide, vehicle-borne, and other attacks in Baghdad and surrounding provinces perpetrated by ISIL, which had killed scores of Iraqis, including an elected Member of Parliament from Basrah Province and the Police Chief of Anbar Province.

On 31 October [SC/11625], the Council condemned the kidnappings and murders of scores of Sunni tribesmen in Anbar Province, perpetrated by ISIL, whose bodies were discovered in mass graves. Many of those tribesmen had been combating terrorism, together with the Government of Iraq.

Israel

On 19 November, the Security Council, by a press statement [SC/11660], condemned the terrorist attack in a synagogue in Jerusalem on 18 November, resulting in the murder of four innocent civilians worshipping at the synagogue and a police officer, as well as the injury of many more.

Kenya

On 24 November [SC/11668], the Security Council condemned the attack in Mandera, Kenya for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility, and which caused the deaths of numerous innocent people.

Lebanon

On 2 January, the Security Council, by a press statement [SC/11239], condemned the terrorist attack in South Beirut, which killed at least five people and wounded dozens.

On 16 January [SC/11249], the Council condemned the terrorist attack in Hermel, Lebanon, which killed five people and injured dozens.

On 21 January [SC/11256], the Council condemned the terrorist attack in southern Beirut, killing at least four people and injuring dozens.

On 1 February [SC/11269], the Council condemned the terrorist attack in Hermel, which killed at least four people and injured dozens.

On 19 February [SC/11287], the Council condemned the terrorist attacks in the Bir El Hassan neighbourhood in the vicinity of an Iranian cultural centre in Beirut, Lebanon, which killed at least eight people and

wounded more than 100, responsibility for which had been claimed by an Al-Qaida-linked group.

On 4 August [SC/11507], the Council condemned the attacks by violent extremist groups against the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces in the area of Arsal, Lebanon, beginning on 2 August, which led to at least 14 deaths, 86 injured, and 22 missing among the Lebanese security forces, in addition to civilian casualties.

Libya

On 13 November, the Security Council, by a press statement [SC/11646], condemned the terrorist bomb attacks against the embassies of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates in Tripoli, Libya.

Mali

On 1 July, the Security Council, by a press statement [SC/11461], condemned the improvised explosive device explosion, 30 kilometres west of Timbuktu, Mali, on 30 June, in which one Burkinabe peacekeeper of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was killed and six other peacekeepers were injured.

On 18 August [SC/11523], the Council condemned the suicide attack in Ber, Mali, on 16 August, in which two Burkinabe peacekeepers of MINUSMA were killed and seven other peacekeepers were injured.

On 2 September [SC/11547], the Council condemned the attack by an explosive device, 30 kilometres north of Kidal, Mali, on 2 September, in which four Chadian peacekeepers of MINUSMA were killed and other peacekeepers were injured.

Nigeria

On 14 April [SC/11352], the Security Council condemned the multiple terrorist attacks committed by Boko Haram that occurred in Nigeria on 13 and 14 April, causing numerous deaths and injuries.

On 9 May [SC/11387], the Council condemned the terrorist attacks committed by Boko Haram that occurred in Gamboru Ngala, Nigeria on 5 May causing hundreds of deaths and injuries.

On 10 November [SC/11639], the Council condemned the suicide bomb attack committed against the Government Science Technical School in Potiskum in Yobe State, Nigeria, which killed several dozen people, mostly students, and injured many more.

Pakistan

On 16 December [SC/11707], the Security Council condemned the terrorist attack against children that occurred at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, causing the death of over 140 innocent civilians, including 132 children and countless injuries, for which Tehrik-e-Taliban had claimed responsibility.

Somalia

On 2 January, the Security Council, by a press statement [SC/11240], condemned the terrorist attacks on 1 January in Mogadishu, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility and which had caused numerous deaths and injuries.

On 13 February [SC/11277], the Council condemned the terrorist attack which targeted a United Nations convoy in Mogadishu, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility and which had caused numerous deaths and injuries.

On 21 February [SC/11291], the Council condemned the terrorist attack in Somalia, targeted against the office of the President of the Federal Government of Somalia, that had caused numerous deaths and injuries and for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility.

On 27 February [SC/11300], the Council condemned the terrorist attack in Somalia that day, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility.

On 19 March [SC/11331], the Council condemned the 18 March attack on a hotel in Bula Burde, Somalia, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility and had caused numerous deaths and injuries.

On 4 May [SC/11380], the Council condemned the terrorist attack on 3 May in Mogadishu, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility and had caused numerous deaths and injuries.

On 24 May [SC/11412], the Council condemned the attack against the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Somalia, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility and which had caused many deaths and injuries.

On 3 July [SC/11464], the Council condemned the assassination of Ahmed Mohamud Hayd, a Member of Parliament of the Federal Republic of Somalia, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility. The attack also claimed the life of the Member of Parliament's bodyguard and caused further injuries.

On 26 December [SC/11721], the Council condemned the attack on 25 December against the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Halane Base Camp, perpetrated by Al Shabaab, which had caused numerous deaths, including three AMISOM soldiers and a civilian contractor.

On 3 December [SC/11681], the Council condemned the terrorist attack in Mogadishu, which had caused a number of deaths and injuries and damaged a United Nations convoy, for which Al-Shabaab had claimed responsibility.

Syria

On 22 August, the Security Council, by a press statement [SC/11531], condemned the murder of James Foley, an American journalist, by ISIL.

On 6 September [SC/11550], the Council condemned the murder of Steven Sotloff, an American and Israeli journalist, by ISIL.

On 14 September [SC/11557], the Council condemned the murder of David Haines, a British humanitarian aid worker, by ISIL.

On 3 October [SC/11589], the Council condemned the twin bomb attacks on a school complex in Homs, Syria on 1 October, which killed over 50 people and injured dozens more, a large majority of them children.

On 3 October [SC/11590], the Council condemned the murder of Alan Henning, a volunteer British humanitarian aid worker, by ISIL.

On 18 November [SC/11654], the Council condemned the murders of United States humanitarian aid worker Abdul-Rahman Kassig, also known as Peter Kassig, and at least 15 Syrian captives, by ISIL.

Yemen

On 25 March, the Security Council, by a press statement [SC/11336], condemned the terrorist attack on 24 March in Hadramawt, Yemen, which killed twenty soldiers.

On 5 May [SC/11381], the Council condemned the terrorist attack that occurred in Sana'a, which killed one French national and injured others, as well as other recent terrorist attacks in Yemen.

On 10 October [SC/11595], the Council condemned the 9 October bomb attack in Sana'a that killed at least 47 people, including children. The Council also condemned the continued attacks against Yemeni security forces in Hadramawt on 9 October, as well as in Bayda on 8 October, aimed at undermining Yemen's stability.

On 4 December [SC/11683], the Council condemned the 3 December bomb attack at the residence of the Iranian Ambassador to Yemen, which caused a number of deaths and casualties.

On 17 December [SC/11710], the Council condemned the 16 December bomb attacks in Radaa, which caused a number of deaths and casualties. Those killed in the attacks included at least 15 children travelling on a school bus. In that regard, the Council reiterated condemnation of violations and abuses committed against children by terrorists.

Peacekeeping operations

In 2014, the General Assembly and the Security Council continued to oversee the management and operation of UN peacekeeping missions. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) continued to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, whose mandate was to review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

Security Council consideration (June). On 11 June [S/PV.7196], the Council held an open debate

on UN peacekeeping operations: new trends. It had before it a concept note [S/2014/384] submitted by the Russian Federation. In his address to the Council, the Secretary-General highlighted four aspects of peacekeeping. First, UN peacekeeping operations were increasingly mandated to operate where there was no peace to keep. Significant levels of violence could be seen in Darfur, South Sudan, Mali, the Central African Republic and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where more than two-thirds of UN military, police and civilian personnel were operating. Secondly, some UN peacekeeping operations were being authorized in the absence of clearly identifiable parties to the conflict or a viable political process. Thirdly, UN peacekeeping operations were increasingly operating in more complex environments that featured asymmetric and unconventional threats. Fourthly, there was a need to build on the renewed commitment of the Security Council to responding to a changing world. Resolution 2098(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 107], on the DRC, signalled the resolve of the Council to address the changing nature of conflict and the operating environment of UN peacekeeping.

The Secretary-General stated that broader discussion was needed on how UN peacekeeping should adapt to new demands and what capabilities and resources it would need to adapt. Having asked the Secretariat to initiate work on a review of UN peacekeeping, the Secretary-General noted that mandates, political leverage, logistical support, training, accountability, rules of engagement, technological innovation, and clarity on the caveats of troop- and police-contributing countries were just a few areas that may warrant review.

General aspects of UN peacekeeping

Policing in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding

Security Council consideration (November). The Council, on 20 November [S/PV.7317], was briefed, for the first time, on the role of policing in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. It had before a concept note [S/2014/788] submitted by Australia. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL); Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS); and Police Commissioner of MINUSCA.

The Under-Secretary-General said that there had been unprecedented growth in UN policing in recent years. He remarked that changes in the nature of the security situation—including changes in the type of needs, along with an increased number of threats that included traditional problems related to basic security

as well as the fight against terrorism, transnational organized crime and corruption—were part of the reality experienced by police. He stated that their tasks were to assist host countries in the areas of the rule of law via police services; to, in some cases, temporarily carry out police duties, including law enforcement; and to support efforts at reform, restructuring and, sometimes, creating a national or other police service to be responsible for enforcing the law.

The Under-Secretary-General highlighted the need for increasingly sophisticated capacities as reflected in the growing need for specialized police, including in scientific and technological terms. He also appealed for additional language capabilities, notably Arabic and French, and expressed the need for more women police. Although the target goal of reaching 20 per cent women police for the year was far from being met, it reflected the situation in national police services. The Under-Secretary-General stated that, despite that, all-women police units were being increasingly deployed as law-and-order problems often included a level of danger and impact that was more pronounced on women.

On the same day (see below), the Council adopted resolution 2185(2014), its first resolution dedicated to policing issues, which resolved to include policing as an integrating part of UN peacekeeping mandates, and requested the Secretary-General to further promote professionalism, effectiveness and system-wide coherence in the policing-related work of the United Nations.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 20 November [meeting 7317], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2185(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/828] was submitted by Australia, Chad, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recalling also its resolutions 2151(2014) of 28 April 2014 on security sector reform, 2167(2014) of 28 July 2014 and 2086(2013) of 21 January 2013 on United Nations peacekeeping operations, 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 and all subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security, 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 and previous resolutions on children and armed conflict and 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013 on small arms and light weapons, and the statements by its President of 21 February 2014 on the rule of law and 20 December 2012 on post-conflict peacebuilding, as well as other relevant resolutions and statements by its President,

Reiterating the need for a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and sustainable peace, which comprises operational and structural measures for the prevention of armed conflict and addresses its root causes, including

through strengthening the rule of law at international and national levels and promoting sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, gender equality and respect for and protection of human rights,

Stressing that the success of the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions requires close cooperation between the different elements of these missions under the overall leadership of the Head of Mission,

Reaffirming its commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter, including its commitment to and respect for the principles of political independence, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States, in conducting all peacekeeping activities and the need for States to comply with their obligations under international law,

Reaffirming also that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, is essential to the success of peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping operation and special political mission is specific to the needs and situation of the country concerned,

Reaffirming the principles of impartiality, consent of the parties, national ownership and national responsibility, and stressing the significance of the views of and dialogue with countries hosting special political missions,

Noting that host State policing institutions are often the primary link between the Government and the communities on security issues, and reiterating that professional, effective, accountable and accessible law enforcement, corrections and judicial institutions are necessary to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and national development,

Acknowledging the significant growth in the role of police components as an integral part of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, and the increasingly diverse and complex policing-related tasks in the mandates of such operations and missions, noting that police components can include both uniformed United Nations police officers and civilian policing experts, noting also the distinct roles performed by individual police officers and formed police units and the increasing demand for these different capacities, stressing that use of these capacities should be based on the situation and the needs of the host State, and noting the necessity of aligning tasks of United Nations police components with the mandated tasks of missions,

Stressing that United Nations policing-related work makes an invaluable contribution to peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding, security, the rule of law and the creation of a basis for development,

Recalling that policing-related aspects of mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions may include support for the reform, restructuring and development of host State policing and other law enforcement institutions, providing operational support to host State policing and other law enforcement institutions, and conducting interim policing and other law enforcement,

Underlining the importance of close coordination of the range of United Nations policing activities, both

at Headquarters and in the field, in particular between Security Council-mandated missions and the United Nations country team, as appropriate, and encouraging relevant United Nations entities mandated to undertake policing activities to work through existing coordination mechanisms, as appropriate,

Noting that United Nations police components face a range of challenges, including a need for specialized skills and equipment and to ensure a unified policing approach, given the various policing models across police-contributing countries,

Recalling reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the General Assembly which have provided guidance to the Secretariat on the subject of United Nations policing, including the development of a United Nations standardized approach to policing, and recognizing the inclusive consultative process undertaken by the Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat in the development of the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping,

Emphasizing the importance of Member States contributing police with professional skills, experience and expertise to carry out the mandated tasks who are appropriately trained and vetted and, where appropriate, operationally ready and deployed with the full complement of contingent-owned equipment, welcoming cooperation between the United Nations, police-contributing countries, other Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to help to ensure that formed police units are properly trained and equipped, and underscoring the importance of such cooperation,

Noting the increasing use of modern technologies by United Nations police components, including information and communications technologies such as closed circuit television, specialized crime data software and geographic information mapping systems, and other technologies such as advanced metal detectors, laboratory equipment and drug, explosive and ballistic detection and analysis systems, to increase their abilities to carry out their mandates efficiently and effectively and to enhance their safety and security, and encouraging the Secretariat to ensure that these technologies, when deployed, are integrated effectively into United Nations policing work consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter and the basic principles of peacekeeping and that the confidentiality of all data gathered by such assets is preserved as detailed in relevant specific procedures,

Welcoming the announcement by the Secretary-General of a comprehensive review of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, and taking note of the announcement by the Secretary-General of the establishment of a high-level independent panel to conduct the review,

Noting the designation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme as the joint global focal point for the police, justice and corrections areas,

Recalling the sovereign right and the primary responsibility of the State concerned to determine the national approach and priorities of security sector reform, including reform of policing and other law enforcement institutions, and recognizing that such reform should be a nationally owned process that is rooted in the particular needs and

conditions of the country in question, and encouraging the development of expertise in the field of security sector reform at the national level,

Noting the important role that United Nations police components can play in supporting, and coordinating international support for, reform of host State policing institutions and building policing capacity in a comprehensive way that emphasizes a community-oriented approach and is integrated with other areas of security sector reform and the rule of law,

Emphasizing that good governance and oversight of policing and law enforcement services, within the framework of a functional justice and corrections system, are important in ensuring that those services are accountable, responsive and capable of serving the population,

Highlighting the important role that United Nations police components can play, where mandated, in consultation with the host State and in collaboration with other components, in supporting host States in upholding their primary responsibility to protect civilians as well as to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, including through monitoring and deterrence, early warning and prevention, support for basic safety and security, physical protection, creating protective environments, assisting national security sector reform programmes, capacity-building and political engagement with host State counterparts,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, including in relation to policing and the rule of law,

Taking note of and encouraging the increased participation of female police officers in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, thereby contributing to the effectiveness of relevant mandate implementation, including by providing diverse perspectives that can assist in building trust with local communities, improving the protection of women and children from violence and abuse and facilitating gender-sensitive police approaches and mentoring,

Recalling the launch of the United Nations Global Effort in 2009 to promote an increase in the percentage of female police officers in United Nations peacekeeping missions to 20 per cent by 2014, welcoming the increase in female police officers in peacekeeping operations since the launch of the United Nations Global Effort, and encouraging States and the Secretary-General to strengthen efforts to support the realization of the 20 per cent goal,

Recognizing innovative practices to improve the success of United Nations policing in recognizing specific needs of women in conflict and post-conflict environments, including the need for protection from sexual and gender-based violence and for community strategies that reflect women's needs, such as the deployment of women within formed police units and the establishment of special protection units,

Reiterating that the protection of children in armed conflict should be an important aspect of any comprehensive strategy to resolve conflict and build peace, reiterating also in this regard the importance of providing United Nations police components with specialized predeployment and in-mission training on mission-specific child protection and

on appropriate comprehensive child-sensitive prevention and protection responses, as well as on the monitoring and reporting of violations and abuses committed against children, and stressing the importance of enhancing coordination between police components and child protection advisers as well as gender and women's protection advisers,

Highlighting the important role that United Nations police components can play in building the capacity of host State policing and other law enforcement institutions, as mandated, to address organized crime, particularly through support in the areas of border, immigration and maritime security and crime prevention, response and investigation,

Highlighting also that impartial, responsive, accountable, community-oriented police institutions with well-trained personnel can help to counter violent extremism, including through building trust and dialogue between State authorities and communities,

Noting the role that police components can play in assisting host Governments in the implementation and compliance monitoring of Council-mandated sanctions measures, including, where mandated, through the provision of advice and assistance,

Recognizing the role that regional and subregional organizations can play in post-conflict peacebuilding, including security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, rule of law, recovery, reconstruction and development processes, including through support for host State policing and other law enforcement institutions, and affirming the importance of interaction and cooperation between peacekeeping operations and special political missions and regional and subregional organizations and arrangements,

Paying tribute to the memory of United Nations peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace, and in this regard underscoring the importance of the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers, expressing grave concern about the security threats and targeted attacks against United Nations peacekeepers in many peacekeeping missions, which constitute a major challenge to United Nations peacekeeping operations, condemning in the strongest terms the killing of and all acts of violence against United Nations peacekeeping personnel, and emphasizing that perpetrators of such attacks must be brought to justice,

Reaffirming that the primary responsibility for the security and protection of personnel employed by the United Nations system organizations rests with the host Government, and noting that complementary to the host Government responsibility, the safety and security of individually deployed police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, including but not limited to United Nations police officers, or members of formed police units when not deployed with their unit, falls under the security arrangements of the United Nations security management system,

1. *Resolves* to include, as appropriate, policing as an integral part of the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, and to give clear, credible and achievable mandates for policing-related activities, matched by appropriate resources;

2. *Stresses* the importance of strong cooperation and coordination between United Nations police components and other elements of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, in support of the mandate and under the overall leadership of the Head of Mission;

3. *Urges* police-contributing countries to continue to contribute professional police personnel with the necessary skills, equipment and experience to implement mission mandates, including, where relevant, multidimensional peacekeeping mandates, underlining the importance of appropriate language skills at relevant levels to fulfil the mandate and of gender expertise, and urges prospective police-contributors to also contribute such personnel to help to ensure that the demand for professional police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions is fully met;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further promote professionalism, effectiveness and system-wide coherence in the policing-related work of the United Nations, including, in close consultation, as appropriate, with Member States and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in full respect of its vital role, through:

(a) The development and implementation of standards and guidance for United Nations policing-related work, through the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping;

(b) The development of comprehensive, standardized training for United Nations police components, including predeployment, induction and in-service training;

(c) The provision of senior police leadership training, including through the Senior Mission Leaders' Course;

(d) The development of strong processes for evaluating the effectiveness of United Nations policing-related work;

(e) The streamlining and improvement of recruitment and deployment procedures for United Nations police and civilian policing experts, recognizing that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with administrative and budgetary matters;

(f) The coordination of work within the United Nations system on reform of policing and law enforcement institutions;

5. *Recognizes* that political leadership and the will of national authorities are critical to reforming host State policing and other law enforcement services, emphasizes the lead role of the host State authorities in developing, as part of an inclusive national vision for its security sector, a strategy for policing and other law enforcement that promotes the rule of law and respects human rights, coordinating the implementation of the vision, dedicating national resources towards policing, law enforcement and other security institutions, and monitoring the impact of security sector reform processes, including policing reform;

6. *Urges* Member States and international partners to support, upon request, host State efforts to professionalize policing and other law enforcement agencies, within the context of broader security sector reform, and to ensure that international policing support is well coordinated in support of a nationally agreed plan, and underscores that such support should be tailored to the needs of the host State;

7. *Recognizes* that reform of police and other law enforcement institutions needs to be in support of, and informed by, inclusive political processes and agreements, to enhance the legitimacy of the institutions concerned and ensure wide ownership of such reform;

8. *Notes* the important role that United Nations police components can play, where mandated, in strengthening the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations by, inter-

alia, providing operational support to host State policing and other law enforcement institutions and supporting the reform, restructuring and rebuilding of such institutions, including through technical assistance, co-location, training and mentoring programmes, in the context of broader efforts to strengthen the rule of law and reform the security sector, where mandated;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this regard, to consider, as appropriate, security sector reform, including reform of policing and other law enforcement institutions, in the overall strategic planning of peacekeeping operations and special political missions in each country-specific context, and to work with Member States to enhance the capabilities and expertise of United Nations police components in relation to capacity development and institution building, including in the areas of:

- (a) Operational policing, including community-oriented policing and information-based policing;
- (b) Administration, management and leadership;
- (c) Governance, oversight and evaluation;
- (d) Policy formulation and strategic planning;
- (e) Coordination with partners;

10. *Emphasizes* the role of peacekeeping operations and special political missions in supporting host State policing institutions in their preparation to transition to function self-sufficiently, and underlines that this preparation for transition should be based on a timely analysis of need, in consultation with the host State, of any assistance beyond the duration of the presence of the peacekeeping operation or special political mission, to enable United Nations peacebuilding and development actors, including the United Nations country team, to undertake the necessary strategic planning and resource mobilization, working in close partnership with host State authorities, and to transfer skills and expertise to host State officials and experts as quickly as possible in order to ensure a successful and durable transition;

11. *Encourages* the Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General to fully take into account the strategic value of security sector reform, including reform of host State policing and other law enforcement institutions, in their work, as appropriate, in the context of broader security sector reform efforts, including through their good offices where mandated;

12. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Standing Police Capacity in providing expertise across the broad range of policing activities and providing a rapid, coherent, effective and responsive start-up capability for the police components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, and assisting existing missions through the provision of advice, expertise, baseline assessments and evaluation;

13. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue refining the composition of the United Nations Standing Police Capacity to ensure that it includes skill sets to meet contemporary demands, including through enabling partnerships with Member States and regional organizations;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operation of the Secretariat to continue to explore the use of "specialized police teams" for police capacity-building, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this use, as appropriate;

15. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretariat to enhance inter-mission cooperation, including through the rapid re-deployment of formed police units, recognizes that such cooperation can provide timely responses for critically needed capacity as an interim, short-term measure, notes the logistical challenges that can undermine the effectiveness of inter-mission cooperation, and encourages the Secretariat, in consultation with police-contributing countries, to continue to assess the practice of inter-mission cooperation with a view to streamlining standing operating procedures and improving the effectiveness of such cooperation;

16. *Also notes* the importance of the deployment of civilian policing experts, with adequate and appropriate skills and expertise, to United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions;

17. *Affirms* the central role of the protection of civilians, where mandated, in the work undertaken by United Nations police components;

18. *Also affirms* the importance of the role that United Nations police components can play, where mandated, in supporting the efforts of host authorities in the protection of civilians, particularly those under imminent threat of physical violence, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and in this regard, while recognizing that the protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of the host State, helping to build and reform policing and law enforcement institutions of the host State so that they are able to sustainably and consistently protect civilians;

19. *Highlights* the critical role that United Nations police components can play in facilitating the participation and inclusion of women in dialogue on conflict resolution and peacebuilding, including on rule of law and security issues;

20. *Encourages* police-contributing countries to increase the percentage of women police in deployments to United Nations peacekeeping operations, in particular senior officers, including in leadership roles, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to support innovative efforts to encourage such deployment of women police and to enhance coordination between police components and child protection advisers as well as gender and women's protection advisers;

21. *Also encourages* police-contributing countries to provide all police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities in relation to sexual and gender-based violence and child protection, and further encourages relevant United Nations entities to make available appropriate guidance and training modules, including in particular the United Nations predeployment scenario-based training on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and on children and armed conflict;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel, as well as the policy on prohibition of child labour in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and urges police-contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, including predeployment and in-mission awareness training and other action to ensure full accountability, including prosecutions, in cases of such conduct involving their nationals;

23. *Notes* the importance of United Nations policing-related support to non-United Nations security forces adhering to the United Nations human rights due diligence policy;

24. *Reiterates* that United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, including police components, located in a host State with a Security Council-mandated sanctions regime, may, if deemed necessary by the Council, provide appropriate expertise to the host Government, the relevant sanctions committee and relevant expert groups in the implementation and the compliance monitoring of that sanctions regime, and further notes the importance of appropriate training for United Nations police components in this regard;

25. *Also reiterates* that United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, including police components, may, if mandated by the Council, assist in capacity-building for host Governments, as requested, to implement commitments under existing global and regional instruments and to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including through weapons collection, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, enhancing physical security and stockpile management practices, record-keeping and tracing capacities, development of national export and import control systems, enhancement of border security, and strengthening of judicial institutions, policing and other law enforcement capacities;

26. *Encourages* information-sharing, where relevant and appropriate, between Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including its Police Division, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Development Programme, within existing mandates and resources, when considering means to address, in a comprehensive and integrated manner, transnational organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism that can be conducive to terrorism;

27. *Encourages* the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to enhance its dialogue and information-sharing with Special Envoys, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, with respect to policing activities, including during the planning stages of missions, as appropriate, in relation to the implementation of Council resolutions 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001 and 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005, and requests the Executive Directorate to identify the principal gaps in the capacities of Member States, including the capacities of their policing and other law enforcement institutions, to implement resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005);

28. *Affirms* that United Nations police components, deployed as part of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, may, if mandated by the Council, provide support, in consultation with the host State, as feasible and where appropriate, to the efforts of national authorities, without prejudice to the responsibilities of those authorities, to bring to justice those responsible for serious international crimes;

29. *Encourages* closer coordination and cooperation on policing issues between the Secretariat and international, regional and subregional organizations, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and regional police organizations, including through training, the sharing and exchange of information, thematic expertise and operational support, as appropriate;

30. *Reiterates* the need to further strengthen cooperation and consultation with police-contributing countries, including through triangular cooperation between the Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat, to foster a spirit of partnership, cooperation, confidence and mutual trust;

31. *Expresses its intention* to consider holding an annual meeting on policing issues with the heads of United Nations police components;

32. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to consider the increasing role of policing, along with the many other critical issues related to peacekeeping operations and special political missions, in his upcoming strategic review of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as appropriate;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report by the end of 2016 on the role of policing as an integral part of peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, with particular focus on the challenges faced by police components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, and making recommendations on how best to strengthen their contribution to the achievement of mission mandates.

Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

On 31 December, the Chairman of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations submitted to the Council a report [S/2014/960] covering its work in 2014. In meetings held on 15 and 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 17 October, 3 November, 8 and 17 December, the Working Group discussed mission start-up and re-hatting challenges; inter-mission cooperation and challenges to implementation; increasing women's participation in peacekeeping; troop and police preparedness; strategic priorities of the Police Division; the operationalization of African Union standby arrangements; transitions from African Union to UN peacekeeping operations; and the protection of civilians.

Conduct and discipline

Sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/306 [YUN 2003, p. 1237], the Secretary-General submitted a February report [A/68/756] providing data on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations system for 2013, and information on actions taken to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel. Information on allegations was received from 42 entities, including the departments and offices of the Secretariat and agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system. The number of allegations reported by all entities totalled 96, compared with 88 in 2012. Six entities, including peacekeeping operations, reported having received one or more allegations, while 36 received none.

For peacekeeping and special political missions, the total number of allegations received (66) increased slightly in 2013 compared with the number reported for 2012 (60 allegations), but remained lower than the number reported for 2011 (74 allegations) and 2010 (85 allegations). With respect to the categories of personnel involved, allegations involving military personnel (37 allegations) were higher in 2013, compared with 2012. The number of allegations involving civilian (21), police (7) and other categories of personnel (1) were lower in 2013, compared with 2012.

The majority (53 allegations or 80 per cent) of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were received from the same four peacekeeping missions as in 2012: the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), with 23 allegations; the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), with 17 allegations; UNMIL, with seven allegations; and UNMISS, with six allegations. The remaining 13 allegations (20 per cent) were from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), with five allegations; the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), with four allegations; the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), with two allegations; the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), with one allegation each.

As at 31 January 2014, investigations had been completed for 17 allegations received in 2013. They included those conducted by troop-contributing countries into seven allegations (six substantiated and one unsubstantiated) and those conducted by the United Nations into 10 allegations (three substantiated and seven unsubstantiated). During the reporting period, investigations into 19 allegations received in 2012 continued. Of the 19 investigations, 10 were concluded; six were found to be unsubstantiated; and four were further reviewed, found to be substantiated and subsequently closed.

The Secretary-General also provided an update on activities undertaken in the implementation of the programme of action for a strengthened accountability and governance framework, as well inter-agency activities and joint initiatives relevant to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Women in peacekeeping

Security Council consideration. On 28 October [S/PV.7289], the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security [S/2014/693] (see p. 1285). It had before it a concept note [S/2014/731], submitted by Argentina, on the debate topic “displaced women and girls: lead-

ers and survivors”. During the debate the Council adopted presidential statement **S/PRST/2014/21** (see p. 1286) urging parties to armed conflict to allow full and unhindered access by refugee and internally displaced women to humanitarian assistance; calling for the systematic collection, analysis and utilization of sex- and age-disaggregated data; and encouraging the review of existing implementation plans and formulation of new targets in time for the high-level review of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions in 2015.

Sexual violence in conflict

Security Council consideration. On 25 April [S/PV.7160], the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence [S/2014/181] (see p. 1287). The Secretary-General said that more countries were building the technical capacity to prevent and redress sexual violence. The multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach of the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict was driving this progress. The Special Representative engaged in high-level advocacy to generate national ownership, leadership and responsibility. Another key element in political and peacekeeping missions had been the deployment of women protection advisers. Their expertise on human rights, gender analysis and peace and security was helping to mainstream the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence into peacekeeping and special political missions. The Secretary-General stated that it was imperative that UN actors and political leaders worked together to stop rights abuses before they happened. The renewed commitment of the United Nations to better meet the human rights responsibilities set by Member States through the “Rights up front” initiative was central in that regard.

Communication. By a 7 November letter [S/2014/796], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council the joint communiqué of South Sudan and the United Nations on the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence. The communiqué was agreed between the United Nations and the Government of South Sudan during the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, to the country from 6 to 11 October.

Oversight activities

The Office of Internal Oversight Services reported in February [A/68/337 (Part II)] on its peacekeeping oversight activities in 2013. The Office issued 209 oversight reports related to peace operations and made 498 audit recommendations classified by five integrated components of internal control: control environment, risk assessment, control activities,

information and communication, and monitoring activities. It completed 139 investigations which were classified into eight categories: procurement; management; inventory/assets; personnel; financial; programmatic, sexual harassment; and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Comprehensive review of peacekeeping

High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations

On 31 October, the Secretary-General convened a High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to undertake a thorough review of United Nations peace operations today and the emerging needs of the future. The review would be another major external review of peace operations after the one undertaken in 2000 and led by Lahkdar Brahimi [YUN 2000, p. 83]. The panel, the first of such to examine both peacekeeping operations and special political missions, would work closely with the main UN Departments concerned, as well as with Member States and the UN system as a whole. Its recommendations to the Secretary-General would be available for consideration by the General Assembly at its 2015 General Debate. Jose Ramos-Horta (Timor-Leste) was appointed the chair of the panel.

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 67/301 [YUN 2013, p. 65], the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group continued their comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

The Special Committee held its 2014 substantive session from 24 February to 21 March [A/68/19]. It considered proposals, recommendations and conclusions on guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates; restructuring of peacekeeping; safety and security of peacekeepers; conduct and discipline; strengthening operational capacity; strategies for complex peacekeeping operations; cooperation with troop-contributing countries; triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries; cooperation with regional arrangements; enhancement of African peacekeeping capabilities; developing stronger UN field support arrangements; best practices and training; personnel; financial issues; and other matters.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 June [meeting 98], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/68/426/Add.1], adopted **resolution 68/277** without vote [agenda item 53].

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006(XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolution 67/301 of 16 September 2013,

Affirming that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping operations,

Considering the contribution that all States Members of the United Nations make to peacekeeping,

Noting the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by Member States, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries,

Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;

2. *Endorses* the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee contained in paragraphs 17 to 315 of its report;

3. *Urges* Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all steps necessary to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;

4. *Reiterates* that those Member States that become personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or that participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chair of the Special Committee, become members at the following session of the Special Committee;

5. *Decides* that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to resolution 68/277 (see above) the Secretary-General submitted a December report [A/69/642] on key developments in UN peacekeeping since the previous report [YUN 2013, p. 65], and issues for consideration by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The report included a detailed analysis of safety and

security in peacekeeping missions. Annexed to the report were technical details on the use of unarmed, unmanned aircraft systems in MONUSCO. An addendum [A/69/642/Add.1] contained a supplemental matrix that reviewed the status of the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee on its 2014 substantive session.

The Secretary-General observed that if peacekeeping operations were to remain an effective tool for international peace and security, they had to keep pace with a changing world. To fulfil mandates, the safety and security of peacekeepers had to be ensured, above all in the area of protecting civilians, particularly women and children. DPKO and DFS would continue to advance the uniformed capability development agenda, including rapid deployment, and work with Member States to uphold standards of performance of all personnel serving in peacekeeping operations, and to ensure that missions had access to the same technologies available to many Member States. Governments should ensure that, once authorized, peacekeeping operations were provided with the military and police capabilities and financing needed to implement their mandates effectively. Host countries should cooperate fully with the missions deployed on their soil to ensure freedom of movement and to advance the critical reforms necessary for durable peace to take hold. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should provide its views on peacekeeping policy so that peacekeeping operations could benefit from common direction and the strong support of Member States.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the item on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Communication. By a letter dated 14 November [S/2014/818], Iran transmitted to the Security Council a 28 October statement by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement regarding the item on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

Operations in 2014

As at 31 December, there were 16 peacekeeping missions in operation—9 in Africa, 1 in the Americas, 1 in Asia, 2 in Europe and the Mediterranean and 3 in the Middle East.

Africa

The Security Council extended, by **resolution 2152(2014)** of 29 April (see p. 390), the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 April 2015;

by **resolution 2176(2014)** of 15 September (see p. 262) and **resolution 2190(2014)** of 15 December (see p. 267), the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) twice—to 31 December 2014 and 30 September 2015, respectively; by **resolution 2162(2014)** of 25 June (see p. 252), the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 30 June 2015; by **resolution 2173(2014)** of 27 August (see p. 306), the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2015; by **resolution 2147(2014)** of 28 March (see p. 193), the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), including its Intervention Brigade, until 31 March 2015; by **resolution 2155(2014)** of 27 May (see p. 336) and **resolution 2187(2014)** of 25 November (see p. 343), the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) twice—to 30 November 2014 and 30 May 2015, respectively; by **resolution 2156(2014)** of 29 May (see p. 323) and **resolution 2179(2014)** of 14 October (see p. 327), the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) twice—to 15 October 2014 and 28 February 2015, respectively; by **resolution 2164(2014)** of 25 June (see p. 285), the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) until 30 June 2015.

By **resolution 2149(2014)** of 10 April (see p. 220), the Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and decided to transfer authority from the African-led International Support Mission to MINUSCA on 15 September 2014. MINUSCA was mandated to assist the transitional authorities in restoring peace and stability to the country.

Americas

The Security Council, by **resolution 2180(2014)** of 14 October (see p. 398), extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 15 October 2015.

Asia

The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), established in 1949, continued to monitor the ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir. The International Security Assistance Force concluded its mandate at the end of 2014 (see p. 482).

Europe and the Mediterranean

The Security Council, by **resolution 2135(2014)** of 30 January (see p. 498) and **resolution 2168(2014)**

of 30 July (see p. 500), extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) twice—to 31 July 2014 and 31 January 2015, respectively. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) remained in place. The Council, by **resolution 2183(2014)** of 11 November (see p. 487) renewed the authorization of the European Union Force-Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a further 12 months.

Middle East

Three long-standing operations continued in the Middle East. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) monitored ceasefires, supervised armistice agreements and assisted other peacekeeping operations in the region. The Security Council, by **resolution 2163(2014)** of 25 June (see p. 601) and **resolution 2192(2014)** of 18 December (see p. 604), renewed the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) twice—to 31 December 2014 and 30 June 2015, respectively. It extended to 31 August 2015 the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) by **resolution 2172(2014)** of 26 August (see p. 572).

Roster of 2014 operations

UNTSO

United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
Established: May 1948.

Mandate: To monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements, prevent isolated incidents from escalating and assist other peacekeeping operations in the region.

Strength: 155 military observers, 86 international civilian staff, 135 local civilian staff.

UNMOGIP

United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
Established: January 1949.

Mandate: To supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

Strength: 43 military observers, 22 international civilian staff, 47 local civilian staff.

UNFICYP

United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
Established: March 1964.

Mandate: To prevent the recurrence of fighting between the two Cypriot communities and to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions.

Strength: 858 troops, 66 police, 37 international civilian staff, 111 local civilian staff.

UNDOF

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
Established: June 1974.

Mandate: To supervise the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the Golan Heights.

Strength: 930 troops, 53 international civilian staff, 107 local civilian staff.

UNIFIL

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
Established: March 1978.

Mandate: To restore peace and security and assist the Lebanese Government in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area; monitor the cessation of hostilities; and support the deployment of the Lebanese armed forces throughout southern Lebanon; help to ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the return of displaced persons.

Strength: 10,238 troops, 282 international civilian staff, 603 local civilian staff.

MINURSO

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
Established: April 1991.

Mandate: To monitor and verify the implementation of a settlement plan for Western Sahara and assist in the holding of a referendum in the Territory.

Strength: 26 troops, 194 military observers, 5 police, 88 international civilian staff, 164 local civilian staff, 12 UN Volunteers.

UNMIK

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
Established: June 1999.

Mandate: To help ensure conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants of Kosovo and advance regional stability in the Western Balkans.

Strength: 8 military observers, 8 police, 113 international civilian staff, 211 local civilian staff, 26 UN Volunteers.

UNMIL

United Nations Mission in Liberia
Established: September 2003.

Mandate: To support the implementation of the 2003 ceasefire agreement and the peace process;

protect UN staff, facilities and civilians; support humanitarian and human rights activities; and assist in national security reform, including national police training and formation of a new, restructured military.

Strength: 4,308 troops, 113 military observers, 1,417 police, 397 international civilian staff, 856 local civilian staff, 194 UN Volunteers.

UNOCI

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Established: April 2004.

Mandate: To facilitate the implementation of the 2003 peace agreement; contribute to the consolidation of the stability of the country, to the electoral process and the identification of the population, and to other peace-related tasks.

Strength: 6,086 troops, 180 military observers, 1,367 police, 337 international civilian staff, 698 local civilian staff, 153 UN Volunteers.

MINUSTAH

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Established: June 2004.

Mandate: To provide support in ensuring a secure and stable environment; assist in monitoring and reforming the National Police; help with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes; protect civilians, as well as UN personnel and property; support the constitutional and political process; assist in maintaining the rule of law, public safety and public order; promote and protect human rights; and promote an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation.

Strength: 4,957 troops, 2,256 police, 344 international civilian staff, 1,169 local civilian staff, 129 UN Volunteers.

UNAMID

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Established: July 2007.

Mandate: To contribute to the protection of civilians and to security for humanitarian assistance; monitor and verify implementation of agreements; assist an inclusive political process; contribute to the promotion of human rights and the rule of law; and monitor and report on the situation along the borders with Chad and the Central African Republic.

Strength: 12,614 troops, 220 military observers, 3,035 police, 1,005 international civilian staff, 2,891 local civilian staff, 295 UN Volunteers.

MONUSCO

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Established: July 2010.

Mandate: To protect civilians and provide support to the Government in stabilization and peace consolidation.

Strength: 19,463 troops, 490 military observers, 1,083 police, 920 international civilian staff, 2,751 local civilian staff, 465 UN Volunteers.

UNISFA

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

Established: June 2011.

Mandate: To monitor and verify the redeployment of any Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army or its successor from the Abyei area; facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of relief workers in the area; provide security for the region's oil infrastructure; protect UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment; protect civilians from the threat of violence; and assist the process of border normalization between the Sudan and South Sudan.

Strength: 3,946 troops, 97 military observers, 23 police, 120 international civilian staff, 72 local civilian staff, 22 UN Volunteers.

UNMISS

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Established: July 2011.

Mandate: To protect civilians; monitor human rights; support the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and support the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

Strength: 10,251 troops, 164 military observers, 1,018 police, 834 international civilian staff, 1,372 local civilians, 411 UN Volunteers.

MINUSMA

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Established: March 2013.

Mandate: To ensure security, stabilization and protection of civilians; support national political dialogue and reconciliation; and assist the reestablishment of State authority, the rebuilding of the security sector, and the promotion and protection of human rights in that country.

Strength: 8,461 troops, 1,033 police, 513 international civilian staff, 469 local civilians, 119 UN Volunteers.

MINUSCA

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
Established: April 2014.

Mandate: To protect civilians; support the transition process; facilitate humanitarian assistance; promote and protect human rights; support justice and the rule of law; and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation processes.

Strength: 7,469 troops, 91 military observers, 1,125 police, 174 international civilian staff, 106 local civilians, 18 UN Volunteers.

Financial and administrative aspects of peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly considered a number of issues related to financial and administrative aspects of UN peacekeeping operations, including the financial performance of UN peacekeeping operations; the support account for peacekeeping operations; funds for closed missions; financial reports and audited financial statements; management and financing of the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy; restructuring issues; the global field support strategy; personnel matters; and criminal accountability of UN staff and experts on mission.

Financing

The financial report on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 was prepared, for the first time, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. Total expenses for UN peacekeeping operations from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 [A/69/5 (Vol. II)] were \$7,862.7 million. Total assessed contributions increased by 7.5 per cent (\$542.0 million), from \$7,257.9 million in the prior year to \$7,799.9 million. The net increase was attributable to the ramp-up of MINUSMA; the expansion of MONUSCO, UNMISS and UNISFA; the decrease in the size of UNAMID and MINUSTAH; and the closure of UNMIT. Total unpaid assessments decreased by 17.7 per cent, from \$835.6 as at 1 July 2013 to \$687.6 million as at 30 June 2014. Available cash for active peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2014 totalled \$1,781.0 million, while liabilities amounted to \$2,165.1 million.

Note of Secretary-General. On 21 August [A/C.5/68/26], in accordance with Assembly resolution 49/233 A [YUN 1994, p. 1338], the Secretary-General submitted to the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee information on the approved resources for peacekeeping operations, UNLB at Brindisi, Italy, and the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, which amounted to \$7,061,035,580.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the item on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of UN peacekeeping operations would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Peacekeeping support account

In February [A/68/742], the Secretary-General submitted the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, amounting to \$306,494,700, excluding requirements for enterprise resource planning and information and systems security, in the amount of \$20,054,700 and \$821,500. It also provided for a total of 1,341 posts (taking into account the proposed conversion of 41 general temporary assistance positions to posts and the creation of 8 new posts) and 101 general temporary assistance positions.

In February, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee submitted its comments [A/68/773] on the proposed budget for OIOS under the support account for peacekeeping operations for 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

In May [A/68/861], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) provided its observations and recommendations on the Secretary-General's reports on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 69], financing for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/742] of the support account for peacekeeping operations.

On 30 June, the General Assembly, by **decision 68/549 C**, deferred consideration of further reports of the Secretary-General, ACABQ and Office of Internal Oversight Services on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the UN peacekeeping operations until the second part of its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/918] adopted **resolution 68/283** without vote [agenda item 147].

Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 50/221 B of 7 June 1996, section I of its resolution 55/238 of 23 December 2000, its resolutions 55/271 of 14 June 2001, 56/241 of 24 December 2001, 56/293 of 27 June 2002, 57/318 of 18 June 2003, 58/298 of 18 June 2004, 59/301 of 22 June 2005, 60/268 of 30 June 2006, 61/279 of 29 June 2007, 62/250 of 20 June 2008, 63/287 of 30 June 2009, 64/271 of 24 June 2010, 65/290 of 30 June 2011, 66/265 of 21 June 2012 and 67/287 of 28 June 2013 and its other relevant resolutions, as well as its decisions 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the proposed budget of the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations being able to respond and deploy rapidly to a peacekeeping operation upon the adoption of a relevant resolution of the Security Council, within 30 days for traditional peacekeeping operations and 90 days for complex peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing also the need for adequate support during all phases of peacekeeping operations, including the liquidation and termination phases,

Mindful that the level of the support account should broadly correspond to the mandate, number, size and complexity of peacekeeping missions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the proposed budget of the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;

2. *Reaffirms* its role in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of human and financial resources and policies with a view to ensuring the full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;

3. *Also reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters;

4. *Further reaffirms* rule 153 of its rules of procedure;

5. *Reaffirms* that the support account funds shall be used for the sole purpose of financing human resources and non-human resource requirements for backstopping and supporting peacekeeping operations at Headquarters, and that any changes in this limitation require the prior approval of the General Assembly;

6. *Also reaffirms* the need for adequate funding for the backstopping of peacekeeping operations, as well as the need for full justification for that funding in support account budget submissions;

7. *Further reaffirms* the need for effective and efficient administration and financial management of peacekeeping operations, and urges the Secretary-General to continue to identify measures to increase the productivity and efficiency of the support account;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012 and its other relevant resolutions;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on

Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Decides* to maintain, for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, the funding mechanism for the support account used in the current period, from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, as approved in paragraph 3 of its resolution 50/221 B;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

12. *Approves* the requirements for the support account in the amount of 326,047,300 United States dollars for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of the amount of 20,054,700 dollars for the Umoja enterprise resource planning project and 821,500 dollars for information and systems security, including 1,292 continuing posts and 38 new temporary posts, as well as the redeployment, reassignment and reclassification of posts, as set out in annex I to the present resolution, 105 continuing and 23 new general temporary assistance positions and 77 person-months, as set out in annex II, as well as related post and non-post requirements;

Financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial periods from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

13. *Decides* that the requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 shall be financed as follows:

(a) An amount of 11,692,300 dollars to be assessed in respect of the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

(b) The amount of 1,323,200 dollars, comprising interest income of 451,700 dollars, other miscellaneous income of 141,300 dollars and cancellation of prior-period obligations of 732,700 dollars, taking into account prior-period adjustments of 2,500 dollars (decrease), to be applied to the resources required for the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

(c) The amount of 838,800 dollars, representing the excess of the authorized level of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, to be applied to the resources required for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;

(d) The balance of 335,577,600 dollars to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;

(e) The net estimated staff assessment income of 21,299,100 dollars, comprising the amount of 25,254,500 dollars for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and the decrease of 3,955,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, to be offset against the balance referred to in subparagraph (d) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations.

ANNEX I

A. Posts to be established under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Organizational unit		Posts		Function	Status
		Number	Level		
Department of Peacekeeping Operations					
Office of Operations	Africa II Division	1	D-1	Team Leader (MINUSMA Integrated Operational Team)	GTA conversion
		1	P-5	Political Affairs Officer (MINUSMA Integrated Operational Team)	GTA conversion
Office of Military Affairs	Integrated Operational Team	1	P-4	Military Liaison Officer (MINUSMA Integrated Operational Team specialist)	GTA conversion
	Military Planning Service	1	GS (OL)	Team Assistant	GTA conversion
	Current Military Operations Service	1	GS (OL)	Team Assistant	GTA conversion
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions	Office of the Assistant Secretary-General	1	P-4	Security Sector Reform Officer (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
		1	P-4	Rule of Law Officer (MINUSMA Integrated Operational Team specialist)	GTA conversion
	Police Division	1	P-4	Training Adviser (standing police capacity)	New
		1	P-3	Police Reform Officer (standing police capacity)	New
		1	P-3	Investigations Officer (standing police capacity)	New
	Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service	1	P-4	Judicial Affairs Officer (Islamic law)	GTA conversion
		1	P-4	Judicial Affairs Officer (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
		1	P-3	Corrections Officer (force generation)	GTA conversion
	Mine Action Service	1	P-3	Programme Officer (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
Subtotal		14			
Department of Field Support					
Office of the Under-Secretary-General	MINUSMA Headquarters Support Team	1	P-5	Senior Support Officer (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
		2	P-4	Planning Officer (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
		1	GS (OL)	Administrative Assistant (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
	Integrated Operational Team	1	P-4	Support Officer (MINUSMA Integrated Operational Team specialist)	GTA conversion
Field Budget and Finance Division	Budget and Performance Reporting Service	1	P-4	Finance and Budget Officer (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
Logistics Support Division	Supply Section	1	P-4	Supply Officer (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
	Movement Control Section	1	GS (OL)	Movement Control Assistant (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
Information and Communications Technology Division	Field Information and Communications Technology Support Section	1	P-4	Telecommunications Engineer (MINUSMA)	GTA conversion
Subtotal		9			
Department of Management					
Office of the Under-Secretary-General	Headquarters Committee on Contracts	1	P-4	Capacity Development Officer	GTA conversion
		1	GS (OL)	Training and Analysis Assistant	GTA conversion
Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	Treasury	1	P-3	Finance Officer	GTA conversion

<i>Organizational unit</i>		<i>Posts</i>		<i>Function</i>	<i>Status</i>
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Level</i>		
Office of Central Support Services	Office of the Assistant Secretary-General	1	P-3	Administrative Officer	GTA conversion
	Procurement Division	3	P-3	Procurement Officer (engineering/logistics/vehicles)	GTA conversion
	Facilities and Commercial Services Division	1	P-3	Office Space Planning Officer	GTA conversion
Subtotal		8			
Office of Internal Oversight Services					
Internal Audit Division	Headquarters	1	P-4	Information and Communications Technology Auditor	GTA conversion
	United Nations Support Office for AMISOM	1	P-4	Resident Auditor	GTA conversion
Subtotal		2			
Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services					
Headquarters		1	P-4	Case Officer	GTA conversion
		1	GS (OL)	Administrative Assistant	GTA conversion
Subtotal		2			
Ethics Office					
		1	P-5	Corporate Ethics and Compliance Officer	New
		1	GS (OL)	Administrative Assistant	GTA conversion
Subtotal		2			
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights					
Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division	Peace Mission Support Unit (Headquarters)	1	P-5	Senior Human Rights Officer	New
Subtotal		1			
Total		38			

Note: The specific assignment and location of each of the new posts is set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/742) and referenced in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/68/861).

Abbreviations: AMISOM, African Union Mission in Somalia; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GTA, general temporary assistance; MINUSMA, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

B. Restructuring, redeployment, reassignment and reclassification of posts under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Restructuring

Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Office of Operations

Renaming of the existing Integrated Mission Planning Process Unit in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General to the Integrated Assessment and Planning Unit

Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Office of Operations/Africa II Division/Somalia Coordination and Planning Team

Redeployment of the Somalia Coordination and Planning Team and its 4 posts (D-1 Principal Officer, P-4 Political Affairs Officer, P-3 Political Affairs Officer, GS (OL) Team Assistant) to the Office of the Director of the Africa I Division

Department of Field Support/Logistics Support Division/Strategic Support Service/Engineering Section

Establishment of a Waste Management Unit in the Engineering Section

Redeployments

Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Office of Operations/Asia and Middle East Division/Asia Integrated Operational Team

Redeployment of 1 post (P-5 Political Affairs Officer) to the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General

Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Office of Operations/Africa II Division/West Africa Integrated Operational Team

Redeployment of 1 post (P-4 Senior Political Affairs Officer) to the Mali Integrated Operational Team

Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Office of Operations/Europe and Latin America Division/Haiti Integrated Operational Team

Redeployment of 2 posts (P-3 Political Affairs Officer, GS (OL) Team Assistant) to the Mali Integrated Operational Team in the Africa II Division

Department of Field Support/Office of the Under-Secretary-General/Strategic Support Team

Redeployment of 1 post (P-3 Programme Officer) to the Audit Response and Boards of Inquiry Section

Department of Field Support/Field Budget and Finance Division/Office of the Director/Front office

Redeployment of 1 post (P-4 Finance Officer) to the Memorandum of Understanding and Claims Management Section

Department of Field Support/Field Budget and Finance Division/Office of the Director

Redeployment of 1 post (P-3 Finance Officer) to the Capacity Development Section of the Budget and Performance Reporting Service

Office of Internal Oversight Services/Internal Audit Division/Peacekeeping Audit Service at Headquarters

Redeployment of 1 post (D-1 Chief of Service) to the Resident Audit Office in Entebbe, Uganda

Office of Internal Oversight Services/Internal Audit Division/Resident Audit Office in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Redeployment of 1 post (P-4 Resident Auditor) to the Resident Audit Office in the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia

Reassignments

Department of Field Support/Field Budget and Finance Division/Budget and Performance Reporting Service/Capacity Development Section

Reassignment of 1 post (GS (OL) Computer Information Systems Assistant) to the Memorandum of Understanding and Claims Management Section as an Administrative Assistant

Department of Field Support/Logistics Support Division/Logistics Operations Section

Reassignment of 1 post (P-4 Logistics Officer) to the Engineering Section of the Strategic Support Service as a Waste Management Officer

Reclassification

Department of Field Support/Logistics Support Division/Strategic Transport Service/Air Transport Section

Reclassification of 1 post (P-5 Chief to D-1 Chief)
Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

ANNEX II

General temporary assistance positions to be established under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Organizational unit		Position		Function	Status
		Number	Level		
Department of Peacekeeping Operations					
Office of the Under-Secretary-General	Front office of the Chief of Staff	1	P-4	Organizational Resilience Officer	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Administrative Assistant (organizational resilience)	Continuation
	Executive Office	–	4 months, 3 P-3	Leave replacement	Continuation
		–	4 months, 3 GS (OL)	Leave replacement	Continuation
Office of Operations	Africa II Division	1	P-5	Senior Political Affairs Officer (MINUSCA)	New
		1	P-4	Political Affairs Officer (MINUSCA)	New
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions	Office of the Assistant Secretary-General	1	P-4	Rule of Law and Security Institutions Officer (MINUSCA Integrated Operational Team specialist)	New
	Police Division	1	P-4	Police Programme Officer (MINUSCA)	New
	Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service	1	P-4	Judicial Affairs Officer	Continuation
	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section	1	P-4	Policy and Planning Officer (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) (MINUSCA)	New
Policy, Evaluation and Training Division	Policy and Best Practices Service	1	P-4	Coordination Officer (protection of civilians)	Continuation
Subtotal		9			
United Nations Office to the African Union					
		–	4 months, 1 P-3	Leave replacement	New
		–	4 months, 1 NGS	Leave replacement	New
Subtotal		–			

Organizational unit		Position		Function	Status
		Number	Level		
Department of Field Support					
Office of the Under-Secretary-General	United Nations Support Office for AMISOM Headquarters Support Team	1	P-5	Senior Support Officer	Continuation
		1	P-4	Support Officer	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Administrative Assistant	Continuation
	Programme Implementation Coordination Team	1	D-1	Team Leader (global field support strategy)	Continuation
	Operational Support Team	1	P-4	Planning Officer (MINUSCA)	New
Field Budget and Finance Division	Memorandum of Understanding and Claims Management Section	1	P-5	Senior Programme Officer (troop cost survey)	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Administrative Assistant (troop cost survey)	Continuation
		1	P-3	Finance Officer (MINUSCA)	New
Field Personnel Division	Africa I Section	1	P-4	Human Resources Officer (MINUSCA)	New
	Africa II Section	1	P-4	Human Resources Officer (MINUSMA)	Continuation
	Quality Assurance and Information Management Section	1	P-3	Human Resources Officer (administration of justice)	Continuation
	Recruitment, Outreach and Career Development Section	12	P-3	Human Resources Officer (occupational groups)	Continuation
		4	GS (OL)	Human Resources Assistant (occupational groups)	Continuation
		–	9 months, 1 P-3	Human Resources Officer (MINUSCA)	New
Logistics Support Division	Logistics Operations Section	1	P-5	Senior Logistics Operations Officer (MINUSCA)	New
		1	P-4	Planning Officer (engineer) (MINUSCA)	New
		–	10 months, 1 P-3	Supply Officer (MINUSCA)	New
Subtotal		29			
Department of Management					
Office of the Under-Secretary-General	Management Evaluation Unit	1	P-3	Legal Officer	Continuation
Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	Office of the Controller	1	P-5	Project Manager (International Public Sector Accounting Standards)	Continuation
		1	P-4	International Public Sector Accounting Standards Officer	Continuation
		2	P-3	International Public Sector Accounting Standards Officer	Continuation
	Accounts Division	1	GS (OL)	Finance Assistant (insurance)	Continuation
		1	P-4	Finance Officer (MINUSCA)	New
	Treasury	1	P-2	Associate Finance Officer	Continuation
	Peacekeeping Financing Division	1	P-4	Finance and Budget Officer (MINUSMA)	Continuation
		1	P-4	Finance and Budget Officer (MINUSCA)	New
		2	P-3	Finance and Budget Officer	Continuation
Office of Human Resources Management	Human Resources Policy Service	1	P-2	Associate Legal Officer	Continuation
	Learning, Development and Human Resources Services Division	1	P-3	Human Resources Officer (mobility)	Continuation
		1	P-3	Human Resources Officer (performance management)	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Human Resources Assistant	Continuation
	Human Resources Information Systems Section (Headquarters)	1	P-4	Project Manager	Continuation
		1	P-4	Project Manager (data warehouse)	Continuation
		1	P-3	Business Analyst (Inspira)	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Integrated Management Information System Help Desk Assistant	Continuation

Organizational unit		Position		Function	Status
		Number	Level		
	Human Resources Information Systems Section (Bangkok)	1	P-3	Development Officer	Continuation
		1	P-3	Development and Production Support Analyst	Continuation
		1	P-2	Associate Applications Support Officer	Continuation
		1	GS (PL)	Customer Support Representative	Continuation
		6	GS (OL)	Customer Support Representative	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Database Administrator	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Administrative Assistant	Continuation
Office of Central Support Services	Procurement Division	1	P-3	Procurement Officer (vendor registration)	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Procurement Assistant	Continuation
		1	P-3	Procurement Officer (engineer) (MINUSCA)	New
	Facilities and Commercial Services Division	1	P-2	Associate Information Management Officer	Continuation
Office of Information and Communications Technology	Resource Management Section	1	P-4	Project Manager (rations management system)	New
		1	P-3	Information Systems Officer (customer relationship management for the troop contribution management project)	Continuation
		1	P-3	Information Systems Officer (fuel management system)	Continuation
Subtotal		39			
Office of Internal Oversight Services					
Executive Office		–	4 months, 2 P-3	Leave replacement	Continuation
		–	4 months, 3 GS (OL)	Leave replacement	Continuation
Investigations Division	Vienna	1	D-1	Deputy Director	Continuation
		1	P-5	Senior Investigator	Continuation
		2	P-4	Investigator	Continuation
Investigations Division	Vienna	1	P-4	Forensic Investigator	Continuation
		4	P-3	Investigator	Continuation
		1	P-3	Investigator (MINUSMA)	New
		1	GS (PL)	Investigations Assistant	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Information Technology Assistant	Continuation
		1	GS (OL)	Investigations Assistant	Continuation
		1	P-4	Forensic Investigator	Continuation
	Nairobi	1	P-3	Investigator	Continuation
		3	P-3	Investigator	Continuation
	Entebbe, Uganda	1	P-3	Investigator (MINUSCA)	New
		1	NGS	Administrative Assistant	Continuation
		1	P-5	Chief Resident Investigator	Continuation
	UNMIL	1	P-4	Investigator	Continuation
		3	P-3	Investigator	Continuation
		1	NGS	Administrative Assistant	Continuation
	UNMISS	2	P-3	Investigator	Continuation
		1	NGS	Administrative Assistant	Continuation
	UNOCI	1	P-5	Chief Resident Investigator	Continuation
		1	P-4	Investigator	Continuation
		2	P-3	Investigator	Continuation
		1	NGS	Administrative Assistant	Continuation
Internal Audit Division	MINUSCA	1	P-5	Chief Resident Auditor (MINUSCA)	New
		3	P-4	Resident Auditor (MINUSCA)	New
		2	P-3	Resident Auditor (MINUSCA)	New

Organizational unit		Position		Function	Status
		Number	Level		
MINUSMA		1	P-5	Chief Resident Auditor (MINUSMA)	Continuation
		3	P-4	Resident Auditor (MINUSMA)	Continuation
		2	P-3	Resident Auditor (MINUSMA)	Continuation
		Subtotal	46		
Office of Staff Legal Assistance		1	P-3	Legal Officer	Continuation
		Subtotal	1		
Office of Legal Affairs					
General Legal Division	Administration of Justice Cluster	–	6 months, 1 P-4	Leave replacement	Continuation
		1	P-4	Legal Officer (administration of justice)	Continuation
		1	P-3	Legal Officer (administration of justice)	Continuation
		Subtotal	2		
Secretariat of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions		1	P-4	Administrative Management Officer	Continuation
		Subtotal	1		
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights					
Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, Africa Branch (Geneva)		1	P-4	Human Rights Officer (MINUSMA)	New
		Subtotal	1		
Total		128	positions and 77 person-months (positions of less than 12 months duration) ^a		

Note: The specific assignment and location of each of the general temporary assistance positions is set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/742) and referenced in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/68/861).

Abbreviations: AMISOM, African Union Mission in Somalia; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL) General Service (Principal level); MINUSCA, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic; MINUSMA, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali; NGS, national General Service; UNMIL, United Nations Mission in Liberia; UNMISS, United Nations Mission in South Sudan; UNOCI, United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

^a Person-months are indicated in the column entitled "Level".

Funds for closed missions

In April [A/68/837], ACABQ recommended, subject to comments and observations provided in its report, that the Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions [YUN 2013, p. 78].

In December [A/69/659], the Secretary-General updated financial position of 25 closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2014. The net cash surplus in the account of 20 closed missions available for credit to Member States as at that date amounted to \$58,978,000. That amount did not include loans totalling \$10,816,000 owed by two closed missions—the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti/United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (\$7,366,000) and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (\$3,450,000)—and another \$36,000,000 owed by two active peacekeeping missions (\$9,000,000 by MINURSO and \$28,000,000 by UNMIK). Five of the 25 closed missions had cash deficits totalling \$86,700,000, owing to outstanding payments of assessed contributions. The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly consider proposals to address the cash requirements

of active peacekeeping operations, and approve the retention of the net cash balance of \$59 million available in 20 closed peacekeeping operations if no new mechanism to address the cash requirements of active peacekeeping operations would be approved.

Accounts and auditing

At its resumed sixty-eight (2014) session, the Assembly considered the financial report and audited financial statements [A/68/5 (Vol. II)] for UN peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013; the Secretary-General's report [A/68/751] on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning UN peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2013; and ACABQ report [A/68/843] on the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the UN peacekeeping operations and the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Board's recommendations for the financial period ended 30 June 2013.

On 30 June, the General Assembly, by **decision 68/549 C**, deferred consideration of further reports of the Secretary-General and ACABQ on closed peacekeeping missions until the second part of its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Reimbursement issues

Rates of reimbursement

The Fifth Committee, during its consideration of the agenda item on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the UN peacekeeping operations [A/68/918], had before it, among other documents, the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the revised survey to establish the standard rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, as approved by the Assembly resolution 67/261 [YUN 2013, p. 78] on the report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries [A/68/813], and the related report of ACABQ [A/68/859].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/918] adopted **resolution 68/281** without vote [agenda item 147].

Rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 67/261 of 10 May 2013,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the revised survey to establish the standard rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/261 on the report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the sample countries for their active participation in the revised survey and to the Secretary-General for facilitating the collection of data;
4. *Reaffirms* its resolution 67/261, welcomes the results of the revised survey, and decides to establish a single rate of reimbursement to countries contributing contingent personnel to United Nations field operations in the amount of 1,332 United States dollars per person per month as from 1 July 2014, increasing to 1,365 dollars per person per month as from 1 July 2016 and increasing to 1,410 dollars per person per month as from 1 July 2017;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make such payments as he authorizes for the premium payments from the accounts of the qualifying missions, and also requests the Secretary-General to report on such payments and on any implications for approved funding levels in the report on the budget performance of each peacekeeping operation.

Reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment

The Fifth Committee, during its consideration of the agenda item on administrative and budgetary

aspects of the financing of the UN peacekeeping operations [A/68/918], had before it the report [A/68/830] of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment, the related ACABQ report [A/68/867], and a 28 February letter [A/C.5/68/22] from the Chair of the 2014 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment to the Chair of the Fifth Committee transmitting the report of the Working Group.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/918] adopted **resolution 68/282** without vote [agenda item 147].

Triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment

The General Assembly,

Having considered the letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Chair of the 2014 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment to the Chair of the Fifth Committee transmitting the report of the Working Group, the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the 2014 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the performance report of each peacekeeping operation any implications of costs for the rotation of aged contingent-owned equipment for approved funding levels.

Cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries

The Special Committee [A/68/19] renewed its call on the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries in a timely manner when planning any change in military tasks, mission-specific rules of engagement, operational concepts or command and control structure or early peacebuilding tasks that would impact personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, so as to enable troop-contributing countries to contribute their advice during the planning process and to ensure that their personnel had the capacity to meet the new demands. It reiterated the necessity for troop- and police-contributing countries to be provided with comprehensive briefings by the Secretariat on

a regular basis on the situation of each peacekeeping operation, and for the Secretariat to respond rapidly to requests for information on latest developments in operations, technical assessment missions and on urgent situations that affect their operations. The Special Committee recommended consulting with troop- and police-contributing countries in order to involve them early on and fully in all stages of operations, and recommended that guidelines for pre-deployment visits for military contributions and formed police units be improved. It called on the Secretariat to continue to improve its information-sharing and consultation processes with all Member States and requested the Secretariat to make available to potential contributing countries pre-deployment threat assessments, concepts of operations and rules of engagement for existing and new missions, in order to assist them before they present their pledges to those missions.

Management of peacekeeping assets

UN Logistics Base

The General Assembly, at its resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session, considered the budget performance report [A/68/575] of the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. Expenditure totalled \$68,622,400 gross (\$62,828,000 net) against an appropriation of \$68,627,000 gross (\$62,771,100 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of \$4,600. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of \$4,600; and of other income/adjustments for the period ended 30 June 2013 amounting to \$1,160,600 from interest income (\$556,300), other/miscellaneous income (\$352,300) and cancellation of prior-period obligations (\$252,000).

The Assembly also considered the proposed UNLB budget, set out in a report of the Secretary-General [A/68/727], for 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, which amounted to \$71,485,900 and provided for the deployment of 133 international staff and 292 national staff, including 6 temporary positions.

In May [A/68/782/Add.8], ACABQ recommended that the estimated budget requirement be reduced by \$1,147,300, from \$71,485,900 to \$70,338,600. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the amount of \$70,338,600 for the maintenance of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/918] adopted **resolution 68/284** without vote [agenda item 147].

Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

The General Assembly,

Recalling section XIV of its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 and its resolution 62/231 of 22 December 2007,

Recalling also its decision 50/500 of 17 September 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/288 of 28 June 2013,

Recalling further its resolution 56/292 of 27 June 2002 concerning the establishment of the strategic deployment stocks and its subsequent resolutions on the status of the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, the latest of which was resolution 67/288,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Reiterating the importance of establishing an accurate inventory of assets,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the facilities provided by the Government of Italy to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and by the Government of Spain to the secondary active telecommunications facility in Valencia, Spain;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

5. *Approves* the cost estimates for the United Nations Logistics Base amounting to 70,338,600 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;

Financing of the budget estimates

6. *Decides* that the requirements for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 shall be financed as follows:

(a) The unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 1,165,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, to be applied against the resources required for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;

(b) The balance of 69,173,400 dollars, to be prorated among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;

(c) The estimated staff assessment income of 6,179,900 dollars, comprising the amount of 6,241,400 dollars for the

period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and the decrease of 61,500 dollars in respect of the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, to be offset against the balance referred to in subparagraph (b) above, to be prorated among the budgets of the individual active peacekeeping operations;

7. *Also decides* to consider at its sixty-ninth session the question of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base.

Restructuring issues

Global field support strategy

In accordance with Assembly resolution 64/269 [YUN 2010, p. 97], the Secretary-General, in December, submitted the fifth annual progress report [A/69/651] on the implementation of the global field support strategy. It proposed that a second shared services centre be established, to operate along with the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, Uganda, and outlined a proposed approach and criteria for determining its location. The report also proposed a shift in the financing model for the Service Centre to support increased transparency, scalability, resource management and performance oversight. The supply chain management strategy and implementation plan were also outlined, including four priority projects to be implemented in the coming two to three years.

The Secretary-General requested that the Assembly approve the establishment of a special account in support of the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe and agree that a separate budget be presented for the Centre.

In May [A/68/782], ACABQ reported on its observations and recommendations on the 2013 report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the global field support strategy [YUN 2013, p. 79] and on other cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations.

Personnel matters

Criminal accountability of UN staff and experts on mission

In response to Assembly resolution 68/105 [YUN 2013, p. 81], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/210] on the criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on mission, providing information received from Governments on the extent to which their laws established jurisdiction, in particular over serious crimes committed by their nationals while serving as UN officials or experts on mission; as well as information on cooperation among States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecution. The report also detailed Secretariat activities conducted in the implementation of the resolution, focusing on bringing credible allegations to the attention of the State against whose nationals such allegations were made, and measures to strengthen training on UN standards of conduct.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth (Legal) Committee [A/69/495], adopted **resolution 69/114** without vote [agenda item 75].

Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/281 of 29 March 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the Secretary-General make available to the United Nations membership a comprehensive report on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations,

Recalling also that the Secretary-General, on 24 March 2005, transmitted to the President of the General Assembly a report of his Adviser concerning sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel,

Recalling further its resolution 59/300 of 22 June 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee that a group of legal experts be established to provide advice on the best way to proceed so as to ensure that the original intent of the Charter of the United Nations can be achieved, namely, that United Nations staff and experts on mission would never be effectively exempt from the consequences of criminal acts committed at their duty station, nor unjustly penalized, without due process,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of United Nations officials and experts on mission towards the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international law,

Reaffirming also that the present resolution is without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of United Nations officials and experts on mission and the United Nations under international law,

Reaffirming further the obligation of United Nations officials and experts on mission to respect the national laws of the host State, as well as the right of the host State to exercise, where applicable, its criminal jurisdiction, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing operations of United Nations missions,

Deeply concerned by reports of criminal conduct, and conscious that such conduct, if not investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted, would create the negative impression that United Nations officials and experts on mission operate with impunity,

Reaffirming the need to ensure that all United Nations officials and experts on mission function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations,

Emphasizing that crimes committed by such persons are unacceptable and have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of the mandate of the United Nations, in particular with respect to the relations between the United Nations and the local population in the host country,

Conscious of the importance of protecting the rights of victims of criminal conduct, as well as of ensuring adequate protection for witnesses, and recalling the adoption of its resolution 62/214 of 21 December 2007 on the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and

Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel,

Emphasizing the need to enhance international cooperation to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Recalling its resolution 61/29 of 4 December 2006, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Having considered at its previous sessions the report of the Group of Legal Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to its resolution 59/300 and the reports of the Ad Hoc Committee, as well as the note by the Secretariat and the reports of the Secretary-General on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Recalling its resolutions 62/63 of 6 December 2007, 63/119 of 11 December 2008, 64/110 of 16 December 2009, 65/20 of 6 December 2010, 66/93 of 9 December 2011, 67/88 of 14 December 2012 and 68/105 of 16 December 2013,

Recalling also its decision that, bearing in mind its resolutions 62/63 and 63/119, the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, taking into account the views of Member States and the information contained in the note by the Secretariat, shall be continued during its seventieth session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee,

Convinced of the continuing need for the United Nations and its Member States to urgently take strong and effective steps to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission in the interest of justice,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Strongly urges* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission do not go unpunished and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice, without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of such persons and the United Nations under international law, and in accordance with international human rights standards, including due process;
3. *Strongly urges* all States to consider establishing, to the extent that they have not yet done so, jurisdiction over crimes, particularly those of a serious nature, as known in their existing national criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, at least where the conduct as defined in the law of the State establishing jurisdiction also constitutes a crime under the laws of the host State, and, further, urges States and appropriate international organizations to provide technical and other appropriate assistance in developing such legal measures to States requesting such support;
4. *Encourages* all States to cooperate with each other and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and in facilitating the conduct of investigations and, as appropriate, the prosecution of United Nations officials and experts on mission who are alleged to have committed crimes of a serious nature, in accordance with their national law and applicable United Nations rules and regulations, fully respecting due process rights, as well as to consider strengthening the capacities of their national authorities to investigate and prosecute such crimes;
5. *Also encourages* all States:

(a) To afford each other assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings in respect of crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal, in accordance with their national law or any treaties or other arrangements on extradition and mutual legal assistance that may exist between them;

(b) In accordance with their national law, to explore ways and means of facilitating the possible use of information and material obtained from the United Nations for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated in their territory for the prosecution of crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, bearing in mind due process considerations;

(c) In accordance with their national law, to provide effective protection for victims of, witnesses to and others who provide information in relation to crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission and to facilitate access of victims to victim assistance programmes, without prejudice to the rights of the alleged offender, including those relating to due process;

(d) In accordance with their national law, to explore ways and means of responding adequately to requests by host States for support and assistance in order to enhance their capacity to conduct effective investigations in respect of crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure that requests to Member States seeking personnel to serve as experts on mission make States aware of the expectation that persons who serve in that capacity should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour and be aware that certain conduct may amount to a crime for which they may be held accountable;

7. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to take such other practical measures as are within his authority to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission induction training for United Nations officials and experts on mission;

8. *Reiterates* its decision that, bearing in mind its resolutions 62/63 and 63/119, the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, taking into account the views of Member States and also noting the inputs by the Secretariat, shall be continued during its seventieth session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee, and, for that purpose, invites further comments from Member States on that report, including on the question of future action;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission to the attention of the States against whose nationals such allegations are made and to request from those States an indication of the status of their efforts to investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute crimes of a serious nature, as well as the types of appropriate assistance that States may wish to receive from the Secretariat for the purposes of such investigations and prosecutions;

10. *Urges* States to provide to the Secretary-General at the appropriate time information on their handling of

the credible allegations brought to their attention by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 9 above;

11. *Requests* the United Nations, when its investigations into allegations suggest that crimes of a serious nature may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission, to consider any appropriate measures that may facilitate the possible use of information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States, bearing in mind due process considerations;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations, when allegations against United Nations officials or experts on mission are determined by a United Nations administrative investigation to be unfounded, to take appropriate measures, in the interests of the Organization, to restore the credibility and the reputation of such officials and experts on mission;

13. *Urges* the United Nations to continue cooperating with States exercising jurisdiction in order to provide them, within the framework of the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing activities of the United Nations, with information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States;

14. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations, in accordance with the applicable rules of the Organization, should take no action that would retaliate against or intimidate United Nations officials and experts on mission who report allegations concerning crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

15. *Takes note with appreciation* of the information provided by Governments in response to its resolutions

62/63, 63/119, 64/110, 65/20, 66/93, 67/88 and 68/105, and urges Governments to continue taking the measures necessary for the implementation of those resolutions, including their provisions addressing the establishment of jurisdiction over crimes, particularly those of a serious nature, as known in their existing national criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, as well as cooperation among States, and to provide specific details thereon, in particular with respect to paragraph 3 of the present resolution, in the information provided to the Secretary-General;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular with respect to paragraphs 3, 5, 8 and 9 above, as well as any practical problems in its implementation, on the basis of information received from Governments and the Secretariat;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report information on the number and types of credible allegations and any actions taken by the United Nations, including referrals to appropriate authorities for prosecution and the procedures therefor, and its Member States regarding crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, including information on efforts made to ensure the completeness of incident reporting;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission".

Africa

In 2014, the United Nations continued to support countries in Africa in their efforts to achieve peace, security and stability through nine peacekeeping operations and five political and peacebuilding missions as well as by leading the coordination of international engagement.

The Security Council conducted a mission to Mali and urged the parties to the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement—the Mouvement national pour la libération de l’Azawad and the Haut conseil pour l’unité de l’Azawad and the Government of Mali—to engage as soon as possible in an inclusive dialogue, without preconditions but within a predefined timetable. In June, the eighth consultative meeting between the Security Council and the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council was held in New York. Members reaffirmed that the maintenance of international peace and security was the primary responsibility of the Security Council, and that the mandate of the AU Peace and Security Council was to promote peace and security in Africa.

The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa continued its advocacy and coordination of activities for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) jointly with the AU, and took stock of NEPAD achievements as well as the requirements to further advance the implementation of NEPAD programmes.

The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa continued its efforts to counter the threat and impact of the Lord’s Resistance Army. The Office worked together with the Economic Community of Central African States to restore peace and State authority in the region.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the extension of State authority to areas liberated from the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) control were important achievements that had improved the security situation in many areas. The lack of progress, however, in implementing the Nairobi declarations risked undermining those achievements. Of particular concern was the stalled implementation of the amnesty law and repatriation back to the DRC of former M23 fighters from their cantonment sites in Rwanda and Uganda. In the eastern DRC, the Allied Democratic Forces, Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda and the many Mayi-Mayi groups continued to pose a threat to the civilian population and the overall stability and development in that region.

The Group of Experts on the DRC noted that while progress had been made on traceability concerning

minerals produced in the country, smuggling continued, as elements of the Congolese army and some armed groups remained involved in the minerals trade.

The mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) came to an end in 2014, with the United Nations Electoral Observer Mission in Burundi continuing certain BNUB activities along with the UN country team and regional and international partners.

The Central African Republic (CAR) remained volatile and its people subject to high levels of violence from armed groups, heightened criminality, and intercommunity conflicts that were ethnically and religiously charged. The International Commission of Inquiry to investigate international human rights and humanitarian laws violations and abuses in the CAR by all the parties involved in the armed conflict since 1 January 2013 established that the members of the Armed Forces of the CAR under former President François Bozizé Yangouvonda, and the Séléka and the anti-balaka, were involved in gross human rights abuses, including rape and other crimes under both domestic law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Security in the Sahel region continued to be precarious. The deterioration of the political and security situation in Libya, the political impasse and persisting security challenges in Mali, the increasing number of terrorist attacks throughout the region—notably those carried out by Boko Haram in Nigeria—and incidents of kidnappings for ransom had negative consequences for civilians and local economies.

In Libya, the General National Congress adopted a road map on future transitional arrangements. In June, elections were held for the House of Representatives, a new legislative body. The most serious armed conflict in Libya since 2011 broke out in Tripoli, Benghazi and elsewhere in the country in July, and the country appeared to be descending into a period of instability. The Libyan House of Representatives called for an unconditional ceasefire, to be supervised by the United Nations. In Mali, hostilities resumed between the Government and the Mouvement national de libération de l’Azawad, the Haut Conseil pour l’unité de l’Azawad and the Mouvement arabe de l’Azawad. Four rounds of negotiations ended with an understanding to resume negotiations in January 2015. In June, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali for an additional year, authorizing it to take all necessary means

to carry out its mandate and expand its presence in the North of Mali beyond key population centres.

In Nigeria, there was growing evidence that Boko Haram was better equipped and armed and had the potential to destabilize areas around Lake Chad, reportedly benefiting from the porous borders of Nigeria and Cameroon as well as Chad and the Niger to smuggle in arms and mount attacks against public institutions and the civilian population.

Guinea-Bissau was moving from fragility to stability. The appointment by the National Assembly of an Inspector-General for the Fight against Corruption and the reactivation of the ad hoc Commission for Constitutional Review indicated a return to constitutional order.

In three of the four States members of the Mano River Union—Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone—the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease resulted in an economic slowdown and humanitarian challenges within the countries and had implications for the rest of West Africa.

In Côte d'Ivoire, political dialogue, which had stalled since January, resumed in May, after which the Government committed to a series of confidence-building measures, including the release of additional associates of former President Laurent Gbagbo, welcoming the return of those in self-imposed exile, unfreezing their bank accounts and returning illegally occupied properties. In June, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire until 30 June 2015. The Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire noted that militias in the country remained highly operational, and, in particular, activities and connected armed attacks in the country continued to be linked to elements of the pro-Gbagbo radical wing, which persevered in its efforts to recruit and finance combatants.

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission made further progress in the demarcation of the land boundary between the two countries. The parties agreed on 1,947 km of the estimated 2,100 km land boundary between them. In Liberia, Senate elections got postponed on account of the Ebola virus disease outbreak, and were eventually held in December in a free, fair, transparent and safe manner, but with a low voter turnout. National reconciliation efforts, however, were not given the necessary priority, while concerns about corruption, impunity, nepotism and cronyism went largely unheeded. In December, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia until 30 September 2015.

Some progress was made towards resolving the remaining issues between the Sudan and South Sudan. A comprehensive political settlement of the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan had yet to be reached, however, and fighting continued between the Government and armed groups. In January, the Presi-

dent of the Sudan announced that the Government planned to initiate an all-inclusive national dialogue. In May, South Sudan resumed participation in the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and in November, the Presidents of the Sudan and South Sudan agreed to resume meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee. The Secretary-General called on the AU Commission to report on its investigation into the 2013 assassination of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief, which remained a source a tension between the two countries.

The armed conflict in South Sudan continued in 2014, despite efforts to reach a political settlement to the crisis. On 23 January, the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in Opposition signed agreements on the cessation of hostilities and on the status of detainees. On 30 January, the Government signed a cessation of hostilities agreement with the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army Cobra Faction. In May, the President outlined a road map for the peace process. In November, the Government and SPLM/A in Opposition signed the implementation matrix for the 23 January agreement.

Despite progress towards key political milestones in Somalia, the security situation remained volatile. The Interim Juba Administration was formally inaugurated in January, and a revised version of Vision 2016, the Federal Government's policy for the political transformation of Somalia, was issued in June. The African Union Mission in Somalia and the Somali National Army launched joint operations that resulted in significant gains within territory controlled by Al-Shabaab. Security at Mogadishu International Airport was bolstered with the deployment of the United Nations Guard Unit. On 1 September, the leader of Al-Shabaab was killed in a missile strike.

The ceasefire in Western Sahara between Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario) continued to hold, but there was no progress towards a resolution of the status of the disputed territory. The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara engaged in consultations with the parties and neighbouring States to gauge their flexibility in developing a compromise solution.

Promotion of peace in Africa

In 2014, the United Nations continued to identify and address the causes of conflict in Africa and promote sustainable peace and development on the continent. Nigeria chaired the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, which focused on enhancing its role, improving cooperation

between the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, and the promotion of and respect for the rule of law and justice in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa. The Security Council conducted a mission to Mali from 31 January to 3 February.

The United Nations continued its cooperation with the AU, including through the eighth consultative meeting between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council in June.

The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, headed by Maged Abdelfatah Abdelaziz (Egypt), promoted international support for Africa's development and security, including through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and continued to undertake advocacy and promote public information for NEPAD jointly with the AU.

Conflict prevention and resolution

Working Group. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, a subsidiary organ of the Security Council and established in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 93], continued to monitor the implementation of Security Council recommendations related to conflict prevention and resolution on the continent. Nigeria, in its capacity as Chair, submitted a December report [S/2014/937] on the Group's 2014 activities. In its May meeting, the Group discussed, among other issues, preparations for the eighth annual joint consultative meeting between the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council.

Communication. In a 4 December letter [S/2014/869] to the Secretary-General, Chad transmitted a concept note for the high-level open debate of the Security Council on threats to international peace and security, terrorism and cross-border crime (see below).

Security Council consideration (December). The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Security Council at its meeting on 19 December [S/PV.7351] on the prevention of conflict in Africa, in particular the fight against terrorism. In the area of capacity-building, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was implementing a vast array of projects in Africa to strengthen legal regimes, criminal justice cooperation and border controls, such as the Regional Judicial Platform for cooperation in the Sahel, the West Africa Coast Initiative to create transnational organized crime units, and the Global Firearms Programme. The United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism was supporting Southern and Central African countries to develop regional counter-terrorism strategies to strengthen their ability to jointly combat terrorism and transnational organized crime.

Cooperation with the African Union

Annual consultative meeting. The Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council held their eighth consultative meeting (New York, 6 June). In a joint communiqué adopted at the meeting and transmitted to the President of the Security Council on 6 June [S/2014/400], members reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, and that the mandate of the AU Peace and Security Council was to promote peace and security in Africa, as provided in the AU Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council. The meeting discussed the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR); South Sudan; the Great Lakes Region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); Mali; Somalia; the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID); cooperation in combating terrorism in Africa; and strengthening the AU-UN partnership.

Communication. In an 8 December letter [S/2014/879] to the Secretary-General, Chad transmitted a concept note for the high-level open debate of the Security Council on Peace operations: the partnership between the United Nations and the AU and its evolution (see below).

Security Council consideration (December). On 16 December [S/PV.7343], the Security Council met to discuss the peace partnership and evolution of peace operations between the United Nations and the African Union. The Secretary-General, addressing the meeting, said that the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council were working together more closely, and there was increased support for African-led peace operations and their transition into UN peacekeeping operations, as seen in Mali and the CAR. He further said that through the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, the UN secretariat and the AU Commission had undertaken joint planning and implementation of programmes. The UN also worked closely with the AU and with sub-regional organizations in the Sudan and South Sudan. In the Great Lakes region, strong cooperation among the UN, the AU, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had been vital to the progress that had been made under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region. In Burkina Faso, there was close cooperation between the UN, the AU and the Economic Community of West African States in the immediate aftermath of the uprising that led to the departure of former President Blaise Compaoré (see p. 241).

The Secretary-General noted that increasingly peacekeeping involved diverse actors and even parallel missions. In the CAR, for example, the joint efforts of the African-led International Support Mission in the CAR (MISCA), the French Operation Sangaris, the

European Union operation and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) had contributed to a significant improvement in the security situation, especially in the capital, Bangui. He said there were significant challenges to ensure the effective functioning of the collective security system established by the UN Charter, such as building stronger political partnerships anchored in a strategic vision; a clear, agreed role for the AU and subregional organizations; cooperation between the United Nations, regional organizations and other partners to enhance joint logistical capabilities; and finding creative ways to mobilize the international community to finance African capability.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 June [meeting 98], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/278** [draft: A/68/L.43/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 63 (b)].

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, its resolution 53/92 of 7 December 1998 and subsequent annual resolutions, including resolutions 60/223 of 23 December 2005, 61/230 of 22 December 2006, 62/275 of 11 September 2008, 63/304 of 23 July 2009, 64/252 of 8 February 2010, 65/278 of 13 June 2011, 66/287 of 23 July 2012 and 67/293 of 24 July 2013, as well as its resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July 2012 and 67/294 of 15 August 2013 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and 59/213 of 20 December 2004, 63/310 of 14 September 2009, 65/274 of 18 April 2011 and 67/302 of 16 September 2013 on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union,

Recalling also, in this context, Security Council resolutions 1809(2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa, 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, 1366(2001) of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts, 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011 and 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 on children and armed conflict, 1625(2005) of 14 September 2005 on strengthening the effectiveness of the role of the Council in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, and 1631(2005) of 17 October 2005 and 2033(2012) of 12 January 2012 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome, through which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment

to addressing the special needs of Africa, and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Reaffirming the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting on 22 September 2008,

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document, and recognizing that development, peace, security and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document entitled "The future we want",

Recalling further its resolution 66/293 of 17 September 2012 establishing a monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development, and looking forward to the first biennial report to be submitted by the Secretary-General at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the political declaration on the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held on 25 April 2013,

Recalling the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Stressing that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries, while recognizing the need for the provision of support by the international community and the United Nations, taking into account the responsibilities of the Organization in this regard according to the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of strengthening the capacity of the African Union and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa,

Noting that, despite the positive trends and advances in obtaining durable peace in Africa, the conditions required for sustainable development have yet to be consolidated throughout the continent and that there is therefore an urgent need to continue developing African human and institutional capacities, particularly in countries emerging from conflict,

Expressing concern, in this context, about the resurgence of coups d'état in a few African countries and their negative impact on the consolidation of peace and development,

Welcoming the continuing efforts of the African Union and subregional organizations to settle conflicts and promote human rights, democracy, the rule of law and constitutional order in Africa,

Reaffirming the commitment to ensure that there shall be no tolerance for impunity for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity or for violations of international humanitarian law and gross violations of human rights law, and that such violations shall be properly investigated and appropriately sanctioned, including by bringing the perpetrators of any crimes to justice, through national mechanisms or, where appropriate, regional or international mechanisms, in accordance with international law, and for that purpose encouraging States to strengthen national judicial systems and institutions,

Reaffirming also the need to strengthen the synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda,

Underlining the importance of enhancing national and regional initiatives, with international support, to address the negative implications of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in all its aspects for peace, security and development in Africa, and condemning the illicit trade in and proliferation of arms, especially small arms and light weapons,

Acknowledging that the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations requires that national Governments and international partners continue to develop coordinated approaches tailored to the peacebuilding needs and challenges faced by those countries,

Reaffirming, in this regard, the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated mechanism to address, within its existing mandate and in an integrated manner, the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for peace and sustainable development, taking into consideration national priorities and the principle of national ownership,

Encouraging the United Nations system, the African Union and subregional organizations to enhance their interaction with civil society, academia and research institutions on issues relevant to the promotion of peace, security and sustainable development in Africa, and welcoming the ongoing efforts in this regard, including by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Office to the African Union to enhance the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, particularly in the areas of peace, security and political and humanitarian affairs, and reaffirming the need to ensure coordination and increase cost-effectiveness among relevant entities of the United Nations system involved in the implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office to the African Union,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries, the African Union and subregional organizations in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development, calls for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach among national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and relevant partners in addressing those challenges, with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa, and in this regard recognizes the important role played by civil society organizations, including women's organizations;

3. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the African leaders to Africa's political, social and economic integration agenda and to the ideal of pan-Africanism and African renaissance, as reaffirmed in the solemn declaration adopted on 26 May 2013 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union;

4. *Further welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union and subregional organizations to strengthen their

peacekeeping capacity and to take the lead in peacekeeping operations on the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in close coordination with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as the ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, operationalize the African Standby Force, establish the African capacity for immediate response to crises and enhance mediation capacity and preventive diplomacy, including through the Panel of the Wise;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, including the Panel of the Wise, the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework and the continental early warning system, including its sub-regional components, as well as the operationalization of the African Standby Force;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to assist post-conflict countries, at their request, in achieving a smooth transition from relief to development and to support relevant United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, the international community and all partners to support the efforts of African countries to promote political, social and economic inclusion;

8. *Stresses* the importance of creating an environment conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict;

9. *Invites* the United Nations and the donor community to increase efforts to support ongoing regional efforts to build African mediation and negotiation capacity;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the African Union in its effort to effectively integrate training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with particular emphasis on the rights of women and children, into the training of civilian and military personnel of national standby contingents at both the operational and tactical levels, as set out in article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

11. *Recognizes* that international and regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in Africa should be channelled towards the sustainable development of Africa and the human and institutional capacity-building of African countries and organizations, particularly in priority areas identified at the continental level;

12. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the joint visit of the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank to the countries of the Great Lakes region of Africa from 22 to 24 May 2013 and the financial pledge announced by the World Bank during the visit in support of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, as well as the joint visit of the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the World Bank, the President of the African Development Bank and the European Union Commissioner for Development to the Sahel region from 4 to 7 November 2013, during which financial pledges were made to support the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, and calls for the fulfilment of all the pledges made;

13. *Recalls* the signing of the declaration on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006 and the

ongoing efforts in this regard, notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, underlines the importance of accelerating the implementation of the programme, urges all stakeholders to support the full implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme in all its aspects, in particular the operationalization of the African Standby Force, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in this regard;

14. *Stresses* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, in particular with respect to cross-border issues such as transnational organized crime, disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programmes, the prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources and trafficking in high-value commodities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and emphasizes in this regard the central role of the African Union and subregional organizations in addressing such issues;

15. *Notes with concern* that violence against women and children, including sexual violence, continues and may increase even as armed conflicts draw to an end, urges further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to the protection of and assistance to women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations in Africa, including more systematic monitoring and reporting, notes the adoption by the General Assembly and the Security Council of relevant resolutions, and encourages the entities that compose United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict in the implementation of her mandate, including in Africa;

16. *Also notes with concern* the tragic plight of children in conflict situations in Africa, in particular the phenomenon of child soldiers, as well as other violations against children, stresses the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts and for ensuring that the protection and rights of children in armed conflicts are integrated into all peace processes, also stresses the need for post-conflict counselling, rehabilitation and education, with due regard for the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and encourages the relevant parts of the United Nations system to assist in the implementation of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, including in Africa;

17. *Stresses* the importance of addressing the socioeconomic dimension of youth unemployment as well as facilitating the enhanced participation of youth in decision-making processes, with a view to addressing social, political and economic challenges;

18. *Calls for* the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, consistent with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1325(2000) and 1820(2008) on women and peace and security, and calls upon Member States in this context to support the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), established by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010;

19. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union to ensure the protection of the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, recalls in this regard the adop-

tion and entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, the African Union Gender Policy and the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development, as well as the Framework for Cooperation on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations in Africa signed by the African Union Commission and the United Nations, stresses the significance of those instruments for all countries in Africa for strengthening the role of women in peace and conflict prevention on the continent, and strongly urges the United Nations and all relevant parties to redouble their efforts and support in this regard;

20. *Takes note* of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which entered into force on 6 December 2012, and the Kampala Declaration on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, adopted on 23 October 2009;

21. *Calls for* the safeguarding of the principle of refugee protection in Africa and the resolution of the plight of refugees, including through support for efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement and bringing about the voluntary, dignified, safe and sustainable return and reintegration of those populations, and calls upon the international community, including Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

22. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the African Peer Review Mechanism since its inception in improving governance and supporting socioeconomic development in African countries, and recalls in this regard the high-level panel discussion held on 21 October 2013 on Africa's innovation in governance through 10 years of the African Peer Review Mechanism, organized during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Mechanism;

23. *Welcomes* African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the African Peer Review Mechanism, encourages more African countries to participate in this process, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries and regional and subregional organizations, upon their request, in their ongoing efforts to promote democracy, constitutional order and the rule of law, to enhance good governance and to continue to fight against impunity, as well as in the holding of free, fair, inclusive and transparent elections;

24. *Recognizes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring that national ownership of the peacebuilding process in countries emerging from conflict is observed and that nationally identified priorities are at the core of international and regional efforts in post-conflict peacebuilding in the countries under consideration, notes the important steps taken by the Commission in engaging with Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone,

through integrated peacebuilding strategies, and with Guinea and Liberia, through statements of mutual commitments for peacebuilding, and calls for sustained regional and international commitment to the implementation of those strategies and mutual commitments;

25. *Stresses* the importance of effectively addressing the challenges that continue to hamper the achievement of peace, stability and sustainable development on the continent, and encourages the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries in effectively addressing these challenges;

26. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and invites Member States, to assist African countries emerging from conflict, upon their request as appropriate, in their efforts to build national capacities, including through national security sector reform strategies, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, the provision for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the launch of income-generation activities, particularly for youth and women, and the delivery of basic public services;

27. *Takes note* of the African Union policy framework on security sector reform adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its summit in January 2013, welcomes the support rendered by the United Nations and development partners in the formulation of the policy framework, and calls upon the international community, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the efforts towards its implementation;

28. *Urges* continued support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and hunger, job creation and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, fulfilment of commitments on official development assistance and increased flows of foreign direct investment and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

29. *Recognizes* the need for African countries to make continued efforts to create enabling environments for inclusive growth in support of sustainable development and for the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support those development efforts by African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

30. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States, bilateral and multilateral partners and new partners, to deliver expeditiously on commitments and to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the provisions of the political declaration on Africa's development needs, as well as the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

31. *Stresses* the need to promote socioeconomic development on the continent, and in this context takes note of the Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, adopted by the African Union in 2004, as well as the recommendations of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, which were endorsed by the African Union in July 2008 and which cover such critical areas as agriculture and food security, education, health, infrastructure and trade facilitation and the national statistical system;

32. *Encourages* African Governments to strengthen structures and policies in order to create an environment conducive to the promotion of inclusive economic growth and to attracting foreign direct investment by, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate, with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights, and to promote socioeconomic development and social justice, calls upon African Member States and regional and subregional organizations to assist the African countries concerned, at their request, by enhancing their capacity to devise and improve their national natural resources and public revenue management structures, and in this regard invites the international community to assist in that process by providing adequate financial and technical assistance and by renewing its commitment to efforts aimed at combating the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of those countries, in conformity with international law;

33. *Recalls* relevant resolutions on the strengthening of cooperation and communication between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations or arrangements, and encourages coordination and cooperation between the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations and regional economic communities in advocacy and in the mobilization of the support of the international community for African countries and towards the priorities of their continental and regional institutions;

34. *Notes* the completion of the review of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with relevant partners, policy proposals on issues identified in his report, including enhancing cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union and subregional organizations, particularly in conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, and promoting socioeconomic development, good governance, the rule of law and human rights;

35. *Takes note* of the recommendations presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on possible ways to strengthen the interdepartmental task force on African affairs, including through enhancing joint advocacy for international support to Africa, assisting in the mobilization of support for the implementation of relevant programmes and initiatives in Africa and championing approaches and solutions that take into account the enabling environment that peace and security provide for development, and reaffirms the need to ensure further coherence and an integrated approach for United Nations support to Africa, including in following up on the implementation of all global summit and conference outcomes related to Africa;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and report to the General Assembly on an annual basis on persistent and emerging challenges to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as on the approach and support of the United Nations system.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/278 (see p. 177), the Secretary-General, in July [A/69/162-S/2014/542], submitted a report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The report highlighted major developments in peace, security and development in Africa during the previous year and examined the implementation by the UN system of priority areas identified in the 2013 review report [YUN 2013, p. 95], including an in-depth analysis of the transformative agenda of the AU to achieve a conflict-free Africa, as outlined in the Organization of African Unity/AU Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration and Agenda 2063. African countries had made progress in reforming their economies, boosting economic growth, improving governance and respect for the rule of law, and managing and resolving conflicts. In Madagascar, Guinea-Bissau and Egypt, transition processes concluded with the successful conduct of elections, the restoration of constitutional order and the reinstatement of those countries into AU activities. Progress was also made in ending the rebellion by the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) in the DRC and in implementing the regional cooperation initiative for the elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

In the CAR, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan, however, renewed hostilities and threats from growing acts of terrorism, violent extremism and transnational organized crime challenged peace and development.

The Secretary-General recommended that the United Nations put in place a five-year plan to support the efforts of the AU and the regional economic communities towards achieving a conflict-free Africa; strengthen capacity development for the AU and regional economic communities in peace, security, development, human rights and governance through the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the AU and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa; continue to support African countries, the AU and the regional economic communities in strengthening capacities for early warning, conflict analysis, dialogue and mediation; and work closely with the AU and the regional economic communities in supporting the development and implementation of regional counter-terrorism action plans that were people-centred. Given the impact of illicit financial flows on Africa's governance and structural transformation agendas, African countries, the AU and the regional economic communities, in cooperation with the international community, should also strengthen efforts to confront illicit financial flows, including through combating corruption in public and corporate sectors and preventing tax evasion.

Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

In 2014, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), established by General Assembly resolution 57/7 [YUN 2002, p. 910], continued to enhance international support for Africa's development and security through its advocacy and analytical work. The Office strengthened its support for Africa's development and, in particular, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in mobilizing international support and raising awareness through the mobilization of resources and global advocacy. The Office also supported the efforts of African countries in their consultations on the post-2015 development agenda (see p. 960).

On 29 December, the General Assembly, by **decision 69/554**, decided to defer the consideration of the item on NEPAD: progress in implementation and international support, to its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Central Africa and Great Lakes region

UN Office for Central Africa

The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) was established in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 97] with a mandate to coordinate the work of the UN system in the Central Africa subregion on issues of peace and security, including peacebuilding and conflict prevention. In 2014 (see below), the Security Council extended the mandate of UNOCA until 31 August 2015.

Communications. On 10 February [S/2014/103], the Secretary-General recommended to the Security Council an extension of the mandate of UNOCA for a period of 18 months. The Council noted the Secretary-General's proposal on 13 February [S/2014/104].

In a 14 July letter [S/2014/502] to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General informed of his intention to appoint Said Djinnit (Algeria) as his Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region. The Council took note of his intention on 16 July [S/2014/503].

In a 26 March letter [S/2014/225] to the Secretary-General, Angola, in its capacity as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, forwarded the final communiqué adopted at the summit meeting held in Luanda on 25 March, with the request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Report of Secretary-General (May). The Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council presidential statement S/PRST/2013/18 [YUN 2013, p. 103], submitted a May report [S/2014/319] on the activities of UNOCA and progress in the implementation of the UN

regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

The Central African subregion continued to be dominated by the deterioration of the overall situation in the CAR and its growing regional impact, the expansion of the activities of Boko Haram beyond the territory of Nigeria, the threat of terrorism and maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the illegal wildlife trade and transnational organized crime. The Central African economies grew by 4.3 per cent in 2013, reflecting a 1.3 per cent decrease from the 2012 growth rate, attributable to a decrease in oil production and agricultural stagnation.

At the sixth extraordinary summit of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in January, which was devoted to the situation in the CAR, the Head of State of the Transition in the CAR, Michel Djotodia, and the Prime Minister, Nicolas Tiangaye, resigned. Shortly thereafter, the CAR National Transitional Council elected Catherine Samba-Panza as the new Head of State of the Transition; a new Prime Minister, Andre Nzapayeké, was subsequently appointed.

In Gabon, on 24 January, President Ali Bongo Ondimba appointed Daniel Ona Ondo as the new Prime Minister and Head of Government. Following the peaceful municipal and departmental elections of December 2013 in Chad, the cabinet of Prime Minister Kalzeubé Payimi Deubet was reshuffled for the fourth time since his appointment in November 2013. The Government was reduced from 42 members to 27 and some departments merged with others.

In Sao Tome and Principe, tensions arose in February following the refusal of the presidential guard to report to duty upon the return of President Manuel Pinto Da Costa from official travel. The resignation of the Chief of Defence Staff the same month triggered rumours of a possible destabilization plot. Tensions were subsequently diffused, following discussions initiated by the Government and the Prime Minister.

The security situation in the Central African subregion continued to be affected by the crisis in the CAR. Furthermore, developments in the Sahel-Sahara region, particularly in north-eastern Nigeria and in Libya, as well as in the Gulf of Guinea, continued to be of concern, given their potential impact on the stability of Central African states. Numerous initiatives were launched at the subregional and bilateral levels to strengthen cooperation and coordination on border control and to address terrorism and trafficking.

On 17 and 18 March, defence and military chiefs from the six-member Lake Chad Basin Commission (Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria) met in Cameroon and agreed to establish the Multinational Joint Task Force, empowered to act against militant threats. The Secretary-General welcomed efforts to strengthen border cooperation and encouraged the countries concerned in Central Africa to work in

concert with Nigeria to bring to an end the violent activities of armed and extremist groups, including Boko Haram, which continued to threaten regional peace and stability.

Porous borders and weak State structures throughout the Sahel region, compounded by specific challenges in Libya and Mali, provided an enabling environment for increased illicit activities and potential instability in the Central African subregion. On 16 February, the Heads of State of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger established, in Nouakchott, Mauritania, the Sahel G-5, which aimed to strengthen coordination among Sahel States on issues related to infrastructure, development and security.

The cost of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, owing to stolen goods, security and insurance, was estimated at approximately \$2 billion. The Global Integrated Shipping Information System of the International Maritime Organization recorded 17 cases of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, of which 30 per cent occurred off the coast of the Republic of the Congo. In this regard, the Secretary-General commended the important strides made to strengthen sustainable maritime governance in West and Central Africa and welcomed the formal adoption of the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy.

UNOCA remained engaged with key stakeholders to help to prevent violent conflict and promote regional peace and security. The Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Abou Moussa (Chad) continued to hold regular consultations with the ECCAS Secretary-General on issues of common interest. The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative undertook missions to Chad, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo and the DRC to assess first-hand the humanitarian and security consequences of the crisis in the CAR for those neighbouring countries, as well as the social, economic and political implications.

LRA was believed to have split into several highly mobile groups operating with a significant degree of autonomy in the CAR and the DRC—involved primarily in survival mode activities, attacking civilians, killing, looting and kidnapping. There had been no reports of premeditated mass killings or other grave human rights abuses. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 65 presumed LRA attacks were reported during the first quarter of 2014 in the CAR and the DRC, resulting in 93 abductions and two deaths. Senior LRA leaders were believed to be based in the north-eastern part of the CAR, exploiting the country's internal instability to regroup.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative and the AU Special Envoy for the LRA Issue co-chaired the biannual meeting of LRA focal points on 13 and 14 February in Entebbe, Uganda. Institutions from the four LRA-affected countries were represented,

including relevant UN missions and agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors. Despite the continuing decline in LRA activity overall, it remained a serious threat, with its senior leadership intact and the potential to destabilize the subregion.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 May [meeting 7171], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/8** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council expresses its concern at the deterioration in the security situation in parts of Central Africa within the remit of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in particular the crisis in the Central African Republic and its growing regional impact, and the threat of terrorism, including the expansion of Boko Haram terrorist activities into countries in the subregion. The Council also expresses its continuing concern regarding maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the illegal wildlife trade and transnational organized crime.

The Council pays tribute to the outgoing Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Mr. Abou Moussa, of Chad, for his leadership in support of consolidating peace and preventing conflict in the Central African region and important accomplishments of the Regional Office during his tenure, and welcomes the appointment of Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, of Senegal, as the new Special Representative and Head of the Regional Office.

The Council reiterates its strong condemnation of the appalling attacks, war crimes and crimes against humanity carried out by the Lord's Resistance Army and its violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights, including the Lord's Resistance Army's recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, killing and maiming, rape, sexual slavery and other sexual violence, and abductions. The Council demands an immediate end to all attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army and urges the Lord's Resistance Army to release all those abducted and to disarm and demobilize. The Council welcomes the progress made with regard to ending Lord's Resistance Army war crimes and crimes against humanity in Central Africa and reiterates its resolve to maintain the current momentum until a permanent end to the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army has been achieved.

The Council welcomes the diplomatic efforts of the outgoing Special Representative, Mr. Abou Moussa, and the African Union Special Envoy on the Lord's Resistance Army Issue, Mr. Francisco Madeira, to strengthen regional cooperation and facilitate continued operations of the African Union Regional Task Force in the region. The Council urges the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in its coordination role, as well as the United Nations political and peacekeeping missions in the region and other relevant United Nations presences to enhance their efforts in support of the implementation of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (the United

Nations strategy), as appropriate and within the limits of their mandates and capacities. The Council encourages the Secretary-General to optimize the efforts of the Regional Office in this regard, including through the use of staff and provision of support to anti-Lord's Resistance Army efforts.

The Council reiterates its strong support for the African Union Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army, and commends the significant progress made by the African Union Regional Task Force. The Council notes in particular the reported death in late 2013 of the Lord's Resistance Army's second-in-command, Mr. Okot Odhiambo, who was indicted by the International Criminal Court, and the capture of a Lord's Resistance Army mid-level commander, Mr. Charles Okello, in April 2014. The Council welcomes the enhanced operations of the Task Force against the Lord's Resistance Army in recent months, which have increased pressure on the Lord's Resistance Army command structure and resulted in several significant defections of Lord's Resistance Army fighters and the rescue of women and children from the ranks of the Lord's Resistance Army. The Council expresses its concern at the creation of potential security vulnerabilities resulting from the increased instability in South Sudan that could be exploited by the Lord's Resistance Army. The Council urges all regional Governments to fulfil all their commitments under the Initiative and to provide the necessary basic provisions for their security forces. In this regard, the Council welcomes the decisions taken at the recent meeting of the Initiative to hold quarterly meetings as well as a summit of Initiative member States. The Council notes the importance of continued international support for the operations, logistics and headquarters of the Task Force. In this regard, the Council welcomes the continued advisory and logistical support provided by the United States of America as well as funding provided by the European Union. The Council underlines the need for all military action against the Lord's Resistance Army to be conducted in compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, as applicable, and to minimize the risk of harm to civilians in all areas of operation and to take into account the association of children with the Lord's Resistance Army. The Council also reiterates its encouragement to deploy child protection advisers within the Task Force.

The Council strongly encourages neighbouring States to cooperate with the African Union Regional Task Force, in order to end the Lord's Resistance Army threat. The Council further encourages all States in the region to take measures to ensure that the Lord's Resistance Army is not able to operate with impunity in their territory. The Council takes note of the statements made in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Lord's Resistance Army that senior Lord's Resistance Army leaders are believed to be based in the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic and that credible sources suggest that the Lord's Resistance Army leader, Mr. Joseph Kony, and senior Lord's Resistance Army commanders have recently returned to seek safe haven in Sudanese-controlled areas of the Kafia Kingi enclave. The Council expresses its con-

tinued concern that the instability and security vacuum in the Central African Republic continue to negatively affect counter-Lord's Resistance Army operations. The Council further notes with concern reports of Lord's Resistance Army attacks, as well as interactions between the Lord's Resistance Army and other armed groups, in areas of the Central African Republic outside the principal area of operations of the Task Force. In this regard, the Council emphasizes the need for strong coordination and information-sharing between the Task Force and the African-led International Support Mission for the Central African Republic, as well as with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, in the context of their protection of civilians, activities, human rights monitoring and counter-Lord's Resistance Army operations, as appropriate.

The Council welcomes the steps taken to deliver an enhanced, comprehensive and more regional approach to the humanitarian situation, including assistance to victims of sexual violence and other attacks, and urges further progress in this regard.

The Council underlines the primary responsibility of States in the Lord's Resistance Army-affected region to protect civilians. The Council welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Uganda and the Central African Republic, in coordination with the African Union, to end the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army, and urges further efforts from these countries, as well as from other countries in the region.

The Council welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in tackling the Lord's Resistance Army. The Council notes continued reports of Lord's Resistance Army attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, despite an overall decline in Lord's Resistance Army violence there. In this context, the Council encourages further and reinforced efforts by the Mission, working closely with the African Union Regional Task Force, to address the Lord's Resistance Army, including through improved responsiveness to imminent threats to civilians, increased and coordinated patrols, training and capacity-building of the Congolese army, support to the Joint Information Operations Centre, and implementation of the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement programme to encourage and facilitate further Lord's Resistance Army defections.

The Council urges relevant United Nations and African Union missions in the region, notably the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, to continue their efforts to combat the Lord's Resistance Army. The Council also notes the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to cooperate and share swiftly information related to the regional threat of the Lord's Resistance Army and the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to coordinate its operations with those of the African Union Regional

Task Force on the Lord's Resistance Army, and share relevant information with the Task Force and with non-governmental organizations involved in tackling the threat of the Lord's Resistance Army. In this regard, the Council urges these missions to collect and share information on Lord's Resistance Army movements with relevant partners, to enhance cross-border cooperation and to adopt standard operating procedures, in order to better anticipate Lord's Resistance Army movements and imminent threats of attack.

The Council strongly reiterates its calls for the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States to continue to work together, including through joint field assessments, to further develop and maintain a common operating picture of the Lord's Resistance Army's current capabilities and areas of operation, as well as to investigate the Lord's Resistance Army's logistical networks and possible sources of military support and illicit financing, including alleged involvement in elephant poaching and related illicit smuggling. The Council expresses its concern at the link between illicit trafficking in wildlife and armed groups in the subregion, including the Lord's Resistance Army, and in this regard welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa to support the subregion in identifying collaborative approaches to address this issue.

The Council urges the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and other United Nations actors in the Lord's Resistance Army-affected region to continue to work with regional forces, national Governments, international actors and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to develop a common approach to the promotion of defections and support for disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement efforts across the Lord's Resistance Army-affected area. The Council highlights the importance of programmes in support of the release, return and successful reintegration of children abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army, in particular those that target community acceptance of such children. The Council welcomes the defection in December 2013 of 19 Lord's Resistance Army members, including 9 Lord's Resistance Army fighters, which is the largest single defection in over five years.

The Council encourages the African Union Regional Task Force to maintain its operations against all Lord's Resistance Army groups, while working with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to expand the coverage of safe reporting sites and delivery of information to assist Lord's Resistance Army members who demonstrate a genuine commitment to demobilization and disarmament by radio, leaflets and other means.

The Council commends efforts by international donors to provide humanitarian assistance to Lord's Resistance Army-affected populations in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. The Council reaffirms its call for all parties to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access, consistent with the relevant provi-

sions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance.

The Council notes the overall marked decline in the number, intensity and violence of the Lord's Resistance Army attacks, killings and abductions and the significant decrease in the estimate by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat of the number of people displaced by the Lord's Resistance Army threat, from 420,000 in March 2013 to 160,000 in March 2014. The Council encourages donors to increase funding for early recovery projects to help affected communities to restore stability and rebuild their livelihoods as the Lord's Resistance Army threat begins to recede. The Council requests that the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa work with the African Union, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other international experts to develop a development framework for international efforts to promote the long-term stabilization of areas in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic formerly affected by the Lord's Resistance Army, including through early recovery projects and programmes to strengthen community cohesion.

The Council reiterates its call for the swift and full implementation of the conclusions of its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict concerning the situation of children and armed conflict affected by the Lord's Resistance Army. In this regard, the Council encourages those countries affected by the Lord's Resistance Army which have not yet done so to establish standard operating procedures for the reception and handover of Lord's Resistance Army children to civilian child protection actors.

The Council recalls that the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court for Lord's Resistance Army leaders, including Mr. Kony, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, cruel treatment, intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population and forced enlistment of children, have yet to be executed, and calls upon all States to cooperate with relevant national Governments and the Court, in accordance with their respective obligations, in order to execute those warrants, and to bring to justice those responsible.

The Council requests that the Secretary-General keep the Council informed on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, progress made in conducting assessments of the Lord's Resistance Army's evolving area of operations and logistical and support networks, and the efforts being undertaken respectively by missions in the region and other relevant United Nations agencies to implement the United Nations strategy, including through a single report on the Regional Office and the Lord's Resistance Army, to be submitted before 15 November 2014.

Communication. On 14 May [S/2014/345], the Sudan informed the President of the Security Council of the unfounded allegation that LRA senior commanders as well as its leader had sought safe haven in Sudanese-controlled areas of the Kafia Kingi enclave.

Report of Secretary-General (November). Pursuant to Security Council presidential statement S/PRST/2014/8 (see above), the Secretary-General issued a November report [S/2014/812] on UNOCA activities and on efforts to counter the threat and impact of LRA.

Abdoulaye Bathily (Senegal) was appointed as the Secretary-General's Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA replacing Abou Moussa (Chad). The crisis in the CAR continued to dominate the attention of the subregion's leaders. The increased challenges posed by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin, maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the continued activities of armed groups, including LRA, illicit cross-border movement and the illegal trade in wildlife threatened the stability of the subregion's countries. The efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) to promote regional integration and facilitate free movement had been severely hampered as a result of security-related concerns and the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease.

In the CAR, Central African States and sub-regional organizations, particularly ECCAS, remained actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to restore peace and State authority in the country; as a result, an international mediation initiative led by the President of the Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, was established and a cessation-of-hostilities agreement signed in July in Brazzaville. In September, the transfer of authority between the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) took place. The appointment by the Head of State of the Transition, Catherine Samba-Panza, of a new prime minister was criticized by many national stakeholders, who claimed that Ms. Samba-Panza had not undertaken sufficient consultations and needed to demonstrate her commitment to an inclusive political process. Many individuals called for the Head of State of the Transition to resign. The persistent instability in the CAR, the absence of State authority and regular incursions of armed groups into neighbouring countries, including Cameroon and Chad, prompted those countries to temporarily close all or parts of their borders with the CAR.

In Niamey on 7 October, Benin, Chad, the Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon announced plans to address the Boko Haram threat through the deployment, on 1 November, of a multinational joint task force. Furthermore, in September and October, Chad facilitated talks in N'Djamena between the Government of Nigeria and representatives of Boko Haram, with the aim of reaching a ceasefire.

On piracy and armed robbery at sea, progress was achieved with the inauguration of the Interregional

Coordination Centre on Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea, in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 11 September. Poaching remained a major concern for several Governments in Central Africa because of its links to the financing of armed groups. In September, a high-level meeting on poaching and wildlife trafficking co-organized by Gabon and Germany was held on the margins of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Local and parliamentary elections took place in two countries, the Congo and Sao Tome and Principe. In addition, steps were taken to establish or strengthen national dialogue in four countries—Chad, Burundi, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. Efforts towards regional integration and the free movement of persons were hampered owing to mounting security concerns and following the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, which led to border closures and the suspension of flights to and from West African capitals to prevent the spread of the virus. In September, CEMAC experts met in Brazzaville to adopt an emergency plan to address the epidemic.

The bulk of LRA moved from CAR to the north-east of the DRC, where it continued to poach elephants in Garamba National Park for ivory, abduct civilians and ambush vehicles to transport looted items. In both the CAR and the DRC, the areas where LRA operated lacked infrastructure and a strong State presence and were sparsely inhabited. Those factors posed serious challenges to civilian and military efforts to track the group and to protect the civilian population. LRA also appeared to have reached non-aggression agreements or established alliances of convenience with other armed groups that operated in the same areas, including with the ex-Séléka in the CAR. The presence of some senior LRA leaders in the disputed Kafia Kingi enclave, on the border between the CAR, South Sudan and the Sudan, continued to be reported, though Sudan denied it. The military operations of the AU Regional Task Force had continued to result in steady progress in the fight against LRA, although with some challenges: as opposed to 5,030 troops originally pledged, the Regional Task Force comprised only 2,284 soldiers and not all of them were operational or possessed sufficient strength and capability to conduct effective military operations against LRA. The United Nations Office to the African Union, based in Addis Ababa, assisted the AU in its efforts to develop the Regional Task Force. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) had expanded its disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration operations in LRA-affected areas.

The Secretary-General commended the efforts of the Governments of the subregion, UN entities, national and international NGOs and other partners in addressing the consequences of the CAR crisis for neighbouring countries. He expressed concern about reports that the

bulk of LRA had moved into the DRC. He also welcomed the invitation extended to the AU by the Government of the Sudan to verify reports of LRA presence in Kafia Kingi, and encouraged the AU Commission and the AU Peace and Security Council to verify those allegations.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 7334], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/25** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council expresses its concern at the grave security situation in parts of Central Africa within the remit of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in particular the ongoing crisis in the Central African Republic and its regional impact, the continuing threat of the Lord's Resistance Army, and the expansion of Boko Haram terrorist activities into countries in the subregion. The Council also expresses its continuing concern regarding maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the illegal wildlife trade and transnational organized crime. The Council welcomes the local and parliamentary elections held in the subregion and stresses the need for upcoming elections in the region to be held in a timely, transparent and inclusive manner according to their constitutions, and encourages the Regional Office to continue to support States in this regard, including through the promotion of women's political participation.

The Council reiterates its strong condemnation of the appalling attacks, war crimes and crimes against humanity carried out by the Lord's Resistance Army and its violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights, including the Lord's Resistance Army's recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, killing and maiming, rape, sexual slavery and other sexual violence, and abductions. The Council demands an immediate end to all attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army and urges the Lord's Resistance Army to release all those abducted and to disarm and demobilize. The Council welcomes the progress made with regard to ending Lord's Resistance Army war crimes and crimes against humanity in Central Africa and reiterates its resolve to maintain the current momentum until a permanent end to the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army has been achieved.

The Council pays tribute to the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, and the outgoing African Union Special Envoy on the Lord's Resistance Army Issue, Mr. Francisco Madeira, to strengthen regional cooperation and facilitate continued operations of the African Union Regional Task Force in the region. The Council commends Mr. Madeira for his leadership and welcomes the recent appointment of Lieutenant General (retired) Jackson Kiprono Tuwei as the new African Union Special Envoy on the Lord's Resistance Army Issue. The Council urges the Regional Office, in its coordination role, as well as the United Nations political and peacekeeping missions in the region and other relevant United Nations presences to en-

hance their efforts in support of the implementation of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (the United Nations strategy), as appropriate and within the limits of their mandates and capacities. The Council encourages the Secretary-General to optimize the efforts of the Regional Office in this regard, including through the use of staff and the provision of support to counter-Lord's Resistance Army efforts.

The Council reiterates its strong support for the African Union Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army, and strongly encourages Lord's Resistance Army-affected and neighbouring States to cooperate with the African Union Regional Task Force, in order to end the Lord's Resistance Army threat. The Council commends the significant progress made by the Task Force and its troop-contributing countries, and pays tribute to the important role played by the Uganda People's Defence Forces in tackling the Lord's Resistance Army threat. The Council urges all regional Governments to fulfil their commitments under the Initiative. The Council notes the importance of continued international support for the operations, logistics and headquarters of the Task Force. In this regard, the Council welcomes the continued advisory and logistical support provided by the United States of America as well as funding provided by the European Union. The Council underlines the need for all military action against the Lord's Resistance Army to be conducted in compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, as applicable, and to minimize the risk of harm to civilians in all areas of operation and to take into account the association of children with the Lord's Resistance Army. The Council also reiterates its encouragement to deploy child protection advisers within the Task Force.

The Council expresses concern about the statements in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Lord's Resistance Army that the bulk of the Lord's Resistance Army has moved from the Central African Republic to the northeast of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but continues to carry out attacks against communities in the east of the Central African Republic. The Council calls upon the affected States to ensure that the Lord's Resistance Army does not find safe haven in their territory, in accordance with international law. The Council takes note that the presence of some senior Lord's Resistance Army leaders in the disputed Kafia Kingi enclave, on the border between the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Sudan continues to be reported. The Council takes note that the Government of the Sudan has denied this. The Council welcomes the invitation extended to the African Union to verify reports of the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army in Kafia Kingi, and encourages the African Union Commission and the African Union Peace and Security Council to verify the allegations. The Security Council expresses its continued concern at the gravity of the national crisis in the Central African Republic and strongly condemns the Lord's Resistance Army's opportunistic cooperation in the Central African Republic with other armed groups including some ex-Séléka combatants.

The Council notes the overall decline in the number, intensity and violence of the Lord's Resistance Army attacks, killings and abductions and the decrease in the estimate by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat of the number of people displaced by the Lord's Resistance Army threat, from 159,927 in March 2014 to 131,090 in September 2014. The Council commends efforts by international donors to provide humanitarian assistance to Lord's Resistance Army-affected populations in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan but notes with concern that renewed efforts are urgently needed to provide humanitarian assistance to Lord's Resistance Army-affected populations. The Council reaffirms its call for all parties to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access, consistent with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance.

The Council welcomes the steps taken to deliver an enhanced, comprehensive and more regional approach to the humanitarian situation, including assistance to victims of sexual violence and other attacks, and urges further progress in this regard.

The Council underlines the primary responsibility of States in the Lord's Resistance Army-affected region to protect civilians.

The Council urges the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, as relevant and in accordance with their mandates, to cooperate and share information related to the regional threat of the Lord's Resistance Army in a timely manner, and to share relevant information with regional Governments, with non-governmental organizations and with relevant partners, to enhance cross-border cooperation in order to better anticipate and respond to Lord's Resistance Army movements. The Council emphasizes the need for operational coordination and information-sharing between the African Union Regional Task Force and all relevant United Nations and African Union missions, in the context of their protection of civilians, activities, human rights monitoring, implementation of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement programmes and counter-Lord's Resistance Army operations, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.

The Council strongly reiterates its calls for the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States to continue to work together, including through joint field assessments, to further develop and maintain a common operating picture of the Lord's Resistance Army's current capabilities and areas of operation, as well as to investigate the Lord's Resistance Army's logistical networks and possible sources of military support and illicit financing, including alleged involvement in wildlife poaching and related illicit smuggling. The Council expresses its concern at the link between illicit trafficking in wildlife and financing of armed groups in the subregion, including the Lord's Resistance Army, and in this regard encour-

ages the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa to continue to support the development of a coherent and concerted subregional approach to address this disturbing phenomenon.

The Council urges the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and other United Nations actors in the Lord's Resistance Army-affected region to continue to work with regional forces, national Governments, international actors and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to develop a common approach to the promotion of defections and support for disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement efforts across the Lord's Resistance Army-affected area. The Council highlights the importance of programmes in encouraging defections and in support of the release, return and successful reintegration of men, women and children abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army, in particular those that target community acceptance of such individuals, in particular children.

The Council encourages donors to increase funding for early recovery projects to help affected communities to restore stability and rebuild their livelihoods as the Lord's Resistance Army threat begins to recede. The Council requests that the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa work with the African Union, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other international experts to develop a development framework for international efforts to promote the long-term stabilization of areas in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic formerly affected by the Lord's Resistance Army, including through early recovery projects and programmes to strengthen community cohesion.

The Council reiterates its call for the swift and full implementation of the conclusions of its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict concerning the situation of children and armed conflict affected by the Lord's Resistance Army. In this regard, the Council encourages those countries affected by the Lord's Resistance Army which have not yet done so to establish standard operating procedures for the reception and handover of Lord's Resistance Army children to civilian child protection actors.

The Council recalls that the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants for Lord's Resistance Army leaders, including Mr. Joseph Kony, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, cruel treatment, intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population and the forced enlistment of children, have yet to be executed, and calls upon all States to cooperate with relevant national Governments and the Court, in accordance with their respective obligations, in order to execute those warrants and to bring to justice those responsible.

The Council commends the role of the Heads of States of the Economic Community of Central African States in the Economic Community-led international mediation process in the Central African Republic and welcomes the designation by the Secretary-General of

his Special Representative for Central Africa, Mr. Bathily, to support the process. The Council commends Mr. Bathily for his diplomatic efforts, in collaboration with the Economic Community mediator, the President of the Congo, Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, the African Union Special Envoy for the Central African Republic, Mr. Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, Lieutenant General (retired) Babacar Gaye. In particular, the Council welcomes the signing of the Brazzaville Agreement on 23 July 2014. The Council encourages Mr. Bathily and his Office to continue supporting these efforts and to support the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, and the transition process in the Central African Republic through the international mediation process.

The Council expresses deep concern at the terrorist attacks conducted by Boko Haram since 2009, which have caused large-scale and devastating loss of life and represent a threat to the stability and peace of West and Central Africa. In particular, the Council strongly condemns the continued increase in attacks perpetrated by the terrorist group in Nigeria, along the Nigeria-Cameroon border, in the northern provinces of Cameroon and near the Nigeria-Chad border. The Council expresses concern that the activities of Boko Haram continue to have an adverse humanitarian impact on West and Central Africa, including the displacement of an estimated 80,000 Nigerians into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The Council commends the initiative of the Heads of States of the Lake Chad Basin region and Benin to enhance cooperation, in line with the outcomes of the Paris summit, the follow-up London and Abuja summits and the meeting held in Niamey, in order to tackle the threat posed by Boko Haram to the region. The Council calls upon the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa to continue its collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa in order to continue to support, as appropriate, the States of the Lake Chad Basin region to address the impact of the threat on peace and security, including the political, socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the subregion. The Council underlines the need for all actions to counter Boko Haram to be conducted in compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law.

The Council commends UNOCA's support for regional anti-piracy efforts, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for West Africa, to address maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea that continues to affect States of Central and West Africa. The Council encourages the Regional Office to continue to assist the region in implementing the decisions of the Yaoundé summit and in the establishment of a regional information-sharing architecture.

The Council requests that the Secretary-General keep it informed on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, progress made in conducting assessments of the Lord's Resistance Army's evolving area of operations and logistical and support networks, and the efforts being undertaken respectively by missions in the region and relevant United Nations

agencies to implement the United Nations strategy, including through a single report on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the Regional Office, to be submitted before 15 May 2015.

Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions

The United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa met twice in 2014, at its thirty-eighth ministerial meeting (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 29 July–2 August) [A/69/768-S/2015/44]; and at its thirty-ninth ministerial meeting (Bujumbura, Burundi, 1–5 December) [A/69/783-S/2015/54].

In August, the Secretary-General presented to the General Assembly the outcomes of the Committee's thirty-seventh meeting [YUN 2013, p. 106] and thirty-eighth meeting [A/69/361]. In a later report [A/70/165], the Secretary-General provided information on the Committee's thirty-ninth meeting.

In **resolution 69/73** of 2 December (see p. 690), the General Assembly reaffirmed its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels, in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion.

(For information on the Committee's activities related to disarmament and arms limitation, see p. 612.)

Communication. In a 30 April letter to the Secretary-General [A/68/908-S/2014/358], Chad transmitted the report of the thirty-seventh ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (N'Djamena, Chad, 19–23 December 2013).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Significant challenges remained towards completion of the implementation of the 2013 Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region [YUN 2013, p. 106], which outlined the actions required by the DRC and regional and international actors to end the recurring cycles of violence in eastern DRC.

Limited progress had been made in neutralizing the armed groups in eastern DRC. Still at large were prominent members of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), the ex-Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) and the DRC armed forces—the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC)—who were associated with violence in the DRC and the region and who were in some cases under UN or international sanctions, or under international arrest warrants.

The eastern DRC provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Orientale continued to grapple with a complex emergency in which people, especially children, remained vulnerable. Regional conflict

added to population displacement. In the DRC alone, some 2.7 million people were internally displaced, and the country continued to host some 122,000 refugees from neighbouring countries.

In March, by resolution 2147(2014) (see p. 193), the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) for one year and include the Mission's "intervention brigade" within the authorized troop ceiling of 19,815.

Communications. In a 15 January letter [S/2014/27] to the President of the Security Council, Uganda noted that a January report [YUN 2013, p. 122] of the Group of Experts on the DRC had contained baseless allegations that sanctioned M23 leaders were moving freely in Uganda. In a follow-up letter on 28 January [S/2014/61], Uganda said that the published final report of the Group of Experts on the DRC did not reflect Uganda's response.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 30 January [meeting 7107], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2136(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/55] was submitted by France.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements by its President concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as all States in the region, and emphasizing the need to respect fully the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Stressing the primary responsibility of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for ensuring security in its territory and protecting its civilians, with respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law,

Taking note of the interim report and the final report of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the Group of Experts) established pursuant to resolution 1771(2007) of 10 August 2007, whose mandate was extended pursuant to resolutions 1807(2008) of 31 March 2008, 1857(2008) of 22 December 2008, 1896(2009) of 30 November 2009, 1952(2010) of 29 November 2010, 2021(2011) of 29 November 2011 and 2078(2012) of 28 November 2012, and of the recommendations contained therein,

Welcoming the declaration of the end of the 23 March Movement, the corresponding declaration by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the signing in Nairobi on 12 December 2013 of the documents concluding the Kampala talks facilitated by Uganda as President of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, while stressing the importance of ensuring that the 23 March Movement does not regroup and resume military activities, in line with the Nairobi declarations and relevant Security Council resolutions,

Reiterating its deep concern regarding the security and humanitarian crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo due to ongoing military activities of foreign and domestic armed groups, stressing the importance of neutralizing all armed groups, including the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Allied Democratic Forces, the Lord's Resistance Army and various Mai Mai groups, in line with resolution 2098(2013) of 28 March 2013,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of any and all internal or external support to armed groups active in the region, including through financial, logistical and military support,

Condemning the illicit flow of weapons within and into the Democratic Republic of the Congo in violation of resolutions 1533(2004) of 12 March 2004, 1807(2008), 1857(2008), 1896(2009), 1952(2010), 2021(2011) and 2078(2012), and declaring its determination to continue to monitor closely the implementation of the arms embargo and other measures set out in its resolutions concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Acknowledging, in this respect, the important contribution that the Council-mandated arms embargo makes to countering the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in supporting post-conflict peacebuilding, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform,

Recalling the linkage between the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including poaching of and illegal trafficking in wildlife, illicit trade in such resources and the proliferation of and trafficking in arms as one of the major factors fuelling and exacerbating conflicts in the Great Lakes region of Africa, encouraging the continuation of the regional efforts of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Governments involved against the illegal exploitation of natural resources, and stressing in this regard the importance of regional cooperation and deepening economic integration with special consideration of the exploitation of natural resources,

Noting with great concern the persistence of serious human rights abuses and humanitarian law violations against civilians in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including summary executions, sexual and gender-based violence and large-scale recruitment and use of children committed by armed groups,

Noting with deep concern reports and allegations indicating the persistence of serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including those committed with impunity,

Noting with deep concern also reports indicating collaboration by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda at a local level, recalling that the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda is a group under United Nations sanctions whose leaders and members include perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed, and have continued to promote and commit ethnically based and other killings in Rwanda and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and stressing the importance of permanently addressing this threat,

Calling for all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of human rights, as applicable, including those involving violence or abuses against children and acts of sexual and

gender-based violence, to be swiftly apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community and the African Union, to restore peace and security in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Welcoming also the signing in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013 of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework) and the nomination of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Mrs. Mary Robinson, and reiterating the need for all signatories to fulfil promptly, fully and in good faith their respective commitments,

Taking note of the Declaration of the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on the Promotion of Peace, Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, adopted in Luanda on 15 January 2014,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on women and peace and security, on children and armed conflict and on the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

Calling upon all parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reiterating its condemnation of any attacks against peacekeepers, and emphasizing that those responsible for such attacks must be brought to justice,

Determining that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to renew until 1 February 2015 the measures on arms imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1807(2008), and reaffirms the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of that resolution, and further decides that the measures on arms imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1807(2008) shall not apply to the supply of arms and related materiel, as well as assistance, advice or training, intended solely for the support of or use by the African Union Regional Task Force;

2. *Also decides* to renew, for the period specified in paragraph 1 above, the measures on transport imposed by paragraphs 6 and 8 of resolution 1807(2008), and reaffirms the provisions of paragraph 7 of that resolution;

3. *Further decides* to renew, for the period specified in paragraph 1 above, the financial and travel measures imposed by paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1807(2008), and reaffirms the provisions of paragraphs 10 and 12 of that resolution regarding the individuals and entities referred to in paragraph 4 of resolution 1857(2008), and reaffirms the provisions of paragraphs 10 and 12 of resolution 1807(2008) in relation to those measures;

4. *Decides* that the measures referred to in paragraph 3 above shall apply to the following individuals and, as appropriate, entities, as designated by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533(2004):

(a) Individuals or entities acting in violation of the measures taken by Member States in accordance with paragraph 1 above;

(b) Political and military leaders of foreign armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who impede the disarmament and the voluntary repatriation or resettlement of combatants belonging to those groups;

(c) Political and military leaders of Congolese militias, including those receiving support from outside the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who impede the participation of their combatants in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes;

(d) Individuals or entities operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and recruiting or using children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law;

(e) Individuals or entities operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and involved in planning, directing or participating in the targeting of children or women in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abduction, forced displacement and attacks on schools and hospitals;

(f) Individuals or entities obstructing access to or the distribution of humanitarian assistance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(g) Individuals or entities supporting armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through illicit trade in natural resources, including gold or wildlife as well as wildlife products;

(h) Individuals or entities acting on behalf of or at the direction of a designated individual or entity, or acting on behalf of or at the direction of an entity owned or controlled by a designated individual or entity;

(i) Individuals or entities that plan, direct, sponsor or participate in attacks against peacekeepers of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(j) Individuals or entities providing financial, material or technological support for, or goods or services to, or in support of a designated individual or entity;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend, for a period expiring on 1 February 2015, the mandate of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo established pursuant to resolution 1533(2004) and renewed by subsequent resolutions, and requests the Group of Experts to fulfil its mandate as set out in paragraph 18 of resolution 1807(2008) and expanded by paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 1857(2008), and to present to the Council, through the Committee, a written midterm report by 28 June 2014 and a written final report before 16 January 2015, welcomes the practice of receiving additional updates from the Group of Experts as appropriate, and further requests that, after a discussion with the Committee, the Group of Experts submit to the Council its final report upon termination of the mandate of the Group of Experts;

6. *Strongly condemns* all armed groups operating in the region and their violations of international humanitarian law as well as other applicable international law, and abuses of human rights, including attacks on the civilian population, Mission peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, summary executions, sexual and gender-based violence and large-scale recruitment and use of children, and reiterates that those responsible will be held accountable;

7. *Demands* that the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Allied Democratic Forces, the Lord's Resistance Army and various Mai Mai groups cease

immediately all forms of violence and other destabilizing activities and that their members immediately and permanently disband, lay down their arms and demobilize children from their ranks;

8. *Calls upon* all States, especially those in the region, to take effective steps to ensure that there is no support, in and from their territories, for the armed groups in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, welcoming the positive international developments in regard to addressing the risks posed by armed group leaders in the diasporas, and calls upon all States to take steps, where appropriate, against leaders of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and other armed groups residing in their countries;

9. *Demands* that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with its commitments in the Nairobi declarations of 12 December 2013, accelerate the implementation of its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, in coordination with the United Nations, international organizations and neighbouring countries where former 23 March Movement combatants have found refuge, requests, in this respect and in accordance with the Nairobi declarations and in line with commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement, the United Nations and international organizations to work together with neighbouring States to urgently address the situation of former 23 March Movement combatants located in their territories, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the 23 March Movement does not regroup and resume military activities, in line with the Nairobi declarations and relevant Council resolutions;

10. *Welcomes* the progress made to date by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on ending the use of children in armed conflict, and urges the Government to follow through on its commitments made in the action plan signed with the United Nations detailing concrete, time-bound measures to release and reintegrate children associated with the Congolese armed forces and to prevent further recruitment, and for the protection of girls and boys from sexual violence;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo actively seeking to hold accountable those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country and of regional cooperation to this end, including through its ongoing cooperation with the International Criminal Court, encourages the Mission to use its existing authority to assist the Government in this regard, and calls upon all signatories to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement to continue to implement their commitments and cooperate fully with one another and the Government, as well as the Mission, to this end;

12. *Recalls* that there should be no impunity for any of those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, and in this regard urges the Democratic Republic of the Congo, all countries in the region and other concerned States Members of the United Nations to bring perpetrators to justice and hold them accountable;

13. *Decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 9 of resolution 1807(2008) shall not apply, in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 2078(2012);

14. *Reiterates its support* to the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism, and welcomes the decision of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to grant permanent representation of the Mission in the Mechanism;

15. *Calls upon* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance stockpile security, accountability and management of arms and ammunition, with the assistance of international partners, to address urgently reports of diversion to armed groups, as necessary and requested, and to urgently implement a national weapons marking programme, in particular for State-owned firearms, in line with the standards established by the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States;

16. *Recalls* the mandate of the Mission to monitor the implementation of the arms embargo, in cooperation with the Group of Experts, and in particular to observe and report on flows of military personnel, arms or related materiel across the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including by using surveillance capabilities provided by unmanned aerial systems, and seize, collect and dispose of arms or related materials whose presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo violates the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 2078(2012), in accordance with paragraph 12 (c) of resolution 2098(2013);

17. *Requests* the Mission to assist the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 1533(2004) and the Group of Experts established pursuant to the same resolution, within its capabilities, including by passing information relevant to the implementation of the sanctions measures;

18. *Emphasizes* the primary responsibility of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to reinforce State authority and governance in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including through effective security sector reform to allow army, police and justice sector reform, and to end impunity for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, urges the Government to increase efforts in this regard, in accordance with its national commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, and further encourages the continuation of efforts by the Government to address issues of illegal exploitation and smuggling of natural resources;

19. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the measures taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to implement the due diligence guidelines on the supply chain of minerals, as defined by the Group of Experts and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and calls upon all States to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the countries in the Great Lakes region in the implementation of the guidelines;

20. *Also welcomes* measures taken by the Governments in the region, in particular Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to implement the due diligence guidelines, including adopting the regional certification mechanism of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region into their national legislation, in accordance with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development guidance and international practice, and

requests the extension of the certification process to other Member States in the region, as recommended in the Luanda Declaration of 15 January 2014;

21. *Encourages* a swift response by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to put in place the necessary technical capacity required to support Member States in their fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources, and further encourages the International Conference to take immediate actions to fully implement the mineral certification process;

22. *Encourages* all States, particularly those in the region, to continue to raise awareness of the Group of Experts due diligence guidelines and to continue efforts to end mineral smuggling, in particular in the gold sector, as part of broader efforts to mitigate the risk of further financing armed groups and criminal networks within the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

23. *Reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 6 to 13 of resolution 1952(2010), and requests the Group of Experts to continue to study the impact of due diligence;

24. *Also reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 7 to 9 of resolution 2021(2011), and reiterates its call to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and States in the Great Lakes region to require their customs authorities to strengthen their control on exports and imports of minerals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to cooperate at the regional level to investigate and combat regional criminal networks and armed groups involved in the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including wildlife poaching and trafficking;

25. *Recalls* the mandate of the Mission to support the Congolese authorities in the implementation of their national commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement, in line with resolution 2098(2013), and notes that the Mission should play a role in preventing the provision of support to armed groups from illicit activities, including production of and trade in natural resources, notably by carrying out spot checks and regular visits to mining sites, trade routes and markets, in the vicinity of the five pilot trading counters;

26. *Expresses its full support* to the Group of Experts of the Committee, and calls for enhanced cooperation between all States, particularly those in the region, the Mission and the Group of Experts, further encourages all parties and all States to ensure cooperation with the Group of Experts by individuals and entities within their jurisdiction or under their control, and reiterates its demand that all parties and all States ensure the safety of its members and its support staff and that all parties and all States, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo and countries of the region, provide unhindered and immediate access, in particular to persons, documents and sites that the Group of Experts deems relevant to the execution of its mandate;

27. *Calls upon* the Group of Experts to cooperate actively with other relevant panels of experts, in particular the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire re-established pursuant to paragraph 18 of resolution 2101(2013) of 25 April 2013 with respect to natural resources, and the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea re-established pursuant to paragraph 27 of resolution 2111(2013) of 24 July 2013 with respect to the activities of the Allied Democratic Forces and Al-Shabaab;

28. *Calls upon* all States, particularly those in the region and those in which individuals and entities desig-

nated pursuant to paragraph 3 of the present resolution are based, to regularly report to the Committee on the actions they have taken to implement the measures imposed by paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the present resolution and recommended in paragraph 8 of resolution 1952(2010);

29. *Decides* that, when appropriate and no later than 1 February 2015, it shall review the measures set forth in the present resolution, with a view to adjusting them, as appropriate, in the light of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular progress in security sector reform, including the integration of the armed forces and the reform of the national police, and in disarming, demobilizing, repatriating, resettling and reintegrating, as appropriate, Congolese and foreign armed groups, with a particular focus on children among them;

30. *Also decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Political and security developments

Report of Secretary-General (March). Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2098(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 107], the Secretary-General issued a March report [S/2014/153] on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region. The report described regional peace and security initiatives in relation to eastern DRC, as well as progress on the implementation of the Framework.

The security situation in eastern DRC remained volatile and marked by sporadic attacks by various armed groups. On the political front, there was limited progress in the implementation of the Kampala Declarations [YUN 2013, p. 119], which formally ended the conflict between the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23). A positive development was President Joseph Kabila's promulgation, on 11 February, of the amnesty law provided for in the Kampala Declarations, which granted amnesty for acts of insurgency, war and political offences committed in the DRC between 18 February 2006 and 20 December 2013. The two dates referred, respectively, to the promulgation of the Constitution of the DRC and the expiry of the Government's ultimatum to armed groups to lay down their arms.

On 14 and 15 January, the fifth ordinary Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) was held in Luanda, Angola under the chairmanship of the President of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, who took over from the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni. The Summit adopted recommendations, which included 42 decisions pertaining to eastern DRC, the CAR, South Sudan, the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, and the Pact on Security, Stability and Development. Key decisions related to the Framework included a request to MONUSCO to intensify its operations against the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the FDLR and other armed groups operating in eastern DRC.

The DRC made some progress in implementing its national commitments, as detailed in a 5 March report

of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO (see p. 201). Nine months after the establishment of the National Oversight Mechanism, however, the Mission operated with limited material and human resources and had yet to adopt its workplan and rules of procedure.

The Regional Oversight Mechanism reviewed progress in the implementation of the Framework, almost a year after its signing. It approved the Plan of Action for the implementation of the regional commitments and welcomed Kenya and the Sudan as new signatories.

The Secretary-General observed that the situation on the ground, though delicate, had improved considerably owing to a number of concerted national, regional and international efforts. On the military front, following the end of the M23 rebellion and the formal conclusion of the Kampala Dialogue, the Government of the DRC had been able to regain control of territories previously held by M23 and had commenced new operations against foreign armed groups operating in eastern DRC, such as ADF, FDLR and the Forces nationales de libération. The defeat of M23 had also led to the spontaneous surrender of elements from other armed groups, which needed to be sustained by effective demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programmes at the national and regional levels.

On the political front, President Joseph Kabila established a National Oversight Mechanism to oversee the implementation of the national commitments. In addition, he launched the national dialogue, which involved the majority of political parties and established a follow-up committee to monitor the implementation of its outcome. At the regional level, signatory countries displayed a greater sense of ownership in finding solutions to the conflict in eastern DRC and improving relations in the region. In that regard, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, in his capacity as ICGLR Chair, played a key role in facilitating the resolution of the conflict between the Government of the DRC and M23, through the Kampala Dialogue.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 March [meeting 7150], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2147(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/222] was submitted by France, Luxembourg and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements by its President concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially its resolutions 2053(2012) of 27 June 2012, 2076(2012) of 20 November 2012, 2078(2012) of 28 November 2012, 2098(2013) of 28 March 2013 and 2136(2014) of 30 January 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 2086(2013) of 21 January 2013 and reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping

mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as all States in the region, and emphasizing the need to respect fully the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Stressing the primary responsibility of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for ensuring security in its territory and protecting its civilians with respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law,

Noting that eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has continued to suffer from recurring cycles of conflict and persistent violence by armed groups, both Congolese and foreign, and emphasizing the need to address the root causes of conflict to put an end to these recurring cycles of violence,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community and the African Union to restore peace and security in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and encouraging the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to ensure close cooperation with these and other international parties,

Recalling the signing in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013 of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework), under the auspices of its guarantors, namely the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community and the Chairperson of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and calling upon all parties to continue to implement promptly, fully and in good faith their respective commitments,

Welcoming the Regional Oversight Mechanism's calling for a broader political dialogue in its communiqué of 31 January 2014, and the initial dialogue between key signatory States initiated by Angola in its role as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, encouraging the continuation of such dialogue under the auspices of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework to resolve the root causes of conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, and welcoming the continued engagement of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region,

Reaffirming its strongest support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the implementation of their mandate, and strongly encouraging the continuation of their efforts,

Reiterating its deep concern regarding the security and humanitarian crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo due to ongoing destabilizing activities of foreign and domestic armed groups, and stressing the importance of neutralizing all armed groups, including the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Allied Democratic Forces, the Lord's Resistance Army, the Bakata-Katanga and various Mai Mai groups,

Welcoming the end of the rebellion by the 23 March Movement and the signing in Nairobi on 12 December 2013 by the 23 March Movement, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Southern African Development Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of the documents concluding the Kampala Dialogue facilitated by Uganda as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and stressing the importance of ensuring that all provisions of the signed documents are implemented swiftly and in good faith and, in this regard, that the 23 March Movement does not regroup and resume military activities, in line with the Nairobi declarations and relevant Security Council resolutions,

Expressing deep concern regarding the sustained regional threat posed by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, a group under United Nations sanctions whose leaders and members include perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed, and have continued to promote and commit ethnically based and other killings in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and stressing the importance of permanently addressing this threat,

Expressing concern that the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, as well as other armed groups, continue to have freedom of movement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, noting with deep concern reports indicating collaboration by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda at a local level, and welcoming in this regard the plans by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, supported by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to neutralize the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, and stressing the need to put such plans into sustained action,

Recalling the statements by the President of the Security Council on the Central African region and the Lord's Resistance Army, including the statements of 29 May and 25 November 2013, commending the important ongoing efforts being undertaken by the Mission in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army, encouraging further efforts of the African Union-Regional Task Force, and urging greater cooperation and information-sharing between relevant United Nations bodies, the Regional Task Force regional forces and non-governmental organizations in tackling the threat of the Lord's Resistance Army,

Expressing deep concern regarding the increasing number of internally displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, now reaching more than 2.9 million, and the over 450,000 refugees from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo caused by the various Congolese and foreign armed groups active in the region, calling upon the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all States in the region to work towards the peaceful environment conducive to the eventual voluntary return and reintegration of refugees to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the support, as appropriate, of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, commending in this regard the support provided by neighbouring countries to refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and encouraging the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda, and United Nations and international organizations to

work together to urgently address the situation of former 23 March Movement combatants in Uganda and Rwanda,

Noting that it has been more than a year since hundreds of 23 March Movement combatants, including individuals designated by the Security Council, fled from the Democratic Republic of the Congo into Rwanda on 18 March 2013, encouraging the Government of Rwanda, with the assistance of relevant United Nations and international organizations, to continue to ensure that these combatants are permanently demobilized and are dealt with according to relevant international law, including special attention to children and women among them, and recalling the obligations of Member States, as renewed in resolution 2136(2014) of 30 January 2014,

Calling upon all parties to the conflict to respect the impartiality, independence and neutrality of humanitarian actors,

Remaining greatly concerned by the humanitarian situation that continues to severely affect the civilian population, in particular in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the persistent high levels of violence and violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international law, condemning in particular those involving targeted attacks against civilians, widespread sexual and gender-based violence, systematic recruitment and use of children by certain parties to the conflict, the displacement of significant numbers of civilians, extrajudicial executions and arbitrary arrests, and recognizing their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict,

Welcoming the efforts of the Mission and international partners in delivering training in human rights, child protection and protection from sexual and gender-based violence for Congolese security institutions, and underlining its importance, and welcoming the establishment of the Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework in an effort to ensure the full participation of women in the Framework peace process,

Noting the ongoing efforts made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to combat sexual violence in conflict, including through the implementation of its national strategy and the commitments outlined in the joint communiqué between the Government and the United Nations on the fight against sexual violence in conflict adopted in Kinshasa on 30 March 2013, and strongly encouraging the Government to increase its efforts in this regard,

Acknowledging the adoption of the Framework of Cooperation between the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the African Union Commission concerning the Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Africa, in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2014,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 13 March 2014, which includes a list of parties responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict,

Condemning the mass rapes in Minova and the surrounding villages in November 2012 reportedly committed by soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, taking note of the investigations and arrests undertaken thereafter by the Congolese authorities and the initial trials that are under way, expressing concern at the delays in the trials of those indicted, and urging the Congolese authorities to hold the perpetrators accountable while ensuring that all investigations and trials respect due process,

Calling for all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights, as applicable, including those involving violence or abuses against children and acts of sexual and gender-based violence, to be swiftly apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable,

Stressing the need for cooperation with the International Criminal Court by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, welcoming the commitment made by the Government to hold accountable those responsible for serious crimes, in particular war crimes and crimes against humanity, in the country, and stressing the importance of actively seeking to hold accountable those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country and of regional and international cooperation to this end,

Recalling the Secretary-General's call to the Council to reject any endorsement of amnesty for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and welcoming in this regard the promulgation of the amnesty law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, excluding those who have committed genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and urging the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to follow through by undertaking the necessary judicial reform to ensure that the Democratic Republic of the Congo effectively addresses impunity,

Urging the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to remain fully committed to the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, including through the adoption of a priority action plan, and to protecting the civilian population through the swift establishment of professional, accountable and sustainable security forces, the deployment of an accountable Congolese civil administration, in particular the police, judiciary, prison and territorial administration and the consolidation of the rule of law and the promotion and protection of human rights,

Also urging the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take immediate steps to uphold its commitment to security sector reform, including the creation and support of a rapid reaction force, the development of a road map for the security and justice sectors, the development of a comprehensive plan for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and for disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, noting in this regard that the Government has proposed a new disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan, all of which will require the allocation of necessary resources and a continued commitment from the Government to prioritize reform, and regretting that progress has been slow to date,

Reiterating its call upon all parties to cooperate fully with the Mission, and its condemnation of any and all attacks against peacekeepers, emphasizing that those responsible for such attacks must be held accountable, and recalling its decision to extend sanctions measures outlined in paragraph 3 of resolution 2136(2014) to individuals and entities that plan, direct, sponsor or participate in attacks against Mission peacekeepers,

Reiterating its call upon the Secretary-General to take all measures deemed necessary to strengthen United Nations field security arrangements and improve the safety and security of all military contingents, police officers, military observers and, especially, unarmed observers,

Recognizing the significant sacrifices made by the Mission, commending the active steps taken by the Mission, including its Intervention Brigade acting with the support of and in cooperation with the wider force structure of the Mission, to implement fully its mandate, in particular the protection of civilians, and encouraging the continuation of these efforts by the Mission,

Affirming that the successful protection of civilians is critical to the fulfilment of the mandate of the Mission and the delivery of an improved security environment, in this regard recognizing that the Mission has successfully deterred attacks on civilians through its approach to the protection of civilians, and welcoming the efforts made by the Mission to adapt the force in order to enhance the delivery of the Mission's comprehensive protection of civilians strategy, including by becoming more flexible, versatile and widely deployable across the whole of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Underlining the importance of the Mission deterring any threats to the implementation of its mandate,

Recognizing the contribution of the Mission to a comprehensive strategy for durable peace and security, noting with appreciation the contribution that the Mission makes to early peacebuilding, and emphasizing that the activities of the Mission should be conducted in a manner so as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding, prevention of relapse into armed conflict and progress towards sustainable peace and development,

Stressing the importance of the full and urgent implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework to permanently reducing threats against civilians, noting the need for the Mission to strengthen support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enable it to address security challenges and extend State authority of the Government as expressed in paragraph 5 of the Framework, and recognizing the need for a comprehensive peace process to put an end to the sources of conflict in the region,

Determining that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including, on an exceptional basis

and without creating a precedent or any prejudice to the agreed principles of peacekeeping, its Intervention Brigade, within the authorized troop ceiling of 19,815 military personnel, 760 military observers and staff officers, 391 police personnel and 1,050 personnel of formed police units, until 31 March 2015;

2. *Commends* the Mission, including its Intervention Brigade, for the positive impact on peace and stability in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and on the protection of civilians, fully supports the actions undertaken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the implementation of the mandate of the Mission, and encourages the Mission to maximize force interoperability, flexibility and effectiveness in the implementation of the entirety of the mandate of the Mission, in line with the report of the Secretary-General of 5 March 2014, bearing in mind the safety and security of all military contingents, police officers, military observers and, especially, unarmed observers;

3. *Notes* the need for a clear exit strategy, including for the Intervention Brigade, and decides that future reconfigurations of the Mission and its mandate should be determined on the basis of the evolution of the situation on the ground and, in the context of implementation by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all other signatories to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, progress towards the following objectives, in line with the three priorities of protection of civilians, stabilization and support to the implementation of the Framework, as set out in the mission concept:

(a) Reduction of the threat posed by Congolese and foreign armed groups, and violence against civilians, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, to a level that can be effectively managed by the Congolese justice and security institutions;

(b) Stabilization through the establishment of functional, professional and accountable State institutions, including security institutions, in conflict-affected areas, and through strengthened democratic practices that reduce the risk of instability, including adequate political space, promotion and protection of human rights and a credible electoral process;

4. *Authorizes* the Mission, in pursuit of the objectives described in paragraph 3 above, to take all measures necessary to perform the following tasks:

(a) Protection of civilians

(i) Ensure, within its area of operations, effective protection of civilians under threat of physical violence, including through active patrolling, paying particular attention to civilians gathered in displaced and refugee camps, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders, in the context of violence emerging from any of the parties engaged in the conflict, and mitigate the risk to civilians before, during and after any military operation;

(ii) Ensure the protection of United Nations personnel, facilities, installations and equipment and the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

(iii) Work with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to identify threats to civilians and implement existing prevention and

response plans and strengthen civil-military cooperation, including joint planning, to ensure the protection of civilians from abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children, and requests the Mission to ensure that child protection and gender concerns are integrated into all operations and strategic aspects of the work of the Mission and accelerate the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and the swift deployment of women's protection advisers as called for in resolutions 1960(2010) and 2106(2013), in order to seek commitments on the prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence;

(b) Neutralizing armed groups through the Intervention Brigade

In support of the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on the basis of information collation and analysis, and taking full account of the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk before, during and after any military operation, carry out targeted offensive operations through the Intervention Brigade, either unilaterally or jointly with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in a robust, highly mobile and versatile manner and in strict compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, in cooperation with the whole of the Mission, prevent the expansion of all armed groups, neutralize these groups and disarm them in order to contribute to the objective of reducing the threat posed by armed groups to State authority and civilian security in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and to make space for stabilization activities;

(c) Monitoring the implementation of the arms embargo

Monitor the implementation of the arms embargo as described in paragraph 1 of resolution 2136(2014) in cooperation with the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo established pursuant to resolution 1533(2004) of 12 March 2004, and in particular observe and report on flows of military personnel, arms or related materiel across the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including by using, as specified in the letter dated 22 January 2013 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General, surveillance capabilities provided by unmanned aerial systems, seize, collect and dispose of arms or related materials brought into the Democratic Republic of the Congo in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 2136(2014), and share relevant information with the Group of Experts;

(d) Provision of support to national and international judicial processes

Support and work with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to arrest and bring to justice those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country, including through cooperation with States of the region and the International Criminal Court;

5. Also authorizes the Mission, in support of the Congolese authorities and their efforts to deliver the reforms called for in the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and

stabilization in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, to contribute to the following tasks, in coordination with the United Nations country team and other actors, including through the good offices of the Special Representative:

(a) Encourage and accelerate national ownership of security sector reform by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including through the urgent finalization and implementation of a national strategy for the establishment of effective, inclusive and accountable security and justice institutions by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and play a leading role in coordinating the support for security sector reform provided by international and bilateral partners and the United Nations system;

(b) Promote peace consolidation and inclusive and transparent political dialogue among all Congolese stakeholders with a view to furthering reconciliation and democratization and encourage the organization of credible and transparent elections in line with the electoral cycle and the Constitution;

(c) Encourage the consolidation of an effective national civilian structure to control key mining activities and to manage in an equitable manner the extraction of and trade in natural resources in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(d) Monitor, report and follow up on human rights violations and abuses, including in the context of elections, and support the United Nations system in-country to ensure that any support provided by the United Nations shall be consistent with international humanitarian law and human rights law and refugee law as applicable;

(e) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enable the development and finalization of a clear and comprehensive security sector reform implementation road map, including benchmarks and timelines to establish effective and accountable security institutions, including vetting mechanisms;

(f) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in compliance with the human rights due diligence policy, for a reform of the army, including, as a first step, the establishment of a vetted, well-trained and adequately equipped rapid reaction force within the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo which should form the nucleus for a professional, accountable, well-sustained and effective national defence force, and support, when appropriate and in coordination with international partners, the training of the rapid reaction force which should, in the frame of the benchmarks and timelines set by the security sector reform road map, develop the capacity to assume as soon as possible security responsibilities from the Intervention Brigade of the Mission;

(g) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the design and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration plans for foreign and Congolese combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or gross violations of human rights, aimed at integration into a peaceful civilian life contributing to stable communities in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, while paying specific attention to the needs of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups;

(h) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in close cooperation with other international partners, to build on the Government's Stabilization and Reconstruction Plan and the revised International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy to support the establishment of a minimum level of sustainable State authority and control in conflict-affected areas in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including through area-based efforts to improve security and State authority and enable the commencement of sustainable socioeconomic recovery;

(i) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the reform of the police, including by contributing, in compliance with the human rights due diligence policy, to the provision of training to battalions of the Congolese National Police;

(j) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the development and the implementation, in accordance with the Congolese strategy for justice reform, of a multi-year joint United Nations justice support programme in order to develop independent criminal justice institutions and processes, the police, the judiciary and prisons in conflict-affected areas;

(k) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to promote human rights and to fight impunity, including through the implementation of the Government's "zero-tolerance policy" with respect to discipline and human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by elements of the security sector;

(l) Continue to collaborate with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the swift and vigorous implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence against children by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and continue dialogue with all listed parties to obtain further commitments and work towards the development and implementation of time-bound action plans to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and other violations of international humanitarian law;

6. *Reiterates* that multidimensional peacekeeping requires a comprehensive approach, and requests the military and civilian components of the Mission to focus on a coherent division of labour in accordance with their respective comparative advantages and available capacities;

7. *Stresses* that integrated action on the ground by security and development actors requires coordination with national authorities in order to stabilize and improve the security situation and assist in the restoration of State authority, and underlines the importance of integrated efforts among all United Nations entities in the field to promote coherence in the work of the United Nations in conflict and post-conflict situations;

Transfer of responsibilities

8. *Requests* that the Secretary-General continue to report on the current division of labour between the Mission and the United Nations country team on tasks shared by the Mission, the country team and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on the road map on the transfer of responsibilities to other actors, primarily

the Government, but also the country team and donors, in order to streamline the tasks assigned to the Mission, and expresses its intention to keep the mandate of the Mission under review on the basis of this reporting;

9. *Calls upon* the Mission to continue to work with the United Nations country team and the Congolese authorities towards the adoption and implementation of the Peace Consolidation Programme covering provinces not affected by the conflict, and requests the Mission, where appropriate, to continue to transfer tasks to the country team and the Congolese authorities in those provinces;

10. *Urges* the international community and donors to support the Mission and the United Nations country team, and calls upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring States to remain engaged in the process of transfer of responsibilities;

Elections

11. *Calls upon* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its national partners to ensure a transparent and credible electoral process, in fulfilment of their primary responsibility to create propitious conditions for the forthcoming elections, and urges the Government as well as all relevant parties to ensure an environment conducive to a free, fair, credible, inclusive, transparent, peaceful and timely electoral process, which includes free and constructive political debate, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, equitable access to media, including State media, safety and freedom of movement for all candidates, as well as for election observers and witnesses, journalists, human rights defenders and actors from civil society, including women;

12. *Calls upon* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to adopt without delay the electoral cycle road map and budget, and, upon notification to the Security Council by the Secretary-General of their adoption, authorizes the Mission to provide logistical support, as appropriate and in coordination with Congolese authorities and the United Nations country team, to facilitate the electoral cycle, and decides that this support will be continually assessed and reviewed according to the progress made by the Congolese authorities in the steering of the electoral process, in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 16 of resolution 2053(2012);

Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework

13. *Reiterates* the importance of implementing the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework to the achievement of long-term stability of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region;

14. *Urges* all signatory States of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework to continue to fully and promptly implement their commitments in good faith;

15. *Calls upon* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has the primary responsibility for safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity, to make further meaningful progress in implementing its commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, as well as the other signatories to the Framework;

16. *Calls upon* the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, in coordination with and with the appropriate support from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to continue to lead, coordinate and

assess the implementation of the national and regional commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and, building on the Framework, to encourage a high-level regional political dialogue between key signatories to address the underlying root causes of the conflict, noting the initial dialogue between key signatories already under way under the leadership of Angola as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and encouraging the Special Envoy to continue to engage with this process;

Armed groups

17. *Strongly condemns* all armed groups operating in the region and their violations of international humanitarian law as well as other applicable international law, and abuses of human rights, including attacks on the civilian population, Mission peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, summary executions, sexual and gender-based violence and large-scale recruitment and use of children, and reiterates that those responsible will be held accountable;

18. *Demands* that the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Allied Democratic Forces, the Lord's Resistance Army, the Bakata-Katanga and various Mai Mai groups cease immediately all forms of violence and other destabilizing activities and that their members immediately and permanently disband, lay down their arms and demobilize children from their ranks;

19. *Expresses concern* that the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, as well as other armed groups, continue to have freedom of movement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, notes with deep concern reports indicating collaboration by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda at a local level, and welcomes in this regard the plans by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, supported by the Mission, to neutralize the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, and stresses the need to put such plans into sustained action;

20. *Demands* that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with its commitments in the Nairobi declarations of 12 December 2013, take immediate steps to implement its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, in coordination with the United Nations, international organizations and neighbouring countries where former 23 March Movement combatants have found refuge, requests, in this respect and in accordance with the Nairobi declarations and in line with commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement, the United Nations and international organizations to work together with neighbouring States to urgently address the situation of former 23 March Movement combatants located in their territories, and stresses the importance of ensuring that all provisions of the signed documents are implemented swiftly and in good faith and, in this regard, that the 23 March Movement does not regroup and resume military activities, in line with the Nairobi declarations and relevant Council resolutions;

21. *Calls upon* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to urgently put in place and implement comprehensive plans for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and for disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration to be able to effectively deal with former combatants;

22. *Notes* that former 23 March Movement combatants, including individuals designated by the Council, fled from the Democratic Republic of the Congo into Rwanda and Uganda, especially following the defeat of the 23 March Movement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, encourages the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant international organizations, to continue to ensure that these combatants are permanently demobilized, that Congolese combatants are returned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to complete a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, as appropriate, and are dealt with according to relevant international law, with special attention to children and women among them, and recalls the obligations of Member States under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and the sanctions regime as renewed by resolution 2136(2014);

23. *Reiterates its support* to the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism as a regional confidence-building mechanism, and welcomes the decision of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to grant permanent representation of the Mission in this mechanism;

Human rights/humanitarian

24. *Urges* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to arrest and hold accountable those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country, and stresses the importance to this end of both regional cooperation and cooperation with the International Criminal Court;

25. *Calls upon* the Congolese authorities to ensure the prosecution of those responsible for the grave human rights violations and abuses committed in the context of the 28 November 2011 elections;

26. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to build on its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and to vigorously implement, with the support of the Mission as appropriate, the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and encourages the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Joseph Kabila, to swiftly appoint the proposed Presidential Adviser on Sexual Violence and the Recruitment of Children;

27. *Requests* the Mission to take fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in ensuring the participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels, including in stabilization activities, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, as well as in the national political dialogue and electoral processes, through, inter alia, the provision of gender advisers, and further requests enhanced reporting by the Mission to the Council on this issue;

28. *Also requests* the Mission to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in ensuring that the protection of children's rights is taken into account, inter alia, in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and in

security sector reform in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

29. *Calls upon* all actors to strengthen their efforts to combat impunity for conflict-related sexual violence, to provide all necessary services to survivors and to ensure the equal and full inclusion of women in the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and at all stages of conflict resolution, reconstruction and the promotion of peace, including through taking account of the call in the Bujumbura Declaration of 11 July 2013 for ensuring that benchmarks, indicators and follow-up measures of the plan of implementation for the Framework are gender-sensitive;

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

30. *Calls upon* the Mission to coordinate strategies with other United Nations missions in the region for enhanced information-sharing in the light of the attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army, and reiterates support to the respective initiatives taken by the United Nations and the African Union to facilitate regional action against the Lord's Resistance Army, consistent with paragraph 4 (a) above;

31. *Encourages* the Mission to enhance its interaction with the civilian population to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities through a comprehensive public outreach programme, to identify potential threats against the civilian population and to collect reliable information on violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights perpetrated against civilians;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure full compliance of the Mission with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuses and to keep the Council informed if cases of such conduct occur;

33. *Requests* the Mission to ensure that any support provided to national security forces is in strict compliance with the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, and urges the United Nations system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to adopt a joint and uniform approach regarding implementation of the human rights due diligence policy;

34. *Demands* that all parties cooperate fully with the operations of the Mission and allow and facilitate full, safe, immediate and unhindered access for United Nations and associated personnel in carrying out their mandate and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, in particular to internally displaced persons, throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, respecting the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and relevant provisions of international law;

35. *Calls upon* all Member States to generously contribute to the United Nations humanitarian appeal for the Democratic Republic of the Congo to help to ensure that United Nations humanitarian agencies and other international organizations are fully funded and able to address the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, survivors of sexual violence and other vulnerable communities;

36. *Calls upon* Member States to pledge and provide the remaining force enablers, in particular military air as-

sets, required for the Mission, and recalls the importance of close consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries;

37. *Notes* that it is important that all Mission contingents, including the contingents of the Intervention Brigade, are properly prepared and effectively equipped to be able to carry out their respective tasks;

38. *Expresses its full support* to the Group of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1533(2004) and calls for enhanced cooperation between all States, particularly those in the region, the Mission and the Group of Experts, encourages all parties and all States to ensure cooperation with the Group of Experts by individuals and entities within their jurisdiction or under their control, and reiterates its demand that all parties and all States ensure the safety of its members and its support staff and unhindered and immediate access, in particular to persons, documents and sites that the Group of Experts deems relevant to the execution of its mandate;

Strategic review

39. *Requests* that the Secretary-General conduct a thorough strategic review of the Mission and the wider United Nations presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to provide recommendations on the future objectives, activities, exit strategy and effective deployment of resources of the Mission, to the Council by 30 December 2014, bearing in mind the need to continue to increase the effectiveness of the Mission;

Reports of the Secretary-General

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every three months on:

- (i) The situation on the ground, including sexual violence and the impact of conflict on women and children;
- (ii) Progress made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the implementation of its commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, including through the establishment and implementation of a national security sector reform road map and the creation of a Congolese rapid reaction force, and on the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration plans;
- (iii) The implementation by the Mission of its mandate, including the activities of the Intervention Brigade, its reconfiguration to conduct the tasks set out above and the ongoing transfer of responsibilities to other actors;
- (iv) The risks and their implications for the safety and the security of United Nations personnel and facilities as a result of the possible military operations as well as measures taken to strengthen their security and mitigate risks;

41. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every six months, in coordination with his Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and his Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on the implementation of the commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework;

42. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General (March). In a 5 March report [S/2014/157] issued pursuant to resolution 2147(2014) (see p. 193), the Secretary-General highlighted progress made by MONUSCO in the implementation of its mandate since his previous report [YUN 2013, p. 120], and provided an update on the reconfiguration of the Mission and the development of the road map for the transfer of activities to the UN country team.

The DRC had made gradual progress on implementing the six national commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, though the progress achieved did not guarantee that the reform processes and initiatives required to stabilize eastern DRC would take hold.

Following the liberation of areas previously occupied by the M23 in North Kivu, MONUSCO supported the Government's efforts to restore state authority in the East, including through the deployment of key state actors to prevent a return to conflict. As part of this process, approximately 950 Congolese National Police and representatives from provincial Ministries were redeployed to Rutshuru and Kiwanja.

Although the threat posed by the M23 to civilians was removed from North Kivu, threats from other armed groups continued in the East. MONUSCO joint protection teams continued to monitor potential threats to the civilian population to assess the situation in vulnerable areas. The Mission adopted a more robust posture, presence and profile, in particular against ADF and FDLR. Though purely offensive operations had yet to be undertaken by MONUSCO, the Mission provided support to the offensive operations launched on 16 January by the armed forces of the DRC against ADF around Kamango.

MONUSCO positioned its Force Intervention Brigade battalions in strategic areas in Rwindi, Walikale and Kibumba.

Following the identification of a road map of tasks to be transferred from MONUSCO to the UN country team, detailed plans of the handover in areas not affected by armed conflict were developed and bridging arrangements, transfer locations and timelines were confirmed. As a transitional arrangement, MONUSCO would make staff available to agencies for certain tasks. Next steps included developing a resource mobilization strategy for the UN country team to attract the necessary resources. MONUSCO continued the planning and implementation of the Mission's reconfiguration to the East, and drafted its Mission Concept, outlining a vision for an operational and field-based Mission, focusing on areas affected by armed conflict. As at 1 July, MONUSCO would cease its aviation, movement control and transport services in all antenna locations except Mbandaka. Other services would either cease or be reduced to serve the antennas only. The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of MONUSCO.

Communication. In a 26 June letter [S/2014/447] to the President of the Security Council, Rwanda described its objection to the request for a travel ban exemption in favour of a UN-sanctioned individual called Gaston Rumuli Iyamuremye, referred to as President ad interim of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR). Rwanda had nevertheless been subsequently informed that MONUSCO did not even wait for the decision of the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533(2004) concerning the DRC before starting the process of airlifting Mr. Iyamuremye and other FDLR leaders, including individuals wanted by the Government of Rwanda for their responsibility in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

Reports of Secretary-General (June and September). Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2147(2014), the Secretary-General issued a 30 June report [S/2014/450] highlighting progress made by MONUSCO in the implementation of its mandate and providing an update on the reconfiguration of MONUSCO and the development of the road map for the transfer of activities to the UN country team.

The political environment was increasingly dominated by the debate among key actors over the conduct of the electoral process, in particular in the wake of the publication by the Independent National Electoral Commission of a partial electoral calendar, which set the time frame for the organization of the municipal, urban and local elections from June to October 2015. Implementation of other commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and the National Dialogue had also continued, albeit haltingly.

Security threats to UN staff, premises and operations remained high in the northern part of North Kivu Province owing to ADF directly targeting UN staff and installations. The implementation of the road map on the transfer of responsibilities to the UN country team was moving forward. The transfer of electoral assistance and the consolidation of peace and democracy tasks, however, posed significant challenges in the absence of adequate funding by the Government and donors. The implementation of the transfer road map highlighted the urgent capacity needs of the UN country team before it could fully take over MONUSCO responsibilities.

Some progress had been made in the overall implementation of the UN strategy to address the recurring cycles of violence in eastern DRC. Following the defeat of M23, military operations against ADF had continued and the first steps towards the disarmament of FDLR had been taken. The Government's presence in areas cleared of armed groups, including in the areas of stability supported by MONUSCO, was gradually increasing. That progress, however, remained extremely fragile. According to the Secretary-General, the dis-

armament of FDLR, initiated on 30 May, needed to be completed without delay.

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2147(2014), the Secretary-General issued a 24 September report [S/2014/697] on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region. The report described regional peace and security initiatives in relation to eastern DRC, and reviewed progress in advancing the objectives of the Framework, including measures taken by stakeholders to implement the regional plan of action adopted by Heads of State in Addis Ababa on 31 January (see p. 194).

Although some progress had been achieved, several obstacles continued to obstruct the Framework's full implementation. While the security situation in eastern DRC had generally improved, a lack of trust between neighbouring countries, the activities of armed groups and slow progress in the implementation of the Nairobi declarations (the Kampala Dialogue [YUN 2013, p. 119] outcome documents signed at Nairobi on 12 December 2013 by the DRC and M23), continued to threaten long-term stability in eastern DRC and undermine bilateral relations between some countries in the region. In July, the Secretary-General appointed Said Djinnit (Algeria) as his new Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region replacing Mary Robinson (Ireland).

The (FDLR announced their readiness to surrender and demanded an inter-Rwandan dialogue as a condition for disarming. As at 31 August, only 103 FDLR combatants and 202 dependants had surrendered in North Kivu, while 83 combatants with 236 dependants had disarmed in South Kivu. Those individuals were currently in two transit camps run by MONUSCO.

The President of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, in his role as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), had been leading regional efforts to build consensus on the eradication of armed groups in eastern DRC. Against the background of the new dynamic generated by the FDLR voluntary disarmament process, States members of ICGLR and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held a joint ministerial meeting in Luanda on 2 July and discussed, in addition to the FDLR issue, the implementation of the Nairobi declarations. They issued a joint communiqué in which they urged FDLR to disarm within six months and scheduled a midterm review of the process in October. Those positions were reiterated during an ICGLR mini-summit held in Luanda on 14 August and endorsed at the thirty-fourth Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government, held in Pretoria, South Africa on 17 and 18 August.

As for the foreign and local armed groups operating in eastern DRC, the country's armed forces, supported by MONUSCO, had continued to carry out military

operations against the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and the Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain. Limited progress was achieved in the implementation of the DRC national commitments, while the countries in the region, by and large, had continued to adhere to their commitments, in particular those related to non-interference in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries and assistance or support to armed groups, despite unverified reports to the contrary. The Secretary-General maintained that one of the most pressing issues was the lack of expeditious implementation of the Nairobi declarations, which perpetuated mistrust among Member States. He encouraged the DRC to work closely with Rwanda and Uganda to establish clear timelines and appropriate follow-up actions to conclude the repatriation of former M23 combatants. The neutralization of all armed groups in eastern DRC, including FDLR, through non-military and military actions, also remained a high priority; and, in that respect, the Secretary-General endorsed the six-month time frame by the SADC Heads of State for the FDLR to disarm unconditionally in a timely manner.

In a 25 September report [S/2014/698], also issued pursuant to resolution 2147(2014), the Secretary-General highlighted progress made since his previous report (see above) by MONUSCO in the implementation of its mandate, and provided an update on the reconfiguration of MONUSCO and the development of the road map for the transfer of activities to the UN country team.

The formation of a new Government of national cohesion did not take place during the reporting period. The extraordinary session of Parliament, which was expected to focus on the adoption of three laws on the organization of local, provincial and general elections, and one law modifying article 70 of the Constitution in order to change the voting system for provincial elections, also was not held. That fuelled speculation about further revisions of the Constitution aimed at circumventing presidential term limits. On 12 July, a matrix of 56 benchmarks and 347 indicators for the six national commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework was endorsed at a high-level validation seminar organized by the National Oversight Mechanism and the Ministry of Planning, with the support of MONUSCO, the UN country team and international partners. Emphasizing national ownership of the benchmarking process, the seminar paved the way for the inclusion of the national commitments in the budget planning for 2015. On 17 September, the Steering Committee of the National Oversight Mechanism, chaired by President Kabila, adopted the matrix.

The handover of substantive responsibilities to the UN country team was completed on 1 July. Consequently, MONUSCO no longer had responsibility in non-conflict areas for human rights training, helping

children affected by armed conflict, combating sexual violence, mine action, justice and corrections, the extraction and trade of natural resources (including in conflict-affected areas) and the consolidation of peace and democracy. For most of those responsibilities, the full continuation of activities depended on generating additional resources and on the reversal of the declining field presence of the UN country team. Electoral assistance, however, continued to pose a significant challenge, since donors had placed the funding of the proposed United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) electoral assistance project on hold.

The Secretary-General observed that despite improvements in security in some areas, some returns of displaced persons and the redeployment of the police, gains remained tenuous and progress in preparing and mobilizing support for the safe and voluntary return of refugees had been slow. Some disarmed combatants had returned to the bush. While previous threats to the authority of the State in eastern DRC had been mitigated, residual armed groups continued to fight over territory and mining sites and to attack and harass civilians. He encouraged the Governments of the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda to set out a time-bound road map for the repatriation of former M23 combatants from Rwanda and Uganda. In particular, the DRC needed to accelerate the processing of amnesty requests signed by former M23 combatants, whose individual repatriation depended on the completion of that process.

Communication. In identical letters of 20 October [S/2014/753] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council, the DRC explained the circumstances that prompted Congolese authorities to end cooperation and expel from the country the Director of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office of MONUSCO.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 5 November [meeting 7296], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/22** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council expresses its deep concern over the lack of progress of the voluntary disarmament process of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, as assessed in the joint International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and Southern African Development Community communiqué of 20 October 2014. The Council recalls its statement to the press of 3 October 2014 and stresses again that there should be no further delay beyond the end date of 2 January 2015 set by the region for the voluntary disarmament process. The Council calls upon the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to immediately update operational plans for military action that should begin no later than January 2015 against the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda. The Council reiterates once

again its call upon the Government, in coordination with the Mission, to immediately undertake military action against those leaders and members of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda who do not engage in the demobilization process or who continue to carry out human rights abuses.

The Council further recalls that the swift neutralization of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda is a top priority in bringing stability to and protecting the civilians of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, in line with the wider commitments made in the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. The Council recalls that leaders and members of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda were among the perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed, and recalls that the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda is a group under United Nations sanctions, operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has continued to promote and commit ethnically based and other killings in Rwanda and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council reiterates its call upon the region to comply with the commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and to neither tolerate nor provide assistance or support of any kind to armed groups and to neither harbour nor provide protection of any kind to persons accused of violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, in particular war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide, or persons falling under the United Nations sanctions regime. The Council further reiterates its readiness to consider targeted sanctions against any individual or entity found to be supporting the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda or any other armed group in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Council strongly condemns the recent attacks by the Allied Democratic Forces in the Beni territory, in which over 100 civilians, mostly women and children, were brutally killed. The Council takes note of the statement by President Kabila to immediately engage further military action to neutralize this group permanently, with the support of the Mission. In accordance with its resolution 2147(2014), the Council underlines the importance of ensuring the effective protection of civilians. The Council emphasizes that any effort to undermine the ability of the Mission to implement its mandate will not be tolerated and that those responsible for threats or attacks against peacekeepers must be held accountable.

The Council recalls the importance of completing the permanent demobilization of the former 23 March Movement combatants and calls for the acceleration of the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement programme, in coordination with the regional States concerned. The Council stresses the need for all parties to overcome barriers to repatriation at the meeting to be held in Kinshasa on 7 November 2014 and reminds former 23 March Movement combatants of their commitments under the Nairobi declarations.

The Council stresses that the durable return of stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

and the region also requires the swift fulfilment of implementation of the reforms committed to by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. The Council stresses the strategic importance of this agreement and calls upon all signatories to work together in a reinvigorated way in order to ensure delivery of the commitments made under the Framework. The Council expresses concern over the continued slow progress on security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the establishment of an Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo rapid reaction force, and calls upon the Government to consolidate progress on the restoration of State authority and on the wider governance, economic and security sector reforms needed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Council expresses its full support to the mandate of good offices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo as outlined in its resolution 2147(2014). The Council also welcomes the engagement of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and calls upon him, in coordination with the Special Representative, to continue to lead, coordinate and assess the implementation of the national and regional commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework.

The Council recalls that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its national partners bear responsibility for ensuring a transparent and credible electoral process. The Council calls for the publication of a comprehensive electoral calendar and budget and underlines the importance of full and timely planning and preparation for upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections. The Council reiterates the importance of a free, fair, inclusive and peaceful election process that respects the will of the Congolese people, in line with the national commitments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo made under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework agreement aimed at furthering the agenda of reconciliation, tolerance and democratization. The Council underlines that successful and credible elections in line with the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo would be a key element in the continuing work to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and form a key part of efforts to build long-term peace and stability in the region.

The Council also recalls that logistical support could be provided by the Mission only once the electoral cycle road map and budget have been adopted. The Council also recalls that this support will be continually assessed and reviewed according to the progress made by the Congolese authorities in the steering of the electoral process, in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 16 of its resolution 2053(2012).

The Council recalls the importance of promoting and protecting human rights and fighting impunity. The Council notes with deep concern the persistence of serious human rights abuses and international humanitarian law violations against civilians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo committed by armed groups, including the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda. The Council also expresses

deep concern at reports and allegations indicating the persistence of serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by Congolese security and defence forces and reiterates the need to fight against impunity in this regard.

In this context, the Council expresses its grave concern at the decision of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to expel the head of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council further expresses concern over recent threats made against other staff members of the Office. The Council recalls that monitoring, reporting and follow-up on human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law are fully part of the mandate of the Mission and expresses its full support to the Office, the Mission and the United Nations personnel. The Council recalls the importance of the obligations and commitments of the Government in terms of the promotion and protection of human rights and the fight against impunity, and calls upon the Government to investigate the allegations included in the report. The Council calls for continued cooperation and dialogue between the Mission and the Government. In this regard, the Council takes note of the letter dated 20 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the President of the Security Council and of the willingness expressed by the Government to continue to work with the Mission, including the Office.

The Council reiterates its full support for the Mission and calls upon all parties to cooperate fully with the Mission and to remain committed to the full and objective implementation of the mandate of the Mission. The Council commends the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Report of Secretary-General (December). In a 30 December report [S/2014/956] issued pursuant to resolution 2147(2014) (see p. 193), the Secretary-General highlighted progress made since his 24 September report (see p. 202) by MONUSCO in the implementation of its mandate, and provided an update on the reconfiguration of the Mission and on the development of the road map for the transfer of activities to the UN country team.

The debate on a potential third term for President Joseph Kabila dominated the political scene and triggered various, and sometimes violent, reactions. On 20 October, a coalition of opposition parties addressed a letter to the Secretary-General's Special Representative, calling for the support of MONUSCO to ensure the full implementation by the Government of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, notably with regard to commitments on national reconciliation, tolerance and democratization. On 7 December, President Kabila appointed a Government of "national cohesion" comprising 47 members from the ruling coalition and the political opposition.

In the absence of progress towards the development by the Government of a comprehensive national

security-sector reform strategy, the reorganization of the FARDC leadership structure in October and of the Presidential Guard in November was welcomed as a positive step that could facilitate the improvement of the defence sector. The reform of the police progressed at a slow pace, owing mainly to the lack of allocation of adequate financial resources by the Government.

MONUSCO established three additional areas of stability in eastern DRC, bringing the total to nine across Katanga, North Kivu, Orientale Province and South Kivu. MONUSCO and the UN country team conducted an in-depth analysis of the status of the transfer of responsibilities. The assessment confirmed that in most cases the assumption of additional responsibilities by the UN country team was hampered by the lack of adequate funding. Recommendations included further defining respective roles in relation to justice and corrections reform and support to rule of law institutional capacity-building; children affected by armed conflict; coordinating the national strategy on sexual and gender-based violence; the extraction and trade of natural resources; and electoral assistance. MONUSCO and the UN country team agreed to develop a joint strategic plan based on a revised United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2013–2017.

The Secretary-General expressed concern by the resurgence of horrific attacks by ADF and affiliated elements, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians. He supported the increasing cooperation between FARDC and the MONUSCO Force. The Secretary-General was also concerned about the repeated refusal of the M23 Coordinator to engage with the DRC on the implementation of the Nairobi declarations.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/173], the Secretary-General noted that the Framework continued to face significant challenges that hindered its full implementation, largely due to limited progress in neutralizing armed groups in eastern DRC and persistent mistrust between the leaders of the region. In particular, the lack of meaningful progress in the disarmament of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) continued to dominate discussions. During the six months granted to them to disarm and surrender, FDLR reportedly continued to commit human rights violations, recruit combatants and send mixed signals about its willingness to disarm fully. Victor Byiringiro, the acting leader of FDLR, released several communiqués in which he portrayed FDLR members as Rwandan refugees and demanded a political dialogue with the Government of Rwanda. He also raised alleged challenges relating to the disarmament process, including the limited capacity of the transit camps established to receive FDLR combatants.

With regard to the implementation of the Nairobi declarations by the DRC and M23, the Government

continued to process applications submitted by ex-M23 combatants. Meanwhile, Uganda urged the DRC to repatriate all the ex-M23 elements present in Uganda by the end of December.

The appointment of the long-awaited Government of national cohesion on 7 December represented a positive step towards implementation of the sixth national commitment relating to national reconciliation. The Government, however, had yet to accelerate the implementation of the reforms identified in the Framework and by the National Oversight Mechanism.

The Secretary-General called upon the leaders of the region to work together to define mutually acceptable solutions to neutralize the armed groups operating in eastern DRC. He also encouraged the countries concerned to revive joint mechanisms and to convene a summit of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries as soon as possible. Individuals associated with violence in the DRC and the region, some of whom were under United Nations or international sanctions, or under international arrest warrants, remained at large.

Children and armed conflict

President of Security Council letter. In a letter of 11 November [S/2014/809], the President of the Security Council forwarded to the Secretary-General a letter dated 7 November from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. The Working Group had examined the fifth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the DRC [YUN 2013, p. 121]. Based on its conclusions adopted on 19 September, the Group requested the Secretary-General to ensure that MONUSCO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as other relevant UN agencies, continue to strengthen their efforts to support the Congolese authorities in fighting impunity, including through the strengthening of the criminal justice system in accordance with the Congolese strategy for justice reform; establish effective recruitment procedures and age verification mechanisms in the national armed and security forces to prevent the recruitment and use of children in the DRC; mainstream the specific needs of children affected by armed conflict and the protection of their rights in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and in security sector reform; provide long-term rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and opportunities to children formerly associated with national armed forces and non-State armed groups and training of the national armed and security forces on the protection of children; bolster the education and health-care system; and establish standard operating procedures for the handover of children formerly associated with national armed forces and groups and for the protection of children in the course of military

operations. The Working Group further requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the UN country task force on monitoring and reporting reach out to non-State armed groups with a view to developing action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the killing, maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence against children in the DRC.

Arms embargo

The Security Council Committee on the DRC—established pursuant to resolution 1533(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 137] to monitor the arms embargo on armed groups that was imposed by resolution 1493(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 130]—reported on its 2014 activities in December [S/2014/919].

The Committee met four times in informal consultations, on 17 January, 4 April, 19 June and 17 September, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures. During the informal consultations on 17 January and 19 June, the Group of Experts on the DRC briefed the Committee on the main findings contained in its final report [YUN 2013, p. 122] and a mid-term report, respectively (see below). At the informal consultations on 17 September, the Committee was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Both provided information on violations or alleged violations of the sanctions measures and stressed the importance of imposing targeted sanctions against individuals operating in violation of those measures.

The Committee received implementation reports from Portugal [S/AC.43/2014/1] and Latvia [S/AC.43/2014/2] on action taken to implement the measures imposed by resolution 2136(2014) (see p. 189). The Committee added an entity to the list of individuals and entities subject to the travel ban and assets freeze imposed by paragraphs 13 and 15 of resolution 1596(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 192], as renewed by paragraph 3 of resolution 2078(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 111].

Group of Experts

The Group of Experts on the DRC was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1533(2004) to gather and analyse information on flows of arms and related materiel as well as networks operating in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 20 of resolution 1493(2003). On 13 March [S/2014/183], as requested by Council resolution 2136(2014), the Secretary-General extended the tenure of the Group of Experts for a period expiring on 1 February 2015 and appointed six experts to the Group.

Reports of Group of Experts. On 19 June, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1533(2004), and also in accordance with Council resolution

2136(2014), the Security Council Committee on the DRC submitted to the Council the Group's midterm report [S/2014/428] with recommendations for the countries of the Great Lakes region; the Governments of the DRC; Uganda; and MONUSCO.

For the countries of the Great Lakes region, the Group recommended that they submit on a monthly basis a comprehensive list of imports, production and exports of cassiterite, wolframite, coltan and gold to the ICGLR for inclusion in its regional database. In its recommendation to the DRC, the Group said that the Government should investigate the illegal export of the ivory that was seized in Kampala in October 2013 and prosecute those who killed elephants to acquire the ivory, authorized its export and shipped it to Uganda.

The Group recommended that the Government of Uganda conduct a survey of all M23 ex-combatants and political cadres, including demographic information, and provide the results to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533(2004) concerning the DRC; clarify the rules governing the freedom of movement of M23 ex-combatants and political cadres in Bihanga, Bombo and Kampala and report thereon to the Committee; and report to the Committee on the measures taken to address gold smuggling by the owners of the sanctioned entities, the Uganda Commercial Impex and Machanga Limited. In a later report [S/2015/19], the Group noted that the momentum created by the defeat of the M23 in November 2013 failed to translate into significant gains in security and stability in 2014 in eastern DRC. A military operation against ADF significantly weakened but did not defeat the sanctioned armed group. An expected military operation against FDLR did not materialize, and, as of the end of November 2014, efforts to negotiate the disarmament of FDLR had failed to produce meaningful results. In addition, numerous Congolese and foreign armed groups contributed to instability in Orientale, North Kivu, South Kivu and Katanga provinces.

While there had been progress on traceability and due diligence efforts concerning minerals produced in the DRC, smuggling continued. Elements of the DRC army (the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo or FARDC) and some armed groups remained involved in the minerals trade, potentially introducing conflict minerals into supply chains in the DRC and neighbouring States. There was no progress in addressing gold smuggling during the year in the DRC and Uganda, and scant evidence of interest in traceability and due diligence by those Governments or by the Government of the United Arab Emirates. The illegal exploitation of and trade in wildlife products, including ivory, remained a serious problem involving armed groups, elements of the DRC army, local poachers, and armed bands from South Sudan. FDLR and elements of the army remained in-

volved in the production of and trade in charcoal and wood in North Kivu.

The Group noted that the Government of Burundi failed to notify the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533(2004) concerning the DRC about the deployment of the Burundian army (the Force de défense nationale or FDN) in South Kivu. Although the deployment ended in October 2014, there were instances of sexual violence committed by the Burundian army and/or the Imbonerakure youth group during the deployment. The Group recommended that all Member States require that all deliveries of arms and ammunition to the DRC be subject to written confirmation from the Government of the DRC, that arms and ammunition stockpiles were managed in full compliance with international guidance and that Member States provide the Committee with copies of such confirmations.

MONUSCO

The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), first established as the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) by Security Council resolution 1279(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 92], continued to discharge its mandate as established in Council resolution 1925(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 123], which included to protect civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders under imminent threat of physical violence and to support the Government in its stabilization and peace consolidation efforts. By resolution 2147(2014) of 28 March (see p. 193), the Council extended the mandate of MONUSCO until 31 March 2015 including, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent or any prejudice to the agreed principles of peacekeeping, its intervention brigade, within the authorized troop ceiling of 19,815 military personnel, 760 military observers and staff officers, 391 police personnel, and 1,050 personnel of formed police units.

Strategic review of MONUSCO

In a December report [S/2014/957] issued pursuant to Council resolution 2147(2014), the Secretary-General conducted a strategic review of MONUSCO and the wider UN presence in the DRC, and provided recommendations on the Mission's future objectives, activities and exit strategy, and the effective deployment of its resources. Limited headway had been made in translating the political commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the region into concrete action, including with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi declarations and the voluntary surrender of FDLR. The Secretary-General was concerned about the continued attacks on civilians in eastern DRC and political tensions related to the electoral process, which high-

lighted the fragility of the situation countrywide and the continued need for the presence of MONUSCO. Initial results notwithstanding, more needed to be done to neutralize foreign and Congolese armed groups and reduce the threat that they posed to a level that could be managed by national justice and security institutions. That required a more robust and proactive MONUSCO and a commitment from the Government to work in partnership with the Mission to combat those groups, restore State authority and find durable solutions for former fighters. The swift neutralization of FDLR and ADF was essential for longer-term peace and stability. The establishment of the Force Intervention Brigade within MONUSCO had proven to be a valuable tool in support of the broader objectives of the Framework, and its deployment should be extended, but urgent measures were needed to re-energize the Brigade and that called for a change in the behaviour of certain troop-contributing countries. All military contingents had to be ready and willing to use armed force against those who posed a threat to the civilian population, and to do so proactively. A reduction of the threat posed by Congolese and foreign armed groups to civilians, the establishment of stronger and accountable State institutions and the strengthening of democratic practices to reduce the risk of instability remained the key criteria guiding the gradual drawdown of MONUSCO.

Financing

The General Assembly considered the performance report [A/68/86 & Corr.1] on the MONUSCO budget for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, showing a total expenditure of \$1,342,787,600 gross (\$1,315,991,900 net) against an appropriation of \$1,343,593,000 gross (\$1,316,798,300 net), and the proposed budget of MONUSCO for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/788], amounting to \$1,380,028,900 gross (\$1,354,484,100 net).

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in May [A/68/782/Add.14], recommended an appropriation of \$1,376,095,400 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, and to assess that amount at a monthly rate of \$114,674,617 should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Mission. ACABQ also recommended that the unencumbered balance of \$805,400 for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, as well as other income/adjustments amounting to \$22,598,500 for the period ended 30 June 2013, be credited to Member States.

On 29 December, the General Assembly, by **decision 69/554**, decided to defer the consideration of the item on the financing of MONUSCO to its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session. Also, by **decision 69/554**, the General Assembly decided to defer the consideration of the item of armed aggression against the DRC to its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/68/924], adopted **resolution 68/287** without vote [agenda item 152].

**Financing of the United Nations
Organization Stabilization Mission in the
Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1925(2010) of 28 May 2010, by which the Council decided that, as from 1 July 2010, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo would bear the title "United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" and authorized a maximum of 19,815 military personnel, 760 military observers, 391 police personnel and 1,050 personnel of formed police units for the Mission, and recalling also the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2147(2014) of 28 March 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 31 March 2015,

Recalling also its resolution 54/260 A of 7 April 2000 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/273 of 28 June 2013,

Recalling further its resolution 58/315 of 1 July 2004,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 367.7 million United States dollars, representing some 3 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 28 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and

urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo the amount of 1,506,067,900 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 1,397,036,000 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 90,398,000 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 18,633,900 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 1,129,550,925 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 March 2015, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 24,050,100 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 18,498,375 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 4,303,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 1,248,525 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

15. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 376,516,975 dollars for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of 125,505,658 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

16. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 8,016,700 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 6,166,125 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 1,434,400 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 416,175 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 23,403,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

18. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 23,403,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. *Decides* that the increase of 1,000 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 23,403,900 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

22. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo".

Burundi

The political situation in Burundi in 2014 remained tense due to deep mistrust between the rul-

ing party and other stakeholders, notwithstanding efforts to foster political dialogue and the reduction in political violence perpetrated by Imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling party. Opposition supporters faced intimidation, harassment and political violence. The right of the opposition and civil society to free assembly and expression continued to be violated. Overall, the security situation in Burundi remained relatively stable despite a temporary spike in crime and increased concern about possible terrorist attacks.

In February, the Security Council, by resolution 2137(2014) (see below), extended the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) until 31 December, when the mandate and drawdown of BNUB came to an end. The task to ensure continuity in facilitating political dialogue and high-level advocacy critical to consolidating peace was undertaken by a combination of actors, including the United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB).

Political and security developments

On 24 January [S/PV.7104], the Security Council held its first meeting in 2014 to discuss the situation in Burundi. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General [S/2014/36] on BNUB [YUN 2013, p. 127]. The Council also met on 14 May [S/PV.7174], 6 August [S/PV.7236] and 5 November [S/PV.7295] to discuss the situation in the country.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 13 February [meeting 7110], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2137(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/96] was submitted by France and Nigeria.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions and the statements by its President on Burundi,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Burundi,

Welcoming the continued progress that Burundi has made towards peace, stability and development, and emphasizing the need for the United Nations system and the international community, including the international financial institutions and Burundi's development partners, to maintain their support for peace consolidation and long-term development in Burundi,

Commending the continued contribution of the United Nations Office in Burundi and the United Nations system to the peace, security and development of the country,

Welcoming the organization in 2013 by the United Nations Office in Burundi and the United Nations system, in close coordination with the Government of Burundi, of several workshops on electoral lessons learned and the adoption of an electoral road map in March 2013, and calling upon the Government and all political parties to fully implement the road map and its recommendations,

Encouraging further efforts by the Government of Burundi to ensure a space for all political parties, including from the extra-parliamentary opposition, and to continue

to improve dialogue between all relevant actors, including civil society, with a view to ensuring a conducive, free and open environment for the run-up to the 2015 elections,

Reiterating the need for inclusive and broad-based consultations in the spirit of the Arusha Agreement of 28 August 2000, and welcoming in this regard the inclusive and constructive consultations held on 19 and 20 December 2013 in Kigobe on issues related to the constitutional review process,

Expressing concern about limitations on the freedom of the press, of expression, association and assembly for opposition political parties and for the media and civil society organizations, especially in the run-up to the 2015 elections,

Noting the efforts made by the Government of Burundi to improve the human rights situation in Burundi, and remaining concerned by continued human rights violations and abuses, in particular reported extrajudicial killings, mistreatment of detainees and torture and restrictions on civil liberties, notably acts of intimidation, harassment and violence committed by youth groups, and recalling that there should be no impunity for those responsible for these violations and abuses,

Underscoring the importance of transitional justice mechanisms in promoting lasting reconciliation among all the people of Burundi, noting that no significant progress has been made towards the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission since the draft law was submitted to Parliament in December 2012, as stated in the report of the Secretary-General, and recalling in this context the commitment of the Government of Burundi to establishing transitional justice mechanisms consistent with the results of the 2009 national consultations, Security Council resolution 1606(2005) of 20 June 2005 and the Arusha Agreement,

Recalling that Burundi has been a State party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court since 2004 and has undertaken obligations to fight impunity for crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the Court, and emphasizing that the Court is complementary to the national criminal jurisdictions,

Stressing the importance of land issues for a lasting peace and security in Burundi, noting the commitment of the Government of Burundi to addressing this complex issue, and encouraging the Government and the Commission nationale des terres et autres biens to handle land grievances and disputes in a non-partisan manner and to also address land tenure in the broader context of socioeconomic development, bearing in mind the need to foster reconciliation and national cohesion, especially in the run-up to the 2015 elections,

Supporting the renewed commitment of Burundi to “zero tolerance” for corruption,

Welcoming the continued engagement of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, encouraging the continued constructive cooperation between the Government of Burundi and the Peacebuilding Commission, and acknowledging the contribution that the Peacebuilding Fund has made to peacebuilding efforts in Burundi,

Supporting the continued commitment of Burundi to regional integration and cooperation with neighbours, notably through the Economic Community of the Great

Lakes Countries, the East African Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region,

Recalling its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, its resolutions 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011 and 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 on children and armed conflict,

Having considered the latest report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office in Burundi, in particular the conclusions of the strategic assessment mission and the analysis it contains of progress and remaining challenges in relation to the benchmarks transmitted to the Council by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions 1959(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2027(2011) of 20 December 2011 and 2090(2013) of 13 February 2013,

Having also considered the request of the Government of Burundi, in particular the statement by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to the Council on 28 January 2014 regarding the transition of the United Nations Office in Burundi to a regular United Nations country team by 31 December 2014, and further noting its request for a United Nations electoral observer mission before, during and after the 2015 elections in Burundi,

1. *Extends* until 31 December 2014 the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi, requesting it, consistent with paragraphs 3 (a) to (d) of resolution 1959(2010) and paragraphs 2 (a) and (b) of resolution 2027(2011), to focus on and support the Government of Burundi in the areas in paragraphs 1 (a) to (e) of resolution 2090(2013);

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare the transition and the transfer of appropriate responsibilities of the United Nations Office in Burundi to the United Nations country team by 31 December 2014 and to provide an update on this process in his written interim report to the Security Council;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations Office in Burundi, the Government of Burundi, the Peacebuilding Commission and bilateral and multilateral partners to form a transition steering group to map the international community's support to Burundi, in particular the transfer of functions currently provided by the Office which may be needed after the planned drawdown of the mission, and requests the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi to finalize a transition plan by 15 May 2014;

4. *Encourages* the Government of Burundi to engage in discussions on the nature, activities and scope of the United Nations role post-United Nations Office in Burundi, in coordination with the Office, the United Nations country team, multilateral and bilateral partners, the Peacebuilding Commission and other relevant stakeholders;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations country team and its component United Nations agencies to scale up their activities and programming during the transition of the United Nations Office in Burundi and after the termination of its mandate and factor such activities into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and urges the

Secretary-General to ensure that there is a seamless transition to the Resident Coordinator and United Nations country team management model as the Office departs;

6. *Takes note* of the request of the Government of Burundi for a United Nations electoral observer mission before, during and after the 2015 elections in Burundi, and requests the Secretary-General to establish such a mission to follow and report on the electoral process in Burundi immediately at the end of the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi, and further requests this mission to report to the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General to report to the Council before, during and after the 2015 elections;

7. *Encourages* the Government of Burundi to cooperate fully with the United Nations country team and with the United Nations electoral mission that is to be established;

8. *Recognizes* the primary responsibility of the Government of Burundi for peacebuilding, security, protection of its population and long-term development in the country, and encourages the Government to continue its efforts regarding peace consolidation challenges, in particular democratic governance, the fight against corruption, security sector reform, civilian protection, justice and the promotion and protection of human rights, with a special focus on the rights of women and children as well as people belonging to ethnic minorities;

9. *Encourages* the Government of Burundi, with the support of the United Nations Office in Burundi and other international partners, to redouble its efforts to pursue structural reforms aimed at improving political, economic and administrative governance and tackling corruption, with a view to setting up strong drivers for sustained and equitable social and economic growth;

10. *Also encourages* the Government of Burundi, with the support of the United Nations Office in Burundi and other international partners, and while recognizing Burundi's prerogatives to adapt its organic law, to ensure that any constitutional review is undertaken in a constructive atmosphere and in a broad-based and inclusive manner, with the participation of political parties and relevant stakeholders, according to the letter and the spirit of the Arusha Agreement of 28 August 2000;

11. *Calls upon* the Government of Burundi to foster inclusive elections in 2015 by continuing to improve dialogue between all national actors, including civil society, and to guarantee a space for all political parties, including from the extra-parliamentary opposition, to exercise their freedom to organize and prepare themselves for the 2015 elections, and further calls upon the Government to ensure full and effective participation of women at all stages of the electoral process;

12. *Also calls upon* the Government of Burundi to pursue its efforts to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and, together with its international partners, to support and strengthen the capacities of the National Independent Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993 on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and further calls upon the Government to continue its fight against impunity and to take the measures necessary to ensure the full enjoyment of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights as enshrined in the Consti-

tution of Burundi and in accordance with its obligations under international law;

13. *Further calls upon* the Government of Burundi to take further steps necessary to prevent human rights violations, in particular reported extrajudicial killings, mistreatment of detainees and torture, and restrictions on civil liberties, as well as acts of harassment, intimidation and violence committed by youth groups, and limitations on the freedom of the press, of expression, association and assembly for opposition political parties, the media and civil society organizations, and to ensure that such human rights violations and restrictions of civil liberties are put to an end;

14. *Calls upon* the Government of Burundi to take measures to fight impunity and to support thorough, credible, impartial and transparent investigations, including by reinforcing the protection of victims, their relatives and witnesses, and to intensify efforts to ensure that those responsible for human rights violations and abuses as well as restrictions on civil liberties are held accountable;

15. *Also calls upon* the Government of Burundi to work with international partners and the United Nations Office in Burundi for the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, including a credible and consensual Truth and Reconciliation Commission to help to foster an effective reconciliation of all Burundians and durable peace in Burundi, in accordance with the results of the work of the Technical Committee, the 2009 national consultations, Council resolution 1606(2005) and the Arusha Agreement;

16. *Encourages* the Government of Burundi to pursue its efforts of peace consolidation and reconstruction in a regional perspective, especially through projects fostering peace, reconciliation and exchanges within the East African Community, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region;

17. *Also encourages* the Government of Burundi, with the support of international partners as appropriate, to ensure the voluntary, safe and orderly return and sustainable reintegration of refugees to Burundi;

18. *Underscores* the importance of security sector reform, welcomes Burundi's contribution and active participation in United Nations and African Union peacekeeping operations, and urges all international partners, together with the United Nations Office in Burundi, to continue to support Burundi's efforts to professionalize and enhance the capacity of the national security services and the police, in particular through vetting for human rights violations, training on human rights and sexual and gender-based violence and promoting strong civilian oversight and monitoring, with a view to consolidating security sector governance;

19. *Calls upon* the Government of Burundi, with the support of the Peacebuilding Commission and international partners, to honour its commitments on peacebuilding priorities as defined in the second poverty reduction strategy paper, and underscores the importance of international partners, in collaboration with the Government of Burundi, and with the support of the United Nations Office in Burundi, the United Nations system in Burundi and the Commission, continuing to support Burundi's development efforts and ensure effective follow-up of mutual commitments made at the Geneva Conference of Development Partners and at subsequent follow-up conferences to allow implementation of the poverty reduction strategy paper and

support the implementation of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council informed on the benchmarks, the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi and the present resolution and the conditions that affect such implementation, as well as on the transition of the Office to the United Nations country team, every 90 days, with a written interim report by the end of July 2014 and a final report by 16 January 2015, and further requests the Secretary-General to report every six months to the Council until after the 2015 elections;

21. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Security Council resolution 2137(2014) (above), the Secretary-General submitted a July report on the situation in Burundi [S/2014/550] providing an update since his previous report [YUN 2013, p. 127] on progress made in the implementation of the mandate of BNUB and on the transition of BNUB to the UN country team.

The political situation in Burundi had remained tense amid sharp divergences over key sociopolitical issues affecting the country. Yet, dialogue between the Government and opposition political parties led to some progress in establishing a legal and political framework for the conduct of the general elections scheduled to take place in 2015.

In early 2014, the political situation in Burundi sharply deteriorated following a growing rift within the governing coalition between the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD) and the Union pour le Progrès national (UPRONA). Tensions between UPRONA and CNDD-FDD intensified amid the resistance of UPRONA to support constitutional amendments proposed by the latter that would have altered the country's ethnic power-sharing balance and allowed President Pierre Nkurunziza to run for another term. On 21 March, the National Assembly failed by one vote to adopt the draft law amending the Constitution. While CNDD-FDD presented the constitutional revision as an attempt to delete provisions that it considered obsolete, opposition parties noted that the draft would have removed provisions that could have constituted an obstacle to a candidacy of President Nkurunziza in the 2015 presidential elections. It would have also removed all references to the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi [YUN 2000, p. 146]. The Speaker of the National Assembly indicated that the draft law would be sent back to the Government, which could resubmit a new text in one year.

As requested by the Security Council in resolution 2137(2014), a Joint Transition Plan was developed under the strategic leadership of the Transition Steering Group, which was co-chaired by BNUB and the Government of Burundi, and was submitted to the Security Council on 14 May. According to the Plan, the smooth transition of BNUB depended on a number

of key assumptions. Among those were a stable security situation and an enabling environment that would allow BNUB to continue to implement its mandate until 31 December. The largest capacity gap resulting from the departure of BNUB was likely to emerge in terms of democratic process, governance and institution-building, especially regarding the facilitation of political dialogue and high-level advocacy. In the areas of human rights and transitional justice, relevant activities were expected to continue after the departure of BNUB, subject to continued financial support for the work of UN agencies, funds and programmes. The Secretary-General welcomed the steps taken to further professionalize the justice system; however, he remained concerned by the limited progress in increasing its independence and its accountability. He also appealed to the Government to protect the special court on land issues from political interference and continue to ensure that land tenure was addressed in the broader context of socioeconomic development, bearing in mind the need to foster reconciliation and national cohesion, especially in the run-up to the 2015 elections.

Letter of Secretary-General. In a 23 September letter [S/2014/700], the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council of his intention to deploy an advance team to commence preparations for the establishment of the United Nations electoral observer mission, immediately after the end of the mandate of BNUB. The Council took note of the letter on 25 September [S/2014/701].

Appointment. On 6 November [S/2014/799], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Cassam Utem (Mauritius) as his Special Envoy and Head of the United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB). The Council took note of the letter the same day [S/2014/800].

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/36] on Burundi, the Secretary-General noted that the political situation remained tense. Opposition leaders had increasingly objected to the stance of the Commission électorale nationale indépendante on electoral issues, its perceived lack of transparency in the implementation of the electoral calendar and its interpretation of the electoral law, which led to the exclusion from the Commission's consultations of those considered to be "political actors", most of whom were former leaders of key opposition parties who represented wings that were not recognized by the Government.

The security situation in the country remained relatively stable despite a temporary spike in crime and increased concern about possible terrorist attacks. At a meeting in Bujumbura on 3 November, the Minister of the Interior indicated that the Government had sufficient evidence that terrorist groups were preparing attacks in the country, in particular against churches and markets. The period between August and October also witnessed an increase in crime, especially grenade attacks, assaults and armed robberies. At the

same time, there was a sharp reduction in clashes between Government forces and armed groups. BNUB continued to advocate for increased respect for human rights in the defence and security forces.

On 31 December, the mandate and drawdown of BNUB came to an end, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2137(2014). Ensuring continuity in facilitating political dialogue and high-level advocacy was critical to further consolidating peace after the drawdown of BNUB. Activities in that area would be undertaken by MENUB and relevant UN regional political offices, in close coordination with regional and international partners, including the AU, the East African Community, ICGLR and the European Union.

Peacebuilding Commission

Reports of Peacebuilding Commission. The Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Paul R. Seger, shared with the Security Council his reports on his visit to Burundi from 13 to 17 January [S/2014/57]; his visit to Brussels, Paris, Bujumbura and Arusha from 21 to 31 May [S/2014/404]; and his visit to Burundi from 8 to 12 December [S/2014/954]. The reports were made available to the members of the Security Council only.

(For further information on the Peacebuilding Commission, see p. 58.)

BNUB

The United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), established by Security Council resolution 1959(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 144], succeeded the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 120]. By resolution 2137(2014) of 13 February (see p. 209), the Council extended the mandate of BNUB until 31 December, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare for the transition and the transfer of appropriate responsibilities from BNUB to the UN country team by that date.

Financing

In October [A/69/363 & Corr.1–3], the Secretary-General submitted a report containing the proposed resource requirements for BNUB for 2015, which amounted to \$14,261,700.

Central African Republic

In 2014, the Central African Republic (CAR) was beset by widespread insecurity, threats of violence and gross human rights violations committed by the principal militia groups, the anti-balaka and ex-Séléka. In January, Catherine Samba-Panza was appointed as the new Transitional Head of State, taking over from Michel Djotodia, who resigned.

In April, the Security Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), subsuming the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) into MINUSCA and taking over from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) in September. Enclaves of vulnerable populations, particularly Muslim communities, remained under direct threat despite increased protection and assistance by humanitarian actors and international forces, including MINUSCA, the French Operation Sangaris, and the European Union operation, whose deployment was welcomed by the Security Council.

The International Commission of Inquiry to investigate international human rights and humanitarian laws violations and abuses in the country by all the parties involved in the armed conflict since 1 January 2013 submitted two reports and acknowledged that the estimates of 3,000 to 6,000 people killed had failed to capture the full magnitude of the killings that occurred in the country.

Political and security developments

Security Council consideration. On 6 January [S/PV.7092], the Security Council held its first meeting of 2014 to discuss the situation in the CAR. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General [S/2013/787] [YUN 2013, p. 143]. The Council also met on 22 January [S/PV.7098], 20 February [S/PV.7114], 6 March [S/PV.7128], 10 April [S/PV.7153], 11 July [S/PV.7215], 6 August [S/PV.7236], 19 August [S/PV.7246], 24 June [S/PV.7206] and 9 December [S/PV.7329] to discuss the situation in the CAR.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 January [meeting 7103], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2134(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/54] was submitted by Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements on the Central African Republic, in particular resolutions 2121(2013) of 10 October 2013 and 2127(2013) of 5 December 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic, and recalling the importance of the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing deterioration of the security situation in the Central African Republic, characterized by a total breakdown in law and order, the absence of the rule of law, religiously motivated targeted killings and arson, and further expressing its grave concern about the consequences of instability in the Central African Republic on the Central African region and beyond, and

stressing in this regard the need for the international community to respond swiftly,

Condemning the attacks occurring in the Central African Republic, and in particular those that have taken place since 5 December 2013 in Bangui, which left more than 1,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands of persons internally displaced, and which have triggered widespread violence between Christian and Muslim communities across the country,

Remaining seriously concerned by multiple and increasing violations of international humanitarian law and the widespread human rights violations and abuses, including those involving extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual violence against women and children, rape, recruitment and use of children, attacks against civilians and attacks against places of worship, committed by both former Séléka elements and militia groups, in particular those known as the “anti-balaka”,

Alarmed by the increasing cycle of violence and retaliation and degeneration into a countrywide religious and ethnic divide, with the potential to spiral into an uncontrollable situation, including serious crimes under international law, in particular war crimes and crimes against humanity, with serious regional implications,

Noting the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme’s temporary suspension of rough diamond trading by the Central African Republic, and expressing concern that diamond smuggling and other forms of illicit natural resource exploitation, including wildlife poaching, are destabilizing forces in the Central African Republic, and encouraging the transitional authorities and the State authorities to address these issues through all possible avenues,

Welcoming the election of Morocco as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, and reiterating the role of the Commission in mobilizing and sustaining the attention and commitment of partners and actors in support of related United Nations and regional efforts,

Recalling that the transitional authorities have the primary responsibility to protect the civilian population in the Central African Republic,

Welcoming the active leadership of the Economic Community of Central African States in convening government leaders, members of the National Transitional Council and representatives of civil society from the Central African Republic for discussions hosted by the Government of Chad in N’Djamena on 9 and 10 January 2014 on the political transition in the Central African Republic, and encouraging continued efforts in this regard,

Taking note of the Declaration of the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on the Promotion of Peace, Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, adopted in Luanda on 15 January 2014,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the actions taken by the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, its troop-contributing countries and the French forces to protect civilians and help to stabilize the security situation immediately after the adoption of resolution 2127(2013), and further expressing appreciation for those partners that have provided airlift to expedite the deployment of troops,

Welcoming the role of the domestic religious authorities at the national level in trying to pacify relations and prevent

violence between religious communities, and noting the need to amplify their voices at the local level,

Stressing the urgent need for greater resources and expertise to be allocated to the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic in order for the mission to fully implement its mandated tasks,

Recalling the need for an inclusive and effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process as well as repatriation in the case of foreign fighters, while respecting the need to fight against impunity,

Stressing the need to end impunity in the Central African Republic and to bring to justice perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law and of abuses and violations of human rights, and in this regard underlining the need to bolster national accountability mechanisms,

Recalling its resolution 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013, and expressing grave concern at the threat to peace and security in the Central African Republic arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Recalling also the letter dated 29 October 2013 from the President of the Security Council regarding the intention of the Secretary-General to deploy a guard unit to the Central African Republic as part of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office,

Welcoming the strong engagement of the European Union for the Central African Republic, in particular the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 21 October and 16 December 2013 and the decision of the European Union to contribute financially to the deployment of the International Support Mission within the framework of the African Peace Facility,

Welcoming also the holding of a special session of the Human Rights Council, and taking note with appreciation of the appointment of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic,

Welcoming further the pledges made at the High-Level Meeting on Humanitarian Action in the Central African Republic, held in Brussels on 20 January 2014, and encouraging the international community to swiftly follow through on pledges to continue providing support in response to the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic,

Welcoming the readiness of the European Union, expressed at the meeting of the Council of the European Union held on 20 January 2014, to consider the establishment of a temporary operation to support the International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, and taking note of the letter dated 21 January 2014 from the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union,

Taking note of the letter dated 22 January 2014 from the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic approving the deployment of an operation by the European Union,

Determining that the situation in the Central African Republic constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic until 31 January 2015;

2. *Also decides* that the mandate of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office shall be reinforced and updated as follows:

(a) *Support for the implementation of the transition process:*

- To expedite the re-establishment of constitutional order and implementation of the Libreville Agreements by identifying, facilitating and coordinating regular communication between all relevant Central African, regional and international stakeholders and providing strategic advice, technical assistance and support to the ongoing political process, transitional institutions and authorities and their implementation mechanisms;
- To take a leading role in working with the transitional authorities, relevant stakeholders, regional actors and the international community to devise and facilitate the political transition process and to provide technical assistance in support of the process;
- To assist in reconciliation efforts, at both the national and local levels, including through interreligious dialogue and truth and reconciliation mechanisms working with relevant transitional authorities and relevant regional bodies;
- To make all necessary preparations, in support of the transitional authorities and working on an urgent basis with the National Electoral Authority, for the holding of free and fair elections, including the effective participation of women, as soon as possible, but no later than February 2015 and, if possible, in the second half of 2014, including by providing an urgent assessment of the financial, technical and logistical needs for the electoral process;

(b) *Support for conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance:*

- To exercise good offices, confidence-building and facilitation in order to anticipate, prevent, mitigate and resolve conflict and facilitate the safe, civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance, in accordance with United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance;
- To help to coordinate humanitarian assistance;

(c) *Extension of State authority:*

- To promote and support the rapid restoration of State authority over the whole territory of the country;
- To assist the Central African Republic governmental institutions, including through technical assistance, to increase their capacity to perform basic government functions and deliver basic services to the Central African people;

(d) *Support for the stabilization of the security situation:*

- To support the stabilization of the security situation by advising on and providing technical assistance in support of security sector governance and reform, the rule of law (including police, justice and corrections), disarmament, demobilization and reintegration—as well as repatriation in the case of foreign fighters—of combatants, including of all children associated with armed forces and groups, and mine action, including clearance of explosive remnants of war;

- To finalize, working with the transitional authorities and in consultation with the International Support Mission and the French forces, a comprehensive strategy for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation, and to support its implementation, including through technical assistance and by coordinating support from regional and international stakeholders;

(e) *Promotion and protection of human rights:*

- To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Security Council on violations of international humanitarian law and on abuses and violations of human rights committed throughout the Central African Republic, including any committed by the Lord's Resistance Army, and to contribute to efforts to identify perpetrators, and to prevent such violations and abuses;
- To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Council specifically on violations and abuses committed against children as well as violations committed against women, including all forms of sexual violence in armed conflict, including through the deployment of child protection advisers and women's protection advisers;
- To help to strengthen the capacities, including through technical assistance, of the national judicial system, including transitional justice mechanisms, and of the national human rights institutions and assist with national reconciliation efforts, coordinating with the International Commission of Inquiry on the Central African Republic as well as the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, as appropriate;

(f) *Cooperation with the Security Council Committee and the Panel of Experts established pursuant to paragraphs 57 and 59 of resolution 2127(2013):*

- To assist the Security Council Committee established pursuant to paragraph 57 of resolution 2127(2013) and the Panel of Experts established pursuant to the same resolution, within its capabilities, including by passing information relevant to the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and the Panel of Experts;

(g) *Coordination of international actors:*

- To coordinate international actors involved in the implementation of the tasks described above;
- 3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to urgently reinforce the Integrated Peacebuilding Office and provide it with significantly increased resources and expertise in order to fully and swiftly implement all aspects of the mandate defined in paragraph 2 of the present resolution and increase its capacity of coordinating international actors in the field of its mandate, and in this regard further requests the Secretary-General to submit proposals and resource requirements to appropriate bodies as soon as possible;
- 4. *Recalls* the need for the transitional authorities to restore State authority over the whole territory of the country, and underlines in this context the importance of further expansion of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the provinces;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office working closely with the United Nations country team and the Peacebuilding Commission;

6. *Welcomes* the deployment of an initial contingent of the Guard Unit from Morocco on 1 January 2014, and urges the Secretary-General to expedite preparations for the swift deployment of the full Guard Unit at the earliest possible date;

7. *Stresses* the importance for the Integrated Peacebuilding Office to urgently make all necessary preparations for elections, on an urgent basis, with the transitional authorities and the National Electoral Authority;

8. *Underscores* the importance for the transitional authorities to finalize, with the support of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office, a comprehensive strategy for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants as well as repatriation in the case of foreign combatants, including of all children associated with armed forces and groups, in consultation with the International Support Mission and the French forces, and in this regard reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to present detailed proposals for United Nations support in his forthcoming report, due no later than 5 March 2014;

9. *Calls upon* the transitional authorities, with the assistance of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office and international partners, to address the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in the Central African Republic and to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked or illicitly held weapons and ammunition, and further stresses the importance of incorporating such elements into security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programmes;

10. *Stresses* the urgent need to deploy throughout the country an increased number of Integrated Peacebuilding Office human rights monitors in order to implement fully the mandate of the Office to monitor, help to investigate and report to the Council on violations of international humanitarian law and abuses and violations of human rights committed throughout the Central African Republic and to deploy an adequate number of child protection advisers and women's protection advisers, as stated in paragraph 10 of resolution 2121(2013);

11. *Recalls* the need for the Integrated Peacebuilding Office to facilitate the safe, civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance, in accordance with United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and in coordination with all humanitarian actors;

12. *Stresses* the need to immediately establish appropriate coordination mechanisms between the Integrated Peacebuilding Office and the International Support Mission and the European Union operation in the Central African Republic;

13. *Expresses its intention* to closely monitor the implementation of the above, and requests the Secretary-General to update the Council in this regard;

Political process

14. *Underlines its support* for the Libreville Agreements of 11 January 2013, the N'Djamena Declaration of 18 April

2013, the Brazzaville Appeal of 3 May 2013, the Transitional Charter and the declaration adopted by the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic at its third meeting, held in Bangui on 8 November 2013;

15. *Welcomes* the designation by the National Transitional Council, on 20 January 2014, of Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza as the new Transitional Head of State, the appointment of Mr. André Nzapayeké as Transitional Prime Minister and the formation of a Transitional Government;

16. *Urges* the transitional authorities to continue to work for stabilization, national reconciliation and unity;

17. *Welcomes* the establishment of the National Electoral Authority on 16 December 2013, and underscores the importance that the transitional authorities, with the support of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office, should hold free and fair elections, including by ensuring the participation of women, as soon as possible, but no later than February 2015 and, if possible, in the second half of 2014;

18. *Recalls* the commitment of the transitional authorities to initiate swift and concrete measures, including the convening of a conciliation framework by 24 February 2014, to hold an inclusive and peaceful national dialogue to promote reconciliation, and calls upon them to take swift action in this direction, in close coordination with the Integrated Peacebuilding Office;

Human rights and humanitarian access

19. *Welcomes* the appointment of the International Commission of Inquiry on 22 January 2014, in order to immediately investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and abuses of human rights in the Central African Republic by all parties since 1 January 2013, calls upon all parties to cooperate fully with the Commission, and encourages the Integrated Peacebuilding Office to cooperate, as appropriate, with the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council and the International Commission of Inquiry;

20. *Requests* the Integrated Peacebuilding Office to provide assistance to the transitional authorities in securing, in coordination with the International Support Mission, evidence and crime scenes to support future investigations;

21. *Reiterates* that all perpetrators of such violations and abuses must be held accountable and that some of those acts may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to which the Central African Republic is a State party, and recalls the statements made by the Prosecutor of the Court on 7 August and 9 December 2013;

22. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict in the Central African Republic, including former Séléka elements and anti-balaka elements, to issue clear orders prohibiting all violations and abuses committed against children, in violation of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment and use, rape and sexual violence, killing and maiming, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals, and further calls upon the transitional authorities to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged violations and abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable and to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are excluded from the security sector;

23. *Reiterates its demands* that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups,

and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups;

24. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict in the Central African Republic, including former Séléka and anti-balaka elements to issue clear orders against sexual and gender-based violence, and further calls upon the transitional authorities to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable, in line with its resolutions 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010 and 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013, and to facilitate immediate access for victims of sexual violence to available services;

25. *Reiterates its call upon* all parties to armed conflict in the Central African Republic to engage with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict;

26. *Demands* that the transitional authorities as well as all militia groups and parties to the conflict, in particular the former Séléka, and the anti-balaka, ensure the rapid, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian organizations and relief personnel and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, while respecting the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including neutrality, impartiality, humanity and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance;

27. *Expresses deep concern* at the increasing numbers of internally displaced persons as a result of the ongoing violence, stresses the need to ensure that the basic needs of those persons are met, in particular access to water, food and shelter, and commends United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners for their efforts to provide urgent and coordinated support to the population in need in the Central African Republic while also recognizing the need to augment assistance to address increasing needs;

28. *Calls upon* Member States to respond swiftly to the United Nations humanitarian appeals to meet the urgent and increasing needs of people inside the Central African Republic and refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries, and encourages to this effect the swift implementation of humanitarian projects by United Nations humanitarian organizations and partners;

29. *Acting* under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, decides as follows:

Sanctions

30. *Decides* that, for an initial period of one year from the date of the adoption of the present resolution, all Member States shall take the measures necessary to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of individuals designated by the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 57 of resolution 2127(2013), provided that nothing in the present paragraph shall oblige a State to refuse its own nationals entry into its territory;

31. *Also decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 30 above shall not apply:

(a) Where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that such travel is justified on the grounds of humanitarian need, including religious obligation;

(b) Where entry or transit is necessary for the fulfilment of a judicial process;

(c) Where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that an exemption would further the objectives of peace and national reconciliation in the Central African Republic and stability in the region;

32. *Further decides* that all Member States shall, for an initial period of one year from the date of the adoption of the present resolution, freeze without delay all funds, other financial assets and economic resources which are on their territories, which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the individuals or entities designated by the Committee, or by individuals or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction, or by entities owned or controlled by them, and decides further that all Member States shall ensure that any funds, financial assets or economic resources are prevented from being made available by their nationals or by any individuals or entities within their territories, to or for the benefit of the individuals or entities designated by the Committee;

33. *Decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 32 above do not apply to funds, other financial assets or economic resources that have been determined by relevant Member States:

(a) To be necessary for basic expenses, including payment for foodstuffs, rent or mortgage, medicines and medical treatment, taxes, insurance premiums and public utility charges or exclusively for payment of reasonable professional fees and reimbursement of incurred expenses associated with the provision of legal services in accordance with national laws, or fees or service charges, in accordance with national laws, for routine holding or maintenance of frozen funds, other financial assets and economic resources, after notification by the relevant State to the Committee of the intention to authorize, where appropriate, access to such funds, other financial assets or economic resources and in the absence of a negative decision by the Committee within five working days of such notification;

(b) To be necessary for extraordinary expenses, provided that such determination has been notified by the relevant State or Member States to the Committee and has been approved by the Committee; or

(c) To be the subject of a judicial, administrative or arbitral lien or judgment, in which case the funds, other financial assets and economic resources may be used to satisfy that lien or judgment, provided that the lien or judgment was entered into prior to the date of the present resolution, is not for the benefit of a person or entity designated by the Committee and has been notified by the relevant State or Member States to the Committee;

34. *Also decides* that Member States may permit the addition to the accounts frozen pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 32 above of interest or other earnings due on those accounts or payments due under contracts, agreements or obligations that arose prior to the date on which those accounts became subject to the provisions of the present resolution, provided that any such interest, other earnings and payments continue to be subject to these provisions and are frozen;

35. *Further decides* that the measures in paragraph 32 above shall not prevent a designated person or entity from making payment due under a contract entered into prior to the listing of such a person or entity, provided that the relevant States have determined that the payment is not directly or indirectly received by a person or entity designated pur-

suant to paragraph 32 above, and after notification by the relevant States to the Committee of the intention to make or receive such payments or to authorize, where appropriate, the unfreezing of funds, other financial assets or economic resources for this purpose, 10 working days prior to such authorization;

36. *Decides* that the measures contained in paragraphs 30 and 32 above shall apply to the individuals and entities designated by the Committee as engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the Central African Republic, including acts that threaten or violate transitional agreements, or that threaten or impede the political transition process, including a transition towards free and fair democratic elections, or that fuel violence;

37. *Also decides*, in this regard, that the measures contained in paragraphs 30 and 32 above shall also apply to the individuals and entities designated by the Committee as:

(a) Acting in violation of the arms embargo established in paragraph 54 of resolution 2127(2013), or as having directly or indirectly supplied, sold or transferred to armed groups or criminal networks in the Central African Republic or as having been the recipient of arms or any related materiel, or any technical advice, training or assistance, including financing and financial assistance, related to violent activities of armed groups or criminal networks in the Central African Republic;

(b) Involved in planning, directing or committing acts that violate international human rights law or international humanitarian law, as applicable, or that constitute human rights abuses or violations, in the Central African Republic, including acts involving sexual violence, targeting of civilians, ethnic- or religious-based attacks, attacks on schools and hospitals and abduction and forced displacement;

(c) Recruiting or using children in armed conflict in the Central African Republic, in violation of applicable international law;

(d) Providing support for armed groups or criminal networks through the illicit exploitation of natural resources, including diamonds and wildlife and wildlife products, in the Central African Republic;

(e) Obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Central African Republic, or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in the Central African Republic;

(f) Involved in planning, directing, sponsoring or conducting attacks against United Nations missions or international security presences, including the Integrated Peacebuilding Office, the International Support Mission, the European Union operation and the other forces that support them;

(g) Are leaders of, have provided support to, or have acted for or on behalf of or at the direction of an entity that the Committee has designated pursuant to the present paragraph or paragraph 36 of the present resolution;

38. *Expresses grave concern* over reports that some Central African Republic political figures have provided support and direction to anti-balaka and Séléka groups planning violence and serious human rights violations and abuses against the civilian population of the Central African Republic, demands that these figures and all others cease any such activities immediately, and directs the Committee to consider, as a matter of urgency, designating such figures for targeted sanctions if they engage in any of the activities set forth in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the present resolution;

39. *Urges* the Central African Republic's political figures—including senior officials in the previous Bozizé and Djotodia administrations, such as Mr. François Bozizé and Mr. Nouredine Adam—to call upon their supporters to cease any and all attacks on civilians;

40. *Decides* that the arms embargo established by paragraph 54 of resolution 2127(2013) and the measures established by paragraph 55 of that resolution shall be extended for a period of one year from the date of the adoption of the present resolution, and further decides that the measures established in paragraph 54 of resolution 2127(2013) shall not apply to supplies intended solely for the support of or use by the European Union operation;

41. *Also decides* that the mandate of the Committee shall apply with respect to the measures imposed in the present resolution and that the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic, established by paragraph 59 of resolution 2127(2013), shall be extended for a period of one year from the date of the adoption of the present resolution and shall also include: to assist the Committee by providing information regarding designated individuals and entities, and individuals and entities that may meet the designation criteria in paragraphs 36 and 37 above, including by reporting such information to the Committee, as it becomes available, and to include in its formal written reports the names of potential designees, appropriate identifying information and relevant information regarding why the individual or entity may meet the designation criteria in paragraphs 36 and 37 above;

42. *Calls upon* all Member States to report to the Committee within 90 days of the adoption of the present resolution on the steps they have taken with a view to implementing effectively paragraph 54 of resolution 2127(2013) and paragraphs 30 and 32 of the present resolution;

Mandate of the European Union operation in the Central African Republic

43. *Authorizes* the European Union to deploy an operation in the Central African Republic as referenced in the letter dated 21 January 2014 from the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union,

44. *Authorizes* the European Union operation to take all necessary measures within the limits of its capacities and areas of deployment from its initial deployment and for a period of six months from the declaration of its full operational capacity;

45. *Requests* the European Union to report to the Security Council on the implementation of this mandate in the Central African Republic and to coordinate its reporting with the reporting by the African Union referred to in paragraph 32 of resolution 2127(2013);

46. *Calls upon* Member States, including neighbouring countries of the Central African Republic, to take appropriate measures to support the action of the European Union, in particular by facilitating the transfer to the Central African Republic, without obstacles or delay, of all personnel, equipment, provisions, supplies or other goods, including vehicles and spare parts, intended for the European Union operation;

47. *Invites* the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic to conclude a status-of-forces agreement as soon as possible for the establishment of the European Union operation;

48. *Emphasizes* the need for all military forces in the Central African Republic, while carrying out their mandate, to act in full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Central African Republic and in full compliance with applicable international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, and recalls the importance of training in this regard;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the mandate of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office every 90 days after the adoption of the present resolution;

50. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Letters of Secretary-General (January and February). In letters dated 27 January [S/2014/34] and 7 February [S/2014/83] to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General transmitted communications from Léonie Banga-Bothy, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration, la Francophonie and Central Africans Abroad of the CAR, confirming the support of the CAR for a Security Council mandate for the future deployment of a European Union operation in the country; and the deployment of a UN operation in the CAR with a view to stabilizing all of the national territory and responding to urgent civilian needs.

In a 13 February letter [S/2014/99] to the Security Council, the Secretary-General transmitted a letter from Smail Chergui, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, on the situation in the CAR along with the communiqué of the meeting held by the AU Peace and Security Council on 29 January.

In a 20 February letter [S/2014/117] to the Council, the Secretary-General transmitted a letter from Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission.

In a 25 February letter [S/2014/45] to the Council, the Secretary-General transmitted a letter from Catherine Ashton, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the EU and Vice-President of the European Commission, concerning the agreement by the Council of the EU to contribute military personnel for the protection of civilians in the CAR, in coordination with the French forces and the AU.

Report of Secretary-General (March). In response to Security Council resolution 2127(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 137], the Secretary-General submitted a March report [S/2014/142] on the possible transformation of the African-led International Support Mission in the CAR (MISCA) to a UN peacekeeping operation, including an assessment of progress made towards meeting the appropriate conditions on the ground referred to in his previous report of November 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 136].

There had been dramatic changes in the situation on the ground. The attacks by anti-balaka elements, which comprised local defence groups, rogue elements of the armed forces of the CAR and criminal elements, against ex-Séléka forces on 5 December in Bangui

and Bossangoa, led to a significant deterioration in the security situation by sparking a cycle of reprisals among civilians and clashes between anti-balaka and ex-Séléka forces throughout the country. The developments led to a grave deterioration in the human rights situation, resulting in a serious protection crisis, with civilians targeted by all armed groups on the basis of their religious affiliation. The anti-balaka groups were reportedly becoming increasingly organized in Bangui and other parts of the country and had access to firearms and heavy weapons. The resignation on 10 January of the former Head of State of the Transition, Michel Djotodia, one of Séléka's leaders, prompted most of the 7,000 ex-Séléka elements to leave the sites where they had regrouped in Bangui since December 2013. The retreat of ex-Séléka elements from the capital and the western parts of the country had sparked renewed attacks on the remaining members, associates, perceived supporters and members of Muslim civilian communities, who were now deliberately and systematically targeted by anti-balaka elements. More than 15,000 Muslims seeking to flee to safety took shelter in 18 locations throughout the country, risking grievous violence if they left. On 20 January, the National Transitional Council elected Catherine Samba-Panza, Mayor of Bangui, as the new Head of State of the Transition of the CAR.

The Secretary-General observed that addressing the crisis in the CAR required a unified and integrated approach through the deployment of a multidimensional peacekeeping operation, with the protection of civilians as its utmost priority. In the early stages of its deployment, a UN peacekeeping operation would need to focus its efforts on the most urgent priorities and to provide some immediate dividends to the population in the areas of security, protection of civilians, human rights and justice, building on the progress made by MISCA and Operation Sangaris. It would take the United Nations approximately six months to prepare the deployment of its operation based on the lessons learned from previous transformations of regional operations into UN peacekeeping missions and taking into account specific challenges on the ground. The aim for the bulk of MISCA, along with other contributors, would be to transition to a UN peacekeeping operation in accordance with the human rights screening policy and capabilities, in order to reach an authorized strength of 10,000 military personnel. The Secretary-General recommended that the proposed peacekeeping operation operate under a Chapter VII authorization.

Letters of Secretary-General. In letters to the Security Council President on 19 February [S/2014/111], 15 April [S/2014/275], 11 September [S/2014/663] and 5 December [S/2014/870], the Secretary-General transmitted the communications of France reporting on the operational activities of the French force Sangaris deployed in the CAR in support of MISCA.

In an 11 March letter [S/2014/172] to the Security Council, the Secretary-General transmitted the first progress report of the Commission of the AU on the situation in the CAR and the activities of MISCA.

Communications. In identical letters dated 4 March [A/68/785-S/2014/151] to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, Guinea transmitted the final communiqué of the expanded emergency meeting at the ministerial level of the Executive Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the situation in the CAR, which was held at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 20 February.

In a 7 April letter [S/2014/250] to the President of the Security Council, Chad noted that the allegations made against the Chadian contingent of MISCA by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights following the incident that took place on Saturday 29 March in Bangui (see p. 227), were baseless.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 10 April [meeting 7153], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2149(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/252] was submitted by Australia, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements on the Central African Republic, in particular resolutions 2121(2013) of 10 October 2013, 2127(2013) of 5 December 2013 and 2134(2014) of 28 January 2014,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic, and recalling the importance of the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Expressing deep concern at the security situation in the Central African Republic,

Recalling that the transitional authorities have the primary responsibility to protect the population in the Central African Republic,

Emphasizing that any sustainable solution to the crisis in the Central African Republic should be Central African Republic-owned, including the political process, and should include the restructuring of the Central African Republic security forces,

Emphasizing also that the continued role of the region, including the Chair of the Economic Community of Central African States and its Mediator, as well as the African Union, will be critical for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic,

Welcoming the positive and decisive impact of the actions of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic on the ground in protecting civilians and preventing serious violations of international

law, and the progress made in the implementation of other aspects of its mandate, as reflected in the first progress report of the African Union Commission on the deployment and operations of the International Support Mission submitted pursuant to paragraph 32 of resolution 2127(2013),

Remaining seriously concerned by multiple violations of international humanitarian law and the widespread human rights violations and abuses, including those involving extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual violence against women and children, rape, recruitment and use of children, attacks against civilians, in particular but not limited to Muslims, attacks against places of worship and denial of humanitarian access, committed by both former Séléka elements and militia groups, in particular the “anti-balaka”,

Condemning in the strongest terms all the attacks and provocations against International Support Mission contingents by armed groups, and urging the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic to take all possible measures to ensure the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators,

Stressing the urgent and imperative need to end impunity in the Central African Republic and to bring to justice perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law and of abuses and violations of human rights, underlining in this regard the need to bolster national accountability mechanisms, and underlining its support for the work of the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on human rights in the Central African Republic and of the International Commission of Inquiry on the Central African Republic,

Reiterating that all perpetrators of such acts must be held accountable and that some of those acts may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to which the Central African Republic is a State party, further recalling the statements made by the Prosecutor of the Court on 7 August and 9 December 2013, and noting the decision made by the Prosecutor on 7 February 2014 to open a preliminary examination on the situation in the Central African Republic since September 2012,

Emphasizing the risk of the situation in the Central African Republic providing a conducive environment for transnational criminal activity, such as that involving arms trafficking and the use of mercenaries as well as a potential breeding ground for radical networks,

Acknowledging, in this respect, the important contribution that the Security Council-mandated arms embargo can make to countering the illicit transfer of arms and related materiel in the Central African Republic and the region and in supporting post-conflict peacebuilding, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, recalling its resolution 2127(2013), and expressing grave concern at the threat to peace and security in the Central African Republic arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Recalling its decision to establish a sanctions regime pursuant to resolutions 2127(2013) and 2134(2014), and emphasizing that the targeted sanctions aim at, inter alia, individuals and entities designated by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127(2013) as engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the Central African Republic, that impede the political transition process or that fuel violence, and at individuals and entities designated

by the Committee as involved in planning, directing or committing acts that violate international human rights law or international humanitarian law or that constitute human rights abuses or violations,

Reiterating its serious concern at the dire humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, and emphasizing in particular the humanitarian needs of the more than 760,000 internally displaced persons and of the more than 300,000 refugees in neighbouring countries, a large number of which are Muslim, and further expressing concern at the consequences of the flow of refugees on the situation in Chad, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as other countries of the region,

Expressing concern at the collapse of the already fragile administration, which limits the ability of the new transitional authorities to govern,

Urging all parties to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, of United Nations and associated personnel and of United Nations installations, equipment and goods,

Reiterating its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States and its Mediator regarding the Central African Republic crisis, as well as the efforts of the African Union to resolve the crisis and the efforts of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, co-chaired by the African Union and the Congo, welcoming the communiqué issued at the fourth meeting of the Contact Group, held in Brazzaville on 21 March 2014, including the envisaged steps to enhance its effectiveness and support to the transition in the Central African Republic, and encouraging all stakeholders to pursue their efforts,

Reaffirming its deep appreciation for the critical role of the International Support Mission, its troop- and police-contributing countries and the French forces to protect civilians and help to improve the security situation immediately after the adoption of resolution 2127(2013), and further expressing appreciation for those partners that have provided airlift and other support to expedite the deployment of troops and improve their effectiveness,

Welcoming the decision of the European Union, expressed at the meeting of the Council of the European Union held on 1 April 2014, to launch a temporary operation, the European Union military operation in the Central African Republic, to support the International Support Mission in the Central African Republic,

Expressing the need to accelerate the implementation of the political process, including on the reconciliation aspects and on the holding of free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections as soon as technically possible and no later than February 2015,

Welcoming the joint action of some domestic religious leaders at the national level in trying to pacify relations and prevent violence between religious communities, and noting the need to amplify their voices at the local level,

Recalling the need for an inclusive and effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process as well as repatriation in the case of foreign fighters, while respecting the need to fight against impunity,

Recalling also its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civil-

ians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict and its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, and calling upon all parties in the Central African Republic to engage with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict,

Acknowledging the adoption of the partnership arrangement between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to mainstream child protection in the policies and operations of the African Union, signed in Addis Ababa on 17 September 2013, and of the Framework of Cooperation between the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the African Union Commission concerning the Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Africa, adopted in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2014,

Welcoming the strong engagement of the European Union for the Central African Republic, in particular the decision to contribute financially to the deployment of the International Support Mission within the framework of the African Peace Facility, and further welcoming the contribution of the United States of America and contributions of Member States to the United Nations trust fund for support to the International Support Mission,

Welcoming also the pledges made at the High-level Meeting on Humanitarian Action in the Central African Republic, held in Brussels on 20 January 2014, and encouraging the international community to swiftly follow through on pledges to continue providing support in response to the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, and to prepare for reconstruction with an approach linking relief, rehabilitation and development,

Welcoming further the pledges made at the donors' conference held in Addis Ababa on 1 February 2014 to support the International Support Mission and the financial contribution made by the Economic Community of Central African States, and encouraging the international community to swiftly follow through on these pledges and to continue providing support to the International Support Mission,

Calling upon international partners to assist the transitional authorities in building the institutional capacity of national police and customs authorities to effectively monitor the borders and points of entry, including to support the implementation of the measures established in paragraph 54 of resolution 2127(2013) and the disarmament and repatriation of foreign armed elements,

Welcoming the World Bank's plan for 2014 presented at the meeting of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission held on 19 February 2014, and strongly encouraging international financial institutions to continue to engage with the transitional authorities,

Taking note of the report on the visit undertaken by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration

of the Peacebuilding Commission to Bangui from 4 to 7 March 2014, welcoming the continued engagement of the Commission in mobilizing and sustaining the attention and commitment of partners' efforts as well as the Peacebuilding Fund, and further underlining the role of the Commission in supporting the efforts of the transitional authorities towards national dialogue and a reconciliation process, as well as in addressing challenges facing the country, including political accompaniment, mobilization of international attention and support,

Calling upon international partners to provide financial contributions to support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation and electoral processes,

Taking note of the letter dated 27 January 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic to the President of the Security Council requesting the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation to stabilize the country and address the civilian aspects of the crisis,

Taking note also of the letter dated 17 February 2014 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to the President of the Security Council proposing a number of steps for enhanced international action in favour of the Central African Republic, including the strengthening of the International Support Mission through the mobilization of a more predictable and sustainable support, in order to enable it to effectively implement its mandate and complete the initial stabilization phase of the situation, with a view to facilitating broader and more sustained international engagement, in particular through the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, and taking note further of the communiqué of 7 March 2014 issued by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the achievements of the International Support Mission and long-term stabilization of the Central African Republic,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 3 March 2014, and noting that the situation in the Central African Republic warrants a unified and integrated approach, including through a multidimensional United Nations peacekeeping operation and, further, welcoming its recommendations for the establishment of such an operation,

Taking note of the letter dated 8 April 2014 from the President of the Central African Republic to the Security Council,

Determining that the situation in the Central African Republic constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Political process

1. *Welcomes* the designation by the National Transitional Council, on 20 January 2014, of Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza as the new Transitional Head of State, the appointment of Mr. André Nzapayeké as Transitional Prime Minister and the formation of a Transitional Government;

2. *Also welcomes* the important role of the region through the active leadership of the Economic Community of Central African States, in particular the mediation by the Congo, in convening government leaders, members of the National Transitional Council and representatives of civil society from the Central African Republic for discus-

sions hosted by the Government of Chad, in its capacity as Chair of the Economic Community, in N'Djamena on 9 and 10 January 2014, on the political transition in the Central African Republic, and during which the then leaders of the transitional government resigned, and encourages the Economic Community, through its Chairperson and its Mediator, to continue to play the role expected of it in the international support to the political process in the Central African Republic;

3. *Reiterates its support* for the Libreville Agreements of 11 January 2013, the N'Djamena Declaration of 18 April 2013 and the Constitutional Charter for the Transition of 18 July 2013;

4. *Commends* the initial measures taken by the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States to restore peace and stability in the Central African Republic;

5. *Underlines* the importance of preserving the unity and territorial integrity of the Central African Republic;

6. *Demands* that all militias and armed groups put aside their arms, cease all forms of violence and destabilizing activities immediately and release children from their ranks;

7. *Welcomes* the call by the Secretary-General for the revitalization and acceleration of the political and reconciliation processes in order to lay the ground for an end to the conflict, in this regard calls upon the transitional authorities to demonstrate their commitment to these processes and to take concrete steps in this regard, and further underlines the importance of civil society in the revitalization of these processes;

8. *Urges*, in this regard, the transitional authorities to accelerate the preparations in order to hold free, fair, transparent and inclusive presidential and legislative elections no later than February 2015 and to swiftly initiate the significant preparations and concrete measures necessary in this regard, including the urgent convening of a conciliation framework in line with the communiqué of the Economic Community of Central African States summit of January 2014, the launching of an inclusive political dialogue on the electoral framework and the completion of the technical and legal framework, and emphasizes that elections should include internally displaced persons and Central African Republic refugees, the return of whom should be an important objective;

9. *Further calls upon* Member States and international and regional organizations to provide rapid and tangible support to the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic, including contributions for the payment of salaries and other needs of the transitional authorities;

10. *Encourages* the transitional authorities, with the support of key members of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, to take immediate measures to revitalize the political process by agreeing on certain key parameters, which could include the possible creation of an international mechanism which would include key stakeholders, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations and the European Union, as well as the international financial institutions as appropriate, to accompany the transition while respecting the sovereignty of the Central African Republic, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on progress made in this regard;

11. *Also encourages* the transitional authorities, with the support of the international community, in particular with the international financial institutions leading international efforts, to establish, based on critical peacebuilding and State-building goals, mechanisms to strengthen public financial management and accountability, including revenue collection, expenditure controls, public procurement and concession practices, building on relevant international experiences and in a manner that fosters national ownership and respects the sovereignty of the Central African Republic;

12. *Reiterates* that all perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses must be held accountable and that some of those acts may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to which the Central African Republic is a State party, recalls the statements made by the Prosecutor of the Court on 7 August and 9 December 2013, notes further the opening of a preliminary examination by the Prosecutor on alleged crimes committed in the Central African Republic since September 2012, and welcomes the cooperation by the transitional authorities in this regard;

13. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict in the Central African Republic, including former Séléka elements and anti-balaka elements, to issue clear orders prohibiting all violations and abuses committed against children, in violation of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment and use, rape and sexual violence, killing and maiming, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals, and further calls upon the transitional authorities to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged violations and abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable and to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are excluded from the security sector;

14. *Reiterates its demands* that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups;

15. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict in the Central African Republic, including former Séléka and anti-balaka elements, to issue clear orders against sexual and gender-based violence, and further calls upon the transitional authorities to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable, in line with resolutions 1960(2010) and 2106(2013), and to facilitate immediate access for victims of sexual violence to available services;

Transition to a peacekeeping operation

16. *Notes* the call made by the Secretary-General in favour of increased support to the International Support Mission, in particular increased capacity for air and ground mobility, information and communication systems, intelligence capacity, medical facilities and logistics supply and sustainment, including the urgent provision of vital enablers, and in favour of continued improvement of command and control mechanisms of international forces operating in the Central African Republic;

17. *Welcomes* the call by the Secretary-General for an increase in the number of troops on the ground, and in this regard welcomes the announcement by the Government of

France on 14 February 2014 of an increase in the number of French troops and their subsequent deployment, the decision taken by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on 21 March 2014 to authorize the deployment of additional police personnel and specialized capabilities and the steps being taken for the early implementation of this decision as well as the contributions made by States members of the European Union, which have resulted in the decision of the Council of the European Union at its meeting held on 1 April 2014 to launch the European Union military operation in the Central African Republic;

Peacekeeping operation

18. *Decides* to establish the United Nations Multi-dimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic as of the date of the adoption of the present resolution and for an initial period until 30 April 2015;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to subsume the presence of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic into the Stabilization Mission as of the date of the adoption of the present resolution and to ensure a seamless transition from the Integrated Peacebuilding Office to the Mission;

20. *Decides* that, as from 15 September 2014, the Stabilization Mission shall initially comprise up to 10,000 military personnel, including 240 military observers and 200 staff officers and 1,800 police personnel, including 1,400 formed police unit personnel and 400 individual police officers, and 20 corrections officers, calls upon Member States to provide troops and police with adequate capabilities and equipment in order to enhance the capacity of the Mission to operate and discharge its responsibilities effectively, and requests the Secretary-General to recruit qualified staff, who have the competencies, education, work experience and language skills appropriate to the tasks defined under applicable competency areas in paragraphs 30 and 31 below, bearing in mind the need to convey information and provide technical assistance in the most accessible manner to the desired audience;

21. *Also decides* that the transfer of authority from the International Support Mission to the Stabilization Mission will take place on 15 September 2014 and that, in the period from the adoption of the present resolution to this transfer of authority, the Stabilization Mission will implement the tasks mandated in paragraphs 30 and 31 below through its civilian component, while the International Support Mission will continue to implement its tasks as mandated by resolution 2127(2013) and that, on 15 September 2014, the Stabilization Mission shall commence the immediate implementation, through its military and police components, of the tasks mandated in paragraphs 30 and 31 below;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the Stabilization Mission as many military and police personnel of the International Support Mission as possible and in line with United Nations standards, in close coordination with the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States and, as of 15 September 2014, in accordance with the Secretary-General's policy on human rights screening of United Nations personnel;

23. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, without prejudice to paragraph 21 above, to deploy to the Stabilization Mission before 15 September 2014 military enablers, including military enablers transferred from other, down-

sizing peacekeeping operations and through inter-mission cooperation, as may be necessary, in order to stand up the military and police components of the Mission and enable them to immediately commence the discharge of their mandated tasks on 15 September 2014, and further requests the Secretary-General to contract enablers to the same effect;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all possible steps, including through the full use of existing authorities and at his discretion, to accelerate the deployments of the civilian and military capabilities of the Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, in order to best respond to the expectations of the Security Council and the needs of the population of the Central African Republic, and requests the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to have the Mission ready to commence its activities;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to transfer the Guard Unit, in line with its original mandate approved in the letter dated 29 October 2013 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General, from the Integrated Peacebuilding Office to the Stabilization Mission from the date of adoption of the present resolution until 15 September 2014, and decides that, as of the date of the adoption of the present resolution until 15 September 2014, the mandate of the Guard Unit as approved in that letter shall remain unchanged;

26. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in close coordination with the African Union, to deploy a transition team to set up the Stabilization Mission and prepare the seamless transition of authority from the International Support Mission to the Stabilization Mission by 15 September 2014, and to take the steps necessary to prepare and position the International Support Mission, as soon as possible, for its rehatting to a United Nations peacekeeping operation;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after a joint mission with the African Union, to update the Security Council no later than 15 August 2014 on the state of preparation for a seamless transition of authority from the International Support Mission to the Stabilization Mission by 15 September 2014;

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head of the Stabilization Mission, who shall, from the date of appointment, assume overall authority on the ground for the coordination of all activities of the United Nations system in the Central African Republic;

29. *Authorizes* the Stabilization Mission to take all means necessary to carry out its mandate, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment;

30. *Decides* that the mandate of the Stabilization Mission shall initially focus on the following priority tasks:

(a) *Protection of civilians*

- (i) To protect, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Central African Republic authorities, the civilian population from the threat of physical violence, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, including through active patrolling;
- (ii) To provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through the deployment of child protection advisers and women's protection advisers;
- (iii) To identify and record threats and attacks against the civilian population, including through regular interaction with the civilian population and

working closely with humanitarian and human rights organizations;

- (iv) To design, implement and deliver, in close consultation with humanitarian and human rights organizations and other relevant partners, a mission-wide protection strategy;

(b) *Support for the implementation of the transition process, including efforts in favour of the extension of State authority and preservation of territorial integrity*

- (i) To take a leading role in international efforts to assist the transitional authorities working with the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union, relevant stakeholders and the international community to devise, facilitate, coordinate and provide technical assistance to the political transition and electoral processes;
- (ii) To provide good offices and political support for the efforts to address root causes of the conflict and establish lasting peace and security in the Central African Republic;
- (iii) To provide appropriate support, in coordination with the transitional authorities, and based on the risks on the ground, for the provision of security for key national stakeholders, including members of the Transitional Government;
- (iv) To assist the transitional authorities in mediation and reconciliation processes at both the national and local levels, working with relevant regional and local bodies and religious leaders, including through inclusive national dialogue, transitional justice and conflict resolution mechanisms, while ensuring the full and effective participation of women;
- (v) To devise, facilitate and provide technical assistance to the electoral process and make all necessary preparations, in support of the transitional authorities and working on an urgent basis with the National Electoral Authority, for the holding of free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections, including the full and effective participation of women at all levels and at an early stage, and the participation of internally displaced persons and refugees from the Central African Republic no later than February 2015;
- (vi) To promote and support the rapid extension of State authority;

(c) *Facilitating the immediate, full, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance*

To contribute, including through effective civil-military coordination and in close coordination with humanitarian actors, to the creation of a secure environment for the immediate, full, safe and unhindered, civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance, in accordance with United Nations guiding humanitarian principles and relevant provisions of international law, and for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees, in close coordination with humanitarian actors;

(d) *Protection of the United Nations*

To protect United Nations personnel, installations, equipment and goods and ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

(e) Promotion and protection of human rights

- (i) To monitor, help to investigate and report publicly and to the Council on violations of international humanitarian law and on abuses and violations of human rights committed throughout the Central African Republic, in particular by different armed groups, including the former Séléka and the anti-balaka, and to contribute to efforts to identify and prosecute perpetrators, and to prevent such violations and abuses, including through the deployment of human rights observers;
- (ii) To monitor, help to investigate and report specifically on violations and abuses committed against children as well as violations committed against women, including all forms of sexual violence in armed conflict, and to contribute to efforts to identify and prosecute perpetrators, and to prevent such violations and abuses;
- (iii) To support the International Commission of Inquiry on the Central African Republic and the implementation of its recommendations;
- (iv) To assist the Central African Republic authorities in the effort to protect and promote human rights;

(f) Support for national and international justice and the rule of law

- (i) To support and work with the transitional authorities to arrest and bring to justice those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country, including through cooperation with States of the region and the International Criminal Court;
- (ii) To help to build the capacities, including through technical assistance, of the national judicial system and of the national human rights institutions and assist with national reconciliation efforts, coordinating with the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on human rights in the Central African Republic as appropriate;
- (iii) To provide support and to coordinate international assistance to the police, justice and correctional institutions to reinstate the criminal justice system, within the framework of the United Nations global focal point on the rule of law, including through assistance in the maintenance of public safety and basic law and order, in a manner that emphasizes civilian oversight, impartiality and the protection of human rights, and to support the restoration and maintenance of public safety and the rule of law, including through the presence and assistance of United Nations police authorized in paragraph 20 above;

(g) Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation

- To support the transitional authorities in developing and implementing a revised strategy for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and repatriation of former combatants and armed elements to reflect new realities on the ground, while paying specific attention to the needs of children associated with armed forces and groups, and support for the repatriation of foreign elements;

- To support the transitional authorities in developing and implementing community violence reduction programmes;
- To regroup and canton combatants and confiscate and destroy, as appropriate, the weapons and ammunition of elements of personnel who refuse or fail to lay down their arms;

31. *Also decides* that the mandate of the Stabilization Mission shall include the following additional tasks as conditions permit, and requests the Secretariat to begin planning for these tasks:

(a) Support security sector reform and vetting processes, including through the provision of strategic policy advice and coordination of technical assistance and training;

(b) Coordinate international assistance, as appropriate;

(c) Assist the Security Council Committee established pursuant to paragraph 57 of resolution 2127(2013) and the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to the same resolution, within its capabilities, including by passing information relevant to the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and the Panel of Experts;

(d) Monitor the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 54 of resolution 2127(2013), in cooperation with the Panel of Experts, including by inspecting, as it deems necessary and when appropriate, without notice, all arms and related materiel regardless of location, and advise the transitional authorities on efforts to keep armed groups from exploiting natural resources;

(e) Seize and collect arms and any related materiel the transfer of which into the Central African Republic violates the measures imposed by paragraph 54 of resolution 2127(2013), and record and dispose of such arms and related materiel as appropriate;

32. *Requests* the Stabilization Mission to coordinate its operations with those of the African Union Regional Task Force on the Lord's Resistance Army, and requests the Mission to share relevant information with the Regional Task Force and with non-governmental organizations involved in tackling the threat of the Lord's Resistance Army;

33. *Calls upon* the transitional authorities and international partners and relevant United Nations entities, in coordination with the Stabilization Mission, to address the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in the Central African Republic, and to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked or illicitly held weapons and ammunition, and further stresses the importance of incorporating such elements into security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programmes;

34. *Requests* the Stabilization Mission to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the transitional authorities in ensuring that the protection of children's rights is taken into account, inter alia, in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation processes and in security sector reform in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

35. *Also requests* the Stabilization Mission to take fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the Central African Republic in ensuring the full and effective participation, involvement and representation of women in all spheres and at all levels, including in stabilization activities, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation processes, as well as in the national political dialogue and electoral processes, through, inter alia, the provision of gender advisers, and further requests enhanced reporting by the Mission to the Council on this issue;

36. *Further requests* the Stabilization Mission, within its existing resources and mandate, to assist the political efforts of the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States to support the transition process, following the transfer of authority from the International Support Mission to the Stabilization Mission;

37. *Decides* that the International Support Mission, the Stabilization Mission, the European Union military operation in the Central African Republic, the African Union Regional Task Force and the French forces operating in the Central African Republic are exempt from the measures imposed in paragraph 54 of resolution 2127(2013) for the implementation of their mandates, and requests these forces to report on measures taken in this regard as part of their regular reports to the Council;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure full compliance of the Stabilization Mission with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council informed if cases of misconduct occur, and notes the relevance of the guidance on contacts with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the International Criminal Court;

39. *Requests* the Stabilization Mission to ensure that any support provided to non-United Nations security forces is provided in strict compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, and requests the Secretary-General to include information on any such support in his reports to the Council;

40. *Decides* that the Stabilization Mission may, within the limits of its capacities and areas of deployment, at the formal request of the transitional authorities and in areas where national security forces are not present or operational, adopt urgent temporary measures on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent and without prejudice to the agreed principles of peacekeeping operations, which are limited in scope, time-bound and consistent with the objectives set forth in paragraphs 30 (a) and (f) above, to maintain basic law and order and fight impunity, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council any measures that may be adopted on this basis;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic to conclude, within 30 days of the adoption of the present resolution, a status-of-forces agreement with regard to the Stabilization Mission, taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 58/82 of 9 December 2003 on the scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and decides that, pending the conclusion of such an agreement,

the model status-of-forces agreement of 9 October 1990 shall apply provisionally;

42. *Emphasizes* the need for the International Support Mission, the European Union military operation in the Central African Republic and the French forces operating in the Central African Republic, while carrying out their mandate, to act in full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Central African Republic and in full compliance with applicable international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, and recalls the importance of training in this regard;

Freedom of movement of the Stabilization Mission

43. *Urges* all parties in the Central African Republic to cooperate fully with the deployment and activities of the Stabilization Mission, in particular by ensuring its safety, security and freedom of movement with unhindered and immediate access throughout the territory of the Central African Republic to enable the Mission to carry out fully its mandate;

44. *Calls upon* Member States, especially those in the region, to ensure the free, unhindered and expeditious movement to and from the Central African Republic of all personnel, as well as equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods, including vehicles and spare parts, which are for the exclusive and official use of the Stabilization Mission;

Humanitarian access

45. *Demands* that all parties allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, in particular to internally displaced persons, throughout the territory of the Central African Republic, in accordance with the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and relevant provisions of international law;

Humanitarian appeal

46. *Welcomes* the humanitarian appeal, regrets its insufficient current funding, and calls upon Member States and international and regional organizations to respond swiftly to this appeal through increased contributions and to ensure that all pledges are honoured in full;

French forces

47. *Authorizes* the French forces, within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment, from the commencement of the activities of the Stabilization Mission until the end of the mandate of the Mission as authorized in the present resolution, to use all necessary means to provide operational support to elements of the Mission from the date of adoption of the present resolution, at the request of the Secretary-General, and requests France to report to the Council on the implementation of this mandate as of 15 September 2014 and to coordinate its reporting with that of the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 50 of the present resolution;

Reporting

48. *Recalls* the statement by its President of 5 August 2009, by which the Council requested that, where a new peacekeeping mission is proposed, or where significant change to a mandate is envisaged, an estimate of the resource implications for the mission be provided to the Council;

49. *Welcomes* the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the objectives and priorities of a United Nations operation, and hence its configuration, activities and related resources, should be adjusted over time to the situation on the ground, and requests in this regard the Secretary-General, in his first report to the Council, to update the Council on the mission concept, including a concept of operations and benchmarks for the sequencing of the mandate, and on an exit strategy, which will be developed following the adoption of the present resolution, including by providing the necessary financial information, and the implementation of which will be monitored by the Council;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of the situation in the Central African Republic and the implementation of the mandate of the Stabilization Mission, to report to the Council on 1 August 2014 and then every four months from that date and to include in his reports to the Council updates on and recommendations related to the dynamic implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks, including by providing appropriate financial information, information on the security situation, the priority political elements as defined above on political progress, progress on mechanisms and capacity to advance governance and fiscal management, relevant information on the progress, promotion and protection of human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as a review of the troop and police levels, force and police generation and deployment of all constituent elements of the Mission;

51. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General (August). In an August report [S/2014/562] submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2149(2014) (see above), the Secretary-General provided an update on developments in the CAR since his March report (see p. 219) and on the preparations for the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). The report also included the mission concept on the operations and benchmarks for the sequencing of the mandate and an exit strategy.

While the situation in some areas of Bangui had improved, the overall security situation in the CAR remained highly volatile. The large majority of the country's Muslim population had been displaced or had left the country, while some 20,000 of them were trapped in nine locations in the western and central parts of the country, aware that if they left their sites they may be attacked before they reached safety. Increasing violence and brutality against Muslim communities in Bangui contributed to the formation of Muslim radical action targeting the anti-balaka and their positions as well as non-Muslim communities. They reportedly had the support of some elements of the ex-Séléka hiding among the local Muslim population.

A number of violent clashes involved the international forces in Bangui and elsewhere in the country. On 29 March, a senior Chadian army officer

appointed to MISCA was proceeding in a column to Bangui. When the column reached the outskirts of Bangui, an exchange of fire ensued, during which at least 28 people were killed and many more wounded. Following allegations that Chadian elements of MISCA opened fire on the population without provocation, the Government of Chad announced, on 3 April, that it would withdraw its infantry battalion of 850 troops from MISCA.

The European Union operation reached full operational capability on 15 June and provided security at the Bangui airport as well as in the third and fifth arrondissements of Bangui, which allowed MISCA and Sangaris to enhance their deployments outside of the capital. The challenging security environment led to increasing criticism of the transitional authorities, which further accentuated the fragility of the transition. On 9 April, the Head of State of the Transition, Catherine Samba-Panza, signed a decree establishing the Special Unit of Inquiry and Investigation to conduct preliminary inquiries and investigations into cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed since 1 January 2004, which was inaugurated on 8 July. The Conseil supérieur de la magistrature reassigned judges throughout all judicial instances and appointed magistrates for the Special Unit of Inquiry and Investigation.

Overall, preparations for presidential and legislative elections and a referendum on the constitution moved slowly, despite the signing on 24 June of a decree on the organization and functioning of the National Electoral Authority. Key policy decisions, including on the methodology for voter registration and the sequencing of the polls, remained outstanding, while the legal framework had yet to be completed.

By Council resolution 2149(2014), the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the CAR (BINUCA) was subsumed into MINUSCA on 10 April. Specifically, the mission concept provided that MINUSCA would organize its activities around three key interconnected and mutually reinforcing objectives, namely, (a) security, the protection of civilians and human rights, (b) support to the political process, reconciliation and elections, and (c) the restoration and extension of State authority. The mission concept outlined five phases and included detailed planning for the first two. The first phase involved the establishment of MINUSCA and the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA, from 10 April 2014 to 15 September 2014. During this phase, MINUSCA would establish a multidimensional presence in Bangui at the Mission headquarters, and three integrated sector headquarters offices in Bria, Kaga Bandoro and Bouar. During the second phase, from 15 September 2014 to 30 April 2015, which would bring MINUSCA to the end of its mandate period, the Mission would further increase its field presence and aim to contribute to minimum security and create room for a political dialogue lead-

ing to a basic national consensus on the way forward. The MINUSCA exit strategy would be based on progress made in each phase towards the achievement of an end state in which the CAR would have completed a transition to a democratically elected legitimate government that was broadly representative and capable of responding to the basic needs of the population.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 October [meeting 7280], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2181(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/745] was submitted by France.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements on the Central African Republic, in particular resolutions 2121(2013) of 10 October 2013, 2127(2013) of 5 December 2013, 2134(2014) of 28 January 2014 and 2149(2014) of 10 April 2014,

Taking note of the letter dated 3 October 2014 from Ms. Catherine Samba-Panza, Central African Republic President of the Transition, to the President of the Security Council,

Taking note also of the letter dated 7 October 2014 from Baroness Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to the President of the Security Council,

Determining that the situation in the Central African Republic continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend the authorization of the European Union operation contained in paragraph 44 of resolution 2134(2014) until 15 March 2015;

2. *Also decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Year-end developments. In a November report [S/2014/857] submitted pursuant to Council resolution 2149(2014) (see p. 220), the Secretary-General submitted a report on the political and security developments in the CAR since his August report (see p. 227), which included an update on preparations for the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA on 15 September and on the implementation of MINUSCA's mandate.

The transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA took place on 15 September and marked the completion of the MISCA mandate and the establishment of an AU mission for the CAR and Central Africa. As at mid-November, some 7,451 military personnel or approximately 74 per cent of the total authorized military strength of 10,000 troops, and 1,083 police personnel or approximately 60 per cent of the total authorized police strength of 1,800, had been deployed to MINUSCA.

The security situation in the CAR remained volatile. Frequent clashes among armed groups and attacks against civilians continued. Fragmentation, internal leadership struggles and the lack of command-and-control authority within the anti-balaka and among

ex-Séléka factions were accompanied by clashes between and among them in Bangui and other parts of the country.

The border area between the CAR and Cameroon saw a resurgence of attacks on villages by the Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain (FDPC). The presence of foreign and transborder armed groups in the region continued to pose a threat to civilians and cause insecurity, while incidents of abductions and killings were also reported.

Following a request by the Central African authorities and on the basis of Security Council resolution 2181(2014) (see above), the European Council of Ministers, on 7 November, extended the mandate of the European Union operation until 15 March 2015.

After Prime Minister André Nzapayéké resigned on 5 August, the Head of State of the Transition appointed as his replacement Mahamat Kamoun. The ex-Séléka, as well as several main political parties and civil society leaders, criticized the appointment, citing a lack of consultation and inclusiveness in the selection process. On 22 August, the Office of the Head of State of the Transition announced the formation of Prime Minister Kamoun's Government, in which the ministers increased from 20 to 31, including representatives of armed groups, civil society and the country's 16 provinces. Ex-Séléka members were appointed to three ministerial posts while two ministers were appointed from the anti-balaka. Ex-Séléka leaders dissociated themselves from the appointments, however, while some anti-balaka elements continued to consider that they were not fairly represented. Political uncertainty contributed to shifting political dynamics within the ex-Séléka. New factions, largely drawn along ethnic lines, emerged. While reinforcing their military structures, leaders of those factions committed their groups to participating in the political process, including in the Bangui forum and the elections, and expressed willingness to comply with article 4 of the cessation-of-hostilities agreement signed in Brazzaville on 23 July, which called for the voluntary regroupment of armed elements.

In order to support the agreement's implementation, a follow-up commission was established in August, composed of two representatives of the presidency, two of the transitional Government, two of the National Transitional Council, one representative of each of the seven armed groups that had signed the agreement and representatives of the international community. Though the commission began meeting in September, it had been slow to make decisions and act on implementing its mandate.

On 31 October, the National Electoral Authority announced a revised electoral timeline involving a constitutional referendum in May 2015, the first round of presidential and legislative elections in July 2015 and the second round of polls in August 2015.

The Secretary-General observed that the violence that took place in October in Bangui, just one month after the successful transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA, was a stark reminder that the situation in the CAR remained highly volatile. Almost 1 million Central Africans remained displaced. More than 2 million people were still in desperate need of humanitarian assistance and women and children were exposed to extreme violence and abuse, while thousands of children were still associated with armed groups. The timely holding of elections to complete the transition by August 2015 would be an important milestone for the country.

Letter of Secretary-General. In a 28 November letter [S/2014/858] to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General transmitted a report by the EU on the activities of the EU-led peacekeeping force in the CAR.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 7349], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/28** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council takes note of the final communiqué of the high-level meeting on the Central African Republic held under the auspices of the Secretary-General in New York on 26 September 2014. The Council also takes note of the conclusions of the 6th meeting of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, held in Bangui on 11 November 2014, in which the International Mediator in the Central African Republic crisis, the President of the Congo, Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, in line with his authority under the Transitional National Charter, was requested to extend the transition by six months, up to August 2015, given that the election date of February 2015 was no longer technically feasible.

The Council recalls that the stabilization of the security situation is first and foremost the responsibility of the Central African Republic stakeholders and reiterates its appeal to all parties and stakeholders, particularly the leaders of the ex-Séléka and anti-balaka groups, as well as all other armed groups, to immediately and permanently lay down their arms, to release all children from their ranks, and to embark upon the path of dialogue as the only viable means towards achieving lasting reconciliation and peace, and an essential condition for the successful implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.

The Council reiterates its call upon the transitional authorities to take concrete action, with the full, effective and equal participation of women, towards an inclusive and comprehensive political dialogue and reconciliation process at the local and national levels; preparation for the elections; the fight against impunity; formulation and implementation of a disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation strategy, including children formerly associated with armed

forces and groups; and the rebuilding of effective State institutions, including through security sector reform.

In this regard, the Council urges the transitional authorities to accelerate inclusive preparations for the Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation scheduled for January 2015, with the aim of forging a national-level consensus. The Council welcomes and commends recent efforts by the transitional authorities to gather views of local citizens in advance of the Bangui Forum by dispatching government ministers and officials throughout the Central African Republic.

The Council also urges all actors of the electoral process, including the transitional authorities and the National Electoral Authority, to accelerate preparations in order to hold free, fair, transparent and inclusive presidential and legislative elections that allow for the full, effective and equal participation of women, internally displaced persons and Central African Republic refugees, no later than August 2015, which will mark the end of the transition, and to swiftly implement concrete measures necessary to achieve this objective. To that end, the Council calls upon all international partners of the Central African Republic to provide support to the electoral process, particularly through financing the United Nations Development Programme multi-donor basket fund for elections.

The Council further urges the signatories to the Brazzaville agreement on cessation of hostilities of 23 July 2014 to immediately and fully implement its provisions, in particular articles 4 and 8 thereof, and calls upon the international mediation led by President Denis Sassou Nguesso, the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and the United Nations to facilitate the early conclusion of an agreement on the disarmament of the armed groups.

The Council expresses its intent to consider designating additional individuals and entities that engage in or provide support for acts that undermine the peace, stability and security of the Central African Republic, including those that provide support to armed groups through the illicit exploitation of natural resources, for targeted sanctions in accordance with the provisions of Council resolutions 2127(2014) and 2134(2014).

The Council further recalls that all Member States must take the measures necessary to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of individuals designated by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127(2013).

The Council welcomes the steps towards improving stability in the Central African Republic and commends the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, Sangaris and the European Union military operation in the Central African Republic for the work done in laying the foundation for increased security ahead of and in support of the deployment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. The Council notes with concern, however, that, while improving, security in the Central African Republic remains fragile.

The Council strongly condemns the resurgence of violence, which was politically or criminally motivated, that occurred in October 2014 in Bangui, the continuous cycle of provocations and reprisals by armed

groups, both inside and outside of Bangui, the threats of violence, human rights violations and abuses and international humanitarian law violations committed by armed elements, which continue to adversely affect the dire humanitarian situation facing the civilian population and to impede humanitarian access to vulnerable populations and encourages the Stabilization Mission, Sangaris and the European Union military operation to use, within their respective mandates, all means necessary to effectively protect civilians and to restore a lasting security.

The Council equally condemns the targeted attacks against the transitional authorities as well as those against troops of the Stabilization Mission, Sangaris and the European Union military operation during the October events in Bangui. The Council underlines that attacks targeting peacekeepers may constitute a war crime and reminds all parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law.

The Council reiterates its grave concern at the threat to peace and security in the Central African Republic arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

The Council stresses the important role of the internal security forces (police and gendarmerie) in the restoration of security in the Central African Republic. The Council encourages the Central African Republic authorities to initiate the reform process of the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic, to include appropriate vetting procedures in order to put in place a professional, representative and balanced army, including through the adoption of measures to absorb elements of the armed groups meeting rigorous selection criteria, as well as through the retraining of part of the Armed Forces. The Council reiterates the important role of the Stabilization Mission in providing support for security sector reform and vetting processes, including through the provision of strategic policy advice and coordination of technical assistance and training. The Council encourages the international community, including the European Union, to consider a coordinated and concerted support for reform and capacity-building of the Armed Forces, including through advice, assistance and non-operational training, as appropriate.

The Council commends the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, Mr. Babacar Gaye, and takes note of the increased deployment of the military, police and civilian components of the Stabilization Mission, the initial work of the Mission in implementing its mandate, the establishment on 15 September 2014 of the Bangui Task Force and the reconfiguration of the Mission following the violent incidents in Bangui in October.

The Council urges the Secretariat and the Stabilization Mission to accelerate the deployments of its civilian, police and military capabilities in the Central African Republic, including the necessary logistical support and command and control structure, and to speed up recruitment procedures, in order to reach its full operational capacity as soon as possible and enable the Stabilization Mission to effectively discharge its mandate over the entire national territory. To this end, the Council further urges the former troop- and police-contributing countries of the International Support

Mission that have been rehatted to the Stabilization Mission to expedite the procurement and deployment of remaining additional contingent-owned equipment. The Council also urges the Stabilization Mission to intensify the implementation of its mandate, in particular in support of the reconciliation, electoral and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, in accordance with priority tasks set out in paragraph 30 of Council resolution 2149(2014).

The Council recalls the mandate of the Stabilization Mission to protect, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Central African Republic authorities, the civilian population from threat of physical violence, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, including through active patrolling.

The Council calls upon partners to pledge or confirm pledges for the lacking capabilities in the Stabilization Mission, in particular the attack helicopter unit, the special forces company and the signals company.

The Council affirms that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law, human rights violations and abuses and other criminal acts, including those involving killing, maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, recruitment and use of children, violations of physical integrity, looting, destruction of properties and restrictions on freedom of movement, as well as attacks against humanitarian personnel, shall be held accountable.

In this regard, the Council notes the opening by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on 24 September 2014 of an investigation on alleged crimes committed since 2012 and welcomes the ongoing cooperation by the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic in this regard.

The Council reiterates the need to strengthen justice institutions and to fight impunity in order to contribute to stabilization and reconciliation, and calls upon the Central African Republic authorities to take concrete steps, without delay, to achieve this objective as a matter of priority. The Council calls upon the transitional authorities to continue their efforts to redeploy State administration in the provinces, including through the effective restoration of the administration of the judiciary and the criminal justice system throughout the country, with the support of the international community.

The Council welcomes the signing on 7 August 2014 of the Memorandum of Understanding on Urgent Temporary Measures, which describes, in particular, the establishment of a national Special Criminal Court in charge of investigating and prosecuting the serious crimes committed in the Central African Republic, and calls for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding without delay, in accordance with resolution 2149(2014) and including through the adoption of the necessary legislation by the transitional authorities.

The Council looks forward to the final report of the International Commission of Inquiry on the Central African Republic established by resolution 2127(2013).

The Council calls for cooperation between all relevant institutions and mechanisms contributing to investigations and prosecutions of crimes involving violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights.

The Council calls upon all armed groups in the Central African Republic to immediately cease all acts of violence against humanitarian personnel and civilians, and demands that all parties allow the full, safe, immediate, unhindered and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, in particular to internally displaced persons, throughout the territory of the Central African Republic, respecting the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and relevant provisions of international law.

The Council notes with appreciation the efforts made by humanitarian personnel, and reiterates its appreciation to the neighbouring countries, which are still hosting approximately 420,000 Central African Republic refugees. The Council calls upon the transitional authorities, humanitarian personnel and all relevant actors to establish favourable conditions for the voluntary and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees, and for the finding of a lasting solution for the concerned populations.

The Council urgently appeals to the international community to mobilize additional resources, noting in this regard that a total amount of \$321 million is still required to cover the needs identified within the framework of the 2014 Central African Republic Strategic Response Plan and Regional Refugee Response Plan, to alleviate the humanitarian crisis, with an approach linking relief, rehabilitation and development.

The Council stresses that the restoration of lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic is also contingent upon economic recovery, with concrete prospects for youth employment. In this context, the Council welcomes the pursuit, particularly in Bangui, of employment-generating projects and their extension to other locations, in the country, and calls for the multiplication of projects in the countryside, notably in the east and north-east regions, which have an acute need of development.

The Council calls upon the transitional authorities to continue their efforts to restore sound and transparent public financial management, in line with the recommendations of the recent International Monetary Fund mission to Bangui in November 2014, in particular to mobilize domestic resources, particularly customs revenues, in full respect of financial best practice, in order to meet the expenses related to the functioning of the State; implement early recovery plans; and revitalize the economy. This would create a conducive environment for the restoration of confidence by the economic actors, the mobilization of new private investment and the mobilization of international financial assistance, which is needed to cover 2015 financial needs.

The Council expresses its appreciation for the international mediation led by President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Congo and comprising Mr. Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga, on behalf of the African Union, and Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, on behalf of the United Nations, as well as the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States as rapporteur, and the constructive engagement of the region.

The Council emphasizes that the continued role of the region, including the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States and its Mediator, as well as of the African Union, together with the United

Nations, will be critical for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the Central African Republic.

The Council calls upon the international community to continue to support the people and the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic and to provide urgent financial contributions to support national dialogue and reconciliation, electoral, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform processes, as well as the restoration of the judicial and penal chains in order to fight against impunity. The Council notes in this respect the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in encouraging and facilitating dialogue, complementarity and coherence among all actors involved, in close collaboration with the United Nations leadership in the field; and in sustaining the attention and commitment of the international community in support of these processes and of the long-term peacebuilding objectives of the country.

Arms embargo

In a 17 December letter [S/2014/921], the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 137] concerning the CAR transmitted to the President of the Security Council the report on its activities during 2014. The Committee met six times in 2014 in informal consultations, on 5 March, 1 and 5 May, 25 June, 1 August and 24 October, in addition to three formal meetings on 16 January, 6 February and 3 December. During the Committee's informal consultations on 5 March, the Panel of Experts presented its programme of work. On 1 May, the Committee received a briefing by the General Counsel and Acting Special Representative of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to the United Nations concerning the pending agreement with INTERPOL for the issuance of INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices. The agreement entered into force on 18 June. On 5 May, the Committee was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. On 25 June, the Panel of Experts presented its interim report to the Committee; on 1 August, the Coordinator of the Panel provided further information to the Committee regarding statements of case for a number of individuals and entities that the Panel believed met the listing criteria set out in paragraphs 36 and 37 of resolution 2134(2014) (see p. 213); and on 24 October the Panel presented its final report to the Committee (see p. 232). As regards its formal meetings, on 16 January, the Committee adopted guidelines for the conduct of its work. On 6 February, the Committee invited the CAR and its six neighbouring States to make statements to the Committee; and on 3 December, the Chair organized a second meeting with the CAR and its six neighbouring States to make statements to the Committee concerning the final report of the Panel.

The Committee received 32 implementation reports from Member States in pursuance of resolutions 2127(2013) and 2134(2014). It also sent 96 communications, of which 71 were transmitted to Member States and 25 to United Nations, international and regional bodies, with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures. The Committee listed three individuals subject to the measures imposed by paragraph 30 (travel ban) and paragraph 32 (assets freeze) of resolution 2134(2014); one of those three individuals, Lévy Yakété, was delisted following his death.

Panel of experts

The Panel of Experts on the CAR was established by the Security Council in resolution 2127(2013), by which the Council requested the Secretary-General to create, for an initial period of 13 months, a group of up to five experts, under the direction of the Committee established in the same resolution, to monitor the arms embargo. The mandate of the Panel was extended to 28 January 2015 in resolution 2134(2014), by which the Council adopted additional targeted measures. As a result of both resolutions, the sanctions regime that the Panel was mandated to monitor consisted of an arms embargo, which would prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the CAR of arms and related materiel, an assets freeze and a travel ban. On 13 February [S/2014/98], the Secretary-General appointed five experts to the Group.

Reports of Panel of Experts. On 26 June, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127(2013), the Panel of Experts on the CAR submitted to the Council an interim report [S/2014/452].

The Panel of Experts took note of the decision taken by the Committee to implement targeted sanctions against François Bozizé, Lévy Yakété and Nourredine Adam as a measure that contributed to ending impunity in the country, and it intended to monitor the implementation of the assets freeze and travel ban on the listed individuals. The Panel had been able to identify several other Central African political entrepreneurs, such as some components of the “new Séléka” or of self-declared anti-balaka militias, who were taking advantage of the security vacuum in the country to fund, organize or manipulate armed groups in order to either position themselves in the national transitional process or promote the country’s partition.

The Panel noted that personnel of the Central African armed forces and the gendarmerie remained in command positions within some of the main anti-balaka groups. The Panel had documented in its database that, from 5 December 2013 to 30 April 2014, 444 incidents resulted in the deaths of 2,424 civilians. The Panel acknowledged, however, that there was significant underreporting of incidents. In the west of the CAR, anti-balaka members were digging for and trading in diamonds in remote villages, while in

the east, Séléka forces retained a tight grip on artisanal gold mines. State mining authorities were gradually re-establishing control in diamond-producing areas around Bria and Sam-Ouandja (Haute-Kotto Province) and resuming official trade to Bangui. Individual Séléka commanders, however, had captured part of the trade, taking diamonds to the Sudan instead. The temporary suspension of the CAR from the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in May 2013 resulted in a ban on official diamond exports. Business houses in Bangui had nevertheless continued to officially purchase and stock diamonds from all production areas, while fraudulent trade, routed either through Bangui or through neighbouring States, was on the rise. Apart from illicit imports of hunting ammunition, the Panel had not documented any major transfer of weapons, ammunition or military equipment since the imposition of the arms embargo on 5 December 2013.

The Panel recommended that the Committee request countries neighbouring the CAR to publish, on a yearly basis, complete statistics on the import and export of natural resources, including diamonds and gold; urge all parties, including countries of the Central African region, INTERPOL and regional and sub-regional organizations, to enhance information-sharing and joint action to investigate and combat regional criminal networks involved in the illegal exploitation of and trade in natural resources, including wildlife and wildlife products; urge the transitional authorities of the CAR to take all steps necessary to certify to the Committee that defence and security personnel who had been identified as members of armed groups active in the CAR had been removed from their positions in the defence and security forces; and request the transitional authorities to report to the Committee on measures taken to ensure the safe management of arms and ammunition, including their registration, distribution, use and maintenance, and identify any training and infrastructure needs.

In its final report in October [S/2014/762], the Panel estimated that some 2,000 former Séléka fighters, excluding the elements cantoned in Bangui, and some 1,500 militiamen associated with the anti-balaka movement continued to pose a permanent threat to the peace, security and stability of the country, which remained *de facto* partitioned. The Panel documented several incidents in the northern part of the country bordering Chad, including the killing of civilians, the burning of villages and forced displacement. Those recurrent attacks by unknown armed groups and former Séléka units under the command of Brigadier General Mahamat Alkhatim had resulted in the establishment of a buffer zone between Chad and the provinces of Ouham and Ouham-Pendé in the CAR. In addition, the increasing fragmentation of the main armed groups active in the country and the implosion of the Front populaire pour la renaissance de centrafricaine, the new political structure representing the

former Séléka, constituted significant challenges to the stabilization of the political landscape in order to hold free, fair, transparent and inclusive presidential and legislative elections scheduled for February 2015. There had been few direct confrontations between former Séléka and anti-balaka forces since 5 December 2013, but both armed groups, in particular the anti-balaka, had constantly targeted civilians.

The appointment to the post of Minister of Youth and Sports in the new transitional cabinet of the leader of an armed group called *Révolution et justice* reinforced the prospect that being the commander of a politico-military movement could lead to top governmental positions and therefore validated the strategy of political spoilers. Since the suspension of the CAR from the Kimberley Process in May 2013, an additional 140,000 carats of diamonds, valued at \$24 million, were estimated to have been smuggled out of the country, in addition to an estimated two tons of gold trafficked each year from the CAR, mainly through Cameroon.

The Panel had not yet observed any significant violation of the arms embargo in support of armed groups, considering that logistics and security constraints prevented the Panel from travelling to the north-eastern region of the CAR. From 5 December 2013 to mid-August 2014, the Panel documented a total of 1,034 conflict-related incidents, including 247 reports of obstruction of humanitarian aid. During the same period, the Panel also recorded the killing of 3,003 civilians throughout the country, including 22 aid workers.

Financing

In March [A/68/327/Add.9 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General reported on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council, which included resource requirements for the Panel of Experts on the CAR totalling \$1,476,100 for 2014. The related report of ACABQ [A/68/7/Add.25] recommended the proposed budget for that period. In section II of **resolution 68/247 B** of 9 April (see p. 1639), the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of ACABQ and approved the budget for the Panel of Experts on the CAR.

International Commission of Inquiry

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 137], the Secretary-General established an international commission of inquiry to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law and abuses of human rights in the CAR by all parties since 1 January 2013; and to compile information to help identify the perpetrators of such violations and abuses, point to their possible criminal responsibility and help ensure that those responsible were held accountable.

Appointments. As requested, by resolution 2127(2013), the Secretary-General, on 20 January 2014 [S/2014/43], appointed Bernard Acho Muna (Cameroon) as the Chair and Fatimata M'Baye (Mauritania) and Jorge Castañeda (Mexico) as members of the International Commission of Inquiry. On 22 January [S/2014/44], the Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention.

On 14 August [S/2014/591], the Secretary-General informed the Council that, following the resignation of Mr. Castañeda, he had appointed Philip G. Alston (Australia) as a member of the Commission.

Letter of Secretary-General. In a 16 June letter [S/2014/410], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council President a letter from the Chair of the International Commission of Inquiry on the CAR that requested the suspension of the publication of the Commission's preliminary report, in order to allow it to be revised to give a more precise picture of the situation in the CAR following the Commission's two-week tour of the country.

Reports of the Commission of Inquiry. In a 26 June letter [S/2014/373], the Secretary-General transmitted to the President of the Security Council the preliminary report of the Commission. The Commission started work only in April, under very difficult conditions, including a hostile and violent environment that made it difficult for investigators to carry out their work, especially in the interior of the CAR.

In Bangui, the Commission received first-hand testimony from 309 interviews with victims, witnesses and individuals with relevant information. The Commission furthermore received and reviewed 181 case files, including medical records, from the national judicial and prosecuting authorities and from national and international non-governmental organizations and conducted site visits to locations in Bangui where incidents had occurred in order to corroborate information provided by witnesses. The Commission concluded that there were reasonable grounds to believe that all parties to the conflict had, since 1 January 2013, perpetrated serious violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights.

In its final report in December [S/2014/928], the Commission noted that it carried out 910 interviews with victims, witnesses, family members and other individuals in the CAR as well as those who fled to Cameroon. The Commission was satisfied that the parties to the conflict were the members of the Armed Forces of the CAR (FACA) under President Bozizé, and the principal militia groups, the Séléka and the anti-balaka. The Commission was satisfied that the investigations it had conducted had established that all the parties were involved in serious violations of international humanitarian law and gross abuses of human rights, including rape and other gender-based

sexual offences and violations. Many of the abuses amounted to crimes under both domestic law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The Commission noted that impunity had been a major factor in fuelling the armed conflict, in large part because similar conflicts in the past had never been followed by measures designed to hold to account the major players responsible for crimes and violations. On the contrary, the major players in the CAR had usually stage-managed a “national reconciliation” and seen to it that self-serving amnesty laws were enacted to cover themselves from any prosecutions. The holding of perpetrators of violations and abuses of human rights and humanitarian law accountable for their acts would make an important contribution to putting an end to impunity in the CAR. The Commission was satisfied that its investigations had established that a non-international armed conflict took place in the CAR from 1 January 2013 to 24 March 2013, when President Bozizé left power, and also after 4 December 2013 for the extent of the reporting period. It was the view of the Commission that from 24 March 2013 when Michel Djotodia took over as President of a Transitional government until he resigned on 5 December 2013, there were internal disturbances or violence, but the Commission did not consider that they reached the level of non-international armed conflict.

After examining all the available evidence, the Commission concluded that the threshold requirement to prove the existence of the necessary element of genocidal intent had not been established in relation to any of the actors in the conflict. The Commission, however, did not give any reason to assume that in the future the risk of grave crimes, including genocide, would be averted.

The Commission considered that it was not in a position to establish with any degree of accuracy the number of people who were killed in the conflict during the two years covered by its mandate. The difficulties of collecting accurate data were due to various reasons, including the practice of Muslim communities to bury their dead almost immediately and the difficulty of getting access to mass graves, especially in the countryside and forests, in the midst of continuing conflicts. The estimates that were available ranged from 3,000 to 6,000 people killed, but the Commission considered that those failed to capture the full magnitude of the killings that occurred.

The Commission made recommendations to the Transitional Government of the CAR, MINUSCA, the Security Council, the Secretary-General, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and relevant regional organizations. The Commission’s recommendations to the Security Council included the requirement of dedicated financial support from the international community for a witness protection programme that would ensure the

protection of witnesses and, as needed, the extended family of witnesses, in order to secure accountability for human rights and humanitarian law violations. The Commission recommended to the Secretary-General that his periodic reports on peacekeeping operations in the CAR include an analysis of any violations that were alleged to have been committed by both UN peacekeepers and non-UN peacekeepers authorized by the Security Council.

Peacebuilding Commission

The Peacebuilding Commission issued its annual report covering its eighth (2014) session from 1 January to 31 December [A/69/818-S/2015/174]. The Commission stated that the tragic recurrence of conflict in the CAR created challenges that were significantly different from those that were prevailing when the country was placed on the Commission’s agenda. A special political mission was replaced by a multidimensional peacekeeping mission, with a corresponding increase in the presence of international actors on the ground. The Commission sought to sustain attention to the unfolding situation in the country among a diverse group of Member States by convening a series of discussions with religious leaders, experts on the region and representatives of civil society organizations. It also offered an informal platform for the exchange of information and updates by the UN lead departments, the World Bank, regional countries and key development partners. Following an appeal to the Commission by the President of the Transitional Government of the CAR during a visit by the configuration chair in February, the Peacebuilding Fund and the World Bank joined efforts to pay the salaries of civil servants from May through August, which contributed to the re-establishment of core public services in the country. At the same time, the continuing security, fiscal and institutional challenges faced by the transitional authorities posed new challenges to the ability of the Commission to accompany the transition process in the country. The ceasefire agreement signed in Brazzaville on 23 July, however, was expected to lead to agreement on a political framework for which the Commission could catalyse the support of the United Nations and regional and international actors. The Commission could complement the efforts of the UN leadership in the field to ensure that the region and neighbouring States were working in close coordination in support of security and stability in the CAR. The approach would take into consideration the specific regional dynamics and the need to ensure that the security and political concerns and the interests of relevant regional actors were addressed.

Communication. In a 28 March letter [S/2014/228], the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission informed the Security Council President that he visited Bangui from 4 to 7 March and held discussions with different stakeholders to seek their views on the priority aspects

for the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission in the CAR. The Chair presented a report that was made available to the members of the Security Council only.

(For further information on the Peacebuilding Commission, see p. 58.)

Children and armed conflict

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Security Council resolution 2068(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 724], the Secretary-General submitted a May report on children and armed conflict [A/68/878-S/2014/339], which included developments concerning the situation in the CAR from January to December 2013.

Throughout 2013, the human rights situation worsened dramatically, with a multiplication and shifting of alliances of armed groups: On the one hand was the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix (CPJP), the CPJP Fondamentale, the Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain (FDPC) and the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement (UFDR), which came to form, or were associated in varying degrees with, the Séléka coalition; and on the other was the anti-balaka, a local defence militia that emerged in the second half of the year in response to the systematic attacks against the civilian population by the ex-Séléka coalition. Both the anti-balaka and the Séléka coalition, prior and after its dismantlement, systematically recruited and used children. The United Nations documented the recruitment and use of 171 boys and 17 girls, and estimated that several thousand children had been and remained associated with the ex-Séléka and the anti-balaka.

The United Nations verified the killing of 27 children and the maiming of 115 others. The United Nations had documented sexual violence against 20 girls, mainly by the Séléka. At least 36 schools and five hospitals were attacked by ex-Séléka. On 26 November, the Ministry of Defence granted the United Nations unconditional screening access to military barracks and cantonment sites in view of the separation and reintegration of children associated with armed groups. A total of 149 children were separated from the ex-Séléka. The fluid command structure of the anti-balaka, among other challenges, remained an obstacle to opening a structured dialogue. The Secretary-General noted that in view of the re-establishment of national security forces, the disarmament of the ex-Séléka and the anti-balaka had to be accompanied by a thorough investigation of operational and political chains of command responsible for grave violations against children.

MINUSCA

Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2149(2014) (see p. 220), the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central

African Republic (BINUCA) was subsumed into the newly established peacekeeping operation—the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Appointments. On 11 July [S/2014/497], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Babacar Gaye (Senegal) as his Special Representative for the CAR and Head of MINUSCA. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 15 July [S/2014/498].

On 24 July [S/2014/544], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Major General Martin Chomu Tumenta (Cameroon) as Force Commander of MINUSCA effective 15 September. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 28 July [S/2014/545].

Financing

In May [A/68/874], the Secretary-General submitted a report on financing arrangements for MINUSCA for the period from 10 April to 31 December 2014 and for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. The report included resource requirements in the amount of \$312,976,400 gross (\$308,704,700 net) for the start-up and establishment of MINUSCA for the period from 10 April to 31 December, inclusive of the amount of \$59,552,000 gross (\$58,930,100 net) previously authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) to meet the most immediate requirements for the establishment of MINUSCA for the period from 10 April to 30 June, including the Mission's subsuming of BINUCA as at 10 April. The proposal also included requirements in the amount of \$6,114,400 gross (\$5,722,100 net) for related backstopping resources under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

In May [A/68/782/Add.18], ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly approve the following: authorization for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period from 10 April to 31 December in the amount of \$312,976,400, inclusive of the amount of \$59,552,000 previously authorized by the Committee for the period from 10 April to 30 June; assessment of the amount of \$59,552,000 for the Mission for the period from 10 April to 30 June; and assessment of the amount of \$253,424,400 for the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December.

ACABQ also recommended that the General Assembly approve the support account requirements in the amount of \$4,993,700 for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015; and appropriation of the amount of \$4,993,700 among the budgets of the active peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/932], adopted **resolution 68/299** without vote [agenda item 176].

**Financing of the United Nations
Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission
in the Central African Republic**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2149(2014) of 10 April 2014, by which the Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic as from 10 April 2014 for an initial period until 30 April 2015, requested the Secretary-General to subsume the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic into the Mission as from the same date, decided that, as from 15 September 2014, the Mission will initially comprise up to 10,000 military personnel, including 240 military observers and 200 staff officers, and 1,800 police personnel, comprising 1,400 formed police unit personnel and 400 individual police officers, and 20 corrections officers, and also decided that the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic to the Mission will take place on 15 September 2014,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

2. *Recalls* paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to consider the administrative arrangements associated with inter-mission cooperation during the second part of the resumed sixty-ninth session, while maintaining existing arrangements;

Estimates for the period from 10 April to 31 December 2014

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic for the purpose of accounting for the income received and the expenditure incurred in respect of the Mission;

4. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Mission in an amount not exceeding 312,976,400 United States dollars for the period from 10 April to 31 December 2014, inclusive of the amount of 59,552,000 dollars previously authorized by the Advisory Committee for the period from 10 April to 30 June 2014 under the terms of section VI of its resolution 64/269 of 24 June 2010;

Financing of the commitment authority

5. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 59,552,000 dollars for the period from 10 April to 30 June 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into ac-

count the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

6. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 5 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 621,900 dollars, for the period from 10 April to 30 June 2014 representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission;

7. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 253,424,400 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

8. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 3,649,800 dollars, for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission;

9. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic".

In October [A/69/557], the Secretary-General submitted the MINUSCA budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, which amounted to \$628,724,400 gross (622, 722,500 net).

In December [A/69/641], ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of \$628,724,400 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of the amount of \$253,424,400 previously authorized for the period from 1 July to 31 December under the terms of resolution 68/299 (see above); and assess the amount of \$375,300,000 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, in addition to the amount of \$253,424,400 already assessed for the period from 1 July to 31 December under the terms of resolution 68/299, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of MINUSCA.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/684], adopted **resolution 69/257** without vote [agenda item 151].

**Financing of the United Nations
Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization
Mission in the Central African Republic**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Multidimensional

Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2149(2014) of 10 April 2014, by which the Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic as from 10 April 2014 for an initial period until 30 April 2015, requested the Secretary-General to subsume the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic into the Mission as from the same date and decided that the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic to the Mission would take place on 15 September 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 68/299 of 30 June 2014 on the financing of the Mission,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic as at 30 November 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 47.9 million United States dollars, representing some 15 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 73 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on

Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure more effective cooperation among the Mission, the United Nations country team and other United Nations entities with a field presence, in line with their respective roles and mandates;

10. *Decides* that the proposed temporary positions of an Electoral Officer (P-4) and the related Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) shall be added to the integrated operational team responsible for supporting the Mission in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, and funded from the support account for peacekeeping operations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

13. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic the amount of 628,724,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 for the maintenance of the Mission, inclusive of the amount of 253,424,400 dollars previously authorized for the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 under the terms of its resolution 68/299;

Financing of the appropriation

14. *Decides*, taking into account the amount of 253,424,400 dollars previously apportioned under the terms of its resolution 68/299 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 375,300,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 for the maintenance of the Mission, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

15. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,352,100 dollars, representing the balance of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission;

16. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

18. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate,

in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

19. *Decides* to keep under review during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic”.

On 29 December, the General Assembly, by **decision 69/554**, decided to defer the consideration of the item on the financing of MINUSCA to its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Central African Republic and Chad

Children and armed conflict

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in a May report on children and armed conflict [A/68/878-S/2014/339] covering developments in 2013, included information on the situation in Chad. The deployment of Chadian troops to the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) prompted renewed momentum to end and prevent underage recruitment in the *Armée nationale tchadienne*. The Chadian authorities renewed their commitment to engage with the United Nations to expedite the implementation of the action plan, appointed a high-level focal point in that regard and adopted a road map detailing 10 specific and time-bound measures to be implemented in the short and long terms to achieve compliance with the action plan. A central child protection unit in the Ministry of Defence and one in each of the eight “defence and security zones” were established to coordinate the monitoring and protection of children’s rights and to implement awareness-raising activities. Between August and October 2013, the Government and the United Nations jointly conducted the screening and age verification of approximately 3,800 troops of the *armée nationale tchadienne* in all eight zones. In February, the recruitment and use of children was explicitly criminalized through the adoption of a presidential decree. The security situation in neighbouring countries continued to affect children in Chad. The crisis in the CAR, border porosity and weak State authority in the country had resulted in the inflow of approximately 80,000 refugees, including unaccompanied children, into Chad. In addition, a significant influx of refugees from Darfur, the Sudan, into areas contaminated with explosive remnants of war in Chad was recorded.

MINURCAT

The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) completed its mandate on 31 December 2010, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1923(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 159] and at the request of the Chadian Government, which had pledged full responsibility for protecting civilians on its territory. Following its withdrawal, the

UN country team and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) remained in the country to continue to work for the benefit of the Chadian people. Security Council resolution 2149(2014) subsumed BINUCA into MINUSCA.

On 15 September, the General Assembly, by **decision 68/665**, decided to defer the consideration of the item on the financing of MINURCAT and to include it in the draft agenda of its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

On 29 December, the General Assembly, by **decision 69/554**, decided to defer the consideration of the item on the financing of MINURCAT to its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Rwanda

Prevention and fight against genocide

Communication. In an 11 April letter [S/2014/265] to the Secretary-General, the Security Council President transmitted a concept note prepared by Rwanda to steer the Council’s briefing on the threat to international peace and security: prevention of and fight against genocide, to be held on 16 April. The briefing would be organized on the occasion of the twentieth commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which more than 1 million people were killed in a hundred days, including Hutu and others who opposed it. The briefing would serve as an opportunity for the Security Council to discuss lessons learned from the failure of the international community to prevent the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda as the world continued to face new challenges in conflict management, peacekeeping and the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity. As an organ of the United Nations with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Council, with insights from briefers, would re-evaluate the resolve and mechanisms in place to prevent such crimes from happening.

Commemoration

On 16 April, the United Nations held its twentieth commemoration of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda [YUN 1994, p. 281] in New York and at United Nations Information Centres globally. In his message in observance of the event, the Secretary-General said that international criminal justice was expanding its reach and that leaders and warlords alike faced the growing likelihood of prosecution for their crimes. He further said that the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had shown once again how justice was indispensable for sustainable peace. The Secretary-General stressed that since genocide took planning, vigilance for human rights violations as early warning signals of conflict and mass atrocities was needed.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 April [meeting 7155], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2150(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/270] was submitted by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,

Reaffirming also the significance of the Convention as an effective international instrument for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide, emphasizing that the crime of genocide, as recognized in the Convention, is an odious scourge that has inflicted great losses on humanity and that further international cooperation is required to facilitate the timely prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide,

Recognizing that States bear the primary responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of their citizens, as well as other individuals within their territory as provided for by relevant international law,

Acknowledging the important role played by regional and subregional arrangements in the prevention of and response to situations that may lead to genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, especially noting article 4 (b) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union,

Recalling the important role of the Special Advisers to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect, whose functions include acting as an early warning mechanism to prevent potential situations that could result in genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing,

Recalling also the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 955(1994) of 8 November 1994 for the sole purpose of prosecuting persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of Rwanda and Rwandan citizens responsible for genocide and other such violations committed in the territory of neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994, and further recalling that genocide involves intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such,

Recalling further the conclusions of the final report of the Commission of Experts established pursuant to Council resolution 935(1994) of 1 July 1994, among which was included that “there exists overwhelming evidence to prove that acts of genocide against the Tutsi group were perpetrated,” and noting that during the genocide, Hutu and others who opposed it were also killed,

Recalling that the Appeals Chamber of the Tribunal issued, on 16 June 2006, a judicial notice (ICTR-98-44-AR73(C)) concluding that it was a “fact of common knowledge” that “between 6 April 1994 and 17 July 1994, there was a genocide in Rwanda against the Tutsi ethnic group”, further recalling that more than a million people were killed during the genocide, including Hutu and others who opposed it, and noting with concern any form of denial of that genocide,

Noting with concern that many genocide suspects continue to elude justice, including the remaining nine fugitives indicted by the Tribunal,

Reaffirming its strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and emphasizing in this context the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and, to that end, to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or other serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in order to avoid their recurrence and to seek sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation,

Stressing that the fight against impunity and to ensure accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes in the international criminal justice system, ad hoc and mixed tribunals as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals; and recognizing in this regard the contribution of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity to national criminal jurisdictions as set out in the Rome Statute of the Court, towards holding accountable those responsible for such crimes, and reiterating its call on the importance of State cooperation with these courts and tribunals in accordance with the States’ respective obligations,

Recognizing the contribution made by the Tribunal to the fight against impunity and the development of international criminal justice, especially in relation to the crime of genocide,

Noting that the prosecution of persons responsible for genocide and other serious international crimes, through the national justice system, including the gacaca courts of Rwanda, and the Tribunal, contributed to the process of national reconciliation and to the restoration and maintenance of peace in Rwanda,

Recalling that leaders and members of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda were among the perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed, further recalling that the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda is a group under United Nations sanctions operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and which has continued to promote and commit ethnically based and other killings in Rwanda and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and stressing the importance of neutralizing this group, in line with Council resolution 2098(2013) of 28 March 2013,

Recalling also that the General Assembly, on 23 December 2003, designated the date of 7 April as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda,

Emphasizing the particular importance of all forms of education in order to prevent the commission of future genocides,

1. *Calls upon* States to recommit to preventing and fighting against genocide and other serious crimes under international law, reaffirms paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and underscores the importance of taking into account lessons learned from the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed;

2. *Condemns without reservation* any denial of this genocide, and urges Member States to develop educational programmes that will inculcate on future generations the lessons of the genocide in order to help to prevent future genocides;

3. *Welcomes* efforts by Member States to investigate and prosecute those accused of this genocide, calls upon all States to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and the Government of Rwanda in the arrest and prosecution of the remaining nine fugitives indicted by the Tribunal, and further calls upon States to investigate, arrest, prosecute or extradite, in accordance with applicable international obligations, all other fugitives accused of genocide residing on their territories, including those who are leaders of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure greater collaboration between existing early warning mechanisms for genocide prevention and other serious international crimes, in order to help to detect, assess and respond to sources of tension and points of risk or identify vulnerable populations;

5. *Calls upon* States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to consider doing so as a matter of high priority and, where necessary, to enact national legislation in order to meet their obligations under the Convention.

West Africa

Regional issues

Political and security developments

The Secretary-General, as requested by the Security Council in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 168], reported every six months on the fulfilment of the mandate of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA). The reports focused on political developments in the subregion; economic, social, humanitarian and security trends; human rights and gender issues; and UNOWA activities (see p. 245). The reports also described developments in the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (see p. 296).

Reports of Secretary-General (June and December). In response to a Security Council letter of December 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 157], which extended the mandate of UNOWA until December 2016, the Secretary-General submitted a June report [S/2014/442] on developments in the subregion and the activities of UNOWA in the first half of 2014.

During the reporting period, progress had been made in the region in addressing political and security challenges in West Africa. Countries of the Mano River Union, with the support of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and UNOWA, commenced efforts to implement the cross-border security strategy for the Mano River Union, which was adopted on 25 October 2013. Successful presidential and legislative elections paved the way for the return to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau (see p. 275). The mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) (see p. 274), which once hosted the largest UN multidimensional peacekeeping operation, was successfully completed on 31 March, bringing an end to a decade and a half of successive UN peace operations in the country. In Mauritania (see p. 298), negotiations between the opposition coalition and the Government broke down in April as a result of the failure of both sides to reach agreement on an agenda for the political dialogue. Burkina Faso (see p. 227), Côte d'Ivoire (see p. 246), Guinea (see p. 297), Nigeria and Togo (see below) started preparations for presidential and legislative elections, scheduled to be held in 2015.

In Nigeria, President Goodluck Jonathan convened a national conference on 17 March, calling on the delegates to examine and make recommendations on the political and socioeconomic challenges facing the country. The security situation in the north-eastern part of Nigeria deteriorated in the first half of the year. On 20 May, the National Assembly approved the request of President Jonathan for a renewal of the state of emergency in Yobe, Borno and Adamawa States for another six-month period.

The Niger continued to face political tensions following the departure, in August 2013, of the Mouvement démocratique nigérien/Fédération africaine (MODEN-FA LUMANA) party from the ruling coalition. Since then, relations between the political parties, and between the opposition and the Government, had been strained.

Burkina Faso experienced political tensions in January when 75 of the 400 members of the National Political Bureau of the ruling Congress for Democracy and Progress resigned from the party and joined forces with the opposition and others to create a new political party, the People's Movement for Progress. On 18 January, the opposition commenced peaceful demonstrations against the potential candidacy of President Blaise Compaoré in the next presidential elections.

In Togo, the Government and the opposition remained divided over modalities for the residual political and institutional reforms envisaged in the global political agreement signed in Lomé on 21 August 2006. They agreed to hold a dialogue on a 12-point agenda, facilitated by Archbishop Nicodème Barrigah-Bénissan, former Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Talks opened on 26 May

but the opposition withdrew on 3 June, owing to what it described as silence by the presidential camp on key issues, such as the presidential term and the ballot system.

In Senegal, progress was made towards finding a lasting solution to the 32-year-old conflict launched by the armed separatist group, the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC). President Macky Sall, who had made peace and development a priority under his presidency, announced a special development project as part of his efforts for the socio-economic development of the country. On 28 April, the leader of MFDC announced a unilateral ceasefire as part of his commitment to finding a lasting solution to the conflict.

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission continued to build on the progress made in the implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1265] on the land and maritime dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria. Approximately 1,947 km of the estimated 2,100 km land boundary had so far been assessed and agreed upon by the parties.

Countries in the Gulf of Guinea continued to pursue efforts towards tackling piracy, armed robbery, trafficking and other illicit activities occurring at sea in the region, with the support of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission. On 29 March, the ECOWAS integrated maritime strategy was adopted in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire.

UNOWA played a pivotal role in launching the implementation of the UN integrated strategy for the Sahel and in coordinating the work of the regional working group, which focused on strengthening the capacity of national and regional security mechanisms to address cross-border threats. The Secretary-General commended the efforts being made by Governments and subregional organizations to collectively address the increasing incidence of transnational organized crime, terrorism, violent extremism, piracy and armed robbery at sea.

In December [S/2014/945], the Secretary-General reported on developments in West Africa and UNOWA activities during the second half of the year. On 12 September, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Mohammed Ibn Chambas (Ghana) as his new Special Representative for West Africa and Head of UNOWA to succeed Said Djinnit (Algeria), whose mandate ended on 30 September.

The spread and scale of the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa intensified drastically and plunged the region into an unparalleled public health crisis, with implications for peace and security. The outbreak led to the near isolation of the three most-affected countries—Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone—with severe economic, social and political

consequences for the entire region. Ebola had exposed weaknesses in national health infrastructures and services, as well as gaps in regional mechanisms. In September, the Security Council, concerned with the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, adopted **resolution 2177(2014)** (see p. 1357), and in November, through presidential statement **S/PRST/2014/24** (see p. 1363), it reiterated its grave concern about the unprecedented extent of the Ebola outbreak. The General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/1** on measures to contain and combat the Ebola outbreak. (For more information on the Ebola crisis, see p. 1355.)

In Burkina Faso, tensions had been brewing over former President Blaise Compaoré's intention to amend the Constitution to allow him to run in the 2015 presidential elections. On 23 September, the former President initiated a political dialogue with the opposition in an attempt to defuse the political crisis, though on 6 October, he announced that the dialogue had been inconclusive after four preliminary meetings. On 21 October, the Council of Ministers adopted a draft bill on proposed amendments to the Constitution, which was scheduled to be voted on by the National Assembly on 30 October. The draft bill proposed amending article 37 by changing the two-term limit on the presidency to three, thus allowing President Compaoré to stand for re-election. In reaction, on 28 October, Burkinabés came out in massive numbers to attend a rally planned by opposition parties and civil society organizations. Apart from sporadic confrontations between demonstrators and the police, no violence was reported. The rally ended with the opposition launching a civil disobedience campaign to prevent the adoption of the draft bill. On 30 October, demonstrators broke through police lines and ransacked the National Assembly building. They also set ablaze City Hall, which was the headquarters of the ruling party, and other private and public buildings. Despite a radio announcement from the President later in the day withdrawing the bill and establishing a state of emergency, violent protests intensified in Ouagadougou and spread beyond the capital. According to the report of an ad hoc commission set up to assess the losses incurred and damage caused during the uprising, some 29 people were killed and 625 injured in the protests. On 31 October, former President Compaoré left the country. On 1 November, shortly after a similar announcement by the Chief of Defence Staff General Nabéré Honoré Traoré, Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Yacouba Zida, the Deputy Chief Commander of the presidential guard, announced the suspension of the Constitution, and each declared himself Head of State. While the Chief of Defence Staff held discussions with Burkinabé stakeholders, some opposition parties and civil society leaders accused the military of trying to hijack the "people's revolution" and repeatedly demanded that they hand over power to a civilian-led transition.

On 13 November, following an intensive national dialogue process that was supported by regional and international stakeholders, including the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Burkinabé stakeholders agreed on a Charter of the Transition, which was signed on 16 November. Two days later, Michel Kafando was sworn in as the Transitional President and was officially inaugurated on 21 November. A Transitional Government and a Transitional National Council were established soon afterwards. The transitional period would end with the conduct of general elections in November 2015.

In the Niger, political tensions increased owing to the rift between President Mahamadou Issoufou and the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hama Amadou. On 26 August, the National Assembly lifted the immunity of Mr. Amadou to enable a criminal investigation against him for his alleged role in a child trafficking network. While a national warrant for his arrest was issued on the same day, it could not be served since he had fled the country. During the reporting period, several members of opposition parties in the Niger were arrested and subsequently released on bail. Those events took place against a background of increased cross-border security threats from Boko Haram in the south of the Niger.

In Togo, eight opposition parties formed a coalition and nominated a joint presidential candidate ahead of the elections scheduled for March 2015. Meanwhile, calls for free and inclusive dialogue and reforms intensified, culminating in mass demonstrations on 21 November. Protestors demanded that constitutional reforms be instituted to prevent President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé from running for a third term. In Benin, the political climate was also tense owing to technical difficulties related to the electronic voter registration list, as well as the perceived intention of incumbent President Boni Yayi to initiate a constitutional amendment to enable him to run for a third term of office.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the members of the Independent Electoral Commission were sworn in on 11 August following negotiations between the Government and opposition parties on its composition.

In Mali, formal peace negotiations were launched between the Government and armed groups in Algiers on 14 July. Ten days later, on 24 July, the parties signed a preliminary accord laying out a road map for further negotiations. In mid-November, the parties resumed negotiations on a draft peace agreement. The negotiations ended on 27 November and would resume in January 2015.

In Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Ebola outbreak exacerbated political and social tensions. In an effort to contain the outbreak, some West African countries closed their borders and suspended commercial flights to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the most-affected countries.

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission continued to make progress. Approximately 1,947 km of the estimated 2,100 km land boundary had been assessed and agreed on by the parties, and 667 boundary pillars constructed. Another 767 pillars remained to be constructed to complete the demarcation plan. In October, the parties officially expressed willingness to further contribute to the pillar emplacement project, and also agreed to call upon international donors for renewed assistance.

UNOWA provided support to the Lake Chad Basin Commission in the design of its counter-terrorism strategy, and, together with the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), participated in high-level meetings on the Gulf of Guinea from 9 to 12 September in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The Inter-regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Gulf of Guinea Joint Maritime Strategy, was inaugurated on 11 September.

Sahel region

Letters of Secretary-General. In a 27 January letter [S/2014/51] to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General noted that as at 1 February, the responsibility for the implementation of the UN integrated strategy for the Sahel [YUN 2013, p. 150] would be entrusted to the UN system in the region by placing the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel under the overall authority of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for West Africa.

In a 4 June letter [S/2014/390] to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General forwarded a 27 May letter from Mali transmitting the conclusions of the second ministerial meeting of the coordination platform for the Sahel, which was held on 16 May in Bamako.

Appointment. In a 28 April letter [S/2014/310], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council President of his intention to appoint Hiroute Guebre Sellassie (Ethiopia) as his new Special Envoy for the Sahel and Head of the Office succeeding Romano Prodi (Italy). The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 30 April [S/2014/311].

Integrated Strategy for the Sahel

In response to Security Council resolutions 2056(2012), 2071(2012) and presidential statement S/PRST/2013/10, the Secretary-General submitted a June report [S/2014/397] on the situation in the Sahel between 1 July 2013 and 30 May 2014, and provided an update on the status of implementation of the three pillars of the UN integrated strategy for the Sahel, namely, governance, security and resilience.

Efforts continued towards the implementation of existing regional legal instruments, including the

Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance of the Economic Community of West African States, in order to ensure the promotion of credible, transparent and violence free elections. Not all countries, however, had demonstrated the same level of political will. The region continued to witness low numbers of women and young people in parliament and senior political positions. In addition, only 55 per cent of children, on average, were registered at birth in Sahelian countries, owing to weak systems for civil registration and the collection of vital statistics. Many children who were not registered at birth were hindered in their efforts to vote later in life because they lacked a valid form of legal identification. Efforts in many Sahelian countries to improve access to justice had been constrained by high levels of poverty and illiteracy.

Security in the region remained precarious. In Libya, the growing political and security crisis threatened to derail the democratic transition of the country. While some processes had moved forward, including the election of the Constitutional Drafting Assembly in April and a number of legislative achievements concerning transitional justice, progress had been limited. Tensions between Islamist and non-Islamist forces came to a head in mid-May, with clashes in Benghazi and Tripoli.

The security situation in the northern part of Mali had gradually deteriorated, with an increase in the number of improvised explosive devices and indirect fire incidents against Malian forces, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the French Operation Serval. Furthermore, fighting between the Malian security forces and armed groups resumed on 21 May, though a ceasefire was announced on 24 May with the interventions of the Chairman of the AU, the President of Mauritania, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, and the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of MINUSMA.

There was growing evidence that Boko Haram was better equipped and armed and had the potential to destabilize areas around Lake Chad, reportedly benefiting from the porous borders of Nigeria with Cameroon, Chad and the Niger to smuggle in arms and mount attacks against public institutions and civilian populations. The crises in Libya, Mali and Nigeria were destabilizing the broader Sahel region. The United Nations system and its partners in the region initiated activities to support the efforts of the Sahelian countries to address governance challenges. With the support of the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme was implementing a \$20 million programme in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger, focused on good governance and human security.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime mobilized almost \$13 million to support capacity-building and enhance the accessibility, efficiency and

accountability of criminal justice systems to combat organized crime, illicit trafficking, terrorism and corruption. Similarly, the Executive Directorate of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism, in collaboration with partner institutions, held from 13 to 15 May, in Nouakchott, Mauritania, the first meeting of a network of border control police, customs and intelligence officials from 11 countries of the Sahel and the Maghreb. With the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, two pilot projects had been launched in Mali and the Niger to address threats to peace in both countries. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund had been supporting the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to strengthen the West Africa and Sahel food security and nutrition situation analysis, including through the development of tools and assessments.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 August [meeting 7249], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/17** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reiterates its continued concern about the alarming situation in the Sahel region and reaffirms its continued commitment to address the complex security and political challenges to the stability and development of the region despite the collective efforts undertaken by the region and the international community and reaffirms its continued commitment to address these challenges, which are interrelated with humanitarian and development issues as well as the adverse effects of climate and ecological changes. The Council reiterates the importance of a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach encompassing governance, security, humanitarian, human rights, development and environmental aspects to respond to the threats across the Sahel region as well as to address the root causes of these challenges.

The Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of countries of the Sahel region and reiterates the importance of national and regional ownership of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. The Council encourages further close consultation between Member States of the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb as well as with regional, multilateral and other bilateral donors and partners to enhance the efforts to implement the strategy. The Council commends the growing leadership role assumed by the countries of the region, and welcomes in this regard the establishment of the Group of Five for the Sahel, which aims to enhance ownership of the initiatives focused on addressing the threats to peace and security and development in the Sahel. The Council encourages the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel to work closely with the countries of the Group of Five as well as other countries of the region and regional and international actors to tackle these threats.

The Council welcomes the high-level visit to the region undertaken from 4 to 7 November 2013 by the United Nations Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the World Bank Group, the President of the African Development Bank and the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development of the European Union, which was an important mission to promote closer coordination and cooperation among the countries of the Sahel and their partners. The Council encourages the reinvigoration of the vision set out during the visit, in order to translate the will and commitment of the international community into tangible results. The Council, in this regard, welcomes the initiatives taken by the countries of the Group of Five for the Sahel to appoint national focal points to improve coordination with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, as well as the initiative to establish a follow-up group composed of the Permanent Representatives of the Group of Five and other Sahel countries in New York, to regularly meet, share information and follow up with the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

The Council welcomes the establishment of the Ministerial Coordination Platform for the Sahel, to discuss common priorities for initiatives in the Sahel under a rotating chairmanship, held by Mali from 2014 to 2015. The Council takes note of the conclusions of the two meetings of the Platform, held in Bamako on 5 November 2013 and 16 May 2014 and calls upon the international community, including the United Nations and the African Union, as co-Chairs of the technical secretariat, to support the functioning of the Platform. The Council welcomes the efforts made by Mali, as current Chair of the Platform, to consolidate these initiatives for the Sahel and looks forward to further progress in the months ahead.

The Council welcomes the establishment of the coordination mechanism within the United Nations system, including three United Nations inter-agency working groups on governance, security and resilience, to ensure a coordinated and coherent response to the challenges in the region. The Council welcomes the relocation of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel to the premises of the United Nations Office for West Africa in Dakar, as part of its efforts to more fully and directly anchor the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel in the region and maximize synergies with the relevant entities of the United Nations system.

The Council continues to be gravely concerned about the activities in the Sahel region of terrorist organizations, including the Organization of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad (Boko Haram), Ansar Eddine, the Mouvement pour l'Unification et le Jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest and Al Mourabitoun, and reiterates its strong condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks perpetrated in the region. The Council also reiterates its concern over the serious threats to peace and security posed by armed conflict, the proliferation of arms and transnational organized crime and other illicit activities such as drug trafficking in the Sahel region, and the increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism.

The Council recalls that sanctions are an important tool in countering terrorism and recalls that the groups mentioned in the paragraph above are included on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List and subject to the sanction's measures. The Council commends the initiative of the Al-Qaida sanctions committee and its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to engage with Member States of the Sahel, the Maghreb and adjoining regions to consider ways in which the sanctions regime can support and enhance the inputs of affected States, in order to be integrated into national and regional responses to the Al-Qaida threat in the region.

The Council welcomes the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate to ensure the full implementation of resolutions 1373(2001) and 1624(2005) and to facilitate technical assistance to Member States, and in this regard commends the focused approach of the Executive Directorate aimed at addressing the counter-terrorism needs of Member States in the Sahel and Maghreb regions, primarily in the area of border control and developing comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies. The Council encourages the Executive Directorate to continue to work with Member States, at their request, and to assess and facilitate technical assistance, in particular, in close cooperation within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, as well as with all bilateral and multilateral technical assistance providers.

The Council welcomes the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan Region, launched on 17 March 2013, and takes note of the conclusions of the ministerial meetings held in N'Djamena on 11 September 2013 and in Niamey on 19 February 2014, as well as of the five meetings of the Heads of Intelligence and Security Services organized by the African Union Commission. The Council also takes note of the conclusions of the Paris Summit for Security in Nigeria, held on 17 May 2014, as well as the London Ministerial on Security in Nigeria, held on 12 June 2014, which reaffirmed the commitment of the countries of the region and international partners to increase security cooperation to more effectively address the threat of terrorism in the region, including by efforts to contribute to the revitalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force to patrol the Lake Chad region and to create a Regional Intelligence Fusion Unit.

The Council reaffirms the sovereign prerogative of Member States to secure their borders and calls upon those of the Sahel region to strengthen border security and consider establishing special units to undertake regional patrols, to effectively constrain the spread of transnational threats in the region. The Council welcomes the commitment made by African leaders at the Malabo summit, held on 26 and 27 June 2014, and steps taken by the African Union to operationalize the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis and encourages the States members of the African Union to generate substantive pledges to this initiative.

The Council, underscoring that terrorism, together with transnational organized crime and other illicit activities such as drug trafficking, are recurrent threats in the Sahel, encourages the Member States of the Sahel

region to improve the coordination of their efforts to combat these threats more effectively. The Council welcomes the cooperation between the countries of the Sahel and their bilateral and multilateral partners in combating terrorism in the region and encourages international partners to provide support for the enhancement of their national and regional capabilities, including their capacity to conduct regional patrols, and to establish and maintain joint coordination centres and joint information-sharing centres. The Council recalls the importance of upholding human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism. The Council calls upon the countries of the Sahel to intensify cross-border and interregional cooperation and coordination in order to counter more effectively the threats to peace and security in the region.

The Council takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and stresses the importance of ensuring the implementation of all three pillars of the strategy, namely, security, governance and resilience, which are interdependent. The Council underscores the importance of including civil society in the implementation of the strategy and stresses the need for the Governments of the Sahel region to continue to demonstrate the sustained political will necessary to enable the effective and durable implementation of the strategy.

The Council remains concerned about the extremely fragile humanitarian situation in the Sahel region where at least 20 million people remain at risk of food insecurity and nearly 5 million children are at risk of acute malnutrition. The Council commends the efforts of the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, with the support of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and other humanitarian actors and agencies, to build and strengthen resilience at the local, national and regional levels with the aim of mitigating the impact of such disasters. The Council, in this regard, commends the support provided by the countries of the region and other donors and calls upon the international community to strengthen its support in areas which require immediate attention.

The Council expresses its appreciation to the former Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, Mr. Romano Prodi, for having facilitated the development of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and also expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, in supporting the implementation of the strategy.

The Council welcomes the appointment of the new Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, Ms. Hiroute Guebre Sellassie, and expresses its full support for the fulfilment of her mandate. The Council encourages the Special Envoy to pursue her efforts and good offices in order to enhance regional and interregional cooperation and strengthen coordinated international assistance to the countries of the Sahel region in close coordination with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to inform it of the progress toward the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel through

an oral briefing by 15 December 2014, and through a report and a briefing no later than 30 November 2015.

Communications. In an 11 December letter [S/2014/886] to the Security Council President, Mali transmitted the conclusions of the third ministerial meeting of the coordination platform on strategies for the Sahel, which was held in Bamako on 18 November.

On 22 December [S/2014/933], Mali transmitted to the Security Council the declaration of the first summit of Heads of State and Government on the Nouakchott Process, held on 18 December, which reiterated the commitment of the participant countries to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the unified, republican and secular character of the Malian State.

Also on 22 December [S/2014/934], Mali transmitted to the Security Council the final communiqué of the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Five for the Sahel (Sahel G-5), held in Nouakchott on 19 December.

UNOWA

During the year, the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), covered in the Secretary-General's reports on West Africa [S/2014/442, S/2014/945], focused on good offices and special assignments by the Secretary-General's Special Representative. Those included assisting the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (see p. 296) and enhancing subregional capacities to address cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security, including through the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (see p. 242) and a strategy for cross-border security in the Mano River Union. UNOWA engaged in combating maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea; security sector reform; mobilizing against drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime; counter-terrorism efforts; the promotion of good governance, respect for the rule of law, human rights and gender mainstreaming; and inter-institutional cooperation, including that between UN and regional and subregional partners.

Appointments. In a 9 September letter [S/2014/661], the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council of his intention to appoint Mohammed Ibn Chambas (Ghana) as his Special Representative for West Africa and Head of UNOWA and also to serve as the Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission succeeding Said Djinnit (Algeria). The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 11 September [S/2014/662].

Financing

In an October report [A/69/363 & Corr.1–3] on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, the

Secretary-General proposed resource requirements for 2014 for UNOWA in the amount of \$9,540,100.

Côte d'Ivoire

In 2014, political posturing and pre-campaign activities dominated political developments in Côte d'Ivoire, in advance of the presidential election scheduled to be held in October 2015. In August, President Alassane Ouattara signed a decree formally appointing the 17 members of the Independent Election Commission. The Government also released 275 out of 659 persons detained in connection with the post-elections crisis and reiterated that persons returning from exile would not be subject to judicial proceedings. The security situation in the country continued to improve but remained fragile, with sporadic incidents of armed attacks, banditry and other violent crimes persisting, particularly near the border with Liberia. In June, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 30 June 2015.

Political and security developments

Report of Secretary-General (May). In response to Security Council resolution 2112(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 159], the Secretary-General submitted a May report [S/2014/342] on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire covering major developments since his previous report [YUN 2013, p. 163]. He outlined the main findings of the strategic review of Côte d'Ivoire and provided recommendations for UNOCI, including the extension of its mandate.

The President of Côte d'Ivoire, Alassane Ouattara, and his Government continued to take steps to further ease political tensions, alleviate insecurity and accelerate economic recovery. The year began with constructive momentum with respect to political dialogue, including within the context of the permanent framework for dialogue between the Government and the former ruling party, the Front populaire ivoirien (FPI), and among opposition political parties. The focus was on establishing new mechanisms to advance dialogue and negotiations with the Government. During its direct talks with the Government on 15 January, FPI was requested to encourage its supporters living in exile to return home. It was also requested to submit a list of FPI members still in detention or whose assets were frozen. Earlier, the Government had announced its intention to unfreeze the bank accounts of persons associated with the former regime who had provisionally been released from detention and to re-integrate them into public service.

President Ouattara made repeated calls for Ivorians living in exile to return to Côte d'Ivoire. On 3 February, he extended until September the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission,

whose initial two-year mandate had expired in September 2013. The Commission focused on three tasks: (a) truth-seeking, (b) public hearings for victims, perpetrators and witnesses, and (c) recommendations to the Government regarding reparations or other options for healing. On 6 February, the Commission met with the FPI president, who stressed the importance of national reconciliation and publicly expressed support for the work of the Commission. Between 27 February and 12 March, the Commission piloted the truth-seeking process in eight cities, recording testimonies from 2,106 victims about incidents of killing, abduction, disappearance, serious injury, kidnapping, torture, rape and the looting and destruction of property. The Commission subsequently decided to extend the process throughout the country.

Notwithstanding the positive start to the year, the political environment became increasingly fraught in the following months. On 20 March, the Government decided to transfer Charles Blé Goudé, former leader of the Young Patriots, to the International Criminal Court (ICC). That was considered by FPI to be a serious obstacle to national reconciliation. Two days later, Mr. Blé Goudé was surrendered to the ICC. Subsequently, FPI announced that it would no longer participate in a dialogue with the Government. On 26 March, 12 opposition parties under FPI coordination announced the creation of a new coalition, the Alliance des forces démocratiques de Côte d'Ivoire. Then, on 29 March, FPI issued a communiqué in which it expressed its grievances in respect of governance, demanded the dissolution of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission and called for a boycott of the national census that had begun on 17 March over concerns that the results would not accurately reflect the country's demographics. In April, the Government held discussions on restructuring the Independent Electoral Commission within the context of the permanent framework of dialogue; FPI declined to attend the discussions.

The security situation in Côte d'Ivoire remained generally stable but fragile owing to the high prevalence of violent crime and insecurity near the border with Liberia. Insecurity was characterized by armed robbery, banditry and burglary, in many instances committed by elements of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI), dozos (traditional hunters) and former combatants. Intercommunal violence, particularly in the north and south-east, continued to be reported, while the activities of uncontrolled armed groups and former combatants threatened stability. In February and March, demonstrations of former combatants in Man and Bouaké became violent.

In his strategic review, the Secretary-General provided recommendations on the configuration of the UNOCI military component from June 2014 to the elections of October 2015. The review found that there were hurdles to be overcome to enable the Government

to meet its ambitious timeline of disarming former combatants by mid-2015, not least owing to remaining questions about the inclusiveness of the process, the future of former zone commanders and dozos, and the challenges in creating sustainable employment opportunities. Given the sensitivity of the electoral period and the challenges, the Secretary-General strongly recommended a prudent approach to adjusting the UNOCI force by withdrawing 1,100 troops between July 2014 and June 2015, leaving 6,037 military personnel. After the peaceful conclusion of the 2015 electoral period, the Secretary-General recommended the withdrawal of an additional 2,000 troops by mid-2016, bringing UNOCI to a residual strength of approximately 4,000 troops. No reductions in the number of formed police units were recommended until after the electoral period, as those units would support the national security forces and help mitigate security vacuums in areas vacated by UNOCI military personnel.

The Secretary-General noted that plans had been developed to establish, as part of the UNOCI authorized military strength, a quick reaction force configured and equipped to address incidents in Côte d'Ivoire and, at the same time, rapidly respond in Liberia in the event of a serious deterioration in security. The force would operate in the context of the inter-mission cooperation framework set out in Security Council resolution 1609(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 236]. On the basis of an assessment of the threats, required tasks and available resources, it was proposed that a 650-strong quick-reaction battalion be established within UNOCI. The battalion would comprise two motorized infantry companies and one mechanized infantry company, with support elements, which would make it possible to conduct multiple deployments simultaneously, if required. While the battalion would remain primarily a UNOCI asset, it was envisaged that it could also operate in Liberia, as required and authorized. The strategic decision to deploy the battalion to Liberia would be taken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, on the basis of the situation on the ground and the respective threat environment in the two countries, and by taking into account the advice of his special representatives for Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Command and control at the mission level would remain unchanged, while established modalities for conducting operations under inter-mission cooperation arrangements would be employed. With respect to the composition of the battalion, a troop-contributing country that was a State member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and had peacekeeping experience in both countries had been identified and, pending Security Council approval, an agreement would be formalized. Specifically, it was envisaged that the UNOCI force reserve, which at the time comprised 450 troops based in Yamoussoukro, would be reconfigured and expanded. For the battalion to be effective and able to respond

rapidly, expeditionary kits, as well as transport, logistical and other support requirements, would have to be available. Mobility would be an essential aspect of making the regional quick-reaction concept effective. UNOCI had three armed helicopters based in western Côte d'Ivoire, the use of which had already been authorized in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2062(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 132] and subsequent resolutions. The helicopters provided critical deterrence and should remain in the region until after the 2015 Ivorian electoral cycle. Moreover, it was recommended that all UNOCI and UNMIL military utility helicopters be retained and that a similar approach be extended, to allow all the military aviation assets of the two missions to be utilized in both theatres, thereby facilitating rapid response and mobility while not affecting the area of responsibility of either mission. The agreements with the troop-contributing countries concerned would be finalized following Security Council approval.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNOCI for a period of one year, until 30 June 2015, with a particular focus on its core political and security responsibilities.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 April [meeting 7163], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2153(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/303] was submitted by France, Nigeria, Rwanda and the United Kingdom.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements by its President relating to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular resolutions 1880(2009) of 30 July 2009, 1893(2009) of 29 October 2009, 1911(2010) of 28 January 2010, 1933(2010) of 30 June 2010, 1946(2010) of 15 October 2010, 1962(2010) of 20 December 2010, 1975(2011) of 30 March 2011, 1980(2011) of 28 April 2011, 2000(2011) of 27 July 2011, 2045(2012) of 26 April 2012, 2062(2012) of 26 July 2012, 2101(2013) of 25 April 2013 and 2112(2013) of 30 July 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Côte d'Ivoire, and recalling the importance of the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference and regional cooperation,

Welcoming the special report of the Secretary-General of 24 December 2013, and noting the midterm report of 11 October 2013, and the final report of 14 April 2014 of the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire,

Welcoming also the overall progress towards restoring security, peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire, commending the continued efforts of the President and Government of Côte d'Ivoire to stabilize the security situation and accelerate economic recovery in Côte d'Ivoire and strengthen international and regional cooperation, and notably enhanced cooperation with the Governments of Ghana and Liberia, and calling upon all the national stakeholders to work together to consolidate the progress made so far and to address the underlying causes of tension and conflict,

Recognizing the continued contribution to the stability of Côte d'Ivoire of the measures imposed by resolutions 1572(2004) of 15 November 2004, 1643(2005) of 15 December 2005, 1975(2011) and 1980(2011), as modified by later resolutions, including by countering the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as in supporting post-conflict peacebuilding, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, and stressing that these measures aim at supporting the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire with a view to possibly further modifying or lifting all or part of the remaining measures, in accordance with progress achieved in relation to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, national reconciliation and the fight against impunity,

Welcoming the completion of the electoral cycle that originated in the Ouagadougou Accords, and the announcement of the presidential election in October 2015, and encouraging the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the opposition to move positively and collaboratively towards political reconciliation and electoral reform to ensure that the political space remains open and transparent,

Welcoming also the efforts made towards the security reform agenda and especially the increasing cooperation between the National Security Council and the local authorities, while expressing concern about the delays in the implementation of the national strategy for security sector reform, in particular beyond Abidjan, and urging an acceleration of efforts to reform the security sector, including by putting in place an effective chain of command, a system of military justice and appropriate budgetary allocations,

Welcoming further the progress made in the overall security situation and efforts to address security challenges, while expressing concern at delays in implementation of security sector reform and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, welcoming efforts towards better monitoring and management of weapons through the National Commission to Fight against the Proliferation and Illicit Traffic of Small Arms and Light Weapons, with the support of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, and emphasizing the importance of continued efforts in this area, re-emphasizing the necessity for the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to provide sufficient financial resources and to develop viable reintegration opportunities for former combatants in order to ensure the achievement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process by June 2015 at the latest,

Reiterating the urgent need for the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to train and equip its security forces, especially the police and gendarmerie, with standard policing weapons and ammunition,

Re-emphasizing the importance of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire being able to respond proportionately to threats to the security of all citizens in Côte d'Ivoire, and calling upon the Government to ensure that its security forces remain committed to upholding human rights and applicable international law,

Encouraging closer cooperation between the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the Group of Experts, originally established pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1584(2005) of 1 February 2005,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts made by the Secretariat to expand and improve the roster of experts for the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, bearing in mind the

guidance provided in the note by the President of the Security Council of 22 December 2006,

Welcoming also the progress made by the Ivorian authorities in combating illegal taxation systems, and acknowledging the decrease in the number of illegal checkpoints and incidents of racketeering, but noting the insufficient capacity and resources to control borders, in particular in the western part of the country,

Noting that the Kimberley Process, in its final communiqué of 22 November 2013, recognized that Côte d'Ivoire had fulfilled the minimum requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, encouraging full implementation by Côte d'Ivoire of its action plan to develop its diamond sector in line with Kimberley Process standards, including participation in the Mano River Basin initiative, and welcoming Côte d'Ivoire's invitation to host a Kimberley Process review visit six months after legal exports of rough diamonds have resumed,

Recalling its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict and its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

Reiterating its firm condemnation of all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Côte d'Ivoire, condemning all violence committed against civilians, including women, children, internally displaced persons and foreign nationals, and other violations and abuses of human rights, stressing that the perpetrators on all sides must be brought to justice, whether in domestic or international courts, and encouraging the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to further continue its close cooperation with the International Criminal Court,

Welcoming, in this regard, the transfer of Mr. Charles Blé Goudé, former leader of the Young Patriots, to the International Criminal Court, and further welcoming national and international efforts to bring to justice alleged perpetrators of violations and abuses of human rights and of violations of international humanitarian law,

Stressing the importance for the Group of Experts to be provided with sufficient resources for the implementation of its mandate,

Determining that the situation in Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* that, for a period ending on 30 April 2015, all States shall take the measures necessary to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to Côte d'Ivoire, from their territories or by their nationals, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and any related lethal materiel, whether or not originating in their territories;

2. *Also decides* that supplies of non-lethal equipment and the provision of any technical assistance, training or

financial assistance, intended to enable the Ivorian security forces to use only appropriate and proportionate force while maintaining public order, shall no longer require notification to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572(2004);

3. *Notes* that the measures on arms and related lethal materiel in paragraph 1 above do not apply to the provision of training, advice, technical or financial assistance and expertise related to security and military activities or to non-lethal materiel, including supplies of civilian vehicles to the Ivorian security forces;

4. *Decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 1 above shall not apply to:

(a) Supplies intended solely for the support of or use by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the French forces supporting it and supplies transiting through Côte d'Ivoire intended for the support of or to be used by United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(b) Supplies temporarily exported to Côte d'Ivoire to the forces of a State which is taking action, in accordance with international law, solely and directly to facilitate the evacuation of its nationals and those for whom it has consular responsibility in Côte d'Ivoire, as notified in advance to the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 1572(2004);

(c) Supplies of arms and related lethal materiel to the Ivorian security forces intended solely for the support of or use in the Ivorian process of security sector reform, as notified in advance to the Committee, except for those arms and related lethal materiel which are set out in the annex to the present resolution, which require the advance approval of the Committee;

5. *Also decides* that the Committee shall add, remove or clarify items on the list of arms and related lethal materiel specified in the annex to the present resolution, as appropriate;

6. *Further decides*, for the period referred to in paragraph 1 above, that the Ivorian authorities shall notify or request approval in advance, as appropriate, from the Committee for any shipment of items referred to in paragraph 3(c) above, and further decides that the Member State delivering assistance may, in the alternative, make this notification or approval request pursuant to paragraph 3(c) after informing the Government of Côte d'Ivoire that it intends to do so;

7. *Requests* the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to ensure that notifications and approval requests sent to the Committee contain all relevant information, including the purpose of the use and the end user, including the intended destination unit in the Ivorian security forces or the intended place of storage, the technical specifications, quantity of the equipment to be shipped, details of the manufacturer and supplier of the equipment, proposed date of delivery, mode of transportation and itinerary of shipments, further stresses the importance of a specific focus on detailed explanations for how the requested equipment will support security sector reform, and emphasizes that such notifications and approval requests should include information about any intended modification of non-lethal equipment into lethal equipment;

8. *Decides* that the Ivorian authorities shall submit biannual reports to the Committee by 30 September 2014 and by 30 March 2015 on progress achieved in relation

to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform;

9. *Encourages* the Ivorian authorities to consult with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, within its existing mandate and resources, to ensure that notifications and authorization requests contain the required information;

10. *Urges* the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to allow the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire access to the exempted arms and lethal materiel at the time of import and before the transfer to the end user takes place, stresses that the Government shall mark the arms and related lethal materiel when received in the territory of Côte d'Ivoire, and urges the Government to maintain a registry of all arms and materiel owned by national security forces, with specific attention to small arms and light weapons, with a view to improving tracking and monitoring of their circulation;

11. *Decides* to review the measures decided in the paragraphs above in the light of the progress achieved in stabilization throughout the country, by the end of the period mentioned in paragraph 1 above, in accordance with progress achieved in relation to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, national reconciliation and the fight against impunity;

12. *Also decides* to renew until 30 April 2015 the financial and travel measures imposed by paragraphs 9 to 12 of resolution 1572(2004) and paragraph 12 of resolution 1975(2011), and stresses its intention to review the continued listing of individuals subject to such measures provided that they engage in actions that further the objective of national reconciliation;

13. *Further decides* to terminate as of the date of adoption of the present resolution the measures preventing the importation by any State of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire imposed by paragraph 6 of resolution 1643(2005), in the light of progress made towards implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and better governance of the sector;

14. *Requests* Côte d'Ivoire to update the Security Council, through the Committee, on its progress in implementing its action plan for diamonds, including on any enforcement activities involving illegal smuggling, development of its customs regime and reporting of financial flows from diamonds, encourages Côte d'Ivoire to host a Kimberly Process review visit within nine months following the date of adoption of the present resolution that includes a representative from the Group of Experts, and further encourages the continued participation of Côte d'Ivoire in regional cooperation and law enforcement activities, such as the Kimberley Process Mano River Basin initiative;

15. *Invites* the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, in particular, its Working Groups on Monitoring and Statistics, to communicate information, as appropriate, regarding compliance by Côte d'Ivoire with the Certification Scheme to the Council, through the Committee, and when possible, for review by the Group of Experts, and encourages donors to support the efforts of Côte d'Ivoire by sharing related information and providing technical assistance;

16. *Calls upon* the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to take the steps necessary to enforce the measures imposed

by paragraph 1 above, including by incorporating relevant provisions in its national legal framework;

17. *Calls upon* all Member States, in particular those in the subregion, to fully implement the measures mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 6 above;

18. *Expresses its continued concern* about the instability in western Côte d'Ivoire, and welcomes and further encourages the coordinated action by authorities from neighbouring countries to address this issue, particularly with respect to the border area, including through continuing monitoring, information-sharing and conducting coordinated actions, and in developing and implementing a shared border strategy to, inter alia, support the disarmament and repatriation of foreign armed elements on both sides of the border;

19. *Encourages* the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Mission in Liberia, within their respective mandates, capabilities and areas of deployment, to continue to coordinate closely in assisting respectively the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia in monitoring their border, and welcomes continued cooperation between the Group of Experts and the Panel of Experts on Liberia appointed pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 2128(2013) of 10 December 2013;

20. *Urges* all illegal Ivorian armed combatants, including in neighbouring countries, to lay down their arms immediately, encourages the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, within its mandate and the limits of its capabilities and its areas of deployment, to continue to assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in collecting and storing the arms and registering all relevant information related to those arms, and further calls upon the Government, including the National Commission to Fight against the Proliferation and Illicit Traffic of Small Arms and Light Weapons, to ensure that those arms are neutralized or are not illegally disseminated, in accordance with the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials;

21. *Recalls* that the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire is mandated, within the monitoring of the arms embargo, to collect, as appropriate, arms and any related materiel brought into Côte d'Ivoire in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of the present resolution, and to dispose of such arms and related materiel as appropriate;

22. *Reiterates* the necessity for the Ivorian authorities to provide unhindered access to the Group of Experts, as well as the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the French forces supporting it, to equipment, sites and installations referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of resolution 1584(2005), and to all weapons, ammunition and related materiel of all armed security forces, regardless of location, including the arms issued from the collection referred to in paragraph 10 or 11 above, when appropriate and without notice, as set out in its resolutions 1739(2007) of 10 January 2007, 1880(2009), 1933(2010), 1962(2010), 1980(2011), 2062(2012) and 2112(2013);

23. *Requests* all States concerned, in particular those in the subregion, to cooperate fully with the Committee, and authorizes the Committee to request whatever further information it may consider necessary;

24. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts as set out in paragraph 7 of resolution 1727(2006) of

15 December 2006 for a period of 13 months, until 30 May 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to support its action;

25. *Reiterates* that paragraph 7 (b) of resolution 1727(2006) includes a mandate for the Group of Experts to gather and analyse all relevant information on sources of financing, including from the exploitation of natural resources in Côte d'Ivoire, for the purchase of arms and related materiel and activities, and notes that, pursuant to paragraph 12 (a) of resolution 1727(2006), those who are determined to be a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire through illicit trafficking in natural resources, including diamonds and gold, may be designated by the Committee;

26. *Decides* that the Group of Experts shall also report on the activities of and any continued threat to peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire posed by sanctioned individuals, and additionally requests the Group of Experts to assess and report on the effects of the modifications decided in the present resolution;

27. *Requests* the Group of Experts to submit a midterm report to the Committee by 15 October 2014 and to submit a final report by 15 April 2015, after discussion with the Committee, on the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 above, paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1572(2004), paragraph 12 of resolution 1975(2011) and paragraph 10 of resolution 1980(2011);

28. *Decides* that the report of the Group of Experts, as referred to in paragraph 7 (e) of resolution 1727(2006), may include, as appropriate, any information and recommendations relevant to the possible additional designation by the Committee of the individuals and entities described in paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1572(2004) and paragraph 10 of resolution 1980(2011) and recalls the report of the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General Issues of Sanctions on best practices and methods, including paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 thereof, which discuss possible steps for clarifying methodological standards for monitoring mechanisms;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate, as appropriate, to the Council, through the Committee, information gathered by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and, where possible, reviewed by the Group of Experts, concerning the supply of arms and related materiel to Côte d'Ivoire;

30. *Requests* the Government of France to communicate, as appropriate, to the Council, through the Committee, information gathered by the French forces and, where possible, reviewed by the Group of Experts, concerning the supply of arms and related materiel to Côte d'Ivoire;

31. *Encourages* the Ivorian authorities to participate in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-hosted implementation programme with regard to Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, with special attention to gold, and to reach out to international organizations with a view to taking advantage of lessons learned from other initiatives and countries that have and are confronting similar issues on artisanal mining;

32. *Calls upon* the Ivorian authorities to continue to take the measures necessary to dismantle the illegal taxation networks, including by undertaking relevant and thorough investigations, reduce the number of checkpoints and

prevent incidents of racketeering throughout the country, and further calls upon the authorities to continue to take the steps necessary to continue to re-establish and reinforce relevant institutions and to accelerate the deployment of customs and border control officials in the north, west and east of the country;

33. *Asks* the Group of Experts to assess the effectiveness of these border measures and control in the region, encourages all neighbouring States to be aware of Ivorian efforts in that regard, and encourages the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, within its mandate, to continue its assistance to Ivorian authorities in the re-establishment of normal customs and border control operation;

34. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies and other organizations and interested parties to cooperate fully with the Committee, the Group of Experts, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the French forces, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on possible violations of the measures imposed by paragraphs 1 to 3 above, paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1572(2004), paragraph 6 of resolution 1643(2005) and paragraph 12 of resolution 1975(2011), and further requests the Group of Experts to coordinate its activities, as appropriate, with all political actors and to implement its mandate in accordance with the report of the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General Issues of Sanctions;

35. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to continue to share relevant information with the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 1960(2010) and paragraph 9 of resolution 1998(2011);

36. *Urges*, in this context, that all Ivorian parties and all States, particularly those in the region, ensure:

- The safety of the members of the Group of Experts;
- Unhindered access by the Group of Experts, in particular to persons, documents and sites, in order for the Group of Experts to execute its mandate;

37. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

ANNEX

1. Weapons, direct and indirect fire artillery, and guns with a calibre bigger than 12.7 mm, their ammunition and components;

2. Rocket-propelled grenades, rockets, light anti-tank weapons, rifle grenades and grenade launchers;

3. Surface-to-air missiles, including man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS); surface-to-surface missiles; and air-to-surface missiles;

4. Mortars with a calibre bigger than 82 mm;

5. Guided anti-tank weapons, especially guided anti-tank missiles, their ammunition and components;

6. Armed aircraft, including rotary wing or fixed wing;

7. Military armed vehicles or military vehicles equipped with weapon mounts;

8. Explosive charges and devices containing explosive materials, designed for military purpose, mines and related material;

9. Night observation and night shooting devices.

Report of Secretary-General (December). In a December report [S/2014/892], the Secretary-General provided an update on major developments since May (see p. 246) in the implementation of the UNOCI mandate, which was extended until 30 June 2015 by Security Council resolution 2162(2014) (see p. 252). The report also contained the findings and recommendations of an electoral needs assessment mission conducted by the United Nations.

Political dialogue, which had stalled since January, resumed on 22 May, when the Government of President Ouattara undertook a series of confidence-building measures, including the release of additional associates of Laurent Gbagbo, the former President, welcoming the return of those in self-imposed exile, unfreezing their bank accounts and returning illegally occupied properties.

On 18 June, President Ouattara signed into law a bill on the composition, organization and functions of the Independent Electoral Commission. The new legislation established a Commission whose governing body would be composed of 17 commissioners, with 1 representing the Head of State, 4 representing the Government, 4 representing the ruling Rassemblement des houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHPD) coalition, 4 representing opposition parties and 4 representing civil society.

The FPI-led Alliance des forces démocratiques de Côte d'Ivoire (Alliance), however, requested that the Government renegotiate the Commission's composition with political parties. Following further consultations between the Government and the Alliance, the latter nominated two representatives, including one from FPI, to the Commission and President Ouattara formally signed the decree on 8 August appointing the 17 members of the Commission.

The three-year mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission ended on 28 September. Between April and August, despite logistic and budgetary constraints, more than 64,000 victims of the Ivorian crisis, 30 per cent of whom were women, testified during victims' hearings before local commissions. As at 1 December, the Commission's final report, including its recommendations for reparations and other political, judicial and non-judicial measures, had not yet been submitted to the Government.

The security situation in Côte d'Ivoire continued to improve but remained fragile, with sporadic incidents of armed attacks, banditry and other violent crimes persisting, particularly near the border with Liberia.

There was a 10 per cent reduction, however, in reported incidents involving undisciplined elements of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI), former combatants and dozos (traditional hunters).

Upon request by Côte d'Ivoire, a UN electoral needs assessment mission assessed the political and electoral environment and evaluated the legal and institutional

framework for the elections, in order to define the parameters and modalities for possible UN electoral assistance. The Mission noted that the timeline for conducting the election of October 2015 was tight but feasible, given that all political stakeholders were committed to their conduct, notwithstanding the challenges; and recommended that the United Nations respond positively to the Ivorian authorities' request for assistance in preparing for and holding the presidential election of 2015. Specifically, the mission recommended that UNOCI, among other tasks, assist national authorities in developing an operational plan for securing the elections and provide limited logistical support within existing resources. In addition, UNDP and the UN country team should develop an electoral assistance project that would, depending on the resources mobilized, focus on preventing election-related conflict and violence; strengthen the capacity of electoral stakeholders, primarily the Independent Electoral Commission and security forces; promote the participation of women and young people; support civic education; and acquire electoral material and equipment.

Sanctions

Security Council Committee. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 187] concerning Côte d'Ivoire continued to monitor implementation of the arms embargo, travel restrictions and an asset freeze on designated individuals and entities, and the ban on the import of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire. Those sanctions were renewed by various resolutions, Council resolution 2153(2014) (see p. 247) being the most recent.

In a 17 December letter [S/2014/912], the Committee transmitted to the Security Council the report on its activities in 2014. During the year, the Committee held five informal consultations, approved seven of nine exemption requests from Côte d'Ivoire for the shipment of materiel to the country, and received nine notifications of shipment from Ivorian authorities.

Communication. In a 22 April letter [S/2014/293] to the Security Council President, Côte d'Ivoire forwarded the observations and views of the Government about the negotiation process pertaining to the renewal of the sanctions on Côte d'Ivoire, in the framework of the implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Group of Experts

The Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1584(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 248], submitted one final and one midterm report during the year. Pursuant to Council resolution 2153(2014), the Group's mandate was extended to 30 May 2015.

The Secretary-General, on 21 May, appointed five experts to constitute the Group for a period ending 30 May 2015 [S/2014/364].

Report of Group of Experts (April). On 14 April, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2101(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 165], the Chair of the Security Council Committee transmitted to the Council the final report of the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire [S/2014/266], which contained information on the arms embargo, the financing of arms purchases, customs systems and import control, the diamond embargo and sanctions against individuals.

The Group visited Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Rwanda, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and the United States, in addition to conducting field visits throughout Côte d'Ivoire. The Group noted tangible progress and recovery in the Ivorian economy, and progress of the Ivorian administration with regard to its obligations towards implementation of the sanctions regime. The Group welcomed the administrative and political efforts undertaken by Côte d'Ivoire with regard to its participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. The Group, however, collected evidence that conflict diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire continued to finance the military capacity of former zone commanders in Séguéla. The Group furthermore noted that, in spite of having identified violations of the diamond embargo in its public reports since 2006, the Ivorian authorities had made no progress in combating the smuggling of diamonds nor taken any concrete initiatives. It also noted limited progress in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, national reconciliation and the fight against impunity. In light of its findings, the Group remained of the view that the sanctions regime continued to be useful and effective for the preservation of stability in Côte d'Ivoire and the subregion.

The Group recommended to the Security Council that it consider, among other measures, the insertion of an exemption procedure for transit through Côte d'Ivoire of embargoed goods destined for other peacekeeping operations. UNOCI should also monitor closely the transit; electronic tracking devices should be used for the monitoring. In addition, UNOCI should maintain its Integrated Embargo Monitoring Unit at an appropriate level of regular staff in order to perform its duties. The Group also recommended that Côte d'Ivoire maintain a registry of weapons and related materiel imported since the imposition of sanctions in 2004; and that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire continue to implement all measures necessary to combat illicit checkpoints and illegal taxation systems throughout the country, and more specifically in the west, and to inform the Group of Experts accordingly.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 June [meeting 7207], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2162(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/430] was submitted by France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 2112(2013) of 30 July 2013 and 2153(2014) of 29 April 2014, and the statements by its President relating to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, resolutions 2116(2013) of 18 September 2013 and 2128(2013) of 10 December 2013 on the situation in Liberia and resolution 2100(2013) of 25 April 2013 on the situation in Mali,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Côte d'Ivoire, and recalling the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference and regional cooperation,

Recalling that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire bears primary responsibility for ensuring peace, stability and the protection of civilians in Côte d'Ivoire,

Welcoming the ratification by Côte d'Ivoire of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the steps being taken to revise its nationality laws, and recalling the decision of the Secretary-General on durable solutions, and expressing support for the implementation of the national durable solution strategy for internally displaced persons,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 15 May 2014,

Welcoming the progress being made in Côte d'Ivoire on the path of reconciliation, stability and economic recovery, and commending the leadership of the President of Côte d'Ivoire in this regard,

Welcoming also the significant improvement in the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, including in the western part of the country and along the border with Liberia, while condemning the attacks of 23 February and 15 May 2014, acknowledging the need to address remaining challenges, and noting the continued and increased cooperation between the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Mission in Liberia, as well as the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia and countries in the subregion, in coordinating activities, including on security, in the border areas in the subregion,

Calling upon all national stakeholders, including political parties, civil society and the media, to work together to consolidate the progress made so far and to address the underlying causes of tension and conflict, including with respect to land and nationality, encouraging the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen the rule of law, as well as reforms on the legal framework for elections, with a view to the presidential election scheduled for October 2015, taking note in this regard of the adoption of the law reforming the Independent Electoral Commission, and welcoming the initial steps taken by the Government to facilitate an environment conducive to fair, credible and transparent elections, while underlining the necessity for further efforts in this field,

Taking note of the letter dated 18 June 2014 from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to the Secretary-General requesting the possible provision of electoral assistance,

Welcoming the continued improvement of the humanitarian situation, in particular the continued voluntary, safe and durable return of refugees and the majority of persons displaced by the post-election crisis to their places of origin in Côte d'Ivoire,

Taking note of the final framework on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration adopted by the Authority

on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and the successful disarmament and demobilization of more than 30,000 former combatants, while expressing concern at the low ratio of former combatants associated with the previous Government processed through the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the 43,000 former combatants that remain armed and unemployed,

Welcoming the progress made in implementing the security sector reform strategy, and underlining the importance of national ownership of this priority issue, as well as measures to rebuild confidence within and between security forces and with the population ahead of the presidential election,

Emphasizing the importance of pursuing a national reconciliation and social cohesion strategy, welcoming in this regard the extension of the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and underlining the importance of including all Ivorians in the reconciliation process at the national and local levels,

Reiterating the vital role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and their key role in re-establishing the fabric of societies recovering from conflict, and further reaffirming the importance of implementing the Côte d'Ivoire national action plan, adopted in 2008, for the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000,

Expressing its concern about the continued reports, including those reported by the Secretary-General in his report, of human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including against women and children, in particular sexual violence, and stressing the importance of investigating and prosecuting such alleged violations and abuses, including those that occurred throughout the post-election crisis, committed by all parties, irrespective of their status or political affiliation,

Welcoming the transfer of Mr. Charles Blé Goudé, former leader of the Young Patriots, to the International Criminal Court, further welcoming national and international efforts to bring to justice alleged perpetrators of violations and abuses of human rights and of violations of international humanitarian law, urging the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to increase and expedite its efforts to combat impunity and ensure equitable and independent justice without discrimination, and encouraging in this regard the Government to continue its close cooperation with the Court,

Welcoming also the initiative taken by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to enhance political dialogue with the opposition, including extra-parliamentary parties, commending the good offices efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, especially in support of the dialogue between the Government and opposition political parties, and expressing its appreciation for the work of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and its overall contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire,

Expressing concern at reports of human rights violations and abuses in detention, calling upon the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to ensure that the conditions of detention of detainees are in line with international obligations and to take all steps necessary to prevent and investigate violations

and abuse of human rights in the context of detention, and welcoming the support provided by the European Union and France in this regard,

Commending the contribution of troop- and police-contributing countries and donors to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, and underlining the importance of providing military troops and police officers qualified with appropriate specialized and linguistic skills,

Recalling its intention, as expressed in its resolution 2112(2013), to consider a further reduction of two battalions, based on the evolution of security conditions on the ground and an improved capacity of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to gradually take over the security role of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire,

Recognizing the continued contribution of the arms embargo, as defined by resolution 2153(2014), to the stability of Côte d'Ivoire, including by countering the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Commending the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States for their efforts to consolidate peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire, and encouraging them to continue to support the Ivorian authorities in addressing key challenges, especially the underlying causes of conflict and insecurity in the border area, including the movement of armed elements and weapons, and promoting justice and national reconciliation,

Determining that the situation in Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

National reconciliation and social cohesion

1. *Welcomes* the resumption of the dialogue between the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the political opposition on 22 May 2014, and calls upon all political parties to play a constructive role and contribute towards reconciliation;

2. *Commends* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire for her good offices efforts and political support, and requests that such important efforts and support continue, in particular with a view to the presidential election to be held in October 2015, in line with paragraph 19 (b) of the present resolution;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of pursuing a national reconciliation and social cohesion strategy, particularly ahead of the October 2015 presidential election, through concrete measures to promote justice and reconciliation at all levels and involving all stakeholders, and calls for a direct, open and constructive dialogue between the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and all political parties, including the opposition, to expedite further progress on crucial reforms on nationality and land, as well as on the framework for elections;

4. *Urges* the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to take swiftly all steps necessary to establish, in accordance with the existing time frame, the legal framework for the October 2015 presidential election, including the setting up of the Independent Electoral Commission, the updating of the voters list, the electoral framework and the allocation of adequate budgetary resources, and calls upon all national stakeholders to facilitate the creation of an environment

conducive to the holding of free, fair, transparent and inclusive presidential elections and to refrain from acts that could incite violence, including hate speech;

5. *Affirms its intention* to review the listing of individuals subject to the financial and travel measures imposed by paragraphs 9 to 12 of resolution 1572(2004) of 15 November 2004 and paragraph 12 of resolution 1975(2011) of 30 March 2011, provided that they engage in actions that further the objective of national reconciliation;

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to complete the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process before the presidential election of 2015 in accordance with the objective announced by the President of Côte d'Ivoire of processing 74,000 former combatants, requests the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to facilitate the implementation of this process, including by enhancing its technical support to the Authority on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and swiftly disbursing support to the Ivorian disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, and further calls upon Member States and regional and international organizations to provide financial contributions to meet the needs of the programme;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations country team to facilitate the planning and implementation of programmes which support this process, in consultation with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and international partners;

8. *Urges* the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to provide for a transparent and inclusive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process that includes former combatants associated with the previous Government, encourages further efforts by the Authority on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration to enhance the collection and disposal of weapons and ammunitions as part of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, and reiterates the need for the Government to develop solutions for the sustained social and economic integration of former combatants, including female former combatants;

Security sector reform

9. *Calls upon* the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to accelerate the implementation of the national security sector reform strategy adopted in September 2012 and updated in 2014 with a view to setting up inclusive and accountable security forces that include an effective chain of command, a system of military justice and adequate and sustainable budgetary allocations;

10. *Underscores*, in this regard, the importance of accelerating the deployment of the police and gendarmerie to take over public order tasks currently performed by the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and other groups, including by equipping the police and gendarmerie with standard policing weapons and ammunition following the partial lifting of the arms embargo pursuant to its resolution 2153(2014);

11. *Reiterates its call* to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and all international partners, including private companies, involved in assisting the Government in the security sector reform process to comply with the provisions of resolution 2153(2014) and to coordinate their efforts with a view to promoting transparency and a clear division of labour between all international partners;

Human rights

12. *Strongly urges* the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to ensure in the shortest possible time frame that, irrespective of their status or political affiliation, all those responsible for serious abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those committed during and after the post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, are brought to justice in accordance with its international obligations and that all detainees receive clarity about their status in a transparent manner, and urges the Government to continue its cooperation with the International Criminal Court;

13. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the importance of the work of the National Commission of Inquiry and the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission to lasting reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire, calls for the implementation and conclusion of related investigations, further calls upon the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to create the enabling environment to ensure that the work of the Ivorian judicial system is impartial, credible, transparent and consistent with internationally agreed standards, and in this regard welcomes the renewal of the Special Investigation and Examination Cell and encourages the Government to enhance its support for the effective operation of the Cell;

14. *Urges* the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to take concrete and discernible steps to prevent and mitigate inter-communal violence by seeking a broad national consensus on addressing effectively identity and land tenure issues;

15. *Welcomes* the establishment of a national human rights commission, underscores the importance of its independence and its compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and calls upon the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to continue to support the Ivorian authorities and institutions in ensuring the human rights of all persons;

16. *Calls upon* those responsible to cease committing acts of sexual and gender-based violence immediately, and further calls upon the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, where consistent with its authorities and responsibilities, to continue to support national and international efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of grave abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in Côte d'Ivoire, irrespective of their status or political affiliation;

17. *Welcomes* the continued cooperation between, and the conduct of coordinated activities by, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and calls for strict adherence by the Republican Forces to international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, and in this context recalls the importance of training in human rights, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence for security and law enforcement agencies;

Mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

18. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire until 30 June 2015;

19. *Also decides* that the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire shall be the following:

(a) Protection of civilians

- To protect, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Ivorian authorities, the civilian population from threat of physical violence, within

its capabilities and areas of deployment, and encourages the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to move to a more preventive and preemptive posture in pursuit of its priorities and in active defence of its mandate, building on positive steps taken so far, without prejudice to the agreed basic principles of peacekeeping;

- To implement the comprehensive strategy for the protection of civilians in coordination with the United Nations country team;
- To work closely with humanitarian agencies, particularly in relation to areas of tension and with respect to the return of displaced persons, to collect information on and identify potential threats against the civilian population and bring them to the attention of the Ivorian authorities, as appropriate;

(b) Political support

- To provide good offices and political support for the efforts of the Ivorian authorities to address the root causes of the conflict and establish lasting peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire, including in the priority areas of the security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and reconciliation processes at both the national and local levels;
- To provide good offices support to the Ivorian authorities in the preparation for the presidential election to be held in 2015, including by facilitating dialogue between all political stakeholders, inclusive of representatives of civil society and political parties;

(c) Addressing remaining security threats and border-related challenges

- To support, within its existing authorities, capabilities and areas of deployment, the national authorities in stabilizing the security situation in the country, with special attention to providing support for the provision of security through the October 2015 presidential election;
- To monitor and deter the activities of militias, mercenaries and other illegal armed groups and to support the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in addressing border security challenges consistent with its existing mandate to protect civilians, including cross-border security and other challenges in the border areas, notably with Liberia, and, to this end, to coordinate closely with the United Nations Mission in Liberia in order to further inter-mission cooperation, such as through undertaking coordinated patrols and contingency planning, where appropriate and within their existing mandates and capabilities;
- To liaise with the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire in order to promote mutual trust among all elements composing the Republican Forces;

(d) Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and collection of weapons

- To assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, in close coordination with other bilateral and international partners, in implementing without further delay the national programme for the dis-

armament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and the dismantling of militias and self-defence groups, taking into account the rights and needs of the distinct categories of persons to be disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated, including children and women;

- To support the registration and screening of former combatants and assist in assessing and verifying the reliability of the listings of former combatants;
- To support the disarmament and repatriation of foreign armed elements, where relevant in cooperation with the United Nations Mission in Liberia and United Nations country teams in the region;
- To assist the national authorities, including the National Commission to Fight against the Proliferation and Illicit Traffic of Small Arms and Light Weapons, in collecting, registering, securing and disposing of weapons and in clearing explosive remnants of war, as appropriate, in accordance with resolution 2153(2014);
- To coordinate with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in ensuring that the collected weapons are not disseminated or reutilized outside a comprehensive national security strategy, as referred to in point (e) below;

(e) Reconstitution and reform of security institutions

- To assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in implementing, without delay and in close coordination with other international partners, its comprehensive national security strategy;
- To support the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in providing effective, transparent and harmonized coordination of assistance, including the promotion of a clear division of tasks and responsibilities, by international partners to the security sector reform process;
- To advise the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, as appropriate, on security sector reform and the organization of the future national army, to facilitate the provision, within its current resources and as requested by the Government and in close coordination with other international partners, of training in human rights, child protection and protection from sexual and gender-based violence to the security and law enforcement institutions, as well as capacity-building support by providing technical assistance, co-location and mentoring programmes for the police and gendarmerie and to contribute to restoring their presence throughout Côte d'Ivoire and to promote trust and confidence within and between the security and law enforcement agencies and to offer support to the development of a sustainable vetting mechanism for personnel that will be absorbed into security sector institutions;

(f) Monitoring of the arms embargo

- To monitor the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 7 of resolution 1572(2004), in cooperation with the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire established pursuant to resolution 1584(2005) of 1 February 2005, including by inspecting, as they deem it necessary and, when

appropriate, without notice, all weapons, ammunition and related materiel regardless of location, consistent with resolution 2153(2014);

- To collect, as appropriate, arms and any related materiel brought into Côte d'Ivoire in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 7 of resolution 1572(2004) and to dispose of such arms and related materiel as appropriate;
- To assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, upon its request and within its existing resources, to ensure that the Government's notification and approval requests contain the required information identified in paragraph 7 of resolution 2153(2014), consistent with paragraph 9 of resolution 2153(2014);

(g) Support for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law

- To contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, with special attention to grave violations and abuses committed against children and women, notably sexual- and gender-based violence, in close coordination with the Independent Expert established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 17/21 of 17 June 2011;
- To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Security Council on abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those against children, in line with resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014, in order to prevent such abuses and violations and to end impunity;
- To bring to the attention of the Security Council all individuals identified as perpetrators of serious human rights violations and to keep the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572(2004) informed of any significant developments in this regard when appropriate;
- To support the efforts of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in combating sexual and gender-based violence, including through contributing to the development of a nationally owned multisectoral strategy in cooperation with United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict entities;
- To provide specific protection for women affected by armed conflict and to ensure gender expertise and training, as appropriate and within existing resources, in accordance with resolutions 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010 and 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013;

(h) Support for humanitarian assistance

- To facilitate, as necessary, unhindered humanitarian access and to help to strengthen the delivery of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected and vulnerable populations, notably by contributing to enhancing security for its delivery;
- To support the Ivorian authorities in preparing for the voluntary, safe and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons, in cooperation with relevant humanitarian organizations, and in creating security conditions conducive to it;

(i) Public information

- To continue to use the broadcasting capacity of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, through ONUCI FM, to contribute to the overall effort to create a peaceful environment, until the October 2015 presidential election;
- To monitor any public incidents of incitement to hatred, intolerance and violence and bring to the attention of the Security Council all individuals identified as instigators of political violence, and to keep the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572(2004) informed of any significant developments in this regard, when appropriate;

(j) Protection of United Nations personnel

- To protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment and ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel;

20. *Authorizes* the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment;

21. *Decides* that the protection of civilians shall remain the priority of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, in accordance with paragraph 19 (a) above, and further decides that the Operation shall put a renewed focus on supporting the Government of Côte d'Ivoire on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the collection of weapons and security sector reform, in accordance with paragraphs 19 (d) and (e) of the present resolution, with the objective of transitioning security responsibilities from the Operation to the Government;

22. *Requests* the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to ensure that any support provided to non-United Nations security forces is provided in strict compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;

Force structure

23. *Recalls its intention*, as affirmed in its resolution 2112(2013), to consider a further reduction of two battalions, and decides that the uniformed personnel of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire shall consist of up to 5,437 military personnel, comprising 5,245 troops and staff officers and 192 military observers, by 30 June 2015;

24. *Decides* that the authorized strength of the police component of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire shall consist of up to 1,500 personnel, and further decides to maintain the 8 customs officers previously authorized;

25. *Affirms its intention* to consider further downsizing the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, reviewing its mandate and its possible termination after the October 2015 presidential election based on security conditions on the ground and the capacity of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to take over the security role of the Operation;

26. *Acknowledges* the reconfiguration of the military presence of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to concentrate resources in high-risk areas, as decided in its resolution 2112(2013), expresses support for the new mobile concept of operations of the military component of the Operation, and requests the Operation to further update its configuration in this regard after the additional downsizing of its military personnel, with a view to consolidating its locations and bases, focusing on the west and other high-

risk areas as appropriate, while shifting to a mobile posture and enhancing its situational awareness and early warning capabilities;

27. *Requests* the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to focus and continue to streamline its activities across its military, police and civilian components in order to achieve progress on the tasks outlined in paragraph 19 above and to fully reflect the downsizing of the military component and narrowing of the mandate decided in resolution 2112(2013) and the present resolution on the structure of the mission, and expresses its intention to keep the requirements and composition of components of the Operation under active review;

French forces

28. *Decides* to extend until 30 June 2015 the authorization that the Council provided to the French forces in order to support the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, within the limits of their deployment and their capabilities;

29. *Urges* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and of the French forces supporting it, in particular by ensuring their safety, security and freedom of movement with unhindered and immediate access throughout the territory of Côte d'Ivoire to enable them to fully carry out their mandates;

Regional and inter-mission cooperation

30. *Calls upon* the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to continue reinforcing their cooperation, particularly with respect to the border area, including through increased monitoring, information-sharing and coordinated actions, and to implement the shared border strategy to, inter alia, support the disarmament and repatriation of foreign armed elements on both sides of the border and the voluntary and safe repatriation of refugees as well as to address the root causes of conflict and tension;

31. *Affirms* the importance of inter-mission cooperation arrangements as the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire downsize, reaffirms the inter-mission cooperation framework set out in its resolution 1609(2005) of 24 June 2005, and further recalls its endorsement in its resolution 2062(2012) of 26 July 2012 of the recommendation of the Secretary-General to transfer three armed helicopters from the Mission to the Operation to be used in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia along and across their border, and decides that all military utility helicopters of the Operation and the Mission shall be utilized in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia in order to facilitate rapid response and mobility, while not affecting the area of responsibility of either mission;

32. *Welcomes* the proposal by the Secretary-General, as set out in his report of 15 May 2014, to establish, in the context of inter-mission cooperation arrangements between the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, for an initial period of one year and within the authorized military strength of the Operation, a quick reaction force to implement the mandate of the Operation as defined in paragraph 19 of the present resolution and to support the Mission as defined in paragraph 33 of the present resolution, while recognizing that this unit will remain primarily an asset of the Operation;

33. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to deploy this unit to Liberia, subject to the consent of the troop-contributing countries concerned and the Government of Liberia, in the event of a serious deterioration of the security situation on the ground, in order to temporarily reinforce the United Nations Mission in Liberia with the sole purpose of implementing its mandate, and stresses that this unit should prioritize implementation of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire mandate in Côte d'Ivoire;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure that this unit reaches full operational capability as soon as possible, and no later than May 2015;

35. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Council immediately of any deployment of this unit to Liberia and to obtain Council authorization for any such deployment for a period that exceeds 90 days;

36. *Calls upon* all United Nations entities in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, including all relevant components of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Mission in Liberia, within their respective mandates, capabilities and areas of deployment, to enhance their support for the stabilization of the border area, including through increased inter-mission cooperation and the development of a shared, strategic vision and plan in support of the Ivorian and Liberian authorities and support for implementing regional security strategies, including those of the Mano River Union and the Economic Community of West African States;

37. *Commends* inter-mission cooperation between the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, and encourages both United Nations missions to continue in this direction, as authorized by paragraph 14 of its resolution 2100(2013);

Reporting

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, and to provide to the Council a midterm report no later than 15 December 2014 and a final report no later than 15 May 2015 on the situation on the ground and the implementation of the present resolution;

39. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Report of Group of Experts (October). On 10 October, pursuant to Council resolution 2153(2014) (see above), the Chair of the Security Council Committee transmitted to the Security Council the midterm report [S/2014/729] of the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire. Progress had been made in the areas of demobilization, demilitarization and reintegration of former combatants, security sector reform, national reconciliation and the fight against impunity. The Group remained concerned, however, about security and stability in the lead-up to the 2015 presidential elections because of the presence of large quantities of weapons and ammunition that remained unaccounted for in the country. While the improved security situation in Côte d'Ivoire had a positive impact on the region, mercenaries in Liberia and militias in Côte d'Ivoire remained highly operational. In particular, activities

and connected armed attacks in Côte d'Ivoire continued to be linked to elements of the pro-Gbagbo radical wing, which persevered in its efforts to recruit and finance combatants. Concerning the arms embargo, the transformation of civilian vehicles into armed military vehicles was still a major issue. Furthermore, the Group identified violations that occurred during the period of the post-electoral crisis in 2011 regarding multiple rocket launchers, heavy machine guns, and related ammunition and vehicles, some of which were similar to those manufactured in the Sudan. Cocoa and gold smuggling continued. Investigations to identify any direct links between the illegal exploitation of natural resources and the financing of the purchase of arms and related materiel and activities were ongoing. In that context, the Group was also focusing on the illegal parallel taxation system based on racketeering, money-laundering and extortion and possible links to any Group or activity threatening peace and stability in the country and in the region. The Group maintained that the recommendations contained in its April report (see above) remained valid.

Children and armed conflict

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in his May report on children and armed conflict [A/68/878-S/2014/339] covering the period from January to December 2013, stated that despite peace and reconciliation efforts regarding the reintegration of ex-combatants, the overall child protection situation in Côte d'Ivoire remained of concern. The impunity and weak capacity of the national judicial system to address sexual violence had hindered access to justice for victims across Côte d'Ivoire. As a result of such gaps in institutional capacity, but also owing to the fear of retaliation and stigmatization, out-of-court settlements of rape cases remained frequent and to the detriment of the victims' rights to justice and compensation. The draft national child protection policy to address violence against children, assistance to child victims and the issue of impunity was pending adoption by the Government.

UNOCI

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) was established in 2004 by Security Council resolution 1528(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 173] to replace the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire and ECOWAS forces, with the mandate to monitor the ceasefire and movement of armed groups; assist in disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement; protect UN personnel and civilians; support implementation of the peace process; and provide assistance in the monitoring of human rights, public information and law and order. Council resolution 2162(2014) (see p. 252) extended the mandate

of UNOCI until 30 June 2015. Aïchatou Mindaoudou Souleymane (Niger) was the Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire and Head of UNOCI.

Appointment. On 14 May [S/2014/354], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed (Pakistan) as the Force Commander of UNOCI to replace Major General Muhammad Iqbal Asi (Pakistan). The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 16 May [S/2014/355].

Financing

In May, the General Assembly considered the Secretary-General's performance report on the budget of UNOCI for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/632], the proposed budget for the mission for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/758] and the related ACABQ report [A/68/782/Add.11].

The performance report for the 2012–2013 financial period showed an expenditure of \$573,382,000 gross (563,396,600 net) against an appropriation of \$575,017,000 gross (\$565,864,000 net). The proposed budget for UNOCI for the 2014–2015 period amounted to \$512,590,300 gross (\$503,694,300 net), which provided for the deployment of 192 military observers, 6,945 military contingent personnel, 555 UN police officers, 1,000 formed police personnel, 411 international staff, 796 national staff, 178 United Nations Volunteers and 44 Government-provided personnel. In May [A/68/782/Add.11], ACABQ recommended a reduction of \$10,292,900 in the proposed budget.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/922], adopted **resolution 68/285** without vote [agenda item 150].

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1528(2004) of 27 February 2004, by which the Council established the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for an initial period of 12 months as from 4 April 2004, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation, the latest of which was resolution 2162(2014) of 25 June 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation until 30 June 2015,

Recalling also its resolution 58/310 of 18 June 2004 on the financing of the Operation and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/271 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated

in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Operation with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 35.6 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 85 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Operation in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Stresses* that the exceptional arrangement set out in paragraph 14 below does not set a precedent for the budgetary process and that it shall not have a negative impact on mandate delivery;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Operation is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

13. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire the amount of 532,091,100 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of the amount of 493,570,300 dollars for the maintenance of the Operation, 31,937,500 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 6,583,300 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

14. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 246,785,150 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 for the maintenance of the Operation, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

15. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 4,448,000 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Operation for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014;

16. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 31,937,500 dollars for the support account and the amount of 6,583,300 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

17. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,615,200 dollars, for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, comprising the prorated share of 2,027,100 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 588,100 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Operation, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 7,067,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

19. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Operation, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 7,067,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 18 above;

20. *Decides* that the increase of 832,400 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 7,067,600 dollars referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above;

21. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Operation under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

23. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Operation in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures and practices established by the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire".

Note by Secretary-General. In a 17 October note [A/69/534 & Corr.1] on financing arrangements for UNOCI for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, the Secretary-General said that the General Assembly acted to assess the additional amount of \$243,907,100 gross (\$239,637,100 net) for the maintenance of UNOCI from 1 January to 30 June 2015, taking into account the amount of \$493,570,300 appropriated under the terms of Assembly resolution 68/285 (see above) for the maintenance of UNOCI for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, and the amount of \$246,785,150 already assessed for the maintenance of UNOCI for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014.

In December [A/69/626], ACABQ concluded that the Secretary-General's proposal did not constitute a revised budget and taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/285, it was up to the Assembly to make a determination as to the required level of assessment for UNOCI for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/685], adopted **resolution 69/258** without vote [agenda item 152].

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

The General Assembly,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2162(2014) of 25 June 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation until 30 June 2015,

Recalling also its resolution 58/310 of 18 June 2004 on the financing of the Operation and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/285 of 30 June 2014,

1. *Decides*, taking into account the amount of 246,785,150 United States dollars already apportioned under the terms of its resolution 68/285 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 for the maintenance of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, to apportion among Member States the amount of 246,785,150 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015 for the maintenance of the Operation, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

2. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 1 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 4,448,000 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Operation for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015;

3. *Further decides* to keep under review during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire".

On 29 December, the General Assembly, by **decision 69/554**, decided to defer the consideration of the item on financing of UNOCI to its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Liberia

In 2014, the senate elections that were originally scheduled to be held in October were postponed to December on account of the Ebola virus disease outbreak, which claimed the lives of thousands. The December elections, though marked by a low voter turnout, were assessed as generally free, fair and credible, and were conducted peacefully. Delays continued in the national reconciliation process, with little progress on the National Reconciliation Roadmap and in the implementation of related projects supported by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

The national technical forum on reconciliation convened irregularly. The Constitution Review Committee, supported by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), continued the efforts to advance constitutional reform stressing the importance of inclusivity and civic education.

The mandate of UNMIL was extended twice, in September by Council resolution 2176(2014) (see p. 262) until 31 December and in December by resolution 2190(2014) (see p. 267) until 30 September 2015.

Political and security developments

Reports of Secretary-General (February and August). In February [S/2014/123], the Secretary-General submitted his twenty-seventh progress report [YUN 2013, p. 174] on UNMIL and major developments in Liberia. Important issues were at stake in the pro-

cess of constitutional review, including the extent of executive power, the management of natural resources and community participation in policymaking. Limited progress was made towards national reconciliation and major political reform processes.

In August, the Secretary-General submitted his twenty-eighth progress report [S/2014/598] on UNMIL, which provided an update on major developments in Liberia since his February report and shared the findings and recommendations of a strategic review and electoral needs assessment missions conducted by the United Nations.

The overall security situation remained stable, though fragile. Insecurity was characterized by tensions between concessionaires and affected communities; high rates of sexual and gender-based violence, with 18 per cent of reported cases involving children under 10 years of age; armed robbery, with one third of cases involving firearms; and inter-communal violence.

The situation in the area bordering Côte d'Ivoire remained stable, notwithstanding attacks in Côte d'Ivoire on 23 February and 15 May, resulting in the arrival of 600 Ivorian refugees. Since the start of the year, 12,022 refugees had returned voluntarily to Côte d'Ivoire with assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), leaving approximately 37,700 Ivorian refugees in Liberia.

A United Nations-led strategic review recommended that given expectations that the 2017 presidential election and subsequent transfer of power to a new administration in January 2018 would be a sensitive period for the country, the security transition process, specifically the full handover of the UNMIL security tasks to national authorities, should conclude no later than 2016. That would provide the Government with nearly two years to consolidate its efforts to fully assume all of its security responsibilities. The review also assessed that a lack of progress on sensitive processes, such as national reconciliation and inclusive political reforms, had contributed to a continuing disarticulation between the operational achievement of security sector reform and security sector governance. The strategic review therefore assessed that there was a need to reconceive UN support for the country. The review recommended to further adjust the UNMIL military and police components, while also strengthening the mandate of UNMIL in critical areas related to national reconciliation and political processes, including through an explicit good offices role for the Special Representative.

A separate UN-led electoral assessment mission recommended that the mandate of UNMIL be revised to include the provision of logistical support to facilitate access to remote areas during the 2014 elections. The electoral assessment mission said that UNMIL

should also work closely with national stakeholders to support the development of a national security coordination mechanism involving all institutions with a role in providing, financing or overseeing election security. For the duration of its presence in Liberia, UNMIL should coordinate electoral assistance to ensure harmonization and prevent duplication. UNMIL should also have a mandate to support Liberian stakeholders in creating an environment conducive to the conduct of peaceful elections, including through an explicit good offices role for the Special Representative.

The Secretary-General observed that the role of the United Nations in Liberia had to be reconceived, with UNMIL enhancing its focus on core political and security tasks. He therefore recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNMIL for one year, until 30 September 2015, while supplementing the political role played by his Special Representative with an explicit good offices mandate, which would focus on facilitating national reconciliation and political reform, and an environment conducive to peaceful and transparent elections, with due attention to the rule of law. The Secretary-General also recommended that UNMIL be mandated to provide logistical support for the October 2014 senatorial elections, limited to facilitating access to remote areas.

Though Liberia no longer faced any apparent military threat, national security institutions were still working to develop their capacity to maintain stability and protect the population without support from a peacekeeping operation. The Secretary-General therefore recommended the drawdown of UNMIL uniformed personnel, resulting in an authorized strength of 3,631 military and 1,515 police personnel by mid-2015. The primary focus of UNMIL would be protecting civilians within its capabilities and areas of deployment.

Letters of Secretary-General. In a 28 August letter [S/2014/644] to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General said the Ebola outbreak in West Africa had escalated so drastically in just a matter of weeks that, as the Government and other partners were focusing on Ebola, some processes at the core of the mandate of UNMIL, as set out in resolution 2116(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 171] were on hold or had significantly slowed; those included constitutional review, national reconciliation, land reform, the capacity-building of national security agencies, legal reform and natural resource management. Additionally, it was unlikely that the senatorial elections would take place as scheduled in October 2014. Consequently, the Secretary-General had decided to temporarily reduce the presence in Liberia of a small number of personnel performing functions related to those areas. Additional medical and other specific reinforcements, however, would be required. The Government of Liberia had been consulted and supported those proposals.

The presence and continued operations of UNMIL in Liberia remained critical, including the deterrent effect of its uniformed personnel, deployed in 11 of the country's 15 counties. The Mission had an important role to play in protecting civilians. Though it had not, and would not, enforce the Government-imposed isolation of Ebola-affected areas, UNMIL would continue to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance, including by helping to provide the necessary security conditions. UNMIL had to closely monitor the political and human rights situation in order to mitigate any exactions or abuses that could trigger a reversal of more than a decade of peace in Liberia. All UN personnel in Liberia had been educated about the appropriate preventive measures that would minimize the risk of contracting Ebola, which was not airborne and required direct contact with the bodily fluids of a symptomatic infected person or the deceased.

Given the exceptional circumstances, the Secretary-General recommended a technical rollover of the mandate of UNMIL for a period of three months, and that the Security Council defer consideration of his proposals for the extension of the mandate of UNMIL until 30 December 2014. On 2 September [S/2014/645], the Security Council took note of the Secretary-General's proposal.

On 15 September [S/2014/669], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Council President a joint letter from Alpha Condé, the President of Guinea; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of Liberia; and Ernest Bai Koroma, the President of Sierra Leone, for a UN resolution for a coordinated international response to end the Ebola outbreak.

(For more information on the United Nations response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, see PART THREE, Chapter XIII.)

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 15 September [meeting 7263], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2176(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/664] was submitted by Chad, France, Nigeria, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the situation in Liberia, in particular resolutions 1509(2003) of 19 September 2003, 2066(2012) of 17 September 2012 and 2116(2013) of 18 September 2013, and its statement to the press of 9 July 2014,

Expressing grave concern about the extent of the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa, in particular in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone,

Affirming that the Government of Liberia bears primary responsibility for ensuring peace, stability and the protection of the civilian population in Liberia, and stressing that lasting stability in Liberia will require the Government to sustain well-functioning and accountable government institutions, particularly in the rule of law and security sectors,

Welcoming the launch of the Liberia Operational Plan for Accelerated Response to Recurrence of Ebola Epidemic, taking note of the efforts of the national security forces, notably the Liberia National Police and the Armed Forces of Liberia, to respond promptly to the outbreak through undertaking public awareness and prevention activities in conformity with established safety protocols and procedures, and urging the national security forces, when responding to security incidents, to use proportionate force,

Welcoming also the convening of the Mano River Union Extraordinary Summit, held in Guinea on 1 August 2014, and the commitments expressed by the Heads of State of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and the Head of the World Health Organization to combat the Ebola outbreak in the region, including by strengthening treatment services and measures to prevent the outbreak spreading across borders, and also welcoming the commitment of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, as well as bilateral partners and multilateral organizations, to support efforts to combat the further spread of the Ebola virus,

Expressing appreciation for the appointments by the Secretary-General of Dr. David Nabarro as the United Nations System Senior Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease and of Mr. Anthony Banbury as the Deputy Ebola Coordinator and Operation Crisis Manager operating from the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, in order to assist Governments in the region to address the Ebola outbreak,

Urging the international community to respond swiftly to the shortage of qualified medical professionals and appropriate equipment and preventive measures necessary to address the Ebola outbreak in West Africa,

Expressing deep appreciation for and commending the continued contribution and commitment of United Nations personnel, especially the troop- and police-contributing countries of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, to assist in consolidating peace and stability in Liberia, and the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia,

Noting the possible delays in the conduct of the special senatorial election scheduled for October 2014,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 15 August 2014, and taking note also of the letter dated 28 August 2014 from the Secretary-General and his recommendation to defer consideration of the proposals for the extension of the mandate of the Mission, outlined in his report,

Determining that the situation in Liberia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia until 31 December 2014;

2. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Secretary-General, in his letter dated 28 August 2014, to defer consideration of the proposals on adjustments to the mandate of the Mission, outlined in his report of 15 August 2014;

3. *Expresses its intention* to further extend the mandate of the Mission to 30 September 2015 after consideration of the proposals of the Secretary-General;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council updated on the situation in Liberia no later than 15 November 2014;

5. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/275], the Secretary-General provided an update on the situation in Liberia since his August report (see p. 261). The reporting period was dominated by the Ebola outbreak. The epidemic revealed the depth of public distrust and weaknesses in national institutions, while also accentuating societal divisions. As a result, political and other reform processes slowed, although new opportunities for cooperation arose, including with respect to empowering local authorities.

The Ebola outbreak affected the timing of the elections of 15 of the 30 senators, originally scheduled for 14 October. Following further consultations with stakeholders, the National Elections Commission set 20 December as the date for the elections. Notwithstanding some controversy about holding elections in the midst of the Ebola health emergency, political stakeholders reached consensus on the need to conduct the elections by the end of the year, in order to avoid a possible constitutional crisis that could arise if the new senators were not seated on 12 January 2015. The elections were held on 20 December with a low voter turnout of 25.2 per cent. They were assessed as generally free, fair and credible, and were conducted peacefully, despite the political tensions and incidents of pre-election violence. The National Elections Commission announced final election results on 27 December. Mr. George Weah won the Montserrado County seat with 78 per cent of the vote compared to 10.8 per cent for Mr. Robert Sirleaf, the runner-up. Media allegations of widespread corruption, including alleged misuse of funds allocated to the fight against Ebola, contributed to the erosion of public trust in the Government.

Sanctions

Security Council Committee. The Security Council Committee, established pursuant to resolution 1521(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 208] concerning Liberia, monitored implementation of the sanctions imposed on Liberia by that resolution and subsequent resolutions. The sanctions banned arms and related materiel, as well as the export of certain natural resources and international travel by designated individuals, and froze the assets of designated individuals who constituted a threat to peace in Liberia and the subregion. By resolution 1903(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 201], the Council redefined the arms embargo by directing States to prevent the supply, sale or transfer—from their territories or by their nationals, or by using their vessels or aircraft—of arms and related materiel to non-governmental entities and individuals in Liberia. By resolution 2128(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 175], the Council renewed the arms embargo on all non-government entities and individuals operating in the territory of Liberia and renewed the travel ban for a period of 12 months.

The Committee reported on its 2014 activities [S/2014/931], during which it held four informal consultations (24 January, 14 March, 16 May, 12 November); sent out 25 communications to 14 Member States and one communication to INTERPOL, with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures; received one notification regarding shipment of arms and related materiel to the Government of Liberia, or provision of assistance, advice or training related to military activities for the Government; and received 17 requests for delisting, of which two were received from the focal point for delisting. One individual was delisted by the Committee. As at 31 December, there were 22 individuals and 30 entities designated under the sanctions regime.

In June, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Security Council that it request the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment mission to Liberia, as an outcome of the review of the measures of the sanctions regime in Liberia in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2128(2013).

Panel of Experts

The Panel of Experts on Liberia, established pursuant to resolution 1521(2003), submitted midterm and final reports during the year (see below). By resolution 2188(2014) (see below), the Council renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 9 October 2015.

Reports of Panel of Experts. On 16 May [S/2014/363], the Chairman of the Security Council Committee transmitted to the Council the midterm report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia. The Panel recommended that Liberia expedite the passage of the firearms control legislation in line with ECOWAS standards, particularly in view of the fact that there was little time left to submit, debate and enact the legislation before the Legislature went into recess and before key legislators began their 2014 re-election campaigns. The Panel also urged Liberia and its bilateral partners to strengthen the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms by appointing the two other commissioners provided for in the legislation establishing the Commission and to provide them with adequate logistical support to be able to perform their mandated functions effectively; urged the Government, with the assistance of UNMIL, to mark all weapons and ammunition stocks maintained in government armouries in accordance with Council resolution 1903(2009) and the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons; urged Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire to intensify the exchange of information regarding cross-border threats to peace and security, in addition to illicit arms trafficking, especially at the operational level, as part of the development of their shared border security strategy; and called on Liberia, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission and UNHCR to consider reviewing the

policy of *prima facie* refugee determinations whereby every Ivorian who crossed into Liberia was presumed to be a refugee.

The Panel also urged the UN police component to increase its mentoring of the Liberian national police with regard to forensics, criminal investigations and transnational crime, including through joint training between the national police and prosecutors and by building the capacity of the national police to strengthen links between law enforcement investigations and evidence collection, so that such evidence could be used more effectively in a court of law.

With regard to Liberian authorities, the Panel urged the Legislature to enact the legislation on controlled drugs and substances that was drafted in 2013 as a matter of urgency since Liberia was one of the few countries in the region with no drug legislation, and that the Government grant the Drug Enforcement Agency free and unrestricted access to the Freeport of Monrovia and to other seaports and border posts throughout the country. The Panel urged both Liberia and Sierra Leone to allocate the necessary resources in order to regularly hold the monthly meetings of the Joint Border Security Committee and Confidence-Building Units.

On 19 November, the Panel submitted its final report [S/2014/831] to the Council. The Panel reiterated many of its recommendations made in its midterm report (see above). In terms of security sector reform, the draft national police act, which was submitted by the Ministry of Justice to the President in May, was still awaiting submission to the Legislature for ratification, and the code of military discipline of the armed forces had still not been ratified by the Legislature. The Panel recommended that UNMIL develop the capacity and expertise to advise the Government on issues related to the sanctions regime. In particular, there should be a focal point within UNMIL to which the relevant government entities could turn for information and advice.

Assessment Mission

By a 16 July letter [S/2014/504], the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that the Council had completed its review of the measures pertaining to the sanctions regime in Liberia, in accordance with Council resolution 2128(2013). As an outcome of the review, the Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment mission and report to the Council by 1 October 2014 on the progress that Liberia had made towards meeting the conditions set out in Council resolution 1521(2003) for the termination of the sanctions. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to provide recommendations on UN assistance to the Government of Liberia in improving its capacities to undertake the proper management of arms and ammunition, includ-

ing enacting the necessary legislative frameworks and facilitating the effective monitoring and management of the border regions between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

On 29 September [S/2014/707], the Secretary-General submitted to the President of the Security Council the report of the assessment mission concerning the Liberia sanctions regime. In the wake of the Ebola virus disease crisis in Liberia, the assessment was carried out from UN Headquarters in New York, principally through video- and teleconferences with relevant interlocutors.

The Ebola crisis had revealed institutional weaknesses, including in the security sector, while the constitutional reform and decentralization processes had slowed down.

Against this backdrop of crisis management and political instability, it would be many months before the Government of Liberia and many of its international partners could focus on the assessment mission's recommendations. In that regard, it was stated that the Security Council should consider deferring any adjustments to the existing sanctions measures (arms embargo on non-State sectors, asset freezes and travel bans) for six months or until the political situation in the country had stabilized. Until legislation, regulations and sufficient capacity were put in place, the Government should introduce a complete moratorium on the importation or possession of small arms by non-State actors.

UNMIL should assist the Government to harmonize laws relating to the security sector to ensure that the relevant agencies were assigned appropriate powers, that there were no conflicting functions among the various security agencies, and that the most appropriate accountability mechanisms were put in place.

In relation to the monitoring and management of the border region between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, the Secretary-General recommended that, should the Security Council decide to further adjust the current arrangements for monitoring sanctions on Liberia, it should consider enlarging the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire and expanding its mandate to include cross-border issues. Further, the Government of Liberia, with the assistance of international partners, should expand the capacity of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and continue to prioritize the deployment of the national police to the border region in line with the transition arrangements.

Both Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire should also continue to strengthen coordination and information-sharing for border security and stabilization.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 7328], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2188(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/868] was submitted by the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements by its President on the situation in Liberia,

Welcoming the sustained progress made by the Government of Liberia in rebuilding Liberia for the benefit of all Liberians, with the support of the international community,

Taking note of the report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia,

Taking note also of the letter dated 29 September 2014 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council, and welcoming the recommendations to the Council in the annex thereto, regarding the assessment mission concerning the Liberia sanctions regime,

Expressing grave concern about the outbreak of the Ebola virus in, and its impact on, West Africa, including Liberia,

Recognizing that the peacebuilding and development gains in Liberia could be reversed in the light of the Ebola outbreak, and, in the light of these factors, expressing its intent to scale back and terminate the remaining sanctions in a prudent manner,

Affirming that the Government of Liberia bears primary responsibility for ensuring peace, stability and the protection of the civilian population in Liberia, and stressing that lasting stability in Liberia will require the Government to sustain well-functioning and accountable government institutions, particularly in the rule of law and security sectors,

Stressing the need for continued progress on security sector reform in Liberia to ensure that Liberia's military, police and border security forces are self-sufficient, capable and adequately prepared to protect the Liberian people,

Underlining that the transparent and effective management of natural resources is critical for Liberia's sustainable peace and security,

Underlining its determination to support the Government of Liberia in its efforts to meet the conditions of resolution 1521(2003) of 22 December 2003, welcoming the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission, and encouraging all stakeholders, including donors, to support the Government in its efforts,

Determining that the situation in Liberia remains fragile and constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* that the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 1532(2004) of 12 March 2004 remain in force;

2. *Decides*, for a period of nine months from the date of adoption of the present resolution:

(a) To renew the measures on travel imposed by paragraph 4 of resolution 1521(2003);

(b) To renew the measures on arms, previously imposed by paragraph 2 of resolution 1521(2003) and modified by paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1683(2006) of 13 June 2006, by paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 1731(2006) of 20 December 2006, by paragraphs 3 to 6 of resolution 1903(2009) of 17 December 2009, by paragraph 3 of resolution 1961(2010) of 17 December 2010 and by paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 2128(2013) of 10 December 2013;

3. *Also decides* to maintain all of the above measures under continuous review with a view to modifying or lift-

ing all or part of the measures of the sanctions regime dependent upon Liberia's progress towards meeting the conditions set out in resolution 1521(2003) for terminating those measures and in the light of the threat to peace and security in Liberia posed by the Ebola virus;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an update to the Security Council by 1 August 2015 on progress made by the Government of Liberia in implementing the recommendations on the proper management of arms and ammunition, including enacting the necessary legislative frameworks, and on facilitating the effective monitoring and management of the border regions between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire;

5. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Liberia appointed pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1903(2009) for a period of 10 months from the date of adoption of the present resolution to undertake the following tasks in close collaboration with the Government of Liberia and the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire:

(a) To conduct a follow-up assessment mission to Liberia and neighbouring States, as feasible, given conditions on the ground, to investigate and compile a final report on the implementation, and any violations, of the measures on arms as amended by resolutions 1903(2009), 1961(2010) and 2128(2013), including the various sources of financing for the illicit trade in arms, on progress in the security and legal sectors with respect to the ability of the Government of Liberia to effectively monitor and control arms and border issues, and on the progress of the Government in meeting notification requirements;

(b) To provide to the Security Council, after discussion with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521(2003), no later than 1 August 2015, a final report on all the issues listed in the present paragraph, and to provide to the Committee no later than 23 April 2015, an update on the status of legislation in Liberia related to the ability of the Government of Liberia to effectively monitor and control arms and border issues, and any other informal updates to the Committee as appropriate;

(c) To cooperate actively with other relevant panels of experts, in particular the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire re-established by paragraph 24 of resolution 2153(2014) of 29 April 2014;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures, as expeditiously as possible, to re-establish the Panel of Experts, in consultation with the Committee, for a period of 10 months from the date of the present resolution, drawing, as appropriate, on the expertise of the members of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to previous resolutions;

7. *Calls upon* all States and the Government of Liberia to cooperate fully with the Panel of Experts in all aspects of its mandate;

8. *Recalls* that responsibility for controlling the circulation of small arms within the territory of Liberia and between Liberia and neighbouring States rests with the relevant governmental authorities in accordance with the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials of 2006;

9. *Urges* the Government of Liberia to expedite the adoption and implementation of appropriate legislation and

take other necessary and appropriate steps to establish the legal framework necessary to combat illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition;

10. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Peacebuilding Commission

The Peacebuilding Commission issued its annual report covering its eighth (2014) session from 1 January to 31 December [A/69/818-S/2015/174]. The Commission noted that the advocacy, accompaniment and sustaining attention function in Liberia was distinct from activities in Burundi and Sierra Leone. Financial constraints and an insufficient national revenue base had continued to stall progress in Liberia in the areas of security sector reform and the rule of law. Limited progress had been made towards the implementation of the Government's Reconciliation road map. In that context, the Commission advocated for greater commitment by the Government to justice and security reform, particularly in view of the planned drawdown of UNMIL. The Commission also encouraged the Government to ensure greater involvement of civil society, including women's groups, in the national reconciliation process. Liberia was one of the countries where the allocation of the Fund for gender-related issues was higher than the target of 15 per cent set by the Secretary-General in his report on women's participation in peacebuilding (see p. 1285).

Recognizing the severe resource constraints facing the Government of Liberia and the centrality of natural resources for State finances, the Commission sought greater international support for the management of both natural resources and land disputes. The focus on those issues was prioritized, as they were seen as key sources of conflict in the country in the past. The Commission had repeatedly reiterated to relevant stakeholders the importance of managing natural resources and land issues in a way that would benefit all citizens. At the request of the Government and the Commission, a study was conducted by UNDP, the World Bank, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Liberia and the Liberian Land Commission on citizens' engagement in natural resources management, with support from the Peacebuilding Support Office. This was an area where the partnership among the Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the World Bank held promise for helping generate new strategies and international support, which would be particularly important following the country's recovery from the Ebola outbreak and in advance of the drawdown of UNMIL.

Implementation of mutual commitments. The Peacebuilding Commission, in an April report [PBC/8/LBR/1], reviewed progress in the implementation of the statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Liberia [YUN 2011, p. 171] during the period from October 2012 to December 2013. The Commission

concluded that the commitments agreed upon in the statement remained valid, and, consequently, that the statement would be extended for another year, allowing additional time for the fulfilment of their implementation.

A March report [PBC/8/LBR/2] concluded that the commitments agreed upon in the statement of mutual commitments remained valid, and, consequently, they would be extended for another year, allowing additional time for the fulfilment of their implementation. The Commission also recognized that the primary responsibility for peace consolidation and development rested with the Government and people of Liberia. Close cooperation would ensure that peacebuilding matters, and particularly urgent political issues, were placed on the agenda for consultation between the Government of Liberia and its partners, including the Peacebuilding Commission.

(For more information on the Peacebuilding Commission, see p. 58.)

UNMIL

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), established by Security Council resolution 1509(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 194], was mandated to support the implementation of the 2003 Agreement on Ceasefire and Cessation of Hostilities [ibid., p. 189] and the peace process; protect UN staff, facilities and civilians; support humanitarian and human rights activities; and assist in national security reform, including national police training and the formation of a new, restructured military. By resolution 1638(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 267], the Council enhanced the mandate to include the apprehension and detention of the former President Charles Taylor in the event of his return to Liberia, as well as his transfer to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. By resolution 1750(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 194], the Council included in the Mission's mandate the provision of administrative and related support and security for activities conducted in Liberia by the Special Court for Sierra Leone with the consent of the Government. By resolution 1971(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 180], the Council requested that UNMIL withdraw, by 7 March 2011, the military personnel providing security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

UNMIL extension. By resolution 2176(2014) (see p. 262), the Security Council extended the mandate of UNMIL until 31 December 2014 and endorsed the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his 28 August letter (see p. 1355) to defer consideration of the proposals on adjustments to the mandate of UNMIL. By resolution 2190(2014) (see below), the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, extended the mandate of UNMIL until 30 September 2015 with 4,811 military and 1,795 police personnel.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 15 December [meeting 7340], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2190(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/891] was submitted by Chad, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 1509(2003) of 19 September 2003, 2066(2012) of 17 September 2012, 2116(2013) of 18 September 2013, 2176(2014) of 15 September 2014, 2177(2014) of 18 September 2014 and 2188(2014) of 9 December 2014, the statements by its President concerning the situation in Liberia and the subregion, and resolution 2162(2014) of 25 June 2014 on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire,

Affirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Liberia, and recalling the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference and regional cooperation,

Affirming that the Government of Liberia bears primary responsibility for ensuring peace, stability and the protection of the civilian population in Liberia and for reforming the security sector, particularly the Liberia National Police, stressing that lasting stability in Liberia will require the Government to sustain well-functioning and accountable government institutions, especially in the security and justice sectors, to build the confidence of all Liberians, and urging the Government to demonstrate substantive progress in the reform, restructuring and effective functioning of the security and justice sectors to provide for the protection of all Liberians,

Welcoming the overall progress toward restoring peace, security and stability in Liberia, commending the enduring commitment of the people and Government of Liberia to peace and to developing democratic processes and institutions and initiating important reform efforts, and calling upon all Liberian stakeholders to intensify momentum toward achieving greater social cohesion,

Reiterating grave concern about the unprecedented extent of the Ebola outbreak in Africa, and the impact of the Ebola virus on West Africa, including Liberia,

Recognizing the role of the Government of Liberia in continuing to lead the ground-level response against the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, as well as to address the wider impact of the Ebola outbreak on communities and to plan for the longer-term recovery, including with the support of the Peacebuilding Commission, taking note of the Liberia Economic Stabilization and Recovery Plan, and commending those Member States which, in concert with other actors on the ground, continue to provide crucial support to assist the efforts of the Government of Liberia to prevent, respond to, isolate and mitigate suspected cases of Ebola,

Recognizing also that the Ebola outbreak in Liberia has slowed the efforts of the Government of Liberia to advance certain governance and national reform priorities,

Extolling the continued contribution, commitment and resolve of United Nations personnel, especially from the troop- and police-contributing countries of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, to assist in consolidating peace and stability in Liberia, and the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, particularly during the Ebola outbreak, and expressing appreciation

to the international community, including the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union and the Mano River Union, for their continuing support to consolidate peace, security and stability in Liberia,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response to provide overall leadership and direction to the operational work of the United Nations system, and underscoring the need for relevant United Nations system entities, including the United Nations peacekeeping operations in West Africa, in close collaboration with the Mission and within their existing mandates and capacities, to provide immediate assistance to the Governments of the most affected countries, including Liberia,

Noting with concern the potential for conflict over Liberia's natural resources and disputes related to land ownership, and noting also that issues related to corruption continue to threaten to undermine stability and the effectiveness of government institutions,

Recognizing the extension provided by the Government of Liberia to the Constitution Review Committee, looking forward to a comprehensive, inclusive constitutional review process as well as the development of the national human rights action plan and the implementation of the National Reconciliation Road Map, and urging efforts to strengthen the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, which could play a key role as a publicly accessible human rights institution and as a mechanism to monitor and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,

Welcoming the contributions of the Peacebuilding Commission to security sector reform, the rule of law and national reconciliation in Liberia, and emphasizing the need for coherence between, and integration of, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development to achieve an effective response to post-conflict situations,

Commending the cooperation between, and the significant efforts of, the Government of Liberia and the United Nations Mission in Liberia to plan, manage and implement the phased military drawdown of the Mission, and expressing concern that the Government has not provided predictable and sustainable funding to shoulder the continuing costs of deploying security personnel and resources, including to operate and maintain the sites vacated by the Mission,

Noting the postponement from October 2014 of the senatorial elections,

Expressing appreciation for the continued assistance provided by both the Government and the people of Liberia to Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia and toward their voluntary repatriation to Côte d'Ivoire,

Commending the continued efforts of the Government of Liberia to strengthen security cooperation in the sub-region, notably with the Governments of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, and recognizing that the instability in western Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose cross-border security challenges for Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire,

Recognizing the significant challenges that remain across all sectors, including continuing problems with violent crime, in particular the high rates of sexual and gender-based violence, especially involving children, recalling its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009,

1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, and 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 on women and peace and security, welcoming the renewed efforts of the Government of Liberia to promote and protect human rights, in particular of women and children, and emphasizing that persistent barriers to full implementation of resolution 1325(2000) will only be dismantled through dedicated commitment to women's empowerment, participation and human rights, and through concerted leadership, consistent information and action, and support, to build women's engagement in all levels of decision-making,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 15 August 2014 and the recommendations contained therein on the adjustments to the mandate and reconfiguration of the Mission, his letter dated 28 August 2014 and his update to the Security Council on 12 November 2014,

Determining that the situation in Liberia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Governance, rule of law, security sector reform and national reconciliation

1. *Emphasizes* that the Government of Liberia bears primary and ultimate responsibility for security and the protection of its population, and urges the Government to prioritize the effective and rapid development of the security agencies, especially the Liberia National Police, which is the priority law enforcement agency tasked with civilian policing responsibilities, including through the timely provision of sufficient financial resources and other support;

2. *Encourages* the Government of Liberia to prioritize its efforts to further national reconciliation and economic recovery, to combat corruption and to promote efficiency and good governance, in particular by continuing to strengthen Government transparency and accountability, including by managing effectively Liberia's natural resources, emphasizes the importance of pursuing a national reconciliation and social cohesion strategy, through concrete measures to promote national healing, justice and reconciliation at all levels and involving all Liberian stakeholders, and calls upon the Government to continue to support the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, including in decision-making roles in post-conflict governance institutions and the broad range of reform efforts;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for continued progress by the Liberian authorities on constitutional and institutional reforms, especially of the rule of law and security sectors, and the national reconciliation processes, particularly in the light of the wider political, security, socioeconomic and humanitarian impact of the Ebola outbreak on communities and the need to plan for the longer-term recovery of Liberia, in this regard requests the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia to assist such efforts through the use of good offices and political support, including in view of the senatorial elections, and stresses that the responsibility for the preparation, security and conduct of free, fair, transparent and safe elections, including measures to mitigate the potential negative impact of the holding of elections on the spread of Ebola, rests with the Liberian authorities;

4. *Urges* the Government of Liberia to intensify its efforts toward achieving progress on the transition of security responsibilities from the United Nations Mission in

Liberia to the national authorities, particularly with regard to prioritizing and resourcing the critical gaps to facilitate a successful transition, improving the capacity and capability of the Liberia National Police and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization as well as the justice sector, including courts and prisons, enabling the promotion of human rights and reconciliation, effective oversight, professionalism, transparency and accountability across all security institutions and strengthening democratic institutions and extension of State authority and services throughout the country for the benefit of all Liberians;

5. *Affirms its expectation* that the Government of Liberia will assume fully its complete security responsibilities from the Mission no later than 30 June 2016, and also affirms its intention to consider accordingly, consistent with paragraphs 16 and 17 below, the continued and future reconfiguration of the Mission;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the Government of Liberia formulating a concrete plan, with timelines and benchmarks, for building the security sector in coordination with the reconfiguration of the Mission, detailing leadership, coordination, monitoring and resources, oversight mechanisms, early passage of the draft Police Act and further reform of the promotion and manpower policies, with a view to decentralizing the national security institutions, particularly the Liberia National Police;

7. *Underscores* the importance of the Government of Liberia, in coordination with the Mission, the United Nations country team and international partners, continuing to develop national security and rule of law institutions that are fully and independently operational, and to this end encourages accelerated coordinated progress on the development and implementation of the security and justice development plans and the national human rights action plan, urges the effective, transparent and efficient management by the Government of assistance, including from bilateral and multilateral partners, to support the reform of the justice and security sectors, and further urges the Government to redouble its efforts to register and track arms and related materiel used and imported by its security forces;

Sexual and gender-based violence

8. *Expresses its continued concern* that women and girls in Liberia continue to face a high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence, reiterates its call upon the Government of Liberia to continue to combat sexual violence, particularly against children, and gender-based violence, to aggressively combat impunity for perpetrators of such crimes, to provide redress, support and protection to victims, including through public information campaigns and by continuing to strengthen national police capacity in this area, and to raise awareness of existing national legislation on sexual violence, and encourages the Government to reinforce its commitment in this regard, including by funding the implementation of its national action plan on sexual and gender-based violence and improving women and girls' access to justice;

Mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

9. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Mission until 30 September 2015;

10. *Also decides* that the mandate of the Mission shall be the following, in priority order:

(a) Protection of civilians

To protect, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Liberian authorities, the civilian population from threat of physical violence, within its capabilities and areas of deployment;

(b) Humanitarian assistance support

- (i) To facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance, including in collaboration with the Government of Liberia, and those supporting it, and by helping to establish the necessary security conditions;
- (ii) To coordinate with the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, as appropriate;

(c) Reform of justice and security institutions

- (i) To assist the Government of Liberia in developing and implementing, as soon as possible and in close coordination with bilateral and multilateral partners, its national strategy on security sector reform;
- (ii) To advise the Government of Liberia on security sector reform and on the organization of the Liberia National Police and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization to provide technical assistance, co-location and mentoring programmes for the National Police and the Bureau, with a particular focus on developing the leadership and internal management systems of the National Police and the Bureau, as well as for justice and corrections;
- (iii) To assist the Government of Liberia in extending national justice and security sector services throughout the country through capacity-building and training;
- (iv) To assist the Government of Liberia to coordinate these efforts with all partners, including bilateral and multilateral donors;

(d) Electoral support

To assist the Government of Liberia with the senatorial elections by providing logistical support, particularly to facilitate access to remote areas, coordinating international electoral assistance and supporting Liberian institutions and all Liberian stakeholders, including political parties, in creating an atmosphere conducive to the conduct of peaceful elections, including through UNMIL Radio;

(e) Human rights promotion and protection

- (i) To carry out human rights promotion, protection and monitoring activities in Liberia, with special attention to violations and abuses committed against children and women, notably sexual and gender-based violence;
- (ii) To support the strengthening of efforts by the Government of Liberia to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including its efforts to combat impunity for perpetrators of such crimes;

(f) Protection of United Nations personnel

To protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment and ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

11. *Further decides* that the Mission, in accordance with paragraphs 4 to 6 and 10 (c) above, shall put renewed focus on supporting the Government of Liberia to achieve a successful transition of complete security responsibility to the Liberia National Police by strengthening its capacity

to manage existing personnel and to improve training programmes to expedite their readiness to assume security responsibilities throughout Liberia;

12. *Requests* the Mission to ensure that any support provided to non-United Nations security forces is provided in strict compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Mission has the requisite qualified specialist advisers with the professional skills and experience appropriate to this transition phase in order to enhance mentoring with the aim of increasing the capacity of the Government of Liberia, particularly the Liberia National Police and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, to accelerate the implementation of sustainable rule of law, justice, governance and security sector reform programmes, including mechanisms to hold perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence accountable;

14. *States* the importance of the Mission, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, and without prejudice to its mandate, continuing to assist the Government of Liberia, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to paragraph 21 of resolution 1521(2003) and the Panel of Experts on Liberia and to carry out its tasks in this regard, as set forth in previous resolutions, including resolution 1683(2006) of 13 June 2006;

Force structure

15. *Decides* that the authorized strength of the Mission shall remain at up to 4,811 military and 1,795 police personnel;

16. *Recalls* its endorsement, in its resolution 2066(2012), of the recommendation of the Secretary-General to decrease the military strength of the Mission in three phases between August 2012 and July 2015, and affirms its intention to resume the phased drawdown once it has been determined that Liberia has made significant progress in combating the Ebola outbreak, which represents a threat to the peace and stability of Liberia;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an update no later than 15 March 2015 on the situation in Liberia, especially an assessment of the impact of the Ebola outbreak on the stability of Liberia and options for resuming the drawdown in line with the objective of completing the security transition as referred to in paragraph 5 above, and recognizes that the modalities for the resumption of the phased drawdown, referred to in paragraph 16 above, may require adjustments in the light of this update;

Regional and inter-mission cooperation

18. *Recognizes* that the Ebola outbreak has put on hold the joint activities between the Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as between the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, calls upon these Governments to continue reinforcing their cooperation, particularly with respect to the border area, including through increased monitoring, information-sharing, and coordinated actions, and in implementing the shared border strategy, inter alia, to support the disarmament and repatriation of armed elements on both sides of the border and the voluntary return of refugees in safety and dignity, as well as to address the root causes of conflict and tension, and in this regard calls upon all United

Nations entities in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, including all relevant components of the Operation and the Mission, within their respective mandates, capabilities and areas of deployment, as well as the two United Nations country teams, where relevant and appropriate, to support the Ivorian and Liberian authorities;

19. *Affirms* the importance of inter-mission cooperation arrangements as the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire downsize, reaffirms the inter-mission cooperation framework set out in its resolution 1609(2005) of 24 June 2005, recalls its endorsement in its resolution 2062(2012) of 26 July 2012 of the recommendation of the Secretary-General to transfer three armed helicopters from the Mission to the Operation to be used in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia along and across their border, and also recalls its decision in its resolution 2162(2014) of 25 June 2014 that all military utility helicopters of the Operation and the Mission shall be utilized in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia in order to facilitate rapid response and mobility, while not affecting the area of responsibility of either mission;

20. *Recalls* the proposal by the Secretary-General as set out in his report of 15 May 2014, to establish, in the context of inter-mission cooperation arrangements between the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, for an initial period of one year and within the authorized military strength of the Operation, a quick reaction force to implement the mandate of the Operation and to support the Mission, while reiterating that this unit will remain primarily an asset of the Operation;

21. *Also recalls* its authorization, pursuant to its resolution 2162(2014), to the Secretary-General to deploy this unit to Liberia, subject to the consent of the troop-contributing countries concerned and the Government of Liberia, in the event of a serious deterioration of the security situation on the ground in order to temporarily reinforce the Mission with the sole purpose of implementing its mandate, and further recalls its requests to the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure that this unit reaches full operational capability as soon as possible, and no later than May 2015, and to inform the Council immediately of any deployment of this unit to Liberia and to obtain Council authorization for any such deployment for a period that exceeds 90 days;

Reports of the Secretary-General

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of the situation in Liberia and the implementation of the mandate of the Mission and to provide to it a midterm report no later than 30 April 2015 and a final report no later than 15 August 2015 on the situation on the ground and implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Financing

In June, the General Assembly considered the performance report on the UNMIL budget for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/621], showing a total expenditure of \$496,400,200 gross (\$485,958,500 net) against an appropriation of \$496,405,000 gross (\$486,673,000 net). The Assembly also had before it the proposed UNMIL budget for the period from 1 July

2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/761], which amounted to \$433,483,200 gross (\$424,485,600 net), together with the related ACABQ report [A/68/782/Add.16], which recommended a reduction of \$282,000 in the proposed UNMIL budget for that period.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/927], adopted **resolution 68/291** without vote [agenda item 157].

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1497(2003) of 1 August 2003, by which the Council declared its readiness to establish a United Nations stabilization force to support the transitional government and to assist in the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement in Liberia,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1509(2003) of 19 September 2003, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in Liberia for a period of 12 months, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2116(2013) of 18 September 2013, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 September 2014,

Recalling further its resolution 58/315 of 1 July 2004,

Recalling its resolution 58/261 A of 23 December 2003 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/277 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Liberia as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 40.2 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 73 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Stresses* that the exceptional arrangement set out in paragraph 18 below does not set a precedent for the budgetary process and that it shall not have a negative impact on mandate delivery;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

13. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in Liberia the amount of 460,613,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 427,267,000 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 27,647,200 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 5,699,000 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

14. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 106,816,750 dollars for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2014 for the maintenance of the Mission, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

15. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as

provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,242,500 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2014;

16. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 27,647,200 dollars for the support account and the amount of 5,699,000 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

17. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,264,000 dollars, for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, comprising the prorated share of 1,754,800 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 509,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States, without setting a precedent, the amount of 106,816,750 dollars for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2014 for the maintenance of the Mission, at a monthly rate of 35,605,583 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

19. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,242,500 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2014;

20. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 6,749,300 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

21. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 6,749,300 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 20 above;

22. *Further decides* that the increase of 709,700 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 6,749,300 dollars referred to in paragraphs 20 and 21 above;

23. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

24. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security

of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

25. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia".

Note by Secretary-General. In a 21 October note [A/69/545 & Corr.1] on financing arrangements for UNMIL for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, the Secretary-General said that the General Assembly had to assess the additional amount of \$213,633,500 gross (\$209,148,500 net) for the maintenance of UNMIL during the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015, taking into account the amount of \$427,267,000 appropriated for the maintenance of UNMIL for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, and the amount of \$213,633,550 already assessed for the maintenance of UNMIL for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014.

In December [A/69/627], ACABQ concluded that the Secretary-General's proposal did not constitute a revised budget and, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/291, it was up to the Assembly to make a determination as to the required level of assessment for UNMIL for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/682], adopted **resolution 69/259** without vote [agenda item 159].

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2190(2014) of 15 December 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 September 2015,

Recalling also its resolution 58/261 A of 23 December 2003 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/291 of 30 June 2014,

1. *Decides*, taking into account the amount of 213,633,500 United States dollars already apportioned among Member States under the terms of its resolution 68/291 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, to apportion among Member States the amount of 213,633,500 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015 for the maintenance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, in accordance with the levels updated

in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

2. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 1 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 4,485,000 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015;

3. *Further decides* to keep under review during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia".

On 29 December, the General Assembly, by **decision 69/554**, decided to defer the consideration of the item on the financing of UNMIL to its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Sierra Leone

The closure in March of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) marked the successful conclusion of over 15 years of successive UN peace operations in Sierra Leone. The residual responsibilities of UNIPSIL were transferred to the UN country team at a time when national institutions were assuming greater responsibility and ownership for the country's peacebuilding and development agenda.

Political and security developments

Report of Secretary-General (March). Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2065(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 156] and 2097(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 180], the Secretary-General submitted in March the final report [S/2014/192] on the activities of UNIPSIL and major developments in Sierra Leone. The report took stock of the overall implementation of the UNIPSIL mandate since the establishment of the mission in 2008 and provided an assessment of the remaining challenges facing Sierra Leone after drawdown.

The President of Sierra Leone, Ernest Bai Koroma, continued his outreach efforts to promote political dialogue. On 8 January, he met with leaders of the 10 registered political parties in the country and reiterated his pledge that he would not seek re-election at the end of his second five-year term. All parties recognized the need for multiparty talks to reduce political tensions and build consensus on critical issues of national interest. It was agreed that regular consultations among political parties would be held both in Freetown and in the regions. In spite of global economic uncertainties, the economy of Sierra Leone had remained resilient and relatively stable. The economy grew by 15.2 per cent in 2012, mainly owing to the revival of the iron ore industry, and achieved the projected growth rate for 2013 of 13.3 per cent.

In accordance with its transition and exit strategy, UNIPSIL had continued to carry out its liquidation plan and to hand over residual tasks to the UN country team. All four regional offices were closed by December 2013. Two of the regional offices were taken over by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund, thereby enabling a continued UN presence in the field.

The Secretary-General noted that Sierra Leoneans lived at peace with one another and generally felt free and that it was safe to travel to any part of the country without fear. The recognition of and respect for freedom of association and opinion had resulted in the establishment of a number of active political parties, civil society organizations, media outlets and professional associations. Notwithstanding those achievements, challenges linked to the root causes of the conflict continued to require attention, including the high poverty rate, corruption, youth unemployment, mutual distrust between the All People's Congress and the Sierra Leone People's Party (the two main political parties that had alternated in power since independence in 1961), election-related tensions, and perceived ethnic and regional imbalances and political exclusion. The enormous economic opportunities created as a result of the discovery and exploitation of vast mineral resources had to be managed if the country's development aspirations were to be realized and if all Sierra Leoneans were to experience tangible improvements in their standard of living.

Communication. In a 24 March letter to the Security Council President [S/2014/211], the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission shared his report on his visit to Sierra Leone from 25 to 28 February. The trip provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress on peacebuilding, particularly in the light of the impending withdrawal of UNIPSIL. The report was made available to Security Council members only.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 March [meeting 7148], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/6** on behalf of the Council:

As the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone completes its mandate on 31 March 2014, the Security Council commends the remarkable achievements made by Sierra Leone over the past decade as well as its contribution to important regional and global initiatives. The Council further commends the effectiveness of the approach of the United Nations, international financial institutions, regional and subregional bodies and the broader international community to peacebuilding in Sierra Leone.

The Council welcomes the considerable progress that has been made by Sierra Leone in strengthening institutional and human resources capacities of State

institutions, including in the security, justice and governance sectors, which play crucial roles in safeguarding stability and promoting democracy.

The Council also welcomes the successful presidential and parliamentary elections conducted in 2012, which have helped to consolidate Sierra Leone's democratic institutions.

The Council recognizes the important contribution of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office in promoting peace, stability and development in Sierra Leone, particularly during the 2012 electoral process. The Council expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the mission and the United Nations country team, under the leadership of the Executive Representatives of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone.

The Council underscores the importance of continued support to Sierra Leone as it embarks on the next stage of its development, beyond the Integrated Peacebuilding Office, including the constitutional review process, and notes the willingness of the United Nations and bilateral and multilateral partners to continue, as requested by the Sierra Leonean authorities, to play a significant role in this regard. In addition, the Council urges the international community and development partners to continue to provide coordinated and coherent support to Sierra Leone to meet its peacebuilding and development priorities.

The Council stresses that there is important work ahead to further embed peace and secure equitable prosperity for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans. The Council welcomes the adoption by the Government of Sierra Leone of the Agenda for Prosperity covering the period from 2013 to 2018 and notes the importance of the implementation of this programme in accordance with the mutual accountability framework agreed between the Government of Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone's Development Partners Committee in March 2013.

The Council reaffirms the important potential role of extractive industries in the economic development of Sierra Leone, and encourages the Government of Sierra Leone and international partners to strengthen protection of workers' rights and national capacities for transparent regulation, oversight and revenue collection from such industries, as well as to address issues of land ownership with a view to establishing mutually beneficial arrangements for local communities and the private sector, and calls upon the Government to tackle corruption.

The Council stresses the importance for Sierra Leone's long-term stability of ensuring a peaceful, credible and transparent electoral process in 2017.

The Council reiterates its request in its resolution 2097(2013) that the United Nations Office for West Africa make available its good offices to support the Government of Sierra Leone and the new United Nations Resident Coordinator as necessary.

The Council welcomes the work of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Council recalls its request in resolution 2097(2013) for the Commission to review its engagement with a view to scaling down its role and welcomes the Commission's shift to a lighter form of engagement for a transitional period over the next 12 months, as outlined in its report to the Council. The Council requests that Sierra Leone

contribute to the work of the Commission to gather lessons learned and best practices.

The Council congratulates the Special Court for Sierra Leone on the completion of its mandate, recalls the strong support it expressed for the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone as it commences its functioning, and reiterates its call in resolution 2097(2013) for Member States to contribute generously.

Letter of Secretary-General. In a 15 September letter [S/2014/669] to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General transmitted a joint letter from Alpha Condé, the President of Guinea; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of Liberia; and Ernest Bai Koroma, the President of Sierra Leone, requesting a UN resolution for a coordinated international response to end the Ebola outbreak.

(For more information on the United Nations response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, see PART THREE, Chapter XIII.)

UNIPSIL

The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) was established by Security Council resolution 1829(2008) [YUN 2008, p. 215] as the successor mission to the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, with a mandate focused on strengthening governmental capacities, including assisting the Government in providing support to national and local efforts for identifying and resolving threats of conflict; monitoring and promoting human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law; consolidating good governance reforms, with a focus on anti-corruption efforts; strengthening the Parliament and key governance institutions; and coordinating strategy among UN agencies in Sierra Leone. In resolution 1886(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 210], the Council emphasized the importance of UNIPSIL in supporting the Government in constitutional reform; building police capacity; tackling corruption, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime; addressing youth unemployment; supporting preparations for the 2012 elections; and assisting the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen (Denmark) served as the Executive Representative to Sierra Leone and Head of UNIPSIL. By resolution 2097(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 180], the Security Council extended the mandate of UNIPSIL for a final period ending on 31 March 2014, in order to complete its mandate and transfer its responsibilities to the UN country team.

Guinea-Bissau

There was a return to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau in 2014 with the holding of peaceful and transparent legislative and presidential elections in April and May. José Mário Vaz of the African Party for

the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde (PAIGC) was sworn in as President of Guinea-Bissau in June. Some 102 newly elected parliamentarians were also sworn in. The African Union (AU) lifted the suspension of Guinea-Bissau, paving the way for the country to participate in that organization again. The socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the country remained fragile, with the second quarter of 2014 marked by trade union protests and strikes. In November, the National Assembly took two important decisions aimed at implementing its reform programme. First, it elected an Inspector-General for the Fight against Corruption, sending a positive signal that the Government was determined to tackle corruption; and secondly, it adopted a resolution reactivating the ad hoc Commission for Constitutional Review established in 2010.

During the year, the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) was extended twice by the Security Council, by resolution 2157(2014) (see p. 276) until 30 November and by resolution 2186(2014) (see p. 279) until 28 February 2015.

Political and security developments

Restoration of constitutional order

Reports of Secretary-General (February and May). Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2048(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 160] and 2103(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 186], the Secretary-General submitted reports in February [S/2014/105] and May [S/2014/332] on the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, and on the humanitarian situation in the country.

The political landscape during the first months of the year was dominated by preparations for the general elections, the continuing political crisis within the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde (PAIGC) and the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the arrival in and departure from Bissau of 74 individuals allegedly of Syrian nationality.

No significant progress was made in the areas of human rights protection and the fight against impunity. There were new cases of political harassment of former and current members of the Transitional Government and a widespread sense of insecurity and impunity. Restrictions on the right to the freedom of expression and assembly, imposed since the coup d'état of 2012, remained in force.

During meetings convened on 4 and 5 January by the Transitional President with various national and international stakeholders to discuss the voter registration process, the Transitional Government announced that the voter registration period would be extended until 30 January. By then the process had gained enough momentum for the Technical Office

for Support to the Electoral Process to announce on 30 January the registration of 677,114 voters, 12,349 of whom were part of the diaspora. The voter registration process concluded on 10 February.

On 21 February, the Transitional President, Manuel Serifo Nhamadjo, issued a presidential decree announcing that the general elections would take place on 13 April. On 3 March, the Transitional President announced publicly that he would not contest the presidential election. The announcement put an end to controversy over his possible candidacy, which had been prohibited under the transitional political pact of May 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 164]. On 6 March, the National Assembly held an extraordinary session to ratify the new electoral timelines proposed by the Transitional President.

On 13 April, the elections were held as scheduled. The candidate of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde, José Mário Vaz, obtained 40.98 per cent of the votes, while the independent candidate, Nuno Gomes Nabiam, obtained 25.14 per cent of the votes. In accordance with the electoral laws, since no candidate had obtained at least 50 per cent plus one vote, a run-off election was scheduled for 18 May.

UNIOGBIS

In a May report [S/2014/333] submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2103(2013), the Secretary-General provided information on the status of implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS). The Office assisted national stakeholders in preparing for the conduct of presidential and legislative elections, which had taken place on 13 April. The Mission also supported the Ministries of Interior and Defence of the Transitional Government in developing the national electoral security plan for 2014, which allowed for the two Ministries to jointly command and oversee police and military personnel. In February, UNIOGBIS implemented the first phase of a training programme on electoral security for 62 police officers from the Public Order Police and the National Guard. In March and April, UNIOGBIS completed the second and third phases of the training, which targeted 1,283 police officers in all regions of the country, with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund under the Immediate Response Facility. Joint efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNIOGBIS contributed to ensuring the functioning of the Transnational Crime Unit and enhanced capacity-building across the regions of the country.

The Secretary-General recommended that the mandate of UNIOGBIS be renewed for another year, until 31 May 2015, to enable the Office to support the efforts of the new Government as it settled into

office and commenced the complex task of rebuilding State institutions. The Secretary-General also recommended that a comprehensive review of the mandate of UNIOGBIS be conducted in early 2015, prior to its expiration, to ensure that it was aligned with the priorities identified by the new Government and effectively streamlined with the programmes being implemented by other international partners.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 May [meeting 7187], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2157(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/374] was submitted by Chad, Nigeria and Rwanda:

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, the statements by its President and its statements to the press on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, in particular resolutions 1876(2009) of 26 June 2009, 2030(2011) of 21 December 2011, 2048(2012) of 18 May 2012, 2092(2013) of 22 February 2013 and 2103(2013) of 22 May 2013,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General of 12 May 2014 on Guinea-Bissau and the recommendations contained therein, and commending the engagement of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau,

Welcoming the successful holding of presidential and legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau, and congratulating the people of Guinea-Bissau who participated in the election in record numbers, which showed their strong commitment to democracy,

Emphasizing the need for respect of democratic principles, and stressing the importance of inclusive governance, essential for the attainment of lasting peace in Guinea-Bissau,

Stressing that the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau can result only from a consensual, inclusive and nationally owned transition process, the restoration of and respect for constitutional order, the reforms in the defence, security and justice sectors, the promotion of the rule of law, the protection of human rights, the promotion of socioeconomic development and the fight against impunity and drug trafficking,

Stressing also that all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau should work to ensure short-, medium- and long-term stability through clear commitment and genuine inclusive political dialogue aimed at creating conditions conducive to finding viable and sustainable solutions to the country's social, economic, political and military problems, which would facilitate the implementation of key reforms and the strengthening of State institutions,

Expressing concern at the lack of effective civilian control and oversight over the defence and security forces, which hampers the political process and effective functioning of State institutions, as a result of collusion between some political actors and the military leadership,

Commending the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States to create the conditions for free and fair elections and democratic process and to support the security sector reform process in Guinea-Bissau, namely through the activities of its Mission in Guinea-Bissau,

Reiterating its serious concern about reports of continuing serious violations and abuses of human rights, as well as the atmosphere of residual political tension in Guinea-Bissau, and condemning restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and of the press,

Reiterating its deep concern at the threat that drug trafficking poses to stability, and re-emphasizing the need to tackle the problem of drug trafficking in the countries of origin, transit and final destination through an approach of common and shared responsibility,

Underlining that any lasting solution to instability in Guinea-Bissau should include concrete actions to fight impunity and ensure that those responsible for politically motivated assassinations and other serious crimes such as drug trafficking-related activities and breaches of constitutional order are brought to justice, including through transitional justice mechanisms,

Reiterating the importance of the continued support of the United Nations and international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral partners for the long-term security and development of Guinea-Bissau, particularly towards the implementation of security and justice sector reforms, the fight against drug trafficking, organized crime and human trafficking, as well as the creation of an enabling environment for good governance and inclusive and sustainable social and economic development,

Commending the important work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities in the fight against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in Guinea-Bissau and the subregion, and encouraging enhanced cooperation between the Office and the Integrated Peacebuilding Office,

Stressing the urgent need to maintain in Guinea-Bissau continuous evaluation capacity and to continue to support national, subregional, regional and international institutions in charge of the fight against drug trafficking,

Stressing also the need for increased coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant partners to enhance their collective efforts towards combating drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau, in particular through the sharing of information,

Emphasizing the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as recognized in resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, welcoming the mission's work to increase women's participation in Guinea-Bissau, and underlining that a gender perspective must continue to inform the implementation of all relevant aspects of the mandate of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office,

Condemning cases of illegal and unauthorized fishing in Guinea-Bissau's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, as well as illegal exploitation of natural resources, which undermines prospects for the economic development of the country,

Reaffirming that Guinea-Bissau's partners should continue to actively and closely coordinate their actions to help to bring solutions to the country's political, security and development challenges, and in this regard welcoming the efforts made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to convene an international donor conference in close consultation with international, regional and sub-regional development partners in order to mobilize resources

for the country's development priorities, including the implementation of the governance efficacy amelioration programme,

Taking note of the statement made by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on 19 May 2014 with regard to the determination of the Commission to re-engage with Guinea-Bissau,

Recognizing the need for the Integrated Peacebuilding Office to support national efforts to fully restore and maintain constitutional order and to promote a multi-layered national dialogue in the post-election period,

Reaffirming its full commitment to the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, as follows, for a period of six months beginning on 1 June 2014 until 30 November 2014:

(a) Supporting an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process to facilitate democratic governance;

(b) Assisting in strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing the capacity of State organs to function effectively and constitutionally;

(c) Providing strategic and technical advice and support for the establishment of effective and efficient law enforcement and criminal justice and penitentiary systems, capable of maintaining public security and combating impunity, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) Providing strategic and technical advice and support to national authorities and relevant stakeholders, including in coordination with the Economic Community of West African States and its Mission in Guinea-Bissau, in implementing the national security sector reform and rule of law strategies, as well as developing civilian and military justice systems that are compliant with international standards;

(e) Assisting national authorities to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, in close cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(f) Assisting national authorities in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as undertaking human rights monitoring and reporting activities;

(g) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) and 1820(2008);

(h) Working with the Peacebuilding Commission in support of Guinea-Bissau's peacebuilding priorities;

(i) Contributing to the mobilization, harmonization and coordination of international assistance, including for the implementation of the national security sector reform and rule of law strategies, and enhancing cooperation with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the European Union and other partners in support of the restoration and maintenance of constitutional order and the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau;

2. *Reiterates its demand* to the security and defence services to submit themselves fully to civilian control;

3. *Condemns* the violations and abuses of human rights, including political and civil rights, urges the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to take all measures necessary to protect

human rights, put an end to impunity, initiate investigations to identify the perpetrators of such acts and bring them to justice and take action to protect witnesses in order to ensure due process, and also urges them to take steps to mitigate the climate of fear resulting from restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly;

4. *Welcomes* the joint efforts by international partners, in particular the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, to enhance cooperation in support of the legitimate democratic Government in Guinea-Bissau, and encourages them to continue to work together towards the stabilization of the country;

5. *Encourages* the efforts in support of security sector reform as a crucial element for long-term stability in Guinea-Bissau, and encourages coordinated action by all relevant subregional, regional and international partners of Guinea-Bissau in this field in order to obtain expeditious and positive results;

6. *Calls upon* the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to review, adopt and implement national legislation and mechanisms to more effectively combat transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking and money-laundering and, in this context, to provide additional support to the Transnational Crime Unit established under the West Africa Coast Initiative, and urges both the authorities of Guinea-Bissau and its security and defence services to demonstrate full commitment to combating drug trafficking, and calls upon international partners to support their efforts;

7. *Encourages* members of the international community to enhance cooperation with Guinea-Bissau in order to enable it to ensure control of air traffic and surveillance of maritime security within its jurisdiction, in particular to fight drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as illegal fishing in Guinea-Bissau's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone and other cases of illegal exploitation of natural resources;

8. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau to increase efforts to achieve greater coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Guinea-Bissau to maximize their collective effectiveness towards combating drug trafficking, in particular through provision by these agencies, funds and programmes of relevant information to the Special Representative on individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with drug trafficking that contribute to creating a threat to the peace, stability and security of Guinea-Bissau and the subregion;

9. *Invites* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to share all relevant information with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048(2012), particularly names of individuals who meet the criteria set forth in paragraph 6 and elaborated upon in paragraph 7 of resolution 2048(2012);

10. *Stresses* the challenges posed by the fight against drug trafficking in the search for solutions to the overall political and economic crisis in Guinea-Bissau, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the relevant capacity within the Integrated Peacebuilding Office, by continuing to provide an anti-drug component, including appropriate expertise;

11. *Encourages* international bilateral and multilateral partners to continue their technical support to Guinea-

Bissau in strengthening efforts to tackle transnational organized crime, including illicit activities such as money-laundering and drug trafficking, calls upon them to increase their support to the West Africa Coast Initiative and the Transnational Crime Unit to fight transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, which threaten security and stability in Guinea-Bissau and in the subregion, and further encourages them to contribute to support the presence of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Guinea-Bissau and to the Integrated Peacebuilding Office trust fund for immediate, medium- and longer-term priorities, including for post-election reforms;

12. *Strongly emphasizes* the importance of the convening of an international pledging conference on the recovery of Guinea-Bissau;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the mandate of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office, to ensure that it is aligned with the priorities identified by the legitimate democratic Government and to report the findings of such review by 30 October 2014;

14. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Letter of Secretary-General. In a 21 July letter [S/2014/528] to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General requested a three-month extension, beyond 30 October, for the submission of a comprehensive review of the mandate of UNIOGBIS to ensure that it was aligned with the priorities identified by the Government, as requested by the Council in resolution 2157(2014) (see p. 276). The Council took note of the Secretary-General's letter on 23 July [S/2014/529], in turn requesting a written update by 12 November, which the Council could consider prior to the expiration of the mandate of UNIOGBIS on 30 November.

Further developments

Report of Secretary-General (August). Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2048(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 160] and 2103(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 186], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [S/2014/603] on the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, and on the humanitarian situation in the country.

On 18 May, the second round of the presidential election was conducted in a peaceful manner with no reports of major technical or logistical shortcomings.

Mr. Vaz of PAIGC obtained 61.9 per cent of the vote in the run-off election, while Mr. Nabiam, the independent candidate, received 38.1 per cent. On 23 June, Mr. Vaz was sworn in as the new President of Guinea-Bissau. Following talks with all political parties represented in Parliament, President Vaz appointed Domingos Simões Pereira, the President of PAIGC, as the new Prime Minister on 25 June.

There was no significant progress made towards human rights protection and greater accountability for previous human rights violations in the country.

On 17 June, the AU lifted the suspension of Guinea-Bissau from the activities of the organization, paving the way for the country to participate in the 23rd ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU, which was held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 20 to 27 June. And on 14 July, the Council of the European Union issued a statement announcing the suspension of measures limiting the European Union's cooperation with Guinea-Bissau following the holding of "free and credible" elections.

The socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the country remained fragile. The weak capacities of the Government for fiscal revenue collection, in conjunction with the extended suspension of budgetary support by Guinea-Bissau's development partners, significantly affected the State's ability to meet its basic obligations, including the delivery of social services. Concerning the Ebola virus disease outbreak in neighbouring Guinea, no cases of the Ebola virus were reported in Guinea-Bissau.

The Secretary-General observed that the high voter turnout in the second round of the presidential election, as well as the peaceful and orderly conduct of the poll, demonstrated the determination of the people of Guinea-Bissau to restore constitutional order to their country. The August report was the final update by the Secretary-General on the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau (see below).

Letters of Secretary-General. In a 13 August letter [S/2014/600] to the Security Council, the Secretary-General noted that, in the light of the successful return to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, which was the main target set by the Security Council in its resolution 2048(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 160], he recommended for the consideration of the Council that his report in August (see above) be the last one. Any future updates on the remaining elements of resolution 2048(2012), as well as on broader issues relevant to the consolidation of constitutional order, would be provided every six months in his regular reports on UNIOGBIS, while oral briefings to the Security Council would continue to be provided, as and when required. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's letter on 15 August [S/2014/601].

By an 11 November letter [S/2014/805] to the Security Council, the Secretary-General provided a written update on the situation in Guinea-Bissau for the consideration of the Council before the expiration of the mandate of UNIOGBIS on 30 November. The situation in the country was characterized by intense activities on the part of the newly elected Government to identify its priorities, plan for an international donor round table and put in place measures to ensure stability.

The security situation remained stable. On 15 September, President Vaz issued a decree to dismiss the

Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces, General António Indjai. On 17 September, the President promoted Brigadier Biaguê Na N'tan to the rank of General and appointed him as the successor to General Indjai. On 30 September, the President issued a decree to grant pardons to six individuals who had been convicted by the Supreme Military Court of Guinea-Bissau in connection with an incident involving the airborne regiment located at the Bissalanca air force base in Bissau on 21 October 2012. He said that the pardons had been granted in the context of promoting national unity and reconciliation.

UNIOGBIS and the UN country team had been supporting efforts by the Government and civil society organizations to prepare for the second universal periodic review of Guinea-Bissau by the Human Rights Council, scheduled for January 2015. The authorities, assisted by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund and other international partners, worked to prevent the spread of Ebola to the country.

The Secretary-General noted that he had deployed a multidisciplinary strategic assessment mission to Guinea-Bissau from 3 to 14 November (see p. 281). He therefore recommended that the Council consider technically rolling over the mandate of UNIOGBIS for a period of three months, until 28 February 2015.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 7321], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2186(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/842] was submitted by Chad, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, the statements by its President and its statements to the press on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, in particular resolutions 1876(2009) of 26 June 2009, 2030(2011) of 21 December 2011, 2048(2012) of 18 May 2012, 2092(2013) of 22 February 2013, 2103(2013) of 22 May 2013 and 2157(2014) of 29 May 2014,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 18 August 2014 on Guinea-Bissau and his letter dated 11 November 2014 to the President of the Security Council and the recommendations contained therein, and commending the engagement of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau,

Welcoming the progress made by the Government of Guinea-Bissau in determining its national priorities following the return to constitutional order,

Emphasizing the need for respect of democratic principles, and stressing the importance of inclusive governance, essential for the attainment of lasting peace in Guinea-Bissau,

Stressing that the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau can result only from a consensual, inclusive

and nationally owned process, respect for constitutional order, the reforms in the defence, security and justice sectors, the promotion of the rule of law, the protection of human rights, the promotion of socioeconomic development and the fight against impunity and drug trafficking,

Stressing also that all stakeholders should work to ensure short-, medium- and long-term stability through clear commitment and genuine inclusive political dialogue aimed at creating conditions conducive to finding viable and sustainable solutions to the country's social, economic, political and military problems, which would facilitate the implementation of key reforms and the strengthening of State institutions,

Emphasizing the importance of pursuing a national reconciliation and social cohesion strategy, and underlining the importance of including all Bissau-Guineans in the reconciliation process at the national and local levels, while upholding justice and the rule of law and combating impunity,

Noting efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to gain effective civilian control and oversight over the defence and security forces, as failure to do so could adversely affect the effective functioning of State institutions, as a result of collusion between some political actors and the military leadership,

Commending the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States in helping to sustain peace, security and development and to support the security sector reform process in Guinea-Bissau, namely through the activities of its Mission in Guinea-Bissau,

Taking note of the desire of the new authorities of Guinea-Bissau to maintain the presence of the Mission on the ground to support the implementation of reforms and to build up confidence among international partners,

Reiterating its concern about reports of continuing violations and abuses of human rights, and calling upon the Government of Guinea-Bissau to conduct transparent and credible investigations into all alleged human rights violations and abuses, in accordance with international standards, and to hold those responsible accountable for their actions,

Reiterating its deep concern at the threat that drug trafficking poses to stability, and re-emphasizing the need to tackle the problem of drug trafficking in the countries of origin, transit and final destination through an approach of common and shared responsibility,

Underlining that any lasting solution to instability in Guinea-Bissau should include concrete actions to fight impunity and ensure that those responsible for politically motivated assassinations and other serious crimes such as breaches of constitutional order and drug trafficking-related activities are brought to justice, including through national judicial mechanisms,

Welcoming, in this regard, the efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to update the three-year national plan for combating drug trafficking and organized crime, prepared in June 2011, and to define new priority areas accordingly,

Reiterating the importance of the continued support of the United Nations and international, regional, subregional, and bilateral partners for the long-term security and development of Guinea-Bissau, particularly towards the implementation of security and justice sector reforms, the fight against drug trafficking, organized crime and

human trafficking, as well as the creation of an enabling environment for good governance and inclusive and sustainable social and economic development,

Commending the important work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities in the fight against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in Guinea-Bissau and the subregion, and encouraging enhanced cooperation between the Office and the Integrated Peacebuilding Office,

Stressing the urgent need to maintain in Guinea-Bissau continuous evaluation capacity and to continue to support national, subregional, regional and international institutions in charge of the fight against drug trafficking,

Stressing also the need for increased coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant partners to enhance their collective efforts toward combating drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau, in particular through the sharing of information,

Emphasizing the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as recognized in resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013, welcoming the mission's work to increase women's participation in Guinea-Bissau, and underlining that a gender perspective must continue to inform the implementation of all relevant aspects of the mandate of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office,

Condemning cases of illegal and unauthorized fishing in Guinea-Bissau's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, as well as illegal exploitation of natural resources, which undermines prospects for the economic development of the country,

Reaffirming that Guinea-Bissau's partners should continue to actively and closely coordinate their actions to help to bring solutions to the country's political, security and development challenges, and in this regard welcoming the efforts made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to convene an international donor conference in close consultation with international, regional and subregional development partners in order to mobilize resources for the country's development priorities, including the Government of Guinea-Bissau's 2014–2018 programme containing immediate and long-term priorities for the country,

Taking note of the statement made by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on 18 November 2014, and welcoming the engagement of the Commission with Guinea-Bissau,

Welcoming the reactivation of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau and its 10th meeting, held on 18 November 2014,

Recognizing the need for the Integrated Peacebuilding Office to support national efforts to maintain constitutional order and to promote a multi-layered national dialogue towards peace and reconciliation,

Reaffirming the importance of preparedness by all Member States to detect, prevent, respond to, isolate and mitigate suspected cases of Ebola within and across borders, and recalling the International Health Regulations (2005), which aim to improve the capacity of all countries to detect, assess, notify and respond to public health threats,

Reaffirming its full commitment to the consolidation of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau for a period of three months beginning on 1 December 2014 until 28 February 2015, to perform the following tasks:

(a) Supporting an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process to facilitate democratic governance;

(b) Assisting in strengthening democratic institutions and enhancing the capacity of State organs to function effectively and constitutionally;

(c) Providing strategic and technical advice and support for the establishment of effective and efficient law enforcement and criminal justice and penitentiary systems, capable of maintaining public security and combating impunity, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) Providing strategic and technical advice and support to national authorities and relevant stakeholders, including in coordination with the Economic Community of West African States and its Mission in Guinea-Bissau, in implementing the national security sector reform and rule of law strategies, as well as developing civilian and military justice systems that are compliant with international standards;

(e) Assisting national authorities to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, in close cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(f) Assisting national authorities in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as undertaking human rights monitoring and reporting activities;

(g) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) and 1820(2008);

(h) Working with the Peacebuilding Commission in support of Guinea-Bissau's peacebuilding priorities;

(i) Contributing to the mobilization, harmonization and coordination of international assistance, including for the implementation of the national security sector reform and rule of law strategies, and enhancing cooperation with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the European Union and other partners in support of the maintenance of constitutional order and the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau;

2. *Reiterates its demand* to the security and defence services to submit themselves fully to civilian control;

3. *Urges* the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to take all measures necessary to protect human rights, put an end to impunity, initiate investigations to identify the perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses and bring them to justice and take action to protect witnesses in order to ensure due process;

4. *Welcomes* the joint efforts by international partners, in particular the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, to enhance cooperation in support of the legitimate democratic Government in Guinea-Bissau, and encourages them to continue to work together towards the stabilization of the country;

5. *Encourages* the efforts in support of security sector reform as a crucial element for long-term stability in Guinea-Bissau, and encourages coordinated action by all relevant subregional, regional and international partners of Guinea-Bissau in this field in order to obtain expeditious and positive results;

6. *Calls upon* the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to review, adopt and implement national legislation and mechanisms to more effectively combat transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking and money-laundering, and in this context to provide additional support to the Transnational Crime Unit established under the West Africa Coast Initiative, and urges both the authorities of Guinea-Bissau and its security and defence services to demonstrate full commitment to combating drug trafficking, and calls upon international partners to support their efforts;

7. *Encourages* members of the international community to enhance cooperation with Guinea-Bissau in order to enable it to ensure control of air traffic and surveillance of maritime security within its jurisdiction, in particular to fight drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as illegal fishing in Guinea-Bissau's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone and other cases of illegal exploitation of natural resources;

8. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau to increase efforts to achieve greater coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Guinea-Bissau to maximize their collective effectiveness towards combating drug trafficking, in particular through the provision by these agencies, funds and programmes of relevant information to the Special Representative on individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with drug trafficking that contribute to creating a threat to the peace, stability and security of Guinea-Bissau and the subregion;

9. *Invites* the Special Representative to share all relevant information with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048(2012), particularly names of individuals who meet the criteria set forth in paragraph 6 and elaborated upon in paragraph 7 of resolution 2048(2012);

10. *Stresses* the challenges posed by the fight against drug trafficking in the search for solutions to the overall political and economic crisis in Guinea-Bissau, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the relevant capacity within the Integrated Peacebuilding Office, by continuing to provide an anti-drug component, including appropriate expertise;

11. *Encourages* international bilateral and multilateral partners to continue their technical support to Guinea-Bissau in strengthening efforts to tackle transnational organized crime, including illicit activities such as money-laundering and drug trafficking, calls upon them to increase their support to the West Africa Coast Initiative and the Transnational Crime Unit to fight transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, which threaten security and stability in Guinea-Bissau and in the subregion, and further encourages them to contribute to support the presence of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Guinea-Bissau and to the Integrated Peacebuilding Office trust fund for immediate, medium- and longer-term priorities, including for post-election reforms;

12. *Welcomes* the intention of the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to convene an international donor conference in Brussels in February 2015, and encourages participation by Member States;

13. *Urges* Guinea-Bissau to implement relevant temporary recommendations issued under the International Health Regulations (2005) regarding the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and to lead the organization, coordination and implementation of national preparedness and response activities, including, as appropriate, in collaboration with international development and humanitarian partners, including the Integrated Peacebuilding Office within its existing mandate;

14. *Looks forward* to the findings and recommendations of the strategic assessment mission to be included in the report of the Secretary-General in January 2015, with a view toward the consideration of such recommendations for appropriate adjustment to the mandate of the Integrated Peacebuilding Office;

15. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/37], the Secretary-General submitted the findings of a strategic assessment mission he deployed to Guinea-Bissau from 3 to 14 November to conduct a comprehensive review of the mandate of UNIOGBIS and ensure it was aligned with the priorities identified by the legitimate democratic Government of the country.

The mission, led by the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, consulted with a broad array of interlocutors and enjoyed the full cooperation of the authorities of Guinea-Bissau. The restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau had introduced a period of hope. The elections in April and May were widely deemed to have been free, fair and transparent. The country had a legitimate, competent and inclusive Government. The Prime Minister was working to create a collaborative political environment and had included several individuals from opposition parties and civil society in his Government in an attempt to build trust and bolster stability. The Government had acted quickly to demonstrate the dividends of the restoration of constitutional order, notably by paying most salary arrears in the public service and by working to increase the delivery of public utilities to the population. Initial steps had been taken to reform the armed forces, most notably by the dismissal of its Chief of General Staff, General Antonio Indjai, on 15 September.

Even as the Government had shown strong political will to implement necessary reforms, it had encountered signs of resistance in doing so. The State-building exercise in Guinea-Bissau was in its very initial stages. The country faced extreme levels of poverty and the social contract was weak. Meanwhile, the potential for relapse into instability and unconstitutionality remained high as long as the root causes remained unaddressed. The political instability in the country had been accompanied by repeated gross

violations of human rights, including politically motivated assassinations, abductions, cases of torture, arbitrary arrests, detentions of political opponents and civil society representatives, and restrictions on the freedoms of expression and assembly. According to the mission, peace and security issues in Guinea-Bissau were strongly connected with development challenges. The root causes of instability in the country remained within a complex interrelation of four main factors: political-military dynamics; ineffective State institutions and an absence of rule of law; poverty; and lack of access to basic services.

The integrated structure of UNIOGBIS, in which one of the Secretary-General's deputy special representatives was also the Resident Coordinator, was conducive to a smooth exit transition, as the UN country team would gradually take over tasks that UNIOGBIS was mandated with carrying out. In that context, the UNIOGBIS leadership, utilizing its existing strategic policy group, would regularly assess progress in mandate implementation. That would assist the United Nations in Guinea-Bissau in planning and prioritizing its resource mobilization activities, taking into account progress and ultimate success in the implementation of the UNIOGBIS mandate. In that respect, the Secretary-General recommended an extension of UNIOGBIS for a period of 12 months, until 29 February 2016, which would allow the mission to provide sustained support to the Government in moving its priorities forward.

Sanctions

Security Council Committee. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2048(2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau was mandated, among other things, to monitor the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 4 of that resolution (travel ban); designate those individuals subject to the travel ban and consider requests for exemptions; encourage a dialogue between the Committee and interested Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations; and examine and take appropriate action on information regarding alleged violations or non-compliance with the measures imposed by resolution 2048(2012).

In December [S/2014/918], the Committee reported on its 2014 activities. During the year, it held one informal consultation on 9 April in addition to conducting its work through written procedures. In March, the Committee signed an agreement with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on the issuance and circulation of INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices. The Committee received no requests for exemption to the travel ban, while 11 individuals had been designated as subject to the travel ban.

Peacebuilding Commission

The Peacebuilding Commission reviewed its activities in Guinea-Bissau in the report of its eighth session [A/69/818-S/2015/174], covering 2014. The Commission focused its attention on supporting the efforts of the United Nations, led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to create a supportive political environment for the conduct of presidential and legislative elections, which were held in April and May. In addition to visits undertaken by the Chair in January and October, the Commission offered a platform for the Special Representative, the Transitional Government and key regional and international actors to exchange views and information on the progress of the electoral preparations. The subsequent installation of a democratically elected government had paved the way for the restoration of constitutional order, the resumption of international recognition and the re-engagement of development partners. The Commission was expected to accompany the national Government's medium- to long-term plan to develop a national peacebuilding strategy and a framework of mutual commitments with its regional and international partners.

The Commission also provided a forum for the new Government to present its plans and priorities, which would be taken forward to a donor conference scheduled to take place in February 2015. The Commission had supported the plans put forward by the newly elected Government to clarify existing commitments for the exploitation of mineral resources, ensuring that resources were used to maximize public utility. A national strategic plan, aimed at developing a vision of comprehensive State-building, was being developed by the new Government and would be presented at the donor conference. The conference would provide an opportunity for the Government to engage its partners in support of its medium- to long-term peace consolidation and development strategy.

(For more information on the Peacebuilding Commission, see p. 58.)

UNIOGBIS

The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) was established on 1 January 2010 as the successor to the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), pursuant to Security Council resolution 1876(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 219]. The original Office was established in 1999 by a decision of the Secretary-General and with the support of Council resolution 1233(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 140]; its mandate was revised in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 229] and 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 230]. By resolution 2092(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 184], the Council extended the UNIOGBIS mandate until 31 May 2013, and by resolution 2103(2013)

[YUN 2013, p. 186], the Council extended the mandate until 31 May.

By resolutions 2157(2014) (see p. 276) and 2186(2014) (see p. 279), the Council extended the mandate of UNIOGBIS until 30 November and 28 February 2015, respectively.

Appointment. In a 10 July letter [S/2014/492], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Miguel Trovoadá (São Tomé and Príncipe) as his Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau and Head of UNIOGBIS to succeed José Ramos-Horta (Timor Leste), who concluded his assignment on 30 June. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 14 July [S/2014/493].

Mali

Fighting erupted in May 2014 in northern Mali between the Government and armed groups and disrupted the political process. Earlier in April, Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly had resigned, citing deficiencies in the work of the Government. The President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, immediately appointed Moussa Mara as the new prime minister and appointed him as his High Representative for Inter-Malian Inclusive Dialogue, with responsibility for overseeing the peace talks between the Government and the armed movements. Following a ceasefire agreement brokered by the African Union (AU) and the United Nations, the first round of peace talks, hosted by Algeria, took place in July. Three additional rounds were held until late November when the positions of all the parties on key issues remained unchanged, but with the understanding that the negotiating parties would reconvene in Algiers in January 2015.

The Malian Parliament adopted a bill establishing the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. During the year, eight Ebola virus disease cases were identified in Mali; six of the patients died and two recovered.

In the final three months of the year alone, asymmetric attacks against UN peacekeepers led to 16 deaths and 14 injuries. The attacks on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) highlighted the urgency of strengthening the Mission through enhanced measures to prevent attacks with improvised explosive devices and other indirect weapons. In June, the Security Council, by resolution 2164(2014), extended the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2015.

Political and security developments

Security Council mission. On 30 January [S/2014/72], the Security Council President informed the Secretary-General that the Council would send a mission to Mali, from 31 January to 3 February, led

by Ambassador Gérard Araud (France) and Minister Counsellor Banté Mangaral (Chad).

The Council reported on its mission in March [S/2014/173], noting that the armed groups signatory to the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement [YUN 2013, p. 200]—the Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad (MNLA) and the Haut conseil pour l'unité de l'Azawad (HCUA)—had called for the full implementation of the agreement. They reiterated their willingness to canton their combatants and disarm them upon the signature of a comprehensive peace accord, as provided for by article 6 of the agreement. The groups said that they welcomed the participation of all regional countries in the inclusive dialogue, and with regard to Algeria's current mediation initiative, proposed that Algeria join the existing dialogue mechanisms. MNLA and HCUA called for the negotiations to be held in a neutral location.

President Keïta expressed gratitude for all the international support extended to Mali. He informed the Security Council mission that the Government was developing a national reconciliation road map, whose implementation he hoped the United Nations would support, and stressed that the full disarmament of the armed groups should precede the comprehensive negotiation process.

Several Malian stakeholders called for MINUSMA to expand its stabilization efforts beyond the key population centres in the north of Mali, noting the threat posed by terrorist and criminal elements against the civilian population. The Council mission expressed concern about the delays in the deployment of the MINUSMA force, particularly as the stalled political process heightened tensions and the peacekeeping Mission would be called to play an increasingly central role amid the French Operation Serval's drawdown. A number of civil society representatives expressed the view that the crisis in northern Mali did not stem from ethnic tensions but from development and governance issues. They called the Security Council's attention to the underdevelopment of northern Mali and the absence of work opportunities for youth. The northern armed groups also advocated for enhanced UN development activities.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 23 January [meeting 7099], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/2** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Mali.

The Council welcomes the successful holding of peaceful and transparent legislative elections on 24 November and 15 December 2013 in Mali and commends the people and authorities of Mali for the manner in which they were conducted. The Council commends the efforts of domestic and international observers and

bilateral and international partners to support the electoral process. The Council expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali for the security and logistical support it provided during the electoral process. The Council underlines that, in addition to the successful holding of the presidential elections in July and August 2013, the holding of the legislative elections marks a further step in the restoration of democratic governance and the full return of constitutional order in Mali.

The Council commends the initial efforts of the Government of Mali to launch a series of national consultative events on the situation in the north of Mali to promote good governance, institutional reform and economic and social development and to reinforce national unity and security. The Council encourages further steps towards consolidating stability, advancing inclusive national dialogue and reconciliation and fostering social cohesion. The Council underscores the need to address the underlying causes of recurrent crises which have affected Mali, including governance, security, development and humanitarian challenges, and drawing lessons from past peace agreements.

The Council reiterates its call for an inclusive and credible negotiation process open to all communities of the north of Mali, with the goal of securing a durable political resolution to the crisis and long-term peace and stability throughout the country, respecting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State. The Council lends its full support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali to use good offices, in close coordination with the international community, towards the restoration of peace and security throughout the national territory of Mali, in the context of a comprehensive agreement ending the crisis.

The Council recalls its resolution 2100(2013) and in this regard calls upon all the signatories to the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement of 18 June 2013, and those armed groups in the north of Mali that have cut off all ties with terrorist organizations and committed unconditionally to the agreement, to swiftly and fully implement its provisions, including the cantonment of armed groups, the re-establishment of State administration throughout the country and the urgent launching of inclusive and credible peace talks.

The Council reiterates its demand that armed groups in Mali put aside their arms and reject the recourse to violence. The Council calls upon all relevant Malian parties to agree on active measures to further the cantonment of armed groups, as an essential step leading to an effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, in the context of a comprehensive peace settlement. The Council reiterates its support for the active role of the Mission in supporting the strengthening of the above processes.

The Council stresses the need to ensure the full, equal and effective participation and representation of women at all levels and at an early stage of the stabilization phase, including the security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, as well as in the national political dialogue and electoral processes.

The Council expresses concern about the fragile security situation in the north of Mali, including the

recent incidents that revealed that terrorists and other armed groups have reorganized themselves and regained some ability to operate. The Council stresses the primary responsibility of the Government of Mali for the provision of stability and security throughout its territory. The Council stresses the importance of achieving without further delay the complete operational deployment of the Mission to stabilize key population centres and protect civilians, including women and children, especially in the north of Mali, and to continue to support the re-establishment of State authority throughout the country and the promotion of the rule of law and protection of human rights. The Council calls upon all Member States to support the swift completion of the deployment of the Mission. The Council urges all parties in Mali to cooperate fully with the deployment and activities of the Mission, in particular by ensuring its safety and security.

The Council takes note of the investigation led by Malian judicial authorities of military personnel, including General Amadou Haya Sanogo, in connection with violence committed in 2012. The Council stresses the importance of maintaining Malian civilian control and oversight of the Malian Defence and Security Forces as a key element of the overall reform of the security sector and commends in this regard the contribution of international donors, including the European Union through its Common Security and Defence Policy mission, the European Union Training Mission in Mali.

The Council recalls that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights must be held accountable and in this regard encourages the Government of Mali to conduct investigations on such acts and swiftly bring the perpetrators to justice and to continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Court. The Council strongly condemns incidents of sexual violence in armed conflict, including against children, in Mali, acknowledges efforts of the Government to prioritize judicial investigations of incidents of sexual violence in armed conflict, and encourages efforts to speed up the return of judicial authorities to the north.

The Council, while noting that thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin, commends the Government of Mali for its efforts to address the humanitarian challenges and calls upon the Government to achieve lasting solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, including by creating the conditions conducive to their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return. The Council remains gravely concerned by the extent of the food crisis and calls upon the international community to continue to increase its assistance to affected populations, particularly women and children, and address the gap in the funding of the consolidated appeal for Mali.

The Council welcomes the efforts of the international community as well as of the Government of Mali within the framework of the mutual commitments of the conference on the theme "Together for a new Mali", held in Brussels on 15 May 2013. The Council calls upon all relevant United Nations agencies and the international community to strengthen their support for the efforts of the Government to implement its socio-economic development plans, including supporting the

provision of basic services to the population, in particular in the north of Mali.

The Council calls upon the international community to continue to support the people and Government of Mali towards achieving lasting peace, stability and reconciliation in Mali and the development of the country.

The Council reiterates its continued concern about the alarming situation in the Sahel region and reaffirms its continued commitment to address the complex security and political challenges in this region, which are interrelated with humanitarian and development issues. The Council reaffirms its request in this regard to the Secretary-General to ensure early progress towards the effective implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

Report of Secretary-General (March). In a March report on the situation in Mali [S/2014/229], issued pursuant to resolution 2100(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 194], the Secretary-General stated that Mali had progressed further in the restoration of constitutional order, as evidenced by the inauguration of the National Assembly in January. In addition, the Government and armed groups participated in informal seminars held in February under the auspices of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, raising hope of progress towards cantonment and inclusive peace talks.

On 22 January, the National Assembly convened its first session. Exploratory discussions by the Government with armed groups, notably the Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad (MAA), the Coordination des mouvements et forces patriotiques de résistance and the Haut conseil pour l'unité de l'Azawad (HCUA), led to the signing, on 16 January, of a cooperation platform for lasting peace in northern Mali. That initiative was followed by a visit by President Keita to Algiers on 18 and 19 January, during which the two Heads of State agreed to reinforce cooperation between the two countries in such areas as security, development and humanitarian assistance, and to put in place a bilateral committee that would meet monthly to monitor the implementation of the decision pertaining to the peaceful settlement of north Mali. In February, the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI, made a State visit to Mali to discuss bilateral efforts to sustain peace and reconciliation and to strengthen economic ties. The President of Mali also visited Mauritania from 10 to 12 January.

The overall security situation deteriorated in northern Mali as a result of the increasing activity of terrorist groups, mainly Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and the Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'ouest, as demonstrated by a series of rocket and improvised explosive device attacks targeting the Malian armed forces, MINUSMA and Operation Serval. The security situation remained particularly worrisome in Kidal, but rocket attacks also increased around Gao. Timbuktu suffered its

first rocket attack after a period of relative calm. On 8 February, Bamako experienced its first alert for a possible vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. Abductions and banditry contributed to perpetrating a climate of fear in northern Mali. The incidence of improvised explosive device attacks increased during the reporting period. On 20 January, a MINUSMA patrol hit a device on the road to Aguelhok in Kidal region that injured five Chadian peacekeepers. On 16 March, a MINUSMA convoy hit a device close to Aguelhok that injured two Chadian peacekeepers. Intercommunal violence between the Tuareg and the Fulani in Gao region also worsened.

On the re-establishment of State authority in Mali, while the governors of Kidal, Timbuktu, Mopti and Gao and all 135 prefects and subprefects had returned to the four northern regions, few prefects and subprefects, gendarmes or police officers had taken up posts outside the principal towns owing to the security conditions and the lack of infrastructure and resources, leaving significant gaps in State authority in rural areas.

The Secretary-General observed that the first priority was a truly inclusive political dialogue, as indicated in Security Council resolution 2100(2013) and the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement. There would be no durable solution to the security challenges in the north without an inclusive political process that paved the way for the full restoration of law and order, equal access by all Malians to public services and reconciliation between communities.

Communication. In a 17 June letter [S/2014/419] to the Security Council, Algeria transmitted the Algiers Declaration; the Algiers Preliminary Platform for the inclusive inter-Malian dialogue; the joint communiqué of the third high-level consultation session on the inter-Malian dialogue; and the communiqué of the fourth session of the bilateral strategic committee between Algeria and Mali on northern Mali.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 June [meeting 7210], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2164(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/436] was submitted by Australia, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 2085(2012) of 20 December 2012 and 2100(2013) of 25 April 2013, the statements by its President of 12 December 2013 and 23 January 2014, and its statements to the press of 23 April, 20 May and 11 June 2014,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force

except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Underscoring the need to address the underlying causes of recurrent crises which have affected Mali, including governance, security, development and humanitarian challenges, drawing lessons from past peace agreements, and that any sustainable solution to the crisis in Mali should be Malian-owned, including all aspects of the political process, in particular national dialogue and reconciliation,

Welcoming the successful holding of peaceful and transparent presidential elections on 28 July and 11 August 2013 as well as legislative elections on 24 November and 15 December 2013 in Mali, which constitute a major step in the restoration of democratic governance and the full return of constitutional order in Mali, and commending the people and authorities of Mali for the manner in which they were conducted,

Welcoming also the signing on 18 June 2013 of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement, which, inter alia, reaffirms the sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity and secular nature of the Malian State, provides for an immediate ceasefire and the launching of the cantonment process, and establishes a framework for inclusive peace talks with all communities of the north of Mali, but expressing its concern at the failure of the parties to the agreement to meet the agreed timeline for the launching of these talks,

Commending the efforts of all regional and international actors, including those who facilitated discussions with the signatory and adherent armed groups of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement, to solve the crisis in Mali, and in this regard welcoming the efforts of Algeria to contribute to the launching of a credible and inclusive negotiation process, as well as Burkina Faso as the Economic Community of West African States mediator, and urging all these actors to maintain coordination to consolidate political and security progress in Mali, in close coordination with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali,

Welcoming the appointment by the President of Mali on 23 April 2014 of a High Representative for the Inter-Malian Inclusive Dialogue and his initial efforts to consult with national and international actors on the peace process,

Strongly condemning the violent clashes in Kidal on 17 and 18 May 2014 in the context of the visit by the Prime Minister of Mali, which resulted in the death of Malian Defence and Security Forces personnel, as well as eight civilians, including six government officials, the unacceptable seizure by the armed groups, notably the Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad, of administrative buildings, including the Governorate of Kidal, the subsequent seizure of towns in the north of Mali and the reported illegal establishment of parallel administrative structures therein, and of arms and materiel belonging to the Malian Defence and Security Forces, which constitute a breach of the ceasefire arrangements provided for in the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement, as well as attacks on personnel of the Mission by the armed groups, expressing serious concern about the events that occurred in Kidal and elsewhere in the north of Mali on 21 May 2014 which resulted in additional casualties and in an altered security landscape in the north of Mali, and reiterating its call upon all parties

to act with restraint and refrain from any further violence that could threaten civilians,

Welcoming the signing of the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014, brokered under the auspices of the Chairperson of the African Union, Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of Mauritania, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali, and welcoming the convening of the Economic Community of West African States summit in Accra on 30 May 2014, taking note of its support for the ceasefire agreement and its call for a political solution, through the launching of inclusive peace talks, as well as its call for the immediate withdrawal of the armed groups from the public buildings and occupied areas, and return to the pre-17 May positions, and further welcoming the signing on 13 June 2014 of the agreement on the modalities for the ceasefire implementation,

Remaining concerned over the fragile security situation in the north of Mali and the continuing activities in the Sahel region of terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Ansar Eddine, the Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest and Al-Mourabitoune, which constitute a threat to peace and security in the region and beyond, and reiterating its strong condemnation of the abuses of human rights and violence against civilians, notably women and children, committed in the north of Mali and in the region by terrorist groups,

Stressing that terrorism can be defeated only by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States and regional and international organizations to impede, impair and isolate the terrorist threat, and reaffirming that terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization,

Recalling the listing of the Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest, the Organization of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Ansar Eddine and its leader, Iyad ag Ghali, and Al-Mourabitoune on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List established by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011), and reiterating its readiness, under the above-mentioned regime, to sanction further individuals, groups, undertakings and entities that do not cut off all ties to Al-Qaida and associated groups, including Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest, Ansar Eddine and Al-Mourabitoune, in accordance with the established listing criteria,

Welcoming the continued action by the French forces, at the request of the Malian authorities, to deter the terrorist threat in the north of Mali,

Noting with growing concern the transnational dimension of the terrorist threat in the Sahel region, and underlining the need for a coherent regional response to combat this threat,

Expressing its continued concern over the serious threats posed by transnational organized crime in the Sahel region and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, reiterating its determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking in the Sahel region, in accordance with applicable international law, recalling its resolution 2133(2014) of 27 January 2014, including the call upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from

benefitting directly or indirectly from the payment of ransoms or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, and in this regard noting the publication by the Global Counterterrorism Forum of the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists,

Remaining seriously concerned over the significant ongoing food and humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region and over the insecurity which hinders humanitarian access, exacerbated by the presence of armed groups and terrorist and criminal networks, and their activities, the presence of landmines as well as the continued proliferation of weapons from within and outside the region that threatens the peace, security and stability of States in the region,

Emphasizing the need for all parties to uphold and respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in order to ensure the continued provision of humanitarian assistance, the safety of civilians receiving assistance and the security of humanitarian personnel operating in Mali, and stressing the importance of humanitarian assistance being delivered on the basis of need,

Strongly condemning all abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, and sexual and gender-based violence, as well as killing, maiming, recruitment and use of children, and attacks against schools and hospitals, and calling upon all parties to bring an end to such violations and abuses and to comply with their obligations under applicable international law,

Reiterating, in this regard, that all perpetrators of such acts must be held accountable and that some of such acts referred to in the paragraph above may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and noting that, acting upon the referral of the transitional authorities of Mali dated 13 July 2012, the Prosecutor of the Court opened, on 16 January 2013, an investigation into alleged crimes committed on the territory of Mali since January 2012, and recalling the importance of assistance and cooperation, by all parties concerned, with the Court,

Emphasizing that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility for the provision of stability and security throughout the territory of Mali, underscoring the importance of Malian civilian control and oversight of the Malian Defence and Security Forces, reiterating that the training, consolidation and redeployment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces are vital to ensure the long-term security and stability of Mali and to protect the people of Mali, and stressing the importance of the Malian Defence and Security Forces assuming full responsibility for providing security throughout the Malian territory,

Recognizing that the threat to the civilian population in the north of Mali extends beyond the key population centres to include rural areas,

Reiterating its strong support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and for the Mission, and expressing its concern at the slow pace of deployment of the Mission,

Commending the role and contribution of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and of neighbouring countries to the stabilization of Mali,

including to contribute to the efforts of the Mission towards a political settlement,

Commending also the role of the European Union Training Mission in Mali to provide training and advice for the Malian Defence and Security Forces towards contributing to strengthening civilian authority and respect for human rights, and welcoming the decision of the European Union to establish the European Union Capacity-Building Mission in Sahel Mali to provide strategic advice and training for the police, gendarmerie and national guard in Mali,

Encouraging the international community to provide broad support to resolve the crisis in Mali through coordinated actions for immediate and long-term needs, encompassing security, governance reform, development and humanitarian issues, commending the contributions already made towards the 2014 consolidated appeal for Mali, and urging all Member States and other donors to contribute generously for humanitarian operations,

Determining that the situation in Mali constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Framework for long-term peace and stability in Mali

1. *Urges* the Malian authorities and the signatory and adherent armed groups to fulfil their commitments under the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement, and in this regard further urges the parties in Mali to engage in good faith and without delay in a credible and inclusive negotiation process, respecting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali, and underscores that this agreement constitutes a solid basis for long-term peace and stability in Mali;

2. *Urges* the signatories to the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014 to respect it fully, to immediately implement its provisions, including the liberation of prisoners and the establishment of an international commission of inquiry, and to take steps that support national reconciliation, and requests the Secretary-General to facilitate the swift establishment of the commission, in consultation with the parties;

3. *Urges*, in particular, the Malian authorities to launch without delay an inclusive and credible negotiation process with the signatory and adherent armed groups of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement, and those armed groups in the north of Mali that have cut off all ties with terrorist organizations and committed unconditionally to the agreement;

4. *Reiterates its demand* that all armed groups in Mali put aside their arms, cease hostilities immediately, as well as reject the recourse to violence, and urges all such groups that have cut off all ties with terrorist organizations and that recognize, without conditions, the unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State, to engage in an inclusive dialogue open to all communities of the north of Mali;

5. *Urges* all armed groups in Mali to resume the cantonment process, supported and monitored by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, as a crucial and practical step leading to an effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, in the context of a comprehensive peace settlement;

6. *Expresses its strong support* for the key role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali

in the peace talks, and requests the Special Representative to continue his good offices and active engagement, including in coordinating with and supporting the Malian authorities, towards the launching of an inclusive process open to all communities of the north of Mali, consistent with paragraphs 13 (b) (i) and (ii) below;

7. *Urges* the parties in this negotiation process to coordinate with the Special Representative, with the goal of securing a durable political resolution to the crisis and long-term peace and stability throughout the country, respecting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State;

8. *Urges* the Malian authorities to further combat impunity and, in this regard, to ensure that all perpetrators of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable, and to continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the obligations of Mali under the Rome Statute of the Court;

9. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission on 20 March 2014, and calls upon the Malian authorities to take the steps necessary to ensure the neutrality, impartiality, transparency and independence of the Commission and to enable it to commence its work to benefit all Malians as soon as possible;

10. *Stresses* the importance of continued coordination among the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union, the neighbouring countries of Mali and other key actors in the promotion of lasting peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Mali, and calls upon these actors to coordinate their efforts in this regard with the Special Representative and the Mission;

Mandate of the Mission

11. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Mission within the authorized troop ceiling of 11,200 military personnel, including reserve battalions capable of deploying rapidly within the country, and 1,440 police personnel, until 30 June 2015;

12. *Authorizes* the Mission to take all means necessary to carry out its mandate, within its capabilities and its areas of deployment;

13. *Decides* that the mandate of the Mission shall focus on the following priority tasks:

(a) Security, stabilization and protection of civilians

- (i) In support of the Malian authorities, to stabilize the key population centres, notably in the north of Mali, and in this context to deter threats and take active steps to prevent the return of armed elements to those areas;
- (ii) To protect, without prejudice to the responsibility of the Malian authorities, civilians under imminent threat of physical violence;
- (iii) To provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through the deployment of child protection advisers and women's protection advisers, and to address the needs of victims of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict;
- (iv) To expand its presence, including through long-range patrols and within its capacities, in the north of Mali beyond key population centres, notably in areas where civilians are at risk;

- (v) To support the implementation of the ceasefire and confidence-building measures on the ground, consistent with the provisions of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement;
- (vi) To enhance its operational coordination with the Malian Defence and Security Forces, within its resources and areas of deployment and within the framework of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement, subject to an assessment of risk and in strict compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;

(b) Support to national political dialogue and reconciliation

- (i) To coordinate with and support the Malian authorities to launch an inclusive and credible negotiation process open to all communities of the north of Mali, consistent with paragraphs 6 and 7 above;
- (ii) To exercise good offices, confidence-building and facilitation at the national and local levels, in order to anticipate, prevent, mitigate and resolve conflict, including by enhancing negotiation capacity and promoting the participation of civil society, including women's organizations;
- (iii) To support the cantonment of armed groups, as an essential step leading to an effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, in the context of a comprehensive peace settlement;
- (iv) To assist the Malian authorities, and to coordinate international efforts, towards developing and implementing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for former combatants and the dismantling of militias and self-defence groups, consistent with the provisions of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement and taking into account the specific needs of demobilized children;
- (v) To support, within its resources and areas of deployment, the conduct of inclusive, free, fair and transparent local elections, including through the provision of appropriate logistical and technical assistance and effective security arrangements, in the context of an inclusive decentralization process led and owned by the Malian authorities;
- (vi) To support, as feasible and appropriate, the efforts of the Malian authorities, without prejudice to their responsibilities, to bring to justice those responsible for serious abuses or violations of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law, in particular war crimes and crimes against humanity in Mali, taking into account the referral by the transitional authorities of Mali of the situation in their country since January 2012 to the International Criminal Court;
- (vii) To provide support to the activities of the international commission of inquiry as envisaged by the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement and the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014;

(c) Support to the re-establishment of State authority throughout the country, the rebuilding of the Malian security sector, the promotion and protection of human rights and support for humanitarian assistance

- (i) To support the Malian authorities to extend and re-establish State administration throughout the

country, especially in the north of Mali, in line with the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement and the ceasefire agreement of 23 May 2014;

- (ii) To support national, and to coordinate international, efforts towards rebuilding the Malian security sector, especially the police and gendarmerie, through technical assistance, capacity-building, co-location and mentoring programmes, as well as the rule of law and justice sectors, within its capacities and in close collaboration with other bilateral partners, donors and international organizations, including the European Union, engaged in these fields, including through enhancing information-sharing and joint strategic planning among all actors;
 - (iii) To assist the Malian authorities, through training and other support, for the removal and destruction of mines and other explosive devices and weapons and ammunition management;
 - (iv) To assist the Malian authorities in their efforts to promote and protect human rights;
 - (v) To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Security Council and publicly, as appropriate, on any abuses or violations of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law committed throughout Mali and to contribute to efforts to prevent such violations and abuses;
 - (vi) To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Council specifically on violations and abuses committed against children as well as violations committed against women, including all forms of sexual violence in armed conflict;
 - (vii) In support of the Malian authorities, to contribute to the creation of a secure environment for the safe, civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance, in accordance with humanitarian principles, and the voluntary, safe and dignified return or local integration or resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees in close coordination with humanitarian actors;
 - (viii) In support of the Malian authorities, to contribute to the creation of a secure environment for projects aimed at stabilizing the north of Mali, including quick-impact projects;
14. *Also decides* that the mandate of the Mission shall include the following additional tasks:

(a) Protection of United Nations personnel

To protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment and ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

(b) Support for cultural preservation

To assist the Malian authorities, as necessary and feasible, in protecting from attack the cultural and historical sites in Mali, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

15. *Requests* the Mission to take fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Malian authorities in ensuring the full and effective participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels and at an early stage of the stabilization phase, including the security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes,

as well as in the national political dialogue, reconciliation and electoral processes;

16. *Also requests* the Mission to take fully into account the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk to civilians, including, in particular, women, children and displaced persons, and civilian objects in the performance of its mandate as defined in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, where undertaken jointly with the Malian Defence and Security Forces, in strict compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance of the Mission with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuses and to keep the Council fully informed if such cases of misconduct occur;

18. *Requests* the Mission, within its capabilities, its areas of deployment and without prejudice to its mandate, to assist the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526(2004) of 30 January 2004, including by passing information relevant to the implementation of the measures in paragraph 1 of resolution 2161(2014) of 17 June 2014;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the environmental impacts of the operations of the Mission when fulfilling its mandated tasks, and in this context encourages the Mission to manage them, as appropriate and in accordance with applicable and relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations rules and regulations, and to operate mindfully in the vicinity of cultural and historical sites;

20. *Encourages* the Mission to further enhance its interaction with the civilian population to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities;

Deployment of the Mission

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to enable the Mission to reach its full operational capacity as soon as possible in the context of a new force laydown, and in this regard calls upon Member States to provide troops and police with adequate capabilities and equipment, including enablers, in order for the Mission to fulfil its mandate, and commends troop- and police-contributing countries for their engagement in this respect;

22. *Urges* all parties in Mali to cooperate fully with the deployment and activities of the Mission, in particular by ensuring its safety, security and freedom of movement with unhindered and immediate access throughout the territory of Mali to enable the Mission to carry out fully its mandate, and stresses in this regard the importance of facilitating the Mission's new force laydown to extend its operations in the north of Mali, as mandated in paragraph 13 (a) (iv) above, in a complex security environment that includes asymmetric threats;

23. *Calls upon* Member States, especially those in the region, to ensure the free, unhindered and expeditious movement to and from Mali of all personnel, as well as equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods, including vehicles and spare parts, which are for the exclusive and official use of the Mission;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to accelerate the disbursement of the United Nations trust fund established pursuant to its resolution 2085(2012) in support of the

African-led International Support Mission in Mali, including to enable the new force laydown of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, in consultation with the donors;

Inter-mission cooperation in West Africa

25. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps in order to ensure inter-mission cooperation, notably between the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, and appropriate transfers of troops and their assets from other United Nations missions to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, subject to the following conditions: (i) the Council's information and approval, including on the scope and duration of the transfer, (ii) the agreement of the troop-contributing countries, and (iii) the security situation where these United Nations missions are deployed and without prejudice to the performance of their mandates, and in this regard encourages further steps to enhance inter-mission cooperation in the West African region, as necessary and feasible, and to report thereon for consideration as appropriate;

French forces mandate

26. *Authorizes* French forces, within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment, to use all necessary means until the end of the mandate of the Mission, as authorized in the present resolution, to intervene in support of elements of the Mission when under imminent and serious threat upon request of the Secretary-General, and requests France to report to the Council on the implementation of this mandate in Mali and to coordinate its reporting with the reporting by the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 33 below;

European Union contribution

27. *Calls upon* the European Union, notably its Special Representative for the Sahel and its Training Mission in Mali and Capacity-Building Mission in Sahel Mali, to coordinate closely with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and other bilateral partners of Mali engaged to assist the Malian authorities in the security sector reform;

Obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law

28. *Urges* all parties to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, facilities and relief consignments, and take all required steps to allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unimpeded access of humanitarian actors for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all people in need, while respecting the United Nations humanitarian guiding principles and applicable international law;

29. *Reiterates* that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility to protect civilians in Mali, further recalls its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and

armed conflict and its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, and calls upon the Mission and all military forces in Mali to take them into account and to abide by international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, and recalls the importance of training in this regard;

International cooperation on the Sahel

30. *Urges* all Member States, notably Sahel and Maghreb States, to coordinate their efforts to prevent the serious threat posed to international and regional security by terrorist groups crossing borders and seeking safe havens in the Sahel region, to enhance cooperation and coordination in order to develop inclusive and effective strategies to combat in a comprehensive and integrated manner the activities of terrorist groups, notably Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest, Ansar Eddine and Al-Mourabitoune, and to prevent the expansion of those groups as well as to limit the proliferation of all arms and transnational organized crime;

31. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure early progress towards the effective implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, encompassing political, security, development and humanitarian aspects, and welcomes in this regard the establishment of a ministerial coordination platform that would meet biannually and under the chairmanship of Mali for the period 2013–2015, and takes note of the conclusions of its first and second meetings, held in Bamako on 5 November 2013 and 16 May 2014;

Small arms and light weapons

32. *Calls upon* the Malian authorities, with the assistance of the Mission, consistent with paragraph 13 above, and international partners to address the issue of the proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in accordance with the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in order to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked or illicitly held weapons, and further stresses the importance of the full implementation of its resolutions 2017(2011) of 31 October 2011 and 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013;

Reports by the Secretary-General

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council within three months of the adoption of the present resolution, focusing on the implementation of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement, the expansion of the presence of the Mission in the north of Mali and benchmarks to assess progress on the implementation of the priority tasks of the mandate of the Mission, as defined in paragraph 13 above, and then, every three months, to report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the progress achieved on the benchmarks;

34. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General (June). In a June update on the situation in Mali [S/2014/403], issued pursuant to resolution 2100(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 194], the Secretary-General noted that efforts to advance the political process during the reporting period were seriously disrupted when armed clashes between the Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF) and the MNLA together with associated armed groups took place in Kidal between 16 and 21 May. A ceasefire agreement was reached on 23 May through the mediation of Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of Mauritania and Chair of the AU, and the Secretary-General's Special Representative.

On 22 April, President Keïta appointed former Prime Minister Modibo Keïta as his High Representative for Inter-Malian Inclusive Dialogue, with responsibility for overseeing the peace talks between the Government and the armed movements based on a road map that would need to be developed and agreed by all parties. The security situation, however, deteriorated further. The Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu regions experienced improvised explosive device attacks and indirect rocket fire targeting Operation Serval, and Malian and MINUSMA personnel and contingents.

On the re-establishment of State authority, prior to hostilities in the north a total of 161 prefects and sub-prefects had returned to the Gao, Kidal, Mopti and Timbuktu regions, but few officials, gendarmes or police officers had taken up posts outside the principal towns owing to a lack of security, infrastructure and resources and the slow pace of socioeconomic activities.

As at 26 May, the military strength of MINUSMA stood at 8,280 personnel, representing 74 per cent of the authorized total of 11,200; and the Mission was revising its force layout to reflect a greater concentration of personnel in northern Mali.

A strategic review of MINUSMA concluded that some progress had been made in Mali, such as in the restoration of constitutional order and the sidelining of the junta behind the March 2012 coup. Despite those achievements, many important aspects of the stabilization of Mali, including most of the tasks included in the MINUSMA mandate, were yet to be accomplished. The strategic review recommended adjustments to the mandate of MINUSMA, including the coordination of regional and international initiatives and providing support for the organization and conduct of local elections and electoral reform.

The Secretary-General observed that the Government of Mali, under the leadership of President Keïta, had primary responsibility for resolving the challenges facing Mali and protecting civilians throughout the country. The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of MINUSMA for a period of one year, until 1 July 2015,

at its authorized uniformed strength of up to 11,200 military personnel and 1,440 police personnel.

Communication. In a 3 July letter [S/2014/469] to the Security Council President, Mali transmitted the ceasefire agreement signed on 23 May in Bamako by the Government of Mali, the MNLA, the HCUA and the MAA following the clashes of 17 May.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 7227], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/15** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the commencement of the inter-Malian negotiation process in Algiers on 16 July 2014, in line with its resolutions 2100(2013) and 2164(2014), the statement by its President of 23 January 2014 its previous statements to the press, as well as the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement of 18 June 2013, and which aims to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement ending the crisis.

The Council commends the facilitation role played by Algeria, at the request of the Malian authorities, in the launching of these formal peace talks and in convening the Government of Mali and the signatory and adherent armed groups of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement. The Council also commends the close coordination between Algeria, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States mediation team, the European Union and other regional and international partners and encourages them to continue these important efforts.

The Council commends the parties for the constructive dialogue and discussions held in Algiers between 16 and 24 July 2014, leading to the consensual adoption of the road map ("Feuille de route des négociations dans le cadre du processus d'Alger") by the parties. The Council calls upon the parties to fully comply with the commitments outlined in the road map, including by engaging in the comprehensive peace talks in Algiers scheduled to begin on 17 August 2014. The Council underscores the importance of an inclusive and credible negotiation process open to all communities of the north of Mali, with the goal of securing a durable political resolution to the crisis and long-term peace and stability throughout the country, respecting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State.

The Council reiterates its concern about the fragile security situation in the north of Mali and calls upon all parties to immediately and fully respect the ceasefire agreement signed on 23 May 2014, as well as the declaration of the cessation of hostilities signed in Algiers on 24 July 2014. The Council reiterates its demand on all armed groups in Mali to cease hostilities immediately, as well as reject the recourse to violence.

The Council calls upon all the parties to implement all agreed confidence-building measures and reiterates its call to accelerate the cantonment of the armed

groups, as a practical step leading to an effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, in the context of a comprehensive peace settlement. The Council welcomes the establishment of the joint commission under the auspices of the Mission to facilitate the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the declaration of the cessation of hostilities. The Council encourages the Secretary-General to further enable the Mission to reach its full operational capacity as soon as possible, especially in the context of the new force laydown in the north of Mali.

The Council reiterates its full support for the key role and active engagement of the Special Representative, including his good offices and close coordination with the international community, towards the restoration of peace and security throughout the national territory of Mali.

Letter of Secretary-General. On 11 September [S/2014/660], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council President a letter from Abdoulaye Diop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation of Mali, addressed to Albert Gerard Koenders, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of MINUSMA. Mr. Diop noted that since the events of May 2014, armed movements and groups, including MNLA, had occupied certain towns in the regions of Timbuktu and Gao, taking the civilian populations hostage, depriving them of basic services and in some cases imposing levies on them. That situation was unacceptable for the Government of Mali and constituted a violation of Security Council resolutions and statements.

Report of Secretary-General (September). In a September report [S/2014/692] submitted in response to Security Council resolution 2164(2014) (see p. 285), the Secretary-General provided information on major developments in Mali since June (see p. 291), including the implementation of the Ouagadougou preliminary agreement, the expansion of MINUSMA in the north of Mali and the benchmarks to assess progress in the implementation of the priority tasks of the mandate of MINUSMA.

The Secretary-General said that efforts to establish peace in Mali had seen notable progress. The first round of talks took place from 14 to 24 July in Algiers, which resulted in the adoption of a road map and a declaration of cessation of hostilities signed separately by the Government of Mali with two respective coalitions of armed groups: the Coordination, comprised of the MNLA, the HCUA and the MAA; and the Platform, comprised of the Coordination des mouvements et fronts patriotiques de résistance (CMFPR), the Coalition du peuple pour l'Azawad (CPA) and another MAA faction. A second round of negotiations began in early September between the Government and the Coordination, and between the Government and the Platform, which sought to address political, security, development, and justice and reconciliation issues. On 9 June, the Coordination signed the

Algiers Declaration pledging to coordinate their actions in the search for a negotiated settlement with the Government of Mali; and on 14 June, the Platform signed the Plateforme préliminaire d'Alger en vue du dialogue inclusif inter-malien, which reaffirmed their commitment to the territorial integrity of Mali.

The first phase of the Algiers peace negotiations began on 14 July. As discussions on which armed groups should be represented at the table took place in Algiers, hostilities broke out in the Gao region between elements of the Coordination on one side, and elements of the Platform and other armed groups on the other side. As a result of the clashes, the scope of the talks was enlarged to include the negotiation of a cessation of hostilities agreement led by the Secretary-General's Special Representative. On 24 July, after two weeks of discussions, the Government of Mali signed two important documents—the road map for negotiations in the context of the Algiers process and the declaration of cessation of hostilities—separately with both the Coordination and the Platform. The road map reaffirmed the key principles enacted by the preliminary agreement—respect for Mali's unity, territorial integrity and secularism—and provided the framework for the negotiations by organizing the talks around four thematic areas: political and institutional issues; defence and security issues; economic development, and social and cultural issues; and reconciliation, justice and humanitarian issues.

No case of the Ebola virus disease had been reported in Mali as of the date of the report. Yet, Ebola cases had been confirmed in north-eastern Guinea, in an area bordering the southern part of Mali, relatively close to the capital, Bamako.

The Secretary-General reported that benchmarks to assess progress on the implementation of the priority tasks of the mandate of MINUSMA would be issued in December. He expressed his profound sadness about the death of 12 peacekeepers and the injuries inflicted to 51 others. He commended MINUSMA for its efforts to expand its presence outside the main population centres in the north, as requested by the Security Council, and welcomed the proactive steps taken by MINUSMA to mitigate the risks of Ebola contamination.

Communications. On 10 October [S/2014/733], Mali transmitted to the Secretary-General a communiqué issued by its Government after a Senegalese peacekeeper of MINUSMA was killed in a rocket attack on the UN camp at Kidal.

By a 28 October letter [S/2014/768] to the President of the Security Council, Mali reported that the leaders of the three armed groups that made up the Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad (MNLA, HCUA, MAA), at a meeting held in Kidal on 23 October, had encouraged their people to commit acts of violence against other Malians.

Letter of Secretary-General. On 4 November [S/2014/786], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a communiqué issued by the Government of Mali in response to the killing of nine MINUSMA peacekeepers on 3 October.

Report of Secretary-General (December). In a December report [S/2014/943], the Secretary-General provided an update on the situation in Mali between 16 September and 16 December. Three additional rounds of the inter-Malian dialogue, launched in Algiers in July, were held. Following the first round in July, the mediation had produced a document for negotiation containing elements for a peace agreement. In the subsequent rounds, the parties negotiated on the basis of that document. At the end of the fourth round of negotiations in late November, the parties' positions on key issues remained unchanged. The parties returned to Mali for consultation with their respective constituencies with the understanding that their senior leaders would reconvene in Algiers in January 2015.

The absence of a political agreement, coupled with persistent insecurity and the control of large parts of northern Mali by armed groups, continued to impede the redeployment of national administrators and service providers. During the reporting period, MINUSMA documented reprisals against persons cooperating with the United Nations or the international community at large.

Extremist groups were suspected of killing 16 peacekeepers and injuring 14 others during the reporting period. Improvised explosive devices and anti-vehicle mines placed along routes used by MINUSMA severely hindered its operations. On 18 September, five peacekeepers died and five were injured when a patrol vehicle struck a mine south of Tessalit (Kidal region). One of the wounded peacekeepers later succumbed to his injuries. On 3 October, a MINUSMA logistics convoy was ambushed near Indelimane (Gao region), and nine peacekeepers were killed. On 7 October, seven mortar rounds hit the MINUSMA camp in Kidal, killing one peacekeeper and injuring two. From 3 to 5 November, the Niger hosted a ministerial meeting of African troop contributors to MINUSMA to discuss the deteriorating security situation. Participants pledged to support the signature of a peace agreement, called for the reinforcement of MINUSMA capacities and committed to enhancing regional security cooperation to combat terrorism. The importance of regional security mechanisms for stability in Mali, including the Nouakchott Process, led by the AU, was echoed by the Security Council during its informal interactive dialogue of 10 November.

As at 1 December, MINUSMA had reached 74 per cent of its authorized personnel. The benchmarks jointly identified by the Malian authorities, MINUSMA and the UN country team focused on three priority tasks identified in Security Council

resolution 2164(2014) (see p. 285), namely, security, stabilization and protection of civilians; support to the national political dialogue and national reconciliation; and support to the restoration of State authority throughout the country, the reconstruction of the Malian security sector, the promotion and protection of human rights, and humanitarian aid. The benchmarking exercise had advanced in coordination with other planning processes, including the United Nations five-year Development Assistance Framework and the results-based budgeting of MINUSMA for 2015–2016. Following consultations within the Government, agreed benchmarks to measure progress towards peace consolidation in Mali were formalized in a letter signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and MINUSMA on 28 November. The benchmarks and indicators would be annexed to the next report of the Secretary-General in 2015.

Children and armed conflict

In response to Security Council resolution 2068(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 724], the Secretary-General, in April [S/2014/267], issued the first country-specific report on children and armed conflict in Mali, covering the period between January 2012 and December 2013, highlighting grave violations against children committed by parties to the conflict. The Secretary-General noted that the end of the conflict and the process of the progressive stabilization of northern Mali had contributed to a decrease in the recording of the number of grave violations. He also indicated that the protection needs of children affected by grave violations were no longer as high as at the onset of the crisis, throughout 2012 and in the first months of 2013. Despite the overall improvement in the political and security situation, however, children remained vulnerable and at risk of violations, particularly in the North. Important challenges for the monitoring and reporting of grave violations persisted, and information available before and after the establishment of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism remained limited.

The parties to the conflict responsible for grave violations against children included AQIM, MUJAO, MNLA, Ansar Dine and, to a lesser extent, the Malian armed forces and pro-government militias. The most affected regions were Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu. According to information verified by the United Nations, the most recurrent violations against children were sexual violence, killing and maiming, recruitment and use, and attacks on schools. Children were also detained for their alleged association with armed groups. In the first months of 2012, MNLA was one of the main perpetrators of the recruitment and use of children, as well as of sexual violence and killing and maiming. Children were pushed to join armed groups to overcome poverty or because of ethnic affiliations.

Families, imams and community leaders reportedly played a role in the recruitment and use of children. Many children who had been sent by their parents to marabouts or to Islamic schools were recruited by armed groups. Schools were reported to be used as places for indoctrination and recruitment. With the progressive defeat of armed groups in northern Mali, most children were believed to have returned spontaneously to their families. Unknown numbers of children could, however, still be associated with the armed groups.

Throughout 2012, sexual violence against women and girls by the armed groups was reported to be widespread and systematic in northern Mali. Numerous allegations of the rape of girls—often by multiple men—were received by the United Nations. Sexual violence had been perpetrated either in the context of abductions for the purpose of sexual slavery and/or forced marriage. A total of 200 schools were reported looted, damaged, bombed, used for military purposes or contaminated with unexploded ordnances. Until the first half of 2013, children's access to humanitarian assistance in the North was severely restricted by the conduct of hostilities and military operations and the absence of service providers. Approximately 873,000 children out of a total population of 1.5 million people in the North were affected by the lack of access by humanitarian assistance actors. The Secretary-General encouraged the Malian authorities and international partners to ensure that all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and security sector reform strategies took into account the specific needs of children affected by the armed conflict and the protection of their rights.

Working Group. In a 12 August letter [S/2014/588], the President of the Security Council forwarded to the Secretary-General a letter dated 7 August from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. The Group requested the Secretary-General to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in Mali and of the child protection component of MINUSMA, including through the swift deployment of child protection advisers throughout MINUSMA areas of operation. The Group noted that the key tasks of the advisers would include, among others, monitoring and reporting on violations and abuses committed against children, mainstreaming child protection within the Mission and training Mission personnel on action plans. It also requested the Secretary-General to ensure that MINUSMA and the United Nations Children's Fund strengthen their efforts to further support the Malian authorities in mainstreaming the specific needs of children affected by the armed conflict and the protection of their rights in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and

security sector reform; in establishing a joint mechanism for the review of cases of children detained on charges related to the armed conflict and their association with armed groups; in conducting a screening and age verification of the Malian defence and security forces; and in establishing recruitment procedures and age verification measures to prevent underage recruitment. The Group further requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the UN country task force on monitoring and reporting continue its advocacy for the release and reintegration of children associated with armed groups and forces and children detained on charges related to association with armed groups and to prioritize its efforts to reach out to non-State armed groups, with a view to developing action plans to end the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, as well as rape and sexual violence, and to address other violations and abuses committed against children in Mali.

MINUSMA

By resolution 2100(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 194], the Security Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and requested the Secretary-General to subsume the United Nations Office in Mali (UNOM) into MINUSMA. Authority would also be transferred from the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) to MINUSMA on 1 July, at which point MINUSMA would begin the implementation of its mandate, as defined in resolution 2100(2013), for an initial period of 12 months. By resolution 2164(2014) (see p. 285), the Council extended the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2015.

Appointments. On 10 December [S/2014/889], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council President of his intention to appoint Mongi Hamdi (Tunisia) as his Special Representative in Mali and Head of MINUSMA, succeeding Albert Gerard Koenders (Netherlands). The Council took note of the letter on 12 December [S/2014/890].

Logistical support to MINUSMA

In communications on 9 January [S/2014/12], 2 April [S/2014/241], 6 June [S/2014/399], 30 September [S/2014/711] and 23 December [S/2014/944] to the Security Council, the Secretary-General transmitted the reports by France of actions taken by its forces in support of MINUSMA.

In a 17 November letter [S/2014/822] to the Security Council, the Secretary-General transmitted a letter from the Niger containing the summary of conclusions and recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness of MINUSMA from a meeting held in Niamey, the Niger, from 3 to 5 November by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Defence of the African States that contributed troops to the Mission.

Financing

In a March report [A/68/823] on financing arrangements for MINUSMA for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, the Secretary-General proposed resource requirements in the amount of \$812,724,000 gross (\$802,778,800 net). He recommended that the General Assembly take action to appropriate \$812,724,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015; and assess \$812,724,000 gross at a monthly rate of \$67,727,000, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of MINUSMA.

ACABQ, in May [A/68/782/Add.13], recommended a reduction of \$267,400 gross (\$259,900 net) to the proposed budget. It recommended an appropriation of \$812,456,600 gross (\$802,517,900 net) for the maintenance of MINUSMA for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015; and an assessment of \$812,456,600 gross at a monthly rate of \$67,704,716, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of MINUSMA.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/680/Add.1], adopted **resolution 68/259 B** without vote [agenda item 158].

Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2100(2013) of 25 April 2013, by which the Council established the Mission, requested the Secretary-General to subsume the United Nations Office in Mali into the Mission, with the Mission assuming responsibility for the discharge of the mandated tasks of the Office, as from 25 April 2013, and decided that authority be transferred from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali on 1 July 2013, at which point the latter would commence implementation of its mandate as defined in paragraphs 16 and 17 of resolution 2100(2013), for an initial period of 12 months, and subsequent resolution 2164(2014) of 25 June 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 June 2015,

Recalling also its resolutions 67/286 of 28 June 2013 and 68/259 A of 27 December 2013 on the financing of the Mission,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 156.8 million United States dollars, representing some 23.1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 58 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

11. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali the amount of 895,534,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 830,701,700 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 53,752,200 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 11,080,100 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

12. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 895,534,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

13. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 14,340,200 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 9,938,700 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 3,411,600 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 989,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

14. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

15. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

16. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali".

On 29 December, the General Assembly, by **decision 69/554**, decided to defer the consideration of the item on financing of MINUSMA to its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Cameroon–Nigeria

Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission—the mechanism established by the Secretary-General in 2002 at the request of the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria to facilitate the implementation of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling of 10 October 2002 on the border dispute between them [YUN 2003, p. 1265]—was chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Said Djinnit (Algeria). The Commission was responsible for the demarcation of the land and maritime boundaries between the two countries; the withdrawal of civil administration, military and police forces and a transfer of authority in relevant areas along the boundary; the demilitarization of the Bakassi peninsula; the protection of the rights of the

affected populations; the development of projects to promote joint economic ventures and cross-border cooperation; and the reactivation of the five-member Lake Chad Basin Commission (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Nigeria), created in 1964 for the regulation and planning of the uses of the lake and other natural resources of the conventional basin. In 2007, all four sections of the ICJ ruling had been resolved to the satisfaction of the two parties: the withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Lake Chad area in 2003; the withdrawal and transfer of authority along the land border in 2004; the agreement on the modalities of withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi peninsula in 2006; and the agreement on the delineation of the maritime boundary in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 232]. In 2008, the transfer of authority from Nigeria to Cameroon of the remaining "zone" of the Bakassi peninsula was finalized [YUN 2008, p. 231], and in 2009, the emplacement of the boundary demarcation pillars began [YUN 2009, p. 226], a process that continued in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 231] and 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 187], but was halted in 2012 due to activity by the Boko Haram terrorist group.

By 2014, Cameroon fully exercised its rights of sovereignty over the totality of the Bakassi zone and 1,947 kilometres of an estimated total of 2,100 kilometres of the land boundary between the two countries was demarcated.

Activities

On 3 January [S/2014/6], the Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council of the progress made by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in the course of 2013.

On 8 January [S/2014/7], the President of the Security Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention to continue the activities of the United Nations support team to the Mixed Commission.

On 9 December [S/2014/893], the Secretary-General provided an update to the Security Council on the activities undertaken by the Mixed Commission in the course of 2014. The deteriorating security situation in north-eastern Nigeria impeded the conduct of the envisaged field visits, especially since the declaration of a state of emergency in the three border states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, owing to the terrorist activities of Boko Haram. The parties had agreed on the delineation of 1,947 kilometres of an estimated total of 2,100 kilometres of land boundary. At a meeting held on 11 October 2014 in Yaoundé, the heads of the delegations of Cameroon and Nigeria expressed confidence that the remaining tasks of demarcation could be completed without the dispatching of new field missions to the boundary, because the technical teams had acquired consistent and reliable knowledge of geographical and demographic data deemed sufficient to finalize their work. Consequently, the Mixed

Commission had adopted new measures aimed at completing the implementation of the judgment of the Court, including in-office cartographic methodologies to assess the remaining disputed areas of the land boundary. Meanwhile, the emplacement of pillars along the boundary had continued, with 289 pillars built between January and June 2014, bringing the total number of pillars to 667; another 767 pillars remained to be emplaced.

Throughout 2014, the Mixed Commission also undertook confidence-building initiatives for the affected populations. Additional resources, however, were required to implement joint cross-border programmes between the UN country teams in Cameroon and Nigeria, particularly those in support of the populations affected by the demarcation process. The committee that was established in February 2014 to prepare the land and maritime boundary statement held two meetings, with the active support of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat. The United Nations Cartographic Section was also working to produce maps of the boundary statement, which would pave the way for the production of large-scale maps. Overall, it was expected that the field assessment of the areas of the boundary not yet assessed would be completed by the end of 2015 or early 2016, depending on the availability of the parties. Completion of the bulk of the demarcation work would depend on the ability of the two parties to reach an agreement on all the remaining areas of disagreement in a timely manner.

After 31 December 2014, the following activities were required, in view of the conclusion of the work of the Mixed Commission: finalization, using remote-sensing methodology, of demarcation activities, final maps and the boundary statement; facilitation of boundary pillar emplacement financed by the trust fund for the demarcation activities; promotion of cross-border cooperation, including maritime cooperation, and coordinated security monitoring along the land boundary; finalization of confidence-building initiatives for local communities affected by the demarcation; and implementation of the exit strategy by handing over the activities of the Mixed Commission to the Joint Bilateral Commission and other sub-regional structures.

On 12 December [S/2014/894], the Security Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention to continue the activities of the Mixed Commission.

Financing

In an October report [A/69/363 & Corr.1–3] on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, the Secretary-General proposed resource requirements for 2014 for the Mixed Commission in the amount of \$2,331,000.

Guinea

In 2014, the Ebola virus outbreak that started in Guinea and spread through the region led to near isolation of the country. In September, following a state of emergency declaration, the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) was set up in the country to deploy financial, logistical and human resources and to support the push to zero cases.

The most significant constitutional development in Guinea was the establishment of the National Assembly in January. Efforts to reform the security sector advanced with the adoption in July of the 2014–2017 National Strategy for Priority Actions.

Political and security developments

Reports of Secretary-General. In his June [S/2014/442] and December [S/2014/945] reports on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the Secretary-General reported that the spread and scale of the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa had led to the near isolation of Guinea, exacerbating the country's political and social tensions, while local elections had been postponed indefinitely. Guinea-Bissau closed its land border with Guinea on 13 August, and Senegal followed suit on 22 August.

Earlier in January, the Secretary-General's Special Representative attended the inauguration and opening session of the newly elected Parliament in Guinea. At the request of the Government, UNOWA facilitated a UN technical mission to the country led by the Peacebuilding Support Office from 21 to 25 April, to identify ways in which the United Nations could support the new Parliament. With the support of the United Nations, Guinea finalized its action plans on defence, police and civilian protection, justice, customs, water and forestry. On 7 May, at the invitation of President Alpha Condé, the Secretary-General's Special Representative attended the meeting of the Strategic Orientation Commission of the Guinean National Steering Committee for Security Sector Reform. The Government presented a national strategy for priority actions for 2014–2017, which focused on the strengthening of security sector governance, the enhancement of operational capacities and the improvement of the civil-military relationship. The Secretary-General observed that the United Nations would continue its peacebuilding engagement in Guinea to promote the further strengthening of State institutions and the reform of the security and criminal justice sectors in accordance with the request of the Government.

Letter of Secretary-General. In a 15 September letter [S/2014/669] to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General transmitted a joint

letter from Alpha Condé, the President of Guinea; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of Liberia; and Ernest Bai Koroma, the President of Sierra Leone, requesting a UN resolution for a coordinated international response to end the Ebola outbreak.

(For more information on the United Nations response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, see PART THREE, Chapter XIII.)

Peacebuilding Commission

The Peacebuilding Commission issued its annual report for its eighth (2014) session, covering from 1 January to 31 December [A/69/818-S/2015/174]. The Commission stated that the tragic outbreak of Ebola in three countries on its agenda—Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone—forced the Commission to shift the focus of its engagement towards supporting efforts made by those countries and by the United Nations, the international community and other relevant actors to fight the disease.

In Guinea, the Commission focused on supporting the capacity of the new parliament, as a critical component of the country's efforts to consolidate peace and democracy. The Minister for Human Rights and Civil Liberties of Guinea addressed the Commission as the keynote speaker at its annual session in June. He also addressed the country configuration at an informal meeting, at which he presented Guinea's priorities for peacebuilding and human rights and exchanged views with its members. The Commission's discussions highlighted the ways in which the Ebola outbreak had exposed State fragility and the weaknesses of governance structures despite the important investments made in institution-building in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Second review of Statement of Mutual Commitments. The Peacebuilding Commission issued an August report [PBC/8/GUI/1, PBC/8/GUI/2] on the second review of the statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Guinea [YUN 2012, p. 180]. The report covered the period between April 2012 and April 2014 and focused on the three priority areas of the promotion of national reconciliation and unity; the reform of the defence and security sector; and policy on the employment of youth and women.

The Commission stated that the country had made significant progress during the reporting period. The reforms undertaken by the Government demonstrated its strong will to work towards greater democracy and political and economic stability.

As to the first priority of national reconciliation and unity, the Commission recommended that, during the year, the Guinea configuration should give new impetus to its support for the national reconciliation and unity process; for example by organizing a meeting to revitalize the approach and boost the

operational capacity of the Provisional National Reconciliation Commission, with a view to developing a consensus-orientated methodology for the national reconciliation process and its associated mechanisms. It should also promote community-based reconciliation initiatives and ensure women's participation in those initiatives. On the second priority of reform of the defence and security sector, the Commission recommended that efforts to increase the representation and participation of women in the defence and security forces and to protect women and girls had to be backed by a suitable institutional and regulatory framework. Work to restore people's trust in the defence and security forces had to continue, as did capacity-building to promote good governance, respect for human rights and democratic civilian oversight of the defence and security forces. On its final priority on the employment of youth and women, the Commission recommended that the Guinea configuration shore up its support for the mobilization and effective delivery of resources, including by working with international partners such as the World Bank or the African Development Bank.

(For further information on the Peacebuilding Commission, see p. 58.)

Mauritania

In his June [S/2014/442] and December [S/2014/945] reports on the 2014 activities of UNOWA, the Secretary-General reported on Mauritania. Negotiations between the opposition coalition and the Government broke down in April as a result of the failure of both sides to reach agreement on an agenda for political dialogue. The majority of the opposition groups in the country decided to boycott the presidential elections, which were held on 21 June. The next day, provisional results were announced with the incumbent, President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, receiving 81.9 per cent of the vote. Worrisome trends in respect of food insecurity, malnutrition and population displacement persisted in the country. The Government distributed food items to assist in addressing the needs of some 300,000 people (about 10 per cent of the population) suffering from food insecurity. Negative coping mechanisms, such as the selling off of livestock, reducing meals and removing children from school, continued to be reported.

On a positive note, in February, Mauritania adopted a road map for the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences, in the context of the eradication of slavery practices in Mauritania. This followed a consultative process between the Government, civil society and other national actors, in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Horn of Africa

Sudan–South Sudan

Some progress was made towards resolving the remaining issues between the Sudan and South Sudan, but political uncertainty and armed conflict within the two countries continued. A comprehensive political settlement to the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan had yet to be reached. Fighting continued between the Government and armed movements, as did attacks against civilians. On 27 January, the President of the Sudan announced that the Government planned to initiate an all-inclusive national dialogue. In December, he announced the resumption of “Operation Decisive Summer”, aimed at eliminating armed movements in Darfur and the Two Areas that did not heed the Government’s call for dialogue. The political and armed opposition in the Sudan adopted a joint declaration entitled the “Sudan Call” pledging to end the wars and to create a comprehensive solution. The mandate of the African Union–United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was extended until 30 June 2015.

The security situation in the Abyei Area remained relatively calm despite underlying tensions. Unauthorized armed elements remained in the Area, and the Sudan Oil Police continued to maintain personnel inside the Diffra oil complex in northern Abyei in violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement. In May, South Sudan resumed participation in the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. At a summit meeting in November, the Presidents of the Sudan and South Sudan agreed to the resumption of meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee. The Secretary-General decided to reconfigure the leadership of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and appoint a civilian as Head of Mission, separating the functions of that position from those of the Force Commander. He called on the African Union Commission to report on its investigation into the 2013 assassination of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief, which remained a source a tension between the Sudan and South Sudan. The UNISFA mandate was extended until 28 February 2015.

Political and security developments

Communications. On 8 January [S/2014/21], the Sudan transmitted to the Security Council a 7 January press release concerning a press conference held the previous day at the Khartoum Airport in the Sudan. The Foreign Minister of the Sudan indicated that, at the request of the Ministry of Petroleum of South Sudan, some 900 Sudanese technicians would, if necessary, be dispatched to work in the oil fields of South Sudan under the supervision of the Ministry of Petroleum.

On 3 February [S/2014/81], the Sudan transmitted to the Council a press statement and an explanatory note issued by the Sudanese International Aid Commission regarding the suspension of the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Sudan. The Sudan said that the documents attached to the note proved that ICRC did not comply with the humanitarian principles and guidelines that governed relations with the host country.

On 10 April [S/2014/259], the Sudan transmitted to the Council a press statement issued by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in response to accusations made by the spokesperson for the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) that SAF were conducting unusual movements, deployments and incursions along the borders. The Sudan stated that, on the contrary, it was monitoring the ongoing fighting in South Sudan and, within the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) mediation team, was seeking an end to the crisis in that country. SAF confirmed that they had not carried out any hostile movements or deployments along the borders. They reaffirmed the commitment of the Sudan to the implementation of the cooperation agreements between the two countries, including security agreements on the definition of the zero line for the Safe Demilitarization Border Zone and the operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

In a 16 July letter [S/2014/500] to the Council, the Sudan, referring to a press statement made the same day by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, stated that the military activities conducted by SAF in Blue Nile and Kordofan States were in response to the escalation of attacks by rebel armed groups. The Sudan welcomed the tripartite initiative to deliver humanitarian assistance in the two states, but the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N) repeatedly rejected the initiative and deliberately impeded access to affected people under its control.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 8 August [meeting 7240], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/16** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council expresses grave alarm and concern regarding the substantial deterioration of the political and security situation and developing humanitarian catastrophe in South Sudan resulting from the internal Sudan People’s Liberation Movement political dispute and unrelenting violence, including against civilians, caused by the country’s political and military leaders since 15 December 2013.

The Council strongly condemns the repeated violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement accepted and signed by South Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition) on 23 Jan-

uary 2014, and emphasizes that the actions of President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar in continuing to pursue a military solution to this conflict are unacceptable.

The Council urgently calls upon President Salva Kiir, former Vice-President Riek Machar and all parties to implement the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan signed on 9 May 2014 by South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition), to engage fully and inclusively in ongoing peace talks in Addis Ababa, and to uphold their commitment to establish a Transitional Government of National Unity, for which the deadline was set as 10 August 2014, and in this regard strongly appeals to the parties to finalize appropriate arrangements without further delay, and expresses its readiness to consider, in consultation with relevant partners, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union, all appropriate measures, including targeted sanctions, against those who take action that undermines the peace, stability and security of South Sudan, including those who prevent the implementation of these agreements.

The Council strongly condemns reported and ongoing human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving extrajudicial killings, ethnically targeted violence, sexual and gender-based violence, rape, recruitment and use of children, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, violence aimed at spreading terror among the civilian population, and attacks on schools and hospitals as well as United Nations peacekeeping personnel, by all parties, including armed groups and national security forces. The Council recalls that some of these acts may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity under international law.

The Council emphasizes the need to ensure accountability for serious violations and abuses of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law. In that regard, the Council underscores the importance of the ongoing work of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan and looks forward to its findings and recommendations, and welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan to continue to monitor, investigate and publicly report on human rights violations and abuses in pursuit of justice and an end to impunity, as set out in resolution 2155(2014).

The Council underscores its grave concern about the catastrophic food insecurity situation in South Sudan that may soon reach the threshold of famine as a result of continued conflict, civilian targeting, and displacement, stresses the responsibility borne by all parties to the conflict for the suffering of the people of South Sudan and the necessity of ensuring that the basic needs of the population are met, underscores the urgent need to increase funding for humanitarian operations in South Sudan, and encourages States Members of the United Nations to contribute funds critically needed now to provide life-saving assistance.

The Council condemns all attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities, commends United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners for their efforts to provide urgent and coordinated

support to the population, and calls upon all parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies to all those in need and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to internally displaced persons and refugees.

The Council renews its deep appreciation for the actions taken by Mission personnel and troop- and police-contributing countries to protect tens of thousands of civilians under threat of physical violence and to stabilize the security situation.

The Council commends the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as supported by the United Nations and African Union, for its relentless work in establishing a forum for political and security dialogue, establishing and operationalizing the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism for the cessation of hostilities agreement, and leading multi-stakeholder political negotiations to establish a Transitional Government of National Unity.

Note by Security Council President. In a 21 August note [S/2014/613], the Security Council President stated that, following consultations with Council members, it had been agreed to amend the reporting period established in resolution 2046(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 184] and amended by the Council in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 209] for the status of compliance by the Sudan, South Sudan and SPLM-N with the decisions set forth in that resolution.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 15 December [meeting 7341], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/26** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls the great hope and optimism felt by the South Sudanese people at the establishment of the Republic of South Sudan in July 2011 and the prospect of the end of decades of civil war. On the one-year mark of the outbreak of the current conflict it expresses its profound disappointment that their aspirations have not been met, and that instead the actions of their leaders have led to yet more fighting and division.

The Council recalls with deep alarm the escalation of the internal Sudan People's Liberation Movement political dispute that erupted into conflict on 15 December 2013 and the subsequent violence caused by the country's political and military leaders that has plunged this young nation into a man-made political, security and humanitarian catastrophe over this past year.

The Council underscores its strong condemnation of the serious human rights violations and abuses that have caused the death of tens of thousands of civilians, the displacement of nearly 2 million people in just 12 months, and the attacks upon, and deaths of, United Nations peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel. In this regard, it places full responsibility for these tragic events with South Sudan's leaders, those in government as well as with the opposition, and looks to President

Salva Kiir Mayardit and former Vice-President Riek Machar Teny to make the necessary compromises for peace.

The Council commends the work of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in leading the mediation since the onset of the crisis, the initiatives by the African Union, including to establish a mechanism for seeking accountability and reconciliation through its Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan, the overwhelming humanitarian assistance offered by the international community to help to mitigate the consequences of the conflict, including staving off famine in 2014, and the hosting by South Sudan's neighbours of nearly 500,000 refugees from South Sudan.

The Council renews its deep appreciation for the courageous actions taken and ongoing by United Nations Mission in South Sudan personnel and troop- and police-contributing countries to protect tens of thousands of civilians under threat of physical violence and to stabilize the security situation, and pays tribute to those peacekeepers who have tragically been killed in this endeavour, and expresses condolences to their families.

The Council expresses its grave concern that, given the continued disregard of the cessation of hostilities agreement of 23 January 2014 and the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan of 9 May 2014, and the absence of the establishment and implementation of a credible peace agreement, the risks of famine, State failure and regionalization of the conflict persist.

In this regard, the Council urgently demands that President Salva Kiir Mayardit, former Vice-President Riek Machar Teny and all parties refrain from further violence, implement the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan signed on 9 May 2014 by South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition), engage fully and inclusively in ongoing peace talks in Addis Ababa, uphold their commitment to establish a Transitional Government of National Unity, and allow and facilitate, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies to all those in need and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Council reiterates its intention to commence consideration, in consultation with relevant partners, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union, on all appropriate measures, including targeted sanctions, against those impeding the peace process. The Council underscores the significant importance of fighting impunity and ensuring accountability for serious violations and abuses of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law in South Sudan, and of continued delivery of life-saving and other humanitarian assistance to the South Sudanese people.

Darfur

Report of Secretary-General (February). In February [S/2014/138], the Secretary-General issued a special report on the review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID),

which was requested by the Security Council in resolution 2113(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 211].

The Secretary-General stated that, six years following the transition from the African Union Mission in the Sudan to UNAMID, a comprehensive political settlement to the Darfur crisis had yet to be reached. Fighting continued, and protection and humanitarian assistance needs among the civilian population remained considerable. Humanitarian space continued to be challenged and UNAMID was subject to increasingly hostile action. The conflict in Darfur continued to take place within the context of pre-existing root causes that included the loss or severe disruption of traditional livelihoods, weakened traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, impunity and weak rule of law, weak or absent State administrations in rural areas, the prevalence of arms and armed militias, a lack of trust between and within communities, the manipulation of social divisions, and cycles of retaliatory violence. A deterioration in the economy of the Sudan following the secession of South Sudan in July 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 196] seriously undermined security in Darfur. The Sudan lost three quarters of its oil production as a result, which, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), accounted for half its previous fiscal revenue and a third of its export proceeds. Resource-based clashes between communities had intensified significantly since the economic downturn in mid-2012 and eclipsed military clashes as the primary cause of violence against civilians and of population displacement.

The review identified three major challenges faced by UNAMID in the effective discharge of its mandate: the cooperation and partnership of the Government, major shortfalls in several troop- and police-contingent capabilities, and the need for improved coordination and integration structures within the Mission, and between the Mission and the UN country team. It also identified three strategic priorities for UNAMID: mediation between the Government and non-signatory armed movements based on the 2011 Doha Document for Peace in Darfur [YUN 2011, p. 220]; the protection of civilians, the facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel; and the provision of support, in conjunction with the UN country team, to the mediation of community conflict. The review recommended a range of measures to improve the effectiveness of UNAMID, and that a period of one year following the consideration of its findings by the Security Council be taken for the effects of the measures to be seen. During that time, efforts to address troop- and police-contingent shortcomings would be redoubled so that the contingents fully met the requirements set out in the memorandum of understanding. Coordination between military, police and civilian components and between UNAMID and the UN country team

would be enhanced. Gaps in the Mission's integrated strategic and operational architecture would be addressed. To improve coordination between UNAMID and the UN country team, the full requirements of the United Nations Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning would be put in place, including the articulation of a common UN and AU vision; the establishment of integrated mechanisms for joint analysis, planning, coordination, monitoring and decision-making; and the development and implementation of an updated integrated strategic framework. The Secretary-General proposed that the benchmarks set out in his October 2012 report [YUN 2012, p. 195] be adjusted to reflect the revised strategic priorities. The updated proposed benchmarks, with progress indicators, were annexed to the report. He urged the Security Council to support the recommendations set out in the report as part of the collective effort to enable UNAMID to reach its full potential.

Communication. On 11 March [S/2014/178], the Sudan transmitted to the Security Council a statement regarding a series of attacks conducted by the Darfurian armed movements, which consisted of non-signatories of the Doha Document [YUN 2011, p. 217]. The attacks resulted in the destruction of some villages, as well as atrocities committed against innocent civilians. The attacks were carried out upon the suspension of the talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between the Sudan and SPLM-N.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 3 April [meeting 7152], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2148(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/236] was submitted by Australia, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions and the statements by its President concerning the situation in the Sudan, and underlining the importance of full compliance with these,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of the Sudan and its determination to work with the Government of the Sudan, in full respect of its sovereignty, to assist in tackling the various challenges in the Sudan,

Recalling the importance of the principles of the peaceful settlement of international disputes, good-neighbourliness, non-interference and cooperation in the relations among States in the region,

Recalling also its resolution 2086(2013) of 21 January 2013 and reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Commending the efforts of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur towards promoting

peace and stability in Darfur, and reiterating its full support for the Operation,

Expressing deep concern at the considerable deterioration of the security situation in Darfur during 2013, with continued clashes between the Government of the Sudan and rebel armed groups and an intensification of intercommunal violence, including with the involvement of elements of paramilitary units and tribal militias, which has become the main source of violence against civilians and of population displacement,

Expressing concern at the prevalence of arms in Darfur and the continued threats to civilians posed by unexploded ordnance,

Expressing deep concern at the impact of deteriorating security on the civilian population, including the significant increase in population displacements in 2013, and the consequent increase in humanitarian and protection needs, including related to sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children; noting that humanitarian actors were able to reach the majority of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Darfur in 2013, with the notable exception of those vulnerable populations in areas of active fighting, including the East Jebel Marra region; in this regard expressing particular concern at reports of an escalation of violence in Darfur since February 2014, resulting in the displacement of a large number of civilians, and at the denial of access for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and humanitarian actors to the affected areas by the Sudanese authorities; and further expressing concern over the insufficient availability of funding for humanitarian actors,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of attacks against the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and its call upon the Government of the Sudan swiftly to investigate these attacks and to bring the perpetrators to justice, and upon all parties in Darfur to cooperate fully with the Operation,

Reiterating also that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Darfur and that an inclusive political settlement is essential to re-establishing peace, and underscoring the importance of fully addressing the root causes of the conflict in the search for a sustainable peace, which should rapidly deliver real benefits for the Darfuri people, and in this regard reiterating its support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as a solid basis for the Darfur peace process, and for its accelerated implementation,

Noting, in this regard, that the ability of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to facilitate progress in implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur is hampered by delays by the signatory parties and the absence of an inclusive political settlement between the Government of the Sudan and non-signatory movements, expressing concern that the humanitarian and security situation, as well as the lack of capacity of the Darfur Regional Authority, hinders the transition from relief to stabilization and development activities, urging donors to honour their pledges and fulfil their obligations in a timely manner, including those commitments made at the conference held in Doha in April 2013, and affirming that development can support a lasting peace in Darfur,

Commending the efforts of the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Mr. Mohamed ibn Chambas, to revitalize the peace process, in-

cluding through renewed engagement of the non-signatory movements, and urging all parties to the conflict to cease all acts of violence immediately and to engage in the peace process without preconditions on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, in order to bring a durable and stable peace to the region,

Encouraging the Joint Special Representative to continue his efforts to increase the inclusiveness of the political process, guided by the framework for African Union and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur peace process, and to coordinate with the African Union-High level Implementation Panel and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan to synchronize their mediation efforts while taking into account ongoing transformation at the national level, welcoming in this regard the announcement by President Bashir on 27 January 2014 of a national dialogue, noting that the modalities of such a dialogue should provide an opportunity to address the legitimate grievances of the people of Darfur, looking forward to further developments towards the implementation of an inclusive dialogue process, and stressing the importance of the effective participation of women in this process and in efforts towards peace in Darfur,

Noting that local dispute resolution mechanisms play an important role in preventing and resolving intercommunal conflict, including conflict over natural resources, and urging an intensification of effective efforts to prevent local disputes leading to violence, with its corresponding impact on the local civilian populations, acknowledging the efforts of Sudanese authorities and local mediators to mediate in inter-tribal fighting, with support from the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the United Nations country team, and urging their continued work,

Welcoming that, over the last year, cooperation between the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the Government of the Sudan has resulted in improvements in mandate implementation, including through the more timely issuance of visas, but expressing deep concern that continued access restrictions and delays in the issuance of customs clearances for contingent-owned equipment significantly undermine the effectiveness of the Operation, and further expressing deep concern that the delivery of humanitarian assistance is constrained and delayed by particular restrictions facing humanitarian actors, and that insufficient cooperation by the Government, particularly in terms of access, seriously constrains the Operation's ability to operate,

Expressing deep concern that shortfalls in the operational capabilities of some military and police components seriously constrain the force's mobility, effectiveness and ability to deter and respond robustly to attacks,

Noting the need for effective coordination and integration structures within the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and between the Operation and the United Nations country team, and encouraging swift development and implementation of a clearer strategic vision, priorities and a strategic and operational planning system within the Operation, as well as an improved early warning and response mechanism and coordination of protection of civilians activities with the country team,

Recalling the communiqué issued by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on 24 March 2014,

1. *Welcomes and endorses* the special report of the Secretary-General of 25 February 2014 on the review of

the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and its recommendations, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2113(2013) of 30 July 2013;

2. *Takes note* of the proposed adjustment of the benchmarks and indicators for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to further refine these benchmarks and indicators to reflect the revised strategic priorities of the Operation, and submit them in his next 90-day report;

3. *Stresses* the important role of the African Union in supporting implementation of the review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and welcomes the continued efforts of the Joint Support and Coordination Mechanism, including in performing important coordination, support and liaison functions;

4. *Endorses* the revised strategic priorities of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, namely, the protection of civilians, the facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel; mediation between the Government of the Sudan and non-signatory armed movements on the basis of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, while taking into account ongoing democratic transformation at the national level; and support to the mediation of community conflict, including through measures to address its root causes, in conjunction with the United Nations country team;

5. *Requests* the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to focus and streamline its activities across its military, police and civilian components in order to achieve progress on these three strategic priorities, recognizes that their effective implementation will require certain Operation tasks to be deprioritized, and requests the Secretary-General to include these tasks in his next regular report on the Operation;

6. *Takes note* of the intention of the Secretary-General to reduce the police component of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur swiftly, in order to increase the effectiveness of that component, requests the Secretary-General to provide detailed and updated information on the implementation of this reduction in his next report, and stresses in this regard the importance of effective deployment, training and operational capability of the police component of the Operation;

7. *Notes* that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur faces three major challenges in the effective discharge of its mandate, in the light of the evolving political and security environment, namely, the cooperation and partnership of the Government of the Sudan in mandate implementation; major shortfalls in several troop- and police-contingent operational capabilities; and the need for improved coordination and integration structures within the Operation and between the Operation and the United Nations country team;

8. *Requests* that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur identify, in the context of these challenges, steps by which it will achieve its revised strategic priorities more effectively, and further requests the Secretary-General to report on these steps in his regular reports to the Council on the Operation;

9. *Welcomes* the planned efforts on the part of the United Nations and the relevant troop- and police-

contributing countries to address shortfalls in the operational capabilities of some contingents, including enhanced engagement by the African Union and the United Nations Secretariat with these countries, and encourages the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to move to a more preventive and pre-emptive posture in pursuit of its priorities and in active defence of its mandate, building on positive steps taken so far, without prejudice to the agreed basic principles of peacekeeping;

10. *Stresses* the need to address gaps in the integrated strategic and operational architecture of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, calls upon the Operation and the United Nations country team to put in place the full requirements of the United Nations Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning, including the establishment of integrated mechanisms for joint analysis, planning, coordination, monitoring and decision-making, especially for joint operational planning for the military and police on protection of civilians, further calls upon the Secretariat to assist the Operation in these tasks, and requests that the Secretary-General include steps taken in this regard in his next regular report to the Council on the Operation;

11. *Notes with concern* the strategic gap in mobility for the mission and the continuing critical need for aviation capacity and other mobility assets, including military utility helicopters for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, calls upon Member States to redouble their efforts to provide aviation units to the mission, and upon the Government of the Sudan to facilitate the deployment of those assets already pledged, and requests the Secretary-General to include information on related force generation efforts in his regular reports, and on what other strategies can offset this critical military gap;

12. *Urges* all relevant actors to implement the review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur swiftly and fully, requests the Secretary-General to include in his next regular report to the Council on the Operation specific information and operational recommendations as required on the cost efficiency and reduction of the military, police and civilian components of the Operation to maximize its effectiveness in the implementation of its revised strategic priorities, and expresses its intention to make necessary adjustments accordingly;

13. *Calls upon* all parties in Darfur to remove all obstacles to the full and proper discharge of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and calls upon the Government of the Sudan to comply with the status-of-forces agreement fully and without delay, and to enhance its cooperation with the Operation on the implementation of its mandate;

14. *Stresses* the importance of effective monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur in order to improve its effectiveness, and looks forward to considering progress in implementation of the review on the basis of the regular reports of the Secretary-General to the Council;

15. *Looks forward* to assessing the initial impact of implementation of the review before renewing the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur in August 2014, and expresses its intention to ensure that the mandate of the Operation reflects the revised strategic priorities set out in the special report of the Secretary-General;

16. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Reports of Secretary-General (April and July).

In response to Security Council resolution 2113(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 211], the Secretary-General submitted an April report on UNAMID [S/2014/279], which provided an update and analysis of the conflict in Darfur and the political and operational environment. It also contained information on the implementation of the strategic priorities outlined in his February special report (see p. 301) and, as requested in Council resolution 2148(2014) (see p. 302), progress on strengthening and streamlining UNAMID operations.

An upsurge in violence was destabilizing Darfur at three interconnected levels. First, the deteriorating economic situation led to increasing conflict among tribes over land and resources. Second, the deployment to the region of Government-aligned militia, known as Rapid Support Forces, undermined the security of civilians, their property and livelihoods. Third, the security situation was aggravated by attacks by rebel groups against Government forces and indiscriminate bombardments by the Sudanese Armed Forces in areas of rebel control. The escalation of the conflict caused a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Approximately 250,000 people were estimated to have fled violence since February. Access to areas of active hostilities was extremely limited, affecting both the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the ability to provide services. UNAMID provided protection to almost 60,000 displaced persons who sought refuge within or near UNAMID team sites in Saraf Umra, Khor Abeche and Korma.

The Joint Chief Mediator, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, continued efforts to bring the parties closer to agreement on direct negotiations. Despite the Government's repeated expressions of readiness for direct negotiations, two key obstacles remained. The armed groups continued to press for a comprehensive, national process to address the Sudan's challenges, rejecting the Doha Document as a basis for talks, and continued to insist on entering negotiations with the Government as the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, which was formed in September 2011 with SPLM-N. The Joint Chief Mediator engaged the Government and the armed movements separately, urging the non-signatory movements to join the peace process on the basis of the Doha Document without preconditions. The armed movements committed themselves to a negotiated settlement of the conflict and the preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Sudan. The Government maintained its objection to any parallel peace process.

On 27 January, President al-Bashir announced that his Government planned to initiate an all-inclusive national dialogue that would focus on peace and security; political reforms and democratization; economic reforms; and national identity. The Government announced security guarantees for the participation of the armed movements, including

freedoms of association, assembly and press. On 10 and 11 February in Kampala, the Joint Chief Mediator met the leaders of the three-armed movements, including Minni Minawi, Gibril Ibrahim and, for the first time, Abdul Wahid. The movements' leaders welcomed the idea of a national dialogue as a positive step, but fell short of committing to participation and announced their intention to unveil their own proposals for a dialogue. Subsequently, the Joint Chief Mediator held a meeting on 8 March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between the leaders of Minni Minawi and Gibril Ibrahim. They encouraged the armed movements to enter into direct negotiations with the Government of the Sudan and to participate fully in the national dialogue. On the same day, the Chairperson of the AU High-level Implementation Panel, Thabo Mbeki, and the Joint Chief Mediator met with the armed groups to explore ways to synchronize the two mediation efforts in support of the national dialogue. The President of Chad, Idriss Déby Itno, initiated a second mediation forum in Um Jaras from 26 to 29 March. The forum was attended by Zaghawa leaders, the Vice-President of the Sudan, Hassabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman, the Joint Chief Mediator, and traditional and tribal leaders. President al-Bashir joined the forum on 29 March.

Progress in the implementation of the Doha Document remained limited. Following the agreement on final security arrangements, signed on 20 November 2013, the Government and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) agreed, at a meeting of the Joint Commission held on 25 February, to integrate three LJM battalions into the Sudan Armed Forces and Police. The remaining 12,570 of the 15,000 combatants declared by LJM were to undergo a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. The other signatory, the Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan (JEM-Sudan), began preparations for the verification of its combatants with the support of the Darfur Ceasefire Commission, with a view to entering a similar agreement with the Government.

In accordance with the reprioritized strategy recommended by the strategic review of UNAMID, outlined in the Secretary-General's February report (see p. 301), the Mission's police component would refocus its activities on supporting physical protection of civilians, facilitating humanitarian assistance, and creating a protective environment by coordinating police capacity-building and community-oriented policing initiatives. UNAMID and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) conducted a thorough task analysis of the police component, which led to the restructuring of its command and control and the reduction of 723 individual police officers, 4 formed police units, and 4 professional police posts. The military component would create two additional sectors to align its operations with State structures and reduce 200 military observers, staff officers and

liaison officers following a review of their deployment and tasking. One heavy transport company would be repatriated. The first phase of streamlining focused on the components of HIV/AIDS; gender; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; child protection; and rule of law. In addition to the civilian staffing review that was concluded in November 2013, which led to a reduction of 19 posts in those sections, an additional 65 posts would be reduced, resulting in an overall reduction of 46 per cent of the posts in those areas.

The Secretary-General demanded that the Government stop using militia elements in its counter-insurgency efforts and put an end to their abuses against civilians. He also demanded that the non-signatory movements lay down their arms and commit fully to the peace process. The Secretary-General called on the signatory parties and international partners to redouble their efforts to implement the Doha Document and address issues of political inclusion. He called on the Government to ensure full access to areas in conflict for UNAMID and humanitarian and recovery actors in Darfur.

In his July report on UNAMID [S/2014/515], the Secretary-General stated that, following successive weeks of continued degradation of the security situation and attacks against civilians in Darfur, violence decreased considerably in May before rising again in mid-June. The operations of the Rapid Support Forces were considerably reduced. Local sources in North Darfur reported that on 7 April, air strikes by the Sudanese Armed Forces hit the village of Lill near Um Baru, killing one civilian and injuring eight others. On 26 April, an air strike on the village of Orschi resulted in the deaths of three civilians and the destruction of a water point, market and school. On 8 and 28 April, the Sudanese Armed Forces reportedly targeted elements of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front with air strikes on the villages of Kunjara, Tarne and Thabit. In Central Darfur, reports were received of air strikes by the Sudanese Armed Forces on 26 April on the villages of Noume, Tagora and Tajina, following air strikes on the villages of Ro Fata, Logu and Osaji-ang in March. On 28 April, the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) reportedly attacked a Sudanese Armed Forces camp in the town of Rockero, resulting in the deaths of 7 government soldiers and 3 SLA/AW elements. On 29 April, Government forces attacked the villages of Kirro, Bardane and Nawni in Central Darfur, displacing some 5,000 civilians to neighbouring areas.

Despite multiple challenges, humanitarian access improved in April and May. Humanitarian agencies were able to reach most of the areas affected by fighting and tribal clashes after sustained advocacy with state authorities. Restrictions of movement of UNAMID also decreased considerably. The Mission's police component was reduced by 723 officers in May.

The AU and the UN Joint Special Representative/ Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur engaged regularly with senior officials of the Government of the Sudan on the need for direct negotiations. He stressed that it was important for the Government to ensure that four key freedoms enabling a conducive environment for the national dialogue were respected—namely, freedom for political parties to carry out their activities, freedom of the press, the release of political detainees, and assurances that the rebel groups could participate in the national dialogue preparations freely and with security guarantees.

On 13 April, the Sudanese Revolutionary Front issued a road map to comprehensive political settlement in the Sudan, in which it reiterated its call for a holistic approach to settling the conflicts in the Sudan and bringing democratic change to the country. It urged the Government to create a conducive environment for national dialogue and to introduce confidence-building measures that included protection of civilians in regions of conflict; a negotiated cessation of hostilities, including an agreement on unhindered humanitarian access to all conflict areas; and the holding of a preparatory conference outside the Sudan for all stakeholders to discuss the modalities for the national dialogue.

Some progress was made towards the implementation of the Doha Document. In a meeting between the Government and JEM-Sudan convened by the Ceasefire Commission on 18 May, JEM-Sudan committed to beginning a troop verification exercise and to submitting the location of its troops to the Commission. JEM-Sudan was fully represented in the Implementation Follow-up Commission, the Ceasefire Commission and the Joint Commission. On 26 May, the Implementation Committee of the Darfur internal dialogue and consultation was launched in El Fasher. On 15 June, the Darfur Regional Authority inaugurated the Justice, Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Secretary-General observed that, despite recent gains, the humanitarian situation in Darfur remained fragile. He called on the Government to ensure that humanitarian actors could operate in Darfur and on donors to provide the financial resources necessary to reach those in need. He also called on the parties to the Doha Document to create mechanisms to address intercommunal conflict, implement the security provisions of the peace framework, and address issues of justice, protection and economic and social recovery. The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council consider extending the UNAMID mandate until 31 August 2015.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 August [meeting 7250], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2173(2014)**.

The draft [S/2014/628] was sponsored by France, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions and the statements by its President concerning the situation in the Sudan, and underlining the importance of full compliance with these,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of the Sudan and its determination to work with the Government of the Sudan, in full respect of its sovereignty, to assist in tackling the various challenges in the Sudan,

Recalling the importance of the principles of the peaceful settlement of international disputes, good-neighbourliness, non-interference and cooperation in the relations among States in the region,

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the country concerned,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003 on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel; resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict; resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, and resolution 2086(2013) of 21 January 2013 on United Nations peacekeeping operations,

Expressing deep concern at the serious deterioration in the security situation overall so far in 2014, and the profound negative impact of this on civilians, in particular women and children, including through continued clashes between government forces and rebel armed groups, an escalation of inter-tribal fighting and other local clashes, including with the involvement of paramilitary units and tribal militias, and an increase in criminality and banditry, further expressing deep concern that such clashes, including attacks by rebel groups and government forces and aerial bombardment by the Government of the Sudan, inter-tribal fighting, banditry and criminality continue to threaten civilians, while welcoming a slight improvement in the security situation since May, and reiterating its demand that all parties to the conflict in Darfur immediately end violence, including attacks on civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel,

Recalling its resolution 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013, and expressing concern at the threat to peace and security in Darfur arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and the continued threats to civilians posed by unexploded ordnance,

Expressing deep concern at the significant increase in population displacements in 2014 and the consequent increase in humanitarian assistance and protection needs, with an estimated 359,000 persons newly displaced since January 2014, about 260,000 of whom have been unable to return to their homes, alongside more than 2 million long-term internally displaced persons,

Recalling the commitments made by the Government of the Sudan and other signatories to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur to ensure the unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to the population in need and the protection of humanitarian workers and their operations in areas under their control, as well as to guarantee the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur unimpeded freedom of movement in all areas and at all times in Darfur in the exercise of its mandate,

Expressing concern that the suspension of operations or the withdrawal of some international humanitarian actors has left significant gaps in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, calling upon the Government of the Sudan to ensure that humanitarian actors can operate in support of addressing basic needs, and calling upon donors, the Darfur Regional Authority and the Government of the Sudan to provide the financial resources necessary to reach those in need,

Reiterating that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Darfur and that an inclusive political settlement is essential to re-establishing peace, and underscoring the importance of fully addressing the root causes of the conflict in the search for a sustainable peace, which should rapidly deliver real benefits for the Darfuri people, in this regard reiterating its support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as a viable framework for the Darfur peace process, and for its accelerated implementation, and noting that this process and the national initiative for dialogue in the Sudan could be complementary and mutually reinforcing processes,

Welcoming, in this regard, the announcement by President Bashir on 27 January 2014 of a national dialogue, noting that the modalities of such a dialogue should provide an opportunity to address the legitimate grievances of the people of Darfur, that the national dialogue has the potential to offer an opportunity to pave the way for lasting peace throughout the Sudan, building on existing peace processes, including the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, noting the stated commitment of the Government of the Sudan to an inclusive national dialogue, and calling for an enabling environment conducive to the national dialogue, which would constitute a key step towards achieving a credible, transparent, inclusive, nationally owned and Sudanese-led process; further calling upon all parties to engage constructively with this process, urging all parties to refrain from any attempt to obstruct it, and looking forward to further developments towards the implementation of an inclusive dialogue process,

Deploing the fact that some armed groups have refused to join the peace process and are impeding the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, reiterating its demand for the release of members of the former movement of Mohamed Bashir, taken captive in May 2013 by Justice and Equality Movement-Gibril Ibrahim forces, and condemning any actions by any armed group aimed at forced overthrow of the Government of the Sudan,

Noting, in this regard, that the ability of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to facilitate progress in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur is hampered by delays by the signatory parties and the absence of an inclusive political settlement between the Government of the Sudan and non-signatory movements, urging the signatory parties to take the remaining steps necessary to implement the Doha Document fully, expressing concern that the humanitarian and security situation, as well as the lack of capacity of the Darfur Regional Authority, hinder the transition from relief to stabilization and development activities, urging donors and the Government of the Sudan to honour their pledges and fulfil their obligations in a timely manner, including those commitments made at the conference held in Doha in April 2013, welcoming the confirmation by the Government of Qatar of its pledge of 88.5 million United States dollars and the transfer of 10 million dollars of this amount to the United Nations Darfur Fund in April 2014, and affirming that development can support a lasting peace in Darfur,

Noting also that local dispute resolution mechanisms play an important role in preventing and resolving intercommunal conflict, including conflict over natural resources, and urging an intensification of effective efforts to prevent local disputes leading to violence, with its corresponding impact on the local civilian populations, acknowledging the efforts of Sudanese authorities and local mediators to mediate in inter-tribal fighting, with support from the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the United Nations country team, and urging their continued work,

Welcoming regional and other initiatives, undertaken in close interaction with the Government of the Sudan, to address the root causes of the conflict in Darfur and to promote a sustainable peace, including the convening by the President of Chad, Mr. Idriss Déby Itno, of a second mediation forum in Um Jaras from 26 to 29 March 2014, and encouraging the full coordination of such initiatives with the efforts of the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur,

Underlining, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, the importance of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, with regard to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa, particularly in the Sudan,

Calling upon all parties to comply with their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, stressing the importance that the Council attaches to ending impunity, including through ensuring accountability and bringing to justice the perpetrators of crimes committed by all parties in Darfur, urging the Government of the Sudan to comply with its obligations in this respect, welcoming the ongoing investigations by the Special Prosecutor for Darfur appointed by the Government and stressing the need for further progress in this regard, calling for swift progress on the draft memorandum of understanding providing for observation by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the African Union of the proceedings of the Special Court for Darfur, and calling upon the Government swiftly to investigate attacks against the Operation and to bring the perpetrators to justice,

Reaffirming its concern over the negative effect of ongoing violence in Darfur on the stability of the Sudan as a whole as well as the region, welcoming the ongoing good relations between the Sudan and Chad, including on border control, and encouraging the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic to continue to cooperate in order to achieve peace and stability in Darfur and the wider region,

Commending the efforts of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur towards promoting peace and stability in Darfur, and reiterating its full support for the Operation,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 22 July 2014 on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur,

Welcoming also the announcement by the Secretary-General on 2 July 2014 of a review, following recent serious allegations against the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, looking forward to the swift and thorough implementation of this review, and stressing the importance of prompt and effective action on the results of that review, if necessary,

Determining that the situation in the Sudan constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, as set out in resolution 1769(2007) of 31 July 2007, for a further 10 months, until 30 June 2015, in order to align the renewal cycle with the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 9 July 2014, reiterates its endorsement of the revised strategic priorities of the Operation as set out in paragraph 4 of resolution 2148(2014) of 3 April 2014, and requests that the Operation continue to align all its activity and direct the use of its resources to the achievement of these priorities;

2. *Notes* that certain elements of the mandate and tasks of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, as authorized in resolution 1769(2007), in which it was decided that the mandate of the Operation shall be as set out in paragraphs 54 and 55 of the report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of 5 June 2007, are no longer relevant, namely those enumerated in paragraphs 54 (b), 55 (a) (v), and 55 (b) (ii), (iii) and (v) of that report;

3. *Commends* the efforts of the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur to revitalize the peace process and to increase its inclusiveness, guided by the framework for African Union and United Nations facilitation of the Darfur peace process, including through renewed engagement of the non-signatory movements, and emphasizes the importance of the Joint Special Representative's strengthened coordination with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan in synchronizing their mediation efforts while taking into account ongoing transformation at the national level;

4. *Decides* that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur shall consist of up to 15,845 military personnel, 1,583 police personnel and 13 formed police units of up to 140 personnel each;

5. *Welcomes* the steps taken so far by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to implement the review of the Operation conducted pursuant to resolution 2113(2014) of 30 July 2013; requests contin-

ued swift and full implementation of the review, including the streamlining of all components of the Operation and aligning of activities to support achievement of its strategic priorities, and the discontinuing of all other tasks not aligned to the mission's strategic priorities; stresses the importance of the appropriate distribution of tasks and coordination between the Operation and the United Nations country team in order to implement the review of the Operation; and requests a detailed update on the streamlining of the civilian component by 15 September 2014;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General and the African Union to expedite the appointment of personnel for leadership vacancies in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the African Union, and seeking perspectives from all relevant parties, to conduct an analysis of the implementation of the review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, including specific achievements reached under the revised strategic priorities, progress in addressing the challenges facing the mission, as identified by the review, any significant developments in the situation in Darfur and their impact on the mandate and tasks of the Operation, and an analysis of those tasks that remain relevant and on the fulfilment of which the United Nations country team has comparative advantage, with a road map to transfer those tasks to the fullest extent possible to the country team, taking into account the contributions of donors and other relevant actors; requests that he present this analysis, together with recommendations for the future mandate, composition, configuration and exit strategy of the Operation, as well as for its relationship with other United Nations actors in Darfur and the Sudan, by 28 February 2015; and expresses its intention to take decisions accordingly on the future of the Operation and to make necessary changes fully and promptly following presentation of the analysis and recommendations of the Secretary-General;

8. *Underlines* that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur should continue to give priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources to (a) the protection of civilians across Darfur, including women and children, through, and without prejudice to the agreed basic principles of peacekeeping, inter alia, continuing to move to a more preventive and pre-emptive posture in pursuit of its priorities and in active defence of its mandate; enhanced early warning; proactive military deployment and active and effective patrolling in areas of high risk of conflict and high concentration of internally displaced persons; more prompt and effective responses to threats of violence against civilians, including through regular reviews of the geographic deployment of the Operation force; and securing camps for internally displaced persons, adjacent areas and areas of return, including development and training of community policing; and (b) ensuring safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and activities, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance; and requests the Operation to maximize the use of its capabilities, in cooperation with the United Nations country team and other international and non-governmental actors, in the implementation of its mission-wide comprehensive strategy for the achievement of these objectives;

9. *Emphasizes* the Chapter VII mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, as defined in resolution 1769(2007), to deliver its core tasks to protect civilians without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Government of the Sudan and to ensure the freedom of movement and security of the Operation's own personnel and humanitarian workers; recalls that the Operation is authorized to take all the necessary action in fulfilment of this mandate; and urges the Operation to deter any threats against itself and its mandate;

10. *Welcomes* that some progress has been made in the implementation of some elements of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, including steps towards the verification and integration of Liberation and Justice Movement and Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan combatants under the Doha Document security arrangements, but deplores continuing serious delays in overall implementation of the Doha Document; urges the signatory parties to implement the Doha Document in full, including by ensuring that the institutions established under it are resourced and empowered to carry out their mandates; welcomes in this regard the inauguration on 15 June 2014 of the Justice, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and stresses the importance of its effective work; demands that the non-signatory armed groups refrain from impeding the implementation of the Doha Document; and encourages the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, in accordance with its revised strategic priorities, and the United Nations country team to continue to engage fully in support of the implementation of the Doha Document;

11. *Demands* that all parties to the conflict in Darfur, including in particular all the non-signatory armed groups, and other groups immediately cease all acts of violence and commit themselves to a sustained and permanent ceasefire, in order to bring a stable and durable peace to the region;

12. *Reaffirms its support* for a Darfur-based internal dialogue that takes place in an environment of full respect for the civil and political rights of participants, including the full and effective participation of women; welcomes the launch of the Implementation Committee of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation on 26 May 2014; expresses concern that prevailing insecurity, lack of adequate funding, and intimidation of participants could undermine effective implementation of the Dialogue and Consultation; calls upon the Government of the Sudan and the armed groups to ensure the necessary enabling environment; and requests the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to continue to support, monitor and report on the development of the Dialogue and Consultation and the overall environment for it;

13. *Calls for* an urgent end to inter-tribal clashes, criminality and banditry that affect civilians, and further calls for reconciliation and dialogue; expresses deep concern over the proliferation of arms, in particular small arms and light weapons; requests the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to continue to support local conflict resolution mechanisms, including with civil society mechanisms, and to continue to cooperate in this context with the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591(2005) of 29 March 2005 in order to facilitate its work;

14. *Commends* the troop- and police-contributing countries of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur; welcomes that some progress has

been made in addressing contingent-owned equipment and self-sustainment shortfalls, but expresses concern that significant shortfalls remain; and calls for continued efforts by the Operation, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to address such shortfalls, including by providing appropriate training and resources to fulfil priority protection functions, especially in areas necessary for contingents' temporary deployment capability and ability to conduct long-range patrols;

15. *Strongly condemns* all attacks on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, while noting the significant decline in fatal attacks on the Operation since August 2013; underlines that any attack or threat of attack on the Operation is unacceptable; demands that there be no recurrence of such attacks and that those responsible be held to account following prompt and thorough investigation; urges the Operation to take all measures necessary within its rules of engagement to protect United Nations personnel and equipment; condemns the ongoing impunity for those who attack peacekeepers, and in this regard urges the Government of the Sudan to do its utmost to bring all perpetrators of any such crimes to justice and to cooperate with the Operation to this end;

16. *Welcomes* the improved cooperation between the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the Government of the Sudan and a sustained and more effective approach by the Operation, which have resulted in improvements in mandate implementation, including through the more timely issuance of visas and a considerable recent reduction of movement restrictions on the Operation; reiterates its deep concern that hindrances nevertheless remain to the Operation in the implementation of its mandate, including movement and access restrictions, caused by insecurity, acts of criminality and movement restrictions by government forces, armed movements and militia groups; calls upon all parties in Darfur to remove all obstacles to the full and proper discharge by the Operation of its mandate, including by ensuring its security and freedom of movement; and in this regard demands that the Government comply with the status-of-forces agreement fully and without delay, particularly provisions relevant to the movement of patrols in conflict-affected areas and flight clearances, building on the recent improvement in these areas, as well as those provisions relevant to the removal of obstacles to the use of aerial assets of the Operation and the timely processing of Operation equipment at the port of entry to the Sudan;

17. *Demands* that all parties in Darfur immediately end attacks targeting civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel and comply with their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law; and affirms the Security Council's condemnation of all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights;

18. *Expresses serious concern* at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur and at the threats to and attacks on humanitarian personnel and facilities; welcomes that, despite multiple challenges, humanitarian access improved in the months of April and May compared to the first quarter of 2014, including progress in accessing part of the Jebel Marra area through the recent inter-agency mission to Guldo; expresses concern that access to some conflict areas where vulnerable populations reside remains restricted and that some conflict areas are inacces-

sible, including in North and Central Darfur and eastern Jebel Marra, owing to insecurity, acts of criminality and movement restrictions by government forces, armed movements and militia groups; welcomes that humanitarian organizations are able to deliver some aid to most people in need of assistance in Darfur; deplores the continued restrictions on humanitarian access in Darfur resulting from increased insecurity, attacks against humanitarian workers, denial of access by the parties to the conflict and bureaucratic impediments imposed by the Government of the Sudan; further expresses concern over the insufficient availability of funding for humanitarian actors; stresses the need for the timely issuance of visas and travel permits for humanitarian organizations; and demands that the Government, all militias, armed groups and all other stakeholders ensure the safe, timely and unhindered access of humanitarian organizations and relief personnel and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence;

19. *Condemns* increased human rights violations and abuses in, and relating to, Darfur, including those involving extrajudicial killings, the excessive use of force, abduction of civilians, acts of sexual and gender-based violence, violations and abuses against children and arbitrary arrests and detentions; expresses deep concern about the situation of all those so detained, including civil society members and internally displaced persons; emphasizes the importance of ensuring, within its current mandate, the ability of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and other relevant organizations to monitor such cases; and in this regard urges the Government of the Sudan to extend even greater cooperation with the Operation towards the fulfilment of this goal and to provide accountability and access to justice for victims; and calls upon the Government fully to respect its obligations, including by fulfilling its commitment to lift the state of emergency in Darfur, releasing all political prisoners and allowing free expression;

20. *Requests* the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to continue to implement the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, and to monitor, verify and draw to the attention of the authorities abuses and violations of human rights, including those committed against women and children, and violations of international humanitarian law, and further requests enhanced, detailed, full and public reporting by the Secretary-General to the Council on this issue, as part of his regular 90-day reports;

21. *Urges* close coordination among United Nations missions in the region, including the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure effective inter-mission cooperation;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of cooperation and information-sharing between the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and

relevant regional and international partners in addressing the regional threat, including of the Lord's Resistance Army, and recalls its encouragement to the Operation, within existing capacities and consistent with its mandate, to cooperate and share information in this regard;

23. *Stresses* the importance of achieving dignified and durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons and of ensuring their full participation in the planning and management of these solutions; demands that all parties to the conflict in Darfur create the conditions conducive to allowing the voluntary, informed, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons or, where appropriate, their local integration; calls in this regard for the reactivation of the Joint Verification Mechanism in order to verify the extent to which these returns are voluntary and informed in nature, and underlines the importance of addressing land issues for the realization of durable solutions in Darfur;

24. *Demands* that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all acts of sexual and gender-based violence; further demands that the parties to the conflict make and implement specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, in accordance with resolution 2106(2013); requests the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to report on sexual and gender-based violence and actions taken to combat it, including through the timely appointment of women's protection advisers; and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the relevant provisions of resolution 1325(2000) and subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security are implemented, including supporting the full and effective participation of women during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding, including women's civil society organizations, and to include information on this in his reporting to the Council;

25. *Also demands* that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all violations and abuses against children and develop and implement concrete and time-bound action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure (a) continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children in Darfur; and (b) continued dialogue with the parties to the conflict towards the development and implementation of the aforementioned action plans, in accordance with resolution 1612(2005) and subsequent resolutions on children and armed conflict;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every 90 days following the adoption of the present resolution on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, including information on the political, humanitarian and security situation in Darfur, including detailed reporting on incidents of violence and attacks against civilians, by whomsoever perpetrated; information on violations of the status-of-forces agreement, as well as violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by any party to the conflict; developments and progress towards achievement of the Operation's strategic priorities and benchmarks; and developments and progress in addressing the challenges facing the Operation as identified in the review of the Operation; and on the implementation of the present resolution;

27. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Letter of Secretary-General. In a 16 September letter to the Security Council [S/2014/670], the Secretary-General stated that the first phase of the streamlining of UNAMID operations led to the reduction of 46 per cent of posts in the civilian component (see p. 305). The second and third phases of the exercise concentrated on the remaining substantive sections, as well as the mission support and security sections, resulting in the reduction of a further 1,055 posts. In accordance with Council resolution 2173(2014) (see p. 306), the Secretary-General intended to submit, for the consideration of the General Assembly, a phased reduction of an overall 1,139 posts, or 24 per cent of the approved civilian component of UNAMID, to be implemented by the end of 2015.

Communication. In a 16 September letter [S/2014/671], the Sudan conveyed to the Security Council that the national dialogue was progressing. The Government had granted the necessary measures for confidence-building and a conducive environment, including the release of all political detainees, full political freedom, and freedom of expression and press. Annexed to the letter was the agreed road map for the Sudanese national inclusive dialogue as a concept to guide the deliberations. The Sudan reiterated its request to the Council that it call upon all Sudanese parties and armed groups to engage constructively in the process and refrain from any action that might impede the smooth proceeding of the dialogue.

Report of Secretary-General (November). In response to Security Council resolution 2173(2014), the Secretary-General submitted a November report on UNAMID [S/2014/852], which provided an update and analysis of the situation in Darfur and progress towards the achievement of the Operation's strategic priorities and benchmarks.

Military operations decreased overall but clashes between Government forces and armed movements occurred intermittently, and aerial bombardments by the Government were reported. The resurgence of activities by the armed movements in several of their strongholds pointed to their possible regrouping after the Rapid Support Forces campaign in the year had left them substantially weakened. Competition over resources continued to exacerbate the security situation, resulting in deadly clashes between tribes and increased criminality and banditry, all of which had a significant impact on the civilian population.

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in addition to more than 2 million long-term internally displaced persons, the number of people displaced by conflict since the beginning of the year increased to 431,300. While 132,000 of those persons had returned home, 298,700 people remained displaced. UNAMID personnel were attacked three times during the reporting period, resulting in the death of three peacekeepers and one national staff member.

On 2 November, media sources reported that over 200 women and girls in Thabit (North Darfur) were raped by members of the Sudanese Armed Forces on 30 and 31 October. An initial UNAMID military verification mission dispatched on 4 November to investigate the allegations was denied access to the village. On 9 November, UNAMID sent an integrated mission to interact with the local community. The team's findings, however, were inconclusive, requiring further investigation, owing in part to the heavy presence of military and police in Thabit. UNAMID continued to request the Sudanese authorities to grant access to a small team to investigate the allegations of rape.

From 2 to 6 August, a UNAMID delegation held technical-level consultations in Kampala with senior officials from JEM/Gibril, SLA-Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) and SLA/AW to gauge interest in participating in the national dialogue. The movements expressed reticence about participating in the national dialogue as conceived, but reiterated interest in direct talks under the umbrella of the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) at a venue outside the Sudan. On 8 August, SRF and the National Umma Party (NUP) signed an agreement in Paris, in which SRF declared readiness to cease hostilities as a basis for a credible national dialogue. Following a meeting on 18 August in Khartoum between the AU High-level Implementation Panel, the IGAD Special Envoy to the Sudan, the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, and the Joint Chief Mediator, it was agreed that the High-level Implementation Panel was best placed to facilitate the Sudanese armed movements to join the national dialogue. Confidence-building activities were an essential first step to bridging the gap between the parties, and the Doha Document addressed important local and Darfur-specific root causes, which should continue to be supported. It was also agreed to consult and seek the support of the Government of Qatar and that a time frame for direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and Darfur armed movements would begin in September. From 30 August to 3 September, the High-level Implementation Panel, the Joint Chief Mediator and the UN and IGAD Special Envoys held a series of meetings with the leadership of JEM/Gibril, SLA/AW, SLA/MM, the Eastern Front and SPLM-N as well as representatives of NUP and the Democratic Unionist Party, to discuss modalities for their participation in the national dialogue. The movements expressed readiness to end the war in the Sudan and insisted on combining the Darfur and SPLM-N mediation processes under one mechanism. They argued that any commitment to pre-talks should be preceded by an agreement on the cessation of hostilities. Talks facilitated by the High-level Implementation Panel on 4 September between representatives of the Preparatory Committee and the Paris Declaration Group resulted in an agreement on initial talks on cessation of hostilities, outside the Sudan, between the Government and the Darfur armed move-

ments, as well as between the Government and SPLM-N with the High-level Implementation Panel but on separate mediation tracks. As SPLM-N and the Darfur armed movements insisted on signing the agreement as the Sudan Revolutionary Front, the Preparatory Committee declined to sign a joint agreement; instead, two identical agreements were signed on 5 September. The talks on the Two Areas, led by the High-level Implementation Panel, were held in Addis Ababa from 12 to 16 November. Talks on Darfur were scheduled for 23 to 27 November.

The UNAMID streamlining exercise was completed, and 1,260 posts were identified for abolition. A total of 770 posts were to be abolished in the 2014–2015 budget year, with the remaining 490 posts to follow in the 2015–2016 budget year. The Operation also re-configured its aviation fleet, reducing it by four fixed-wing aircraft and two helicopters.

Communications. On 10 November [S/2014/802], the Sudan forwarded to the Security Council a press release issued that day by the UNAMID team that visited Thabit village on 9 November to investigate allegations of mass rape (see p. 311). In the press release, the team stated that none of the people interviewed about the allegations confirmed that any incident of rape took place in Thabit on the day of the media report on the allegations. UNAMID intended to conduct follow-up actions, including possible further investigations and patrols, in coordination with the host authorities.

In a 17 November letter [S/2014/819] to the Security Council, the Sudan rejected media allegations regarding the rape of 200 women by Sudanese Armed Forces in Thabit. On 13 November, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan had summoned the Joint Special Representative and stated that the Sudan deplored the campaign of certain international circles to criminalize the country. The Joint Special Representative said that UNAMID wished to visit Thabit a second time, and that it would do so after 17 November. On 15 November, UNAMID requested permission to visit Thabit from the state-level authorities in Darfur. UNAMID reneged on the earlier agreement and began to visit while the matter was still being discussed by the Government and UNAMID.

In a 20 November letter [S/2014/838] to the Security Council, the Sudan stated that the allegations concerning mass rape in Thabit were initially disseminated by Radio Dabanga, which belonged to the Darfur rebel groups. The Sudan gave UNAMID full access to investigate the allegations. The investigations revealed that the allegations were unfounded. The Prosecutor General of Darfur Crimes was conducting a national investigation, the outcome of which would be shared with the appropriate international bodies.

A 3 December letter [S/2014/866] from the Sudan addressed to the Security Council contained the executive summary of the report of the investigation

conducted by the Office of the Prosecutor General for Crimes in Darfur on the alleged rape of 200 women in the Thabit region, which concluded that no rape of any woman had taken place there.

In a 1 December letter addressed to the Security Council [S/2014/863], the Sudan stated that, regarding misquoted media reports concerning the closure of the UNAMID human rights office, the decision of the Government was for the closure of the sub-liaison office opened by UNAMID in Khartoum without prior notification or coordination with the competent authorities, despite the fact that the UNAMID area of deployment was exclusively in Darfur. The main UNAMID human rights office in Darfur remained as it was. In a 16 December letter [S/2014/910] addressed to the Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, Ali Ahmed Karti, elaborated the basis of and prospects for the exit strategy and the steps expected to be taken by the United Nations.

A 26 December letter [S/2014/951] from the Sudan to the Secretary-General contained the communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the expulsion from Khartoum of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan, Ali Al-Za'tari, and the UNDP country director in the Sudan, Yvonne Helle. The Sudan said that the decision to expel the officials was in conformity with the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations [YUN 1961, p. 512].

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/141] on UNAMID, the Secretary-General said that the conflict in Darfur between the Government and the armed movements escalated with the redeployment of the Rapid Deployment Forces in December. Direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and SLA/MM and JEM/Gibril, which were not signatories to the Doha Document, commenced under the auspices of the AU High-level Implementation Panel in Addis Ababa on 23 November. On 26 November, the Implementation Panel proposed that security arrangements, political issues, humanitarian issues, relations between the negotiations and the national dialogue, and method of work would be included as agenda items for the talks. The Government rejected the proposal to include humanitarian issues as a separate agenda item in the talks. The armed movements, however, insisted on retaining humanitarian issues on the agenda and proposed the addition of items on reconstruction and development; refugees and internally displaced persons; land, borders and nomad issues; justice, accountability and reconciliation; and comprehensive compensation. The Implementation Panel adjourned the talks on 30 November to provide the parties with an opportunity to consult with their constituencies on options to break the impasse.

On 3 December, in Addis Ababa, the political and armed opposition in the Sudan, including the Darfur armed movements, adopted a joint declaration entitled

the “Sudan Call” pledging to end the wars and create a comprehensive solution, beginning with a cessation of hostilities, to the conflicts in Darfur and in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, and to establish mechanisms aimed at achieving a popular uprising or a comprehensive political solution leading to the dismantling of the one-party-regime in Khartoum. The declaration outlined the basic prerequisites for the holding of the national dialogue, a comprehensive political solution, including a cessation of hostilities, the release of all political detainees, the revocation of laws restricting freedoms and human rights, the formation of a transitional government and the establishment of an agreed administration to manage a dialogue process for a comprehensive peace and democratic transformation. The signatories pledged to boycott the presidential and legislative election scheduled to take place in April 2015, calling it a facade to legitimize the current regime.

On 6 December, the Government arrested the head of the opposition National Consensus Forces, Farouk Abu Issa, and the civil society activist, Amin Maki Mali Madani. On 23 December, while addressing a graduation ceremony of Sudan Armed Forces Command and Staff College, President al-Bashir announced the resumption of “Operation Decisive Summer”, with the aim of eliminating those armed movements in Darfur and the Two Areas that did not heed the Government’s call for dialogue. The announcement was followed by intensified fighting between Government forces and SLA/AW and SLA/MM. The sixth session of the Darfur Council of the Darfur Regional Authority was held in El Fasher from 8 to 23 December.

The increase in hostilities resulted in the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation and the further displacement of tens of thousands of civilians. More than 450,000 people were newly displaced in 2014—the highest level of displacement in a single year since 2004. On 26 November, UNAMID, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, launched a Darfur-wide campaign entitled “No Child Soldiers—Protect Darfur”.

On 16 December, UNAMID received the non-official English translation of a summary of the report of the Attorney General appointed for a special court on the allegations of mass rape in Thabit village, North Darfur (see p. 311). It concluded that no victims, witnesses, documents or other evidence were found in Thabit village to support a case for rape. UNAMID continued to face restrictions in its effort to access Thabit for further investigation.

Allegations concerning manipulation of UNAMID reporting

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, in her 17 June briefing [S/PV.7199] to the Security

Council (see p. 314), expressed concern about allegations that reporting from UNAMID was subject to manipulation, with the intentional effort of covering up crimes against civilians and peacekeepers, in particular those committed by Government forces. She called on the Secretary-General to establish the facts of the allegations. On 2 July, the Secretary-General announced his intention to conduct a review of the allegations. In resolution 2173(2014) (see p. 306), the Security Council stressed the importance of prompt and effective action on the results of its review.

In a 29 October letter [S/2014/771], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council the executive summary of the report of the review team on the allegations. The team examined the manner in which 16 incidents were reported officially, as well as how six of the incidents were reported to the public. The team did not find any evidence to support the allegation that UNAMID intentionally sought to cover up crimes against civilians and peacekeepers. The review did reveal, however, that in 5 of the 16 incidents, UNAMID did not provide UN Headquarters with full reports on the circumstances surrounding those incidents. The team also found that the Mission took an unduly conservative approach to the media, maintaining silence when it could have developed a press line, reflecting the Operation’s tendency not to report anything if it was not certain of the facts.

The review team recommended that DPKO examine ways to ensure the confidentiality of sensitive information; review the procedures for the protection of information sent by code cable; ensure that the results of verification and incident investigation reports were included in the reports of the Secretary-General; and that the role of the spokesperson and Media Relations Unit be reviewed to ensure cooperation. The team recommended that UNAMID, when reporting to Headquarters, not censor its own information because of its sensitivity; augment daily situation reports on incidents concerning the protection of civilians, human rights violations or attacks on UNAMID by providing a short analysis on the context in which the incident occurred, as well as special reports sent by code cable; automatically transmit to Headquarters, by code cable, verification reports of attacks on civilians and investigation reports on attacks on the Mission; formally report on the progress of government investigations into incidents in which peacekeepers died or were wounded; and review the Mission’s media strategy with a view to adopting a more responsive, transparent and proactive relationship with international media outlets.

Activities of ICC Prosecutor

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, reported to the Security Council in June and December on the activities undertaken by her Office regarding Darfur. Briefing the

Security Council on 17 June [S/PV.7199], the ICC Prosecutor said that the Court remained convinced that enforcing arrest warrants in Darfur was a key element of peace and stability, and of ending victims' suffering. The application of the non-essential contacts policy required a rigorous assessment as to whether such contacts were strictly required for conducting essential UN-mandated duties. The Organization might wish to make public its contacts with those subject to ICC warrants to dispel misperceptions about UN engagements with indictees. The Court took note of President al-Bashir's travels during the reporting period, including his visits to States that were party to the 1998 Rome Statute of ICC [YUN 1998, p. 1209], which were obliged to cooperate with the Court in arresting and surrendering those subject to ICC warrants. The Prosecutor called on all States and the Council to find ways to support those among them that might be most vulnerable to planned visits by Mr. al-Bashir or other individuals wanted under ICC arrest warrants. She expressed concern about the increasing violence in Darfur and the immense number of displaced people, and deplored the increasing constraints placed on those trying to aid the displaced. Equally worrying were the ongoing patterns of aerial bombardments and armed attacks on civilian populations by militia and Janjaweed, and particularly the involvement of the Rapid Support Forces, led by Mohamed Hamdan. The pattern of gang rapes of women and girls increased during the reporting period.

In her 12 December briefing to the Council [S/PV.7337], the Prosecutor stated that her office's resources for investigations were overstretched; she was forced to put investigative activities in Darfur on hold and shift resources to other urgent cases. She thanked the Secretary-General for taking immediate steps to investigate the allegations of manipulation and underreporting by UNAMID, and for availing her Office of the executive summary of the review report (see p. 313). The Prosecutor shared the Council's concern at the serious deterioration of the security situation in Darfur and its profoundly negative impact on civilians, particularly children and women. She noted that as the Secretary-General pointed out, sexual and gender-based violence remained a pervasive feature of the conflict, as did attacks on human rights defenders, civil society members and community leaders. Such attacks were aimed at the foundations of communities and had to stop. The Prosecutor remained open to engaging constructively with the Security Council on Darfur. A shift in the Council's approach to arresting Darfur suspects was needed.

Sanctions

In response to human rights abuses and a deteriorating humanitarian situation in the region, the Security Council, by resolution 1556(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 240], imposed an arms embargo on all non-governmental

entities and individuals operating in Darfur, including the Janjaweed militias. By resolution 1591(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 319], the Council imposed a travel ban and assets freeze, and established a Committee to oversee implementation of the sanctions against individuals to be designated by that Committee. As requested in that resolution, the Secretary-General, in 2005, established a Panel of Experts [ibid., p. 322], which was mandated to assist the Committee in monitoring implementation of the arms embargo and sanctions; make recommendations to the Committee on possible Council action; and provide information on individuals who impeded the peace process, committed violations of international law, or were responsible for offensive military overflight. By resolution 1945(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 270], the Council strengthened the arms embargo and clarified the exceptions to that measure. By resolution 2138(2014) (see below), the Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 13 March 2015.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 13 February [meeting 7111], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2138(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/93] was submitted by the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements by its President concerning the Sudan,

Reaffirming its commitment to the cause of peace throughout the Sudan, to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan and to the full and timely implementation of resolution 1591(2005) of 29 March 2005, and recalling the importance of the principles of good neighbourliness, non-interference and cooperation in the relations among States in the region,

Reiterating the need for an end to the violence and continued abuses in Darfur and recognizing that the Darfur conflict cannot be resolved militarily and that a durable solution can only be obtained through an inclusive political process, and in this regard noting the importance of implementing the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur,

Acknowledging efforts made by the Government of the Sudan and all parties to the conflict to reach a comprehensive and inclusive solution to the conflict, and in this context condemning the killing of Mr. Mohammed Bashir and other members of his movement by Justice and Equality Movement-Gibril Ibrahim forces, as well as any act of violence with the aim to act as a disincentive to peace efforts in Darfur,

Urging the Government of the Sudan, the Liberation and Justice Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement-Mohamed Bashir to deliver on the commitments made in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, and urging all parties, in particular other armed movements that have not signed the Doha Document, to engage immediately and without preconditions and to make every effort to reach a comprehensive peace settlement on the basis of the Doha Document, and to agree upon a permanent ceasefire without further delay,

Emphasizing the imperative for all armed actors to refrain from all acts of violence against civilians, in particular

vulnerable groups such as women and children, and from violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and the need to address the urgent humanitarian crisis faced by the people of Darfur, including the guarantee of safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access to all areas by humanitarian agencies and personnel, while respecting the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law,

Expressing concern about the external links, in particular military, between non-signatory armed groups in Darfur and groups outside Darfur, and demanding that direct or indirect military support for such armed groups in Darfur cease, and condemning actions by any armed group aimed at the forced overthrow of the Government of the Sudan, noting there is no military solution to the conflict in the Sudan,

Expressing deep concern at the increased violence and insecurity in some parts of Darfur in recent months, including, notably, the escalation in inter-tribal fighting, expressing deep concern that such clashes continue to restrict humanitarian access to conflict areas where vulnerable civilian populations reside, and acknowledging the efforts of Sudanese authorities to mediate in inter-tribal fighting,

Demanding that the parties to the conflict exercise restraint and cease military action of all kinds, including aerial bombardments,

Demanding also an immediate and complete cessation by all parties to the armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence against civilians, in line with resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013; recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and other grave violations and abuses against children, in line with resolutions 1261(1999) of 25 August 1999, 1379(2001) of 20 November 2001, 1539(2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011 and 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012; and indiscriminate attacks on civilians, in line with resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009,

Commending the efforts of, and reiterating its full support for, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the joint African Union-United Nations mediation, the United Nations Secretary-General, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, and the leaders of the region to promote peace and stability in Darfur, and expressing strong support for the political process under the African Union-United Nations-led mediation,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of attacks against the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and its call upon the Government of the Sudan to swiftly investigate these attacks and bring the perpetrators to justice, and further reiterating its call upon all parties in Darfur to cooperate fully with the mission, and reaffirming its deep condolences to the Governments and families of those killed,

Reaffirming its concern over the negative effect of ongoing violence in Darfur on the stability of the Sudan as a whole, as well as the region, welcoming the ongoing good

relations between the Sudan and Chad, and encouraging the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic to continue to cooperate in order to achieve peace and stability in Darfur and the wider region,

Expressing concern at the risks to peace and security arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Deploing the continued obstacles that have been imposed by the Government of the Sudan on the work of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan during the course of its mandate, including restrictions to the freedom of movement of the Panel and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and limitations on access by the Panel to areas of armed conflict and areas of reported violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, while noting improved interaction between the Government of the Sudan and the Panel,

Further deploing incidents of interference by the Government of the Sudan with the work of the Panel of Experts, including the denial of entry of the Panel's finance expert, as set out in paragraphs 2, 18 and 21 of the final report of the Panel of Experts of 22 January 2014,

Welcoming the enhanced cooperation and information-sharing between the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the Panel of Experts, called for in the guidelines of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and with the assistance of the Operation focal point,

Welcoming also the efforts made by the Secretariat to expand and improve the roster of experts for the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, bearing in mind the guidance provided by the note by the President of the Security Council of 22 December 2006,

Recalling the report of 22 January 2014 of the Panel of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3 (b) of resolution 1591(2005) whose mandate was extended by subsequent resolutions, and expressing its intention to further study, through the Security Council Committee established pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 1591(2005) (hereinafter "the Committee"), the recommendations of the Panel and to consider appropriate next steps,

Emphasizing the need to respect the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations concerning privileges and immunities, and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, as applicable to United Nations operations and persons engaged in such operations,

Reminding all States, particularly States in the region, of the obligations contained in resolutions 1556(2004) of 30 July 2004, 1591(2005), and 1945(2010) of 14 October 2010, in particular those obligations relating to arms and related materiel,

Calling upon the Government of the Sudan to fulfil all its commitments, including lifting the state of emergency in Darfur, allowing free expression and undertaking effective efforts to ensure accountability for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, by whomsoever perpetrated,

Noting that acts of hostility, violence or intimidation against the civilian population, including internally displaced persons, in Darfur and other activities that could endanger or undermine the commitment by the parties to a complete and durable cessation of hostilities would be inconsistent with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur,

Determining that the situation in the Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan originally appointed pursuant to resolution 1591(2005), previously extended by resolutions 1651(2005) of 21 December 2005, 1665(2006) of 29 March 2006, 1713(2006) of 29 September 2006, 1779(2007) of 28 September 2007, 1841(2008) of 15 October 2008, 1891(2009) of 13 October 2009, 1945(2010), 1982(2011) of 17 May 2011, 2035(2012) of 17 February 2012 and 2091(2013) of 14 February 2013, for a period of 13 months, expresses its intention to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 12 months from the adoption of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures, including basing arrangements, as expeditiously as possible;

2. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide, no later than 31 July 2014, a midterm briefing on its work to the Committee, and a final report to the Security Council no later than 17 January 2015, with its findings and recommendations;

3. *Also requests* the Panel of Experts to provide updates every three months to the Committee regarding its activities, including travel by the Panel, any obstacles encountered to the fulfilment of its mandate, as well as violations of the sanctions;

4. *Further requests* the Panel of Experts to report, in the time frame identified in paragraph 3 above, on the implementation and effectiveness of paragraph 10 of resolution 1945(2010);

Arms embargo

5. *Expresses its concern* that the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the Sudan of technical assistance and support, including training, financial or other assistance and the provision of spare parts, weapons systems and related materiel, could be used by the Government of the Sudan to support military aircraft being used in violation of resolutions 1556(2004) and 1591(2005), including those aircraft identified by the Panel of Experts, and urges all States to be mindful of this risk in the light of the measures contained in resolution 1591(2005);

6. *Calls upon* the Government of the Sudan to address the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in Darfur, and to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked or illicitly held weapons and ammunition;

7. *Expresses its concern* that certain items continue to be converted for military purposes and transferred to Darfur, and urges all States to be mindful of this risk in the light of the measures contained in resolution 1591(2005);

Implementation

8. *Condemns* the reported continuing violations of the measures contained in paragraphs 7 and 8 of resolution 1556(2004) and paragraph 7 of resolution 1591(2005), as updated in paragraph 9 of resolution 1945(2010) and paragraph 4 of resolution 2035(2012), and directs the Committee, in line with its mandate, to respond effectively to such violations;

9. *Expresses its concern* that the travel ban and asset freeze on designated individuals is not being implemented by all Member States, and requests the Committee to respond effectively to any reports of non-compliance by Member States with paragraph 3 of resolution 1591(2005) and resolution 1672(2006) of 25 April 2006, including by engaging with all relevant parties;

10. *Reiterates* that all States shall take the measures necessary to prevent entry into or transit through their territories of all persons as designated by the Committee, and calls upon the Government of the Sudan to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with other States in this regard;

11. *Urges* all States, in particular those in the region, to report to the Committee on the actions they have taken to implement measures imposed by resolutions 1556(2004) and 1591(2005), including the imposition of targeted measures;

12. *Expresses its intention*, following the midterm report, to review the state of implementation, including obstacles to full and effective implementation of the measures imposed in resolution 1591(2005) and 1945(2010), with a view to ensuring full compliance;

13. *Regrets* that some individuals of the Government of the Sudan and armed groups in Darfur continue to commit violence against civilians, impede the peace process and disregard the demands of the Council, expresses its intention to impose targeted sanctions against individuals and entities that meet the listing criteria in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1591(2005), and encourages the Panel of Experts, in coordination with the joint African Union-United Nations mediation, to provide to the Committee, when appropriate, the names of any individuals, groups or entities that may meet the listing criteria;

14. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to continue to investigate the financing and role of armed, military and political groups in attacks against personnel of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and notes that individuals and entities who plan, sponsor or participate in such attacks constitute a threat to stability in Darfur and may therefore meet the designation criteria provided for in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1591(2005);

15. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee, which has drawn on the reports of the Panel of Experts and taken advantage of the work done in other forums, to draw attention to the responsibilities of private sector actors in conflict-affected areas;

Cooperation

16. *Calls upon* the Government of the Sudan to remove all restrictions, limitations and bureaucratic impediments imposed on the work of the Panel of Experts, including by issuing timely multiple-entry visas to all members of the Panel for the duration of its mandate, and by waiving the requirement of Darfur travel permits for said Panel members, and urges the Government to enhance its cooperation and information-sharing with the Panel and allow the Panel free and unfettered access to all of Darfur;

17. *Urges* the Government of the Sudan to respond to the Committee's requests on measures put in place to protect civilians in various parts of Darfur, including those affected by new displacements; investigations conducted and accountability measures undertaken for killings of civilians

and perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, investigations conducted and accountability measures undertaken for attacks against peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel; and the situation of civilian populations in areas such as eastern Jebel Marra, where the Panel of Experts, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and humanitarian agencies and personnel have been denied access, and measures taken to allow timely, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian relief to these areas, while respecting the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law;

18. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies, the African Union and other interested parties to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on implementation of the measures imposed by resolutions 1556(2004) and 1591(2005), and to provide timely responses to information requests;

19. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to continue to coordinate its activities, as appropriate, with the operations of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and with international efforts to promote a political process in Darfur, and to assess in its interim and final reports progress towards reducing violations by all parties of the measures imposed by paragraphs 7 and 8 of resolution 1556(2004), paragraph 7 of resolution 1591(2005) and paragraph 10 of resolution 1945(2010), progress towards removing impediments to the political process, threats to stability in Darfur and the region, violations of international humanitarian law or violations or abuses of human rights, including attacks on the civilian population, sexual and gender-based violence and grave violations and abuses against children, and other violations of the above-mentioned resolutions, and to provide the Committee with information on the individuals and entities that meet the listing criteria in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1591(2005);

20. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Committee to encourage dialogue with interested Member States, in particular those in the region, including by inviting representatives of such States to meet with the Committee to discuss implementation of the measures, and further encourages the Committee to continue its dialogue with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur;

21. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Appointments. By a 21 March letter [S/2014/206], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he had appointed five experts, in the areas of finance, international law, regional issues, aviation and arms, to serve on the Panel of Experts.

Report of Panel of Experts. In a later report [S/2015/31], the Panel stated that, following its appointment in March, it investigated the situation on the ground in Darfur, and visited Khartoum and the region to determine whether the relevant Security Council resolutions were being implemented. Cooperation provided by the Government of the Sudan improved significantly, although the Government did not always fully accede to requests from the Panel for access and information. The Panel identified the

presence in Darfur of small arms ammunition manufactured after 2005, which had not been reported under previous mandates. Such ammunition included that manufactured in Khartoum in 2013, a certain violation of the arms embargo. Clear evidence was obtained of the certain continued use of improvised air-delivered munitions. The Panel also identified the presence of three weapons systems not previously reported as being deployed in Darfur, but had not yet identified the chain of custody for those systems. It confirmed the use of the Rakhsh armoured personnel carrier in Darfur, a certain violation of the arms embargo by the Government.

The number of Sudanese Air Force assets present in Darfur dropped to a historic low during the Panel's latest mandate. Sanctions violations were identified, including the probable transfer by the Government into Darfur of Antonov An-26 aircraft, subsequently used in an improvised bomber role. The certain "routine" violations of the arms embargo by the Government continued through the regular rotation of Sukhoi Su-25 attack/close air support jet fighters to an aviation maintenance facility near Khartoum. Overall, the reported number of aerial bombings declined but such activity peaked sporadically. In Darfur, the Panel observed an Antonov An-26 almost certainly being prepared for aerial bombing and obtained evidence of the almost certain continued use of Su-25 aircraft in their ground attack role.

The Panel also investigated violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks against civilians and civilian objects in Khor Abeche, South Darfur and Birka, North Darfur. The perpetrators were identified as members of the security forces of the Government of the Sudan. The investigation of the attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers in Kabkabiya, North Darfur, resulted in a recommendation for designation. The Panel identified violations that were almost certainly committed by SLA-Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) in Khor Abeche and Taweisha, North Darfur. It found that it was highly probable that SLA-Abdul Wahed Mohamed Nour (SLA/AW) incited protests within the Kalma internally displaced persons camp.

The Panel continued to face an impasse regarding implementation of the travel ban and assets freeze, mainly because the Sudan had taken no steps towards implementation. Follow-up action on violations of the travel ban reported in 2013 and a fresh violation in 2014 did not yield any results, owing to a lack of response from the countries concerned. The Panel identified a major source of financing for armed groups in Darfur through the illegal operation of vehicle checkpoints for collecting toll fees. Implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur was progressing slowly. Impediments included procrastination by the Government and the Darfur Regional Authority, insecurity owing to clashes between the Government and the armed opposition

groups, intertribal clashes and the prevalence of crime. The Panel stated that Darfur might not be immune to infiltration by radical Islamist elements. The civil war in South Sudan, where the Government of the Sudan and the Sudanese Revolutionary Front were directly or indirectly involved, would eventually affect the peace dynamics within the Sudan.

Security Council Committee. On 17 December [S/2014/913], the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 319] concerning the Sudan transmitted to the Council a report on the Committee's activities in 2014. The Committee held four informal consultations, on 4 February, 9 May, 6 August and 20 August. It also held a formal meeting on 13 November, during which the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the Sudan and other countries in the region, including Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya and South Sudan, to identify information gaps and capacity-building requirements in the context of the implementation of sanctions measures. The Committee Chair visited Khartoum and Darfur from 20–24 January. A preliminary report on the visit and the Chair's observations were circulated to the Committee on 10 February and 11 April, respectively.

Children and armed conflict

In May [A/68/878-S/2014/339], the Secretary-General issued his report on children and armed conflict, which included information on grave violations committed against children during armed conflict in Darfur in 2013. The increased mobilization and arming of children by communities exacerbated the risk of the re-recruitment of demobilized children. The United Nations, working with the AU through UNAMID, verified four cases of recruitment by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and 14 by border guards, and received reports of 17 children allegedly recruited by SAF, border guards and the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA/AW).

The United Nations documented the killing of 91 children (71 boys and 20 girls), and injury to 98 others (64 boys and 34 girls). Forty-three children were shot and killed and 32 others injured during clashes between government forces and armed groups, and during inter- and intra-ethnic fighting. At least 31 children were killed and 14 others injured in SAF air strikes. Incidents involving explosive remnants of war killed 17 children and injured 52 others. At least 62 girls were raped in 40 separate incidents in Darfur. In three cases, alleged perpetrators were identified as government forces and, in one case, elements of the Minni Minawi faction of SLA (SLA/MM).

On 21 July, the Sudan raised the age of recruitment into the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) from 16 to 18 years and established 18 as the minimum age for joining the national reserve service and the

national service. The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)-Gibril Ibrahim, SLA/MM and SLA/AW issued command orders prohibiting child recruitment within their ranks. Sheik Musa Hilal issued a similar order to nomadic communities under his leadership. Furthermore, 405 children formerly associated with armed groups and forces, including with the disbanded SLA-Historical Leadership, received reintegration support.

UNAMID

The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was established in 2007 by Security Council resolution 1769(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 251] as the first AU-UN hybrid peacekeeping mission, replacing the AU Mission in the Sudan (AMIS). The core mandate of UNAMID was the protection of civilians. Other tasks included contributing to security for humanitarian assistance, monitoring and verifying implementation of agreements, assisting the political process, and promoting human rights and the rule of law. By resolution 2148(2014) of 3 April (see p. 302), the Council endorsed the Operation's revised priorities, which included the facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel; mediation between the Government and non-signatory armed movements; and support to the mediation of community conflict. By resolution 2173(2014) of 27 August (see p. 306), the Security Council extended the UNAMID mandate until 30 June 2015.

Financing

The report [A/68/619] of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 showed an expenditure of \$1,415,722,000 gross (\$1,392,626,400 net) against an apportionment of \$1,448,574,000 gross (\$1,423,320,300 net). The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of \$32,852,000 and of other income and adjustments amounting to \$26,863,100.

In February [A/68/754], the Secretary-General submitted budget proposals for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, amounting to \$1,244,690,000 gross (\$1,222,403,300 net). The budget provided for the deployment of 260 military observers, 15,940 military contingent personnel, 2,310 UN police officers, 2,380 formed police personnel, 1,132 international staff, 3,058 national staff, 340 United Nations Volunteers and 6 Government-provided personnel. He recommended that the Assembly assess the amount of \$207,448,333 for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2014; and assess the amount of \$1,037,241,667 for the period from 1 September 2014 to 30 June 2015, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Operation.

In May [A/68/782/Add.15], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended that the unencumbered balance of \$32,852,000 for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, as well as other income and adjustments in the amount of \$26,863,100 for the period ended 30 June 2013, be credited to Member States. The Committee considered it premature to make any recommendations on the Secretary-General's 2014–2015 budget proposal and, on that basis, recommended that the General Assembly do the following: authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of \$667,624,000 (equal to half of the Operation's budget for the 2013–2014 period), for the maintenance of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014; assess the amount of \$222,541,333 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 August 2014; and assess the amount of \$445,082,667 for the period from 1 September 2014 to 31 December 2014, at a monthly rate of \$111,270,667, should the Security Council decide to continue the Operation's mandate. In that connection, it noted that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit a revised budget proposal for 2014–2015, reflecting the Council's decision on the renewal of the mandate by no later than the main part of the Assembly's sixty-ninth (2014) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/68/931], adopted **resolution 68/297** without vote [agenda item 164].

Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1769(2007) of 31 July 2007, by which the Council established the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for an initial period of 12 months from 31 July 2007, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation, the latest of which was resolution 2113(2013) of 30 July 2013, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation until 31 August 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 62/232 A of 22 December 2007 on the financing of the Operation and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/284 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Operation with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Noting the hybrid nature of the Operation, and in that regard stressing the importance of ensuring full coordination of efforts between the African Union and the United Nations at the strategic level, unity of command at the operational level and clear delegation of authority and accountability lines,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 95.9 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 85 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Operation in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Recognizes* the significant role played by quick-impact projects in achieving the overall objectives of the mission mandate, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure the implementation of planned projects as a matter of priority;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Operation is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Estimates for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014

13. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Operation in a total amount not exceeding 639,654,200 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014;

Financing of the commitment authority

14. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 213,218,068 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

15. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 3,898,783 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2014;

16. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 426,436,132 dollars for the period from 1 September to 31 December 2014, at a monthly rate of 106,609,033 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Operation;

17. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 7,797,567 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the period from 1 September to 31 December 2014;

18. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Operation, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 59,715,100 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

19. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Operation, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 59,715,100 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 18 above;

20. *Decides* that the decrease of 2,158,100 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be set off against the credits in the amount of 59,715,100 dollars referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above;

21. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Operation under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

23. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Operation in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur".

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/297 (see p. 319), the Secretary-General, in November [A/69/549], submitted a report on the revised budget for UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, which amounted to \$1,206,524,100 gross (\$1,183,163,700 net). The proposed budget represented a reduction of \$129.7 million, or 9.7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for the 2013–2014 period. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly appropriate the proposed amount for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of the amount of \$639,654,200 previously assessed for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 under resolution 68/297. It also recommended that the Assembly assess the additional amount of \$566,869,900 for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015.

In December [A/69/671], ACABQ recommended that the Assembly appropriate the amount of \$1,153,611,300 for the maintenance of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of the amount of \$639,654,200 previously authorized for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 under resolution 68/297; and that it assess the additional amount of \$513,957,100 for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015.

The General Assembly, by **decision 69/554** of 29 December, decided that the agenda item on UNAMID financing would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/687], adopted **resolution 69/261** without vote [agenda item 166].

Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid

Operation in Darfur and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1769(2007) of 31 July 2007, by which the Council established the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for an initial period of 12 months from 31 July 2007, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation, the latest of which was resolution 2173(2014) of 27 August 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Operation until 30 June 2015,

Recalling also its resolution 62/232 A of 22 December 2007 on the financing of the Operation and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/297 of 30 June 2014,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

2. *Takes note* of paragraph of 32 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

3. *Decides* to defer consideration of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 54 and 55 of the report of the Advisory Committee until the second part of the resumed sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mitigate the environmental impact of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur in full compliance with the existing rules and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Operation continues to implement mine detection and clearing services in a timely manner;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that all planned quick-impact projects are completed in a timely manner;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

7. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur the amount of 1,153,611,300 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 for the maintenance of the Operation, inclusive of the amount of 639,654,200 dollars previously authorized for the Operation for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 under the terms of its resolution 68/297;

Financing of the appropriation

8. *Decides*, taking into account the amount of 639,654,200 dollars already apportioned under the terms of its resolution 68/297 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 513,957,100 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 for the maintenance of the Operation, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

9. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in

the Tax Equalization Fund of 11,167,950 dollars, representing the balance of the estimated staff assessment income of 22,864,300 dollars approved for the Operation;

10. *Further decides* to keep under review during its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur".

Abyei Area

Reports of Secretary-General (February and May). In response to Security Council resolution 2126(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 228], the Secretary-General, in February [S/2014/126], reported on the situation in the Abyei Area and on the deployment and operations of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), providing an update since the Secretary-General's previous report [YUN 2013, p. 231].

The Secretary-General stated that the conflict in South Sudan (see p. 335) had a direct impact on the situation in the Abyei Area, as evidenced by an increase in tensions between communities. No progress was made in the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Sudan and South Sudan of 27 September 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 220], which provided for the establishment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. Nevertheless, the security situation remained generally calm, albeit unpredictable. Unauthorized armed elements from both sides remained in the Abyei Area in violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement [YUN 2011, p. 195]. Likewise, the Sudan Oil Police continued to maintain approximately 120 to 150 personnel inside the Diffra oil complex in the northern Abyei Area in violation of the Agreement and Council resolutions 1990(2011) [ibid.], 2032(2011) [ibid., p. 206], 2046(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 184], 2047(2012) [ibid., p. 204], 2075(2012) [ibid., p. 207], 2104(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 224] and 2126(2013) [ibid., p. 228].

The seasonal migration of Misseriya nomads through the Abyei Area remained generally peaceful. UNISFA estimated that, as at 7 February, about 55,000 Misseriya, along with approximately 700,000 livestock, had moved southward through Abyei. As at 31 January, of the more than 6,000 people who had arrived from South Sudan in anticipation of the unilateral Ngok Dinka community referendum of October 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 231], approximately 4,500 had left the Abyei Area for Lakes, Unity and Warrap States in South Sudan. Approximately 70,000 Ngok Dinka were present in the Area, including 15,000 in Abyei town. Among that population, UNISFA observed the presence of around 660 military elements of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the South Sudan National Police Service.

The Sudan and South Sudan made no further progress in implementing the 20 June 2011 Agreement. All Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism operations remained suspended further to the decision made by the Government of South Sudan on

22 November 2013 to temporarily withdraw its monitors from the Mechanism pending the resolution of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone centreline dispute. UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provided assistance and services to some 81,000 Ngok Dinka beneficiaries in the Abyei Area. Some 45,000 Ngok Dinka remained displaced, of whom approximately 25,000 were outside the Abyei Area.

As at 25 January, the military component of UNISFA stood at 4,090 of its authorized troop strength of 5,326. The remaining personnel were earmarked for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism force protection unit.

The Secretary-General urged the two Governments to ensure the prompt redeployment of their forces out of the Abyei Area and allow UNISFA to implement its mandate to provide security and protect civilians unhindered. He also urged the two countries to extend their full support to the mission in ensuring the complete disarmament of local communities and in reviving traditional dispute resolution mechanisms between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities. The Secretary-General further urged the Sudan and South Sudan to resume the meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee in order to address the primary concerns of the population in the Abyei Area.

In May [S/2014/336], the Secretary-General reported on the situation in the Abyei Area and presented the conclusions of the strategic review of the UNISFA mandate, which was conducted jointly by the UN Secretariat and UNISFA in April with the participation of the humanitarian country team and UN country team in Abyei.

Tensions between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities increased significantly. A series of serious security incidents occurred between SPLA and the South Sudan National Police Service and Sudanese armed militias. Lieutenant General Yohannes Tesfamariam, UNISFA Head of Mission and Force Commander, and the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, met with the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, on 25 February in Juba, South Sudan, in an effort to secure the forces' redeployment. President Kiir stated that his Government would take measures to ensure the withdrawal of the SPLA and police forces by 10 March. Nevertheless, one company-strength group of SPLA and South Sudan police personnel remained deployed south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, in the village of Awang Thou. The forces threatened UNISFA patrols and obstructed their access to the area. With the overall stabilization of the security situation, UNISFA had observed the gradual return of displaced Ngok Dinka to their villages since the end of March.

The strategic review of the UNISFA mandate was conducted from 11 to 25 April. Both the Sudan and South Sudan informed the review team that they were

content with UNISFA and its performance. Sudanese officials declared their support for the renewal of the mission's mandate, and requested that the military component be better supported; the national staff and independent contractors from the Sudan be brought back to Abyei; Sudanese contractors be allowed to operate in the area; and more pressure be placed on South Sudan to implement the Agreement of 20 June 2011. South Sudan reiterated its commitment to resolve the Abyei dispute amicably, consistent with the Abyei Protocol [YUN 2004, p. 236]. It recommended that UNISFA be mandated to take over the security of the Diffra oil installations, allowing the withdrawal of the Sudanese oil police units, and to manage the 2 per cent of the oil revenue earmarked for Abyei institutions in the Abyei Protocol. They also requested that resources available to the mission be increased to develop the territory's road infrastructure. The review team assessed that four options were available in considering the renewal of the UNISFA mandate: the withdrawing of UNISFA (option 1); maintaining the status quo (option 2); providing the United Nations with the executive authority to implement the Abyei proposal of September 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 207] submitted by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (option 3); and supporting the resumption of community dialogue and administration by the communities under the supervision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (option 4). The Secretary-General said that option 4 was the one most likely to contribute to consolidating peace and security in Abyei, and to strengthen the possibility of a peaceful resolution of the dispute over the final status of the territory. It would also offer an exit strategy for the mission.

Both Governments informed the review team of their interest in establishing the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and operationalizing the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The Secretary-General set out three options with respect to UNISFA support to the Mechanism. Under option 1, all international monitors would be withdrawn, the advance party of force protection would be repatriated to Ethiopia, and all construction work would stop and equipment would be removed. Under option 2, a skeleton presence would be maintained to secure the investments made, pending the reactivation of the Mechanism. Option 3 would be completion of the infrastructure necessary to establish the initial operating capability and deployment of the additional elements of the Force Protection Unit.

The Secretary-General sought the endorsement of the Security Council in pursuing option 4 related to Abyei, and option 2 for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. He recommended that the Council consider a four-month technical rollover of the mandate of UNISFA. During that period, an assessment would be conducted of the mandate and operational requirements related to the

implementation of option 4. The Secretariat would further consult the parties, Ethiopia and the AU on the possibility and requirements for that option. He urged the Sudan and South Sudan to withdraw their armed forces and militia from the Abyei Area and prevent the entry of militias into the Area, in accordance with the terms of their agreements.

Communication. By a 19 May letter [S/2014/356], South Sudan transmitted to the Security Council a note entitled “Proposals for the interim stabilization of the crisis situation in Abyei”. The proposals included consolidating support for the establishment of an autonomous administration of the Ngok Dinka; supporting the return and resettlement of the Ngok Dinka to their home areas in safety and dignity; facilitating the transition from humanitarian assistance to recovery and sustainable socioeconomic development; identifying and meeting the immediate needs of the Misseriya and other nomadic peoples during their seasonal migration; and ensuring support for the interim or transitional arrangements.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 May [meeting 7186], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2156(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/375] was submitted by Chad, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements by its President on the situation in the Sudan and South Sudan, in particular resolutions 1990(2011) of 27 June 2011, 2024(2011) of 14 December 2011, 2032(2011) of 22 December 2011, 2046(2012) of 2 May 2012, 2047(2012) of 17 May 2012, 2075(2012) of 16 November 2012, 2104(2013) of 29 May 2013 and 2126(2013) of 25 November 2013, as well as the statements by its President of 31 August 2012 and 23 August 2013, and its statements to the press of 18 June 2012, 21 and 28 September 2012, 6 May 2013, 14 June 2013, 14 February 2014 and 17 March 2014,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan and South Sudan and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the importance of the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference and regional cooperation,

Reiterating that the territorial boundaries of States shall not be altered by force and that any territorial disputes shall be settled exclusively by peaceful means,

Affirming the priority it attaches to the full and urgent implementation of all outstanding issues from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 9 January 2005,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict, its resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003 on the

protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, and its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security,

Recalling the commitments made by the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan in the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area of 20 June 2011, the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan on Border Security and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of 29 June 2011 and the Agreement on the Border Monitoring Support Mission between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan of 30 July 2011, as well as the agreements on cooperation and security arrangements of 27 September 2012, the decision of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of 8 March 2013 and the implementation matrix of 12 March 2013, reached by the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel,

Emphasizing the importance of the full participation of women in the implementation of agreements and in the prevention and resolution of conflict and peacebuilding more broadly,

Expressing its full support for the efforts of the African Union on the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan, in order to ease the current tension and facilitate the resumption of negotiations on post-secession relations and the normalization of their relations, recalling in this regard the African Union Peace and Security Council communiqués of 24 April and 24 October 2012 and 25 January, 7 May, 29 July, 23 September, 26 October and 12 November 2013, its press statement of 6 November 2013, and the statement made by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on 28 October 2013,

Noting with concern the stalled efforts by the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to demilitarize the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, including the “14-mile area”, and to implement the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2046(2012) and the Peace and Security Council road map of 24 April 2012, as a result of South Sudan's continued disagreement with the location of the centreline of the Zone and its decision of 22 November 2013 to temporarily suspend its participation in the Mechanism,

Underlining the importance of establishing and maintaining effective monitoring by the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, including the 14-mile area,

Stressing that both countries will have much to gain if they show restraint and choose the path of dialogue instead of resorting to violence or provocations,

Welcoming the importance of recent meetings of President Bashir and President Kiir in continuing dialogue, recalling the decision in resolution 2046(2012) that the parties must resume immediately negotiations to reach agreement on the final status of Abyei under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, calling upon all parties to engage constructively in the process mediated by the Implementation Panel towards final agreement on

the final status of the Abyei Area, and stressing that the parties must immediately implement pending aspects of the Agreement of 20 June 2011, in particular to resolve the dispute over the Abyei Area Council and immediately establish the Abyei Area Administration and Abyei Police Service,

Commending the continued assistance provided to the parties by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, including its Chairperson, President Thabo Mbeki, and former Presidents Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Mr. Haile Menkerios, and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei under the leadership of Lieutenant General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam,

Commending also the efforts of the Force in carrying out its mandate, including by its ongoing facilitation of peaceful migration throughout the Abyei Area, and expressing its deep appreciation for the work of the troop-contributing countries,

Noting with concern the current fragility of the security situation in the Abyei Area, acknowledging the contribution of the Force to enhanced peace and stability since its deployment, and determined to prevent the recurrence of violence against or displacements of civilians and to avert intercommunal conflict,

Expressing its determination that the future status of Abyei shall be resolved by negotiations between the parties in a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and not by the unilateral actions of either party,

Deeply concerned by the public administration and rule of law vacuum in the Abyei Area, due to continued delays in the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration, Council and Police Service, including a special unit to deal with particular issues related to nomadic migration, which are essential to maintain law and order and prevent intercommunal conflict in Abyei,

Noting with concern the continued threat of intercommunal violence in the Abyei Area, including the ongoing tensions that prevent the Sudanese staff of the Force and other agencies from returning to Abyei,

Noting that the continued delay in establishing the temporary institutions and resolving the final status of Abyei contributes to tension in the region, emphasizing the importance of all parties refraining from any unilateral action to aggravate intercommunal relations within the Abyei Area, and expressing concern over the continued implications of what the Peace and Security Council described in its press statement of 6 November 2013 as “the decision by the Ngok Dinka to conduct a unilateral referendum”,

Bearing in mind the importance of coherence of United Nations assistance in the region,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all of its peacekeeping operations,

Stressing the need for effective human rights monitoring, including of any sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children, taking note that there have been no developments with regard to the operationalization of human rights monitoring in the Abyei Area, and reiterating its concern at the lack of cooperation by the parties with the Secretary-General to this end,

Stressing also the urgency of facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected communities in the Abyei Area,

Affirming the importance of voluntary, safe, orderly return and sustainable reintegration of displaced persons, and of peaceful and orderly migration cycles respecting the traditional migratory routes from the Sudan to South Sudan through Abyei, and urging the Force to take measures as necessary to ensure security in the Abyei Area in accordance with its mandate,

Recalling its resolution 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013, and expressing grave concern at the threat to peace and security in Abyei arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Expressing concern about the residual threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the Abyei Area, which hinders the safe return of displaced persons to their homes and safe migration,

Welcoming the steps taken by the Force towards the effective implementation of its mandate, including through conflict prevention, mediation and deterrence,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 13 May 2014, including the assessment that the political and security situation on the ground has seriously deteriorated and could become untenable during the next dry season and 2014/15 migration cycle, and the recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing that the current situation in Abyei and along the border between the Sudan and South Sudan continues to constitute a serious threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend until 15 October 2014 the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei as set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 1990(2011) and modified by resolution 2024(2011) and paragraph 1 of resolution 2075(2012), and, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, further decides to extend until 15 October 2014 the mandate of the Force as set out in paragraph 3 of resolution 1990(2011), and determines that, for the purposes of paragraph 1 of resolution 2024(2011), support to the operational activities of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism shall include support to the Ad Hoc Committees, as appropriate when so requested by consensual decisions of these mechanisms, within the operational area and existing capabilities of the Force;

2. *Welcomes* the strategic review by the United Nations of the Force, and the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General of 13 May 2014 of support to the resumption of community dialogue and administration by the communities under the supervision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee; in this regard, calls upon the communities and the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to work with the United Nations towards that goal; and stresses the importance of support in these efforts from the African Union;

3. *Reiterates its demand* that the Sudan and South Sudan immediately resume the work of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee to ensure steady progress on the implementation of the Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area of 20 June 2011, including the implementation of the decisions of the Oversight Committee;

4. *Further reiterates its demand* that the Sudan and South Sudan urgently commence the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration and Council, including by resolving the deadlock over the composition of the Council, and constitute the Abyei Police Service, to enable it to take over policing functions throughout the Abyei Area, including the protection of oil infrastructure, in accordance with their commitments in the Agreement of 20 June 2011;

5. *Decides* to maintain the troops authorized by resolution 2104(2013) already deployed, and that the remaining authorized forces will only be deployed in case of reactivation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and at the appropriate time as deemed by the Secretary-General, to enable the Force to provide required force protection to the Mechanism and to enable the Force to fully support the Mechanism to conduct extended operations into the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone as soon as possible, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council fully updated on the status of deployment as part of his regular reporting cycle;

6. *Expresses concern* regarding the stalled efforts to fully operationalize the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, as a result of South Sudan's continued disagreement with the location of the centreline of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and its decision of 22 November 2013 to temporarily suspend its participation in the Mechanism, and calls upon the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to make timely and effective use of the Mechanism, the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and other agreed joint mechanisms to ensure the security and transparency of the Zone, including the 14-mile area;

7. *Urges* renewed efforts to determine conclusively the centreline of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone on the ground, and reiterates that the centreline of the Zone in no way prejudices the current or future legal status of the border, ongoing negotiations on the disputed and claimed areas, and demarcation of the borders;

8. *Underscores* that the protection of civilians mandate of the Force as set out in paragraph 3 of resolution 1990(2011) includes taking the actions necessary to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence;

9. *Condemns* the presence of Sudan People's Liberation Army/South Sudan National Police Service armed personnel and Diffra oil police units deployed in the Abyei Area, as well as the repeated entry of Misseriya militias into the territory, and reiterates its demands that immediately and without preconditions the Government of South Sudan fully redeploy its security service personnel from the Abyei Area and that the Government of the Sudan also redeploy the oil police in Diffra from the Abyei Area, and further reiterates, in accordance with relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 1990(2011) and 2046(2012), that the Abyei Area shall be demilitarized from any forces, as well as armed elements of the local communities, other than the Force and the Abyei Police Service;

10. *Supports* the decision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee of 3 May 2013 on Abyei's status as a weapons-free area, underscores the concern expressed by the African Union Peace and Security Council in its communiqué of 7 May 2013 over reports that various communities living in Abyei are heavily armed, recalls that in the Agreement of 20 June 2011 it is stipulated that Abyei should be a

weapons-free area and that only the Force is authorized to carry weapons inside the Area, and in this regard urges the two Governments to take all necessary steps to ensure that Abyei is effectively demilitarized, including through disarmament programmes as necessary;

11. *Requests* that the Force, consistent with its mandate and within its existing capabilities, observe, document and report on the movement of weapons into Abyei and the presence of weapons within Abyei as part of the Secretary-General's regular reporting cycle;

12. *Urges* the two Governments immediately to take steps to implement confidence-building measures among the respective communities in the Abyei Area, including through reconciliation processes at the grass-roots level and supporting the Force in convening a peace conference between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya traditional chiefs, and strongly urges all Abyei communities to exercise maximum restraint in all their engagements and to desist from inflammatory acts or statements that may lead to violent clashes, or any further unilateral activities;

13. *Requests* the Force to continue its dialogue with the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee and with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities on effective strategies and oversight mechanisms for ensuring full compliance by all relevant parties with Abyei's status as a weapons-free area, with a particular priority placed on the urgent elimination of heavy or crew-served weapons, as well as rocket-propelled grenades, and calls upon the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan, the Oversight Committee and the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities to extend full cooperation to the Force in this regard;

14. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully with the findings and recommendations following the investigation by the Abyei Area Joint Investigation and Inquiry Committee into the killing of a Force peacekeeper and the Ngok Dinka paramount chief;

15. *Expresses its intention* to review, as appropriate, the mandate of the Force for possible reconfiguration of the mission in the light of the compliance by the Sudan and South Sudan with the decisions set forth in resolution 2046(2012) and their commitments as set forth in the Agreements of 20 and 29 June and 30 July 2011 and 27 September 2012, including the redeployment of all forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, achieving full operational capability for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the Ad Hoc Committees, as well as completing the full demilitarization of the Abyei Area;

16. *Calls upon* all Member States, in particular the Sudan and South Sudan, to ensure the free, unhindered and expeditious movement to and from Abyei and throughout the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone of all personnel, as well as equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods, including vehicles, aircraft and spare parts, which are for the exclusive and official use of the Force;

17. *Renews its call upon* the Sudan and South Sudan to provide full support to the United Nations, including by promptly issuing visas to military, police and civilian United Nations personnel, including humanitarian personnel, without prejudice to their nationality, facilitating basing arrangements and flight clearances, and providing logistical support, and calls upon all parties to fully adhere to their obligations under the status-of-forces agreements;

18. *Recognizes* the absence of critical infrastructure projects affecting the Force peacekeeping personnel, notes

the action being taken to address this situation, and urges the Secretary-General to continue to take the measures available to him to remediate this situation and better enable the Force to implement its mandate;

19. *Demands* that the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan continue to facilitate the deployment of the United Nations Mine Action Service to ensure the freedom of movement of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism as well as the identification and clearance of mines in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone;

20. *Also demands* that all parties involved provide humanitarian personnel with full, safe and unhindered access to civilians in need of assistance and all facilities necessary for their operations, in accordance with international law, including applicable international humanitarian law, and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that effective human rights monitoring is carried out, and the results included in his reports to the Security Council, and reiterates its call upon the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to extend their full cooperation to the Secretary-General to this end, including by issuing visas to the concerned United Nations personnel;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure full compliance of the Force with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council informed if cases of such conduct occur;

23. *Stresses* that continued cooperation between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan is also critical for peace, security and stability and future relations between them;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to inform the Council of progress in implementing the mandate of the Force in two written reports, no later than 30 July and 30 September 2014, respectively, and to continue to bring to the Council's immediate attention any serious violations of the above-referenced agreements;

25. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure close cooperation among United Nations missions in the region, including the Force, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, as well as his Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, and requests him to continue this practice;

26. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Reports of Secretary-General (July and September). In response to Security Council resolution 2156(2014) (see p. 323), the Secretary-General submitted a July report [S/2014/518] on the situation in Abyei and UNISFA operations. He stated that the security situation was relatively calm, although the underlying conditions remained volatile and unpredictable. The presence of small arms remained prevalent among the civilian population. UNISFA observed the entry and exit of small numbers of SPLA personnel in southern Abyei, in contravention of existing agreements between the Sudan and South Sudan.

Further to the recommendations of the strategic review of UNISFA (see p. 322), a joint delegation consisting of the UNISFA Head of Mission/Force Commander and representatives of the UN Secretariat and the AU Commission started a joint series of consultations with the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan in Khartoum and Juba, respectively, from 25 June to 2 July, to encourage the parties to take concrete steps to promote the consolidation of peace and security in Abyei. Ethiopia decided to join the engagement with both parties, which would continue until the expiry of the UNISFA mandate on 15 October.

On 27 May, South Sudan informed UNISFA in writing of its intention to resume participation in the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. On 28 June, South Sudan informed UNISFA that its earlier objection was not related to the centreline coordinates, but to the use of the coordinates to demarcate the agreed border corridors in disputed border areas, which would amount to de facto border demarcation. On 16 June, the Mechanism resumed operations through aerial patrols of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone from its base in Kadugli, Southern Kordofan. There was no reported military presence or activity in the Zone. The Mission completed the construction of accommodation facilities for a force protection platoon at Gok Machar and, from 25 to 27 June, relocated troops from Kadugli. Work on the expansion of Gok Machar and Kadugli sites continued, and preparations for the development of Mechanism sites in Malakal and Buram were ongoing. As at 1 July, UNISFA, the Sudanese Armed Forces and SPLA had 25, 34 and 30 monitors, respectively, at the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters in Kadugli. Three UNISFA and two SPLA monitors were deployed at the Gok Machar site. The United Nations Mine Action Service surveyed 357 km and cleared 129 km of priority Mission routes, including the route between Gok Machar and the UNISFA headquarters in Abyei.

In September [S/2014/709], the Secretary-General reported that the Misseriya nomads had completed their seasonal migration and northward movement out of the Abyei area by mid-July. As at 10 September, only 5,000 Misseriya were estimated to be present in Dari, Al-Askar, Diffra, Mekines and Farouk, in northern Abyei.

UNISFA undertook two initiatives towards the implementation of the recommendations from the strategic review of UNISFA. In July, the Mission requested the cooperation of the Sudan in conducting a joint assessment of security threats to the oil installations in Diffra. The assessment would constitute a preliminary step in developing proposals aimed at addressing the country's concerns in that regard, thereby allowing the withdrawal of their police units. In a 16 September meeting with UNISFA, the Sudan

objected to the singling out of the oil police and instead proposed a security assessment for the whole of the Abyei Area.

In August, UNISFA began engaging local communities on the need for intercommunal dialogue with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka community groups. The Ngok Dinka traditional leadership expressed frustration and called upon the Misseriya to admit responsibility and provide compensation for the assassination of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief, Kuol Deng Kuol, on 4 May 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 227]. Some of their representatives also called on the Misseriya to recognize the outcome of the Ngok Dinka unilateral community referendum of October 2013, in which the majority of that community voted for Abyei to become a part of South Sudan. The Misseriya expressed concern over the extent to which that referendum could affect their ability to migrate through Abyei and gain access to sufficient water and grazing land for their livestock.

On 3 September, the media reported that the President of the Sudan had appointed Hassan Ali Nimir al-Julla, a member of the Misseriya Humr clan, as the new Co-Chairman of the Government of the Sudan to the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee. South Sudan had not yet confirmed the identity of its own Co-Chairman.

A team of representatives of DPKO, UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) of the Secretariat visited Abyei, Juba and Khartoum from 10 to 20 September to meet with UNISFA, NGOs and UN country team personnel. The visit was conducted to develop proposals for operational support to the recommendations from the strategic review of UNISFA, in particular as they pertained to the stabilization of Abyei. The team's recommendations included modalities for UNISFA support to intercommunity dialogue; United Nations country team and UNISFA support to community protection committees that aimed to address communities' law and order needs in the absence of the Abyei Police Service; UNISFA support to the implementation of Abyei Joint Oversight Committee decisions pertaining to the establishment of a weapons-free zone throughout the Abyei area; and the adoption of measures to enhance coordination between UNISFA and UN agencies, funds and programmes.

The Secretary-General observed that UNISFA could not implement its mandate to support the maintenance of peace and security and protect civilians in the complete absence of governance and law and order institutions. He was concerned that the organization of elections in Abyei by the Sudan, in the absence of a joint administration, might lead to political tensions and security incidents. The Secretary-General therefore called on the Sudan and South Sudan to resume political dialogue on the management of Abyei. He decided to reconfigure the leadership of UNISFA and appoint a civilian as Head of Mission, separating the functions of Head of Mission and Force Commander.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 14 October [meeting 7276], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2179(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/728] was submitted by France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements by its President on the situation in the Sudan and South Sudan, in particular resolutions 1990(2011) of 27 June 2011, 2024(2011) of 14 December 2011, 2032(2011) of 22 December 2011, 2046(2012) of 2 May 2012, 2047(2012) of 17 May 2012, 2075(2012) of 16 November 2012, 2104(2013) of 29 May 2013, 2126(2013) of 25 November 2013 and 2156(2014) of 29 May 2014, as well as the statements by its President of 31 August 2012 and 23 August 2013 and its statements to the press of 18 June, 21 and 28 September 2012, 6 May and 14 June 2013 and 14 February and 17 March 2014,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Sudan and South Sudan and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the importance of the principles of good-neighbourliness, non-interference and regional cooperation,

Reiterating that the territorial boundaries of States shall not be altered by force and that any territorial disputes shall be settled exclusively by peaceful means,

Affirming the priority it attaches to the full and urgent implementation of all outstanding issues from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 9 January 2005,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict; its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict; its resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003 on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel; and its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security,

Recalling the commitments made by the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan in the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area of 20 June 2011, the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan on Border Security and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of 29 June 2011 and the Agreement on the Border Monitoring Support Mission between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan of 30 July 2011, as well as the agreements on cooperation and security arrangements of 27 September 2012, the decision of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of 8 March 2013 and the implementation matrix of 12 March 2013, reached by the Government of the Sudan and the

Government of South Sudan in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel,

Emphasizing the importance of the full participation of women in the implementation of agreements and in the prevention and resolution of conflict and peacebuilding more broadly,

Expressing its full support for the efforts of the African Union on the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan, in order to ease the current tension and facilitate the resumption of negotiations on post-secession relations and the normalization of their relations, recalling in this regard the African Union Peace and Security Council communiqués of 24 April and 24 October 2012, 25 January, 7 May, 29 July, 23 September, 26 October and 12 November 2013 and 12 September 2014, the Peace and Security Council press statement of 6 November 2013 and the statement made by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on 28 October 2013,

Noting with concern the stalled efforts by the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to demilitarize the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, including the “14-mile area”, and to fully implement the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2046(2012) and the Peace and Security Council road map of 24 April 2012, as a result of South Sudan’s continued disagreement with the location of the centreline of the Zone,

Underlining the importance of fully establishing and maintaining effective monitoring by the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, including the 14-mile area,

Stressing that both countries will have much to gain if they show restraint and choose the path of dialogue instead of resorting to violence or provocations,

Welcoming further regular meetings between President Bashir and President Kiir for continuing dialogue, recalling the decision in resolution 2046(2012) that the parties must resume immediately negotiations to reach agreement on the final status of Abyei under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, calling upon all parties to engage constructively in the process mediated by the Implementation Panel towards final agreement on the final status of the Abyei Area, and stressing that the parties must immediately implement pending aspects of the Agreement of 20 June 2011, in particular to resolve the dispute over the Abyei Area Council and immediately establish the Abyei Area Administration and Abyei Police Service,

Commending the continued assistance provided to the parties by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, including its Chairperson, President Thabo Mbeki, and former Presidents Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya, the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn of Ethiopia, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Mr. Haile Menkerios, and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei,

Commending also the efforts of the Force in effectively carrying out its mandate, including by its ongoing facilitation of peaceful migration throughout the Abyei Area, conflict prevention, mediation and deterrence, and expressing its deep appreciation for the work of the troop-contributing countries,

Noting with concern the fragility of the security situation in the Abyei Area, acknowledging the contribution of the

Force to enhanced peace and stability since its deployment, and determined to prevent the recurrence of violence against or displacements of civilians and to avert intercommunal conflict,

Expressing its determination that the future status of Abyei shall be resolved by negotiations between the parties in a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and not by the unilateral actions of either party,

Deeply concerned by the public administration and rule of law vacuum in the Abyei Area, due to continued delays in the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration, Council and Police Service, including a special unit to deal with particular issues related to nomadic migration, which are essential to maintain law and order and prevent intercommunal conflict in Abyei,

Noting with concern the continued threat of intercommunal violence in the Abyei Area, including the ongoing tensions that prevent Sudanese staff of the Force and other agencies from returning to Abyei,

Noting that the continued delay in establishing the temporary institutions and resolving the final status of Abyei contributes to tension in the region, urging all parties to refrain from any unilateral action to aggravate intercommunal relations within the Abyei Area, and expressing concern over the continued implications of what the Peace and Security Council described in its press statement of 6 November 2013 as “the decision by the Ngok Dinka to conduct a unilateral referendum”,

Taking note of the announcement on 7 September 2014 by the Sudan National Election Commission to include the Abyei Area as a geographical constituency in the 2015 elections, which, according to the report of the Secretary-General of 30 September 2014, “can pose a serious risk to the stability of Abyei”,

Bearing in mind the importance of coherence of United Nations assistance in the region,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

Stressing the need for effective human rights monitoring, including of any sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children, taking note that there have been no developments with regard to the operationalization of human rights monitoring in the Abyei Area, and reiterating its concern at the lack of cooperation by the parties with the Secretary-General to this end,

Stressing also the urgency of facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected communities in the Abyei Area,

Affirming the importance of voluntary, safe, orderly return and sustainable reintegration of displaced persons, and of peaceful and orderly migration cycles respecting the traditional migratory routes from the Sudan to South Sudan through Abyei, and urging the Force to take measures as necessary to ensure security in the Abyei Area in accordance with its mandate,

Recalling its resolution 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013, and expressing grave concern at the threat to peace and security in Abyei arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Expressing concern about the residual threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the Abyei Area,

which hinders the safe return of displaced persons to their homes and safe migration,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 30 September 2014, including the assessment that the political and security situation on the ground is relatively calm, but can easily escalate into open conflict, with a commensurate risk of deterioration of bilateral relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, and the recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing that the current situation in Abyei and along the border between the Sudan and South Sudan continues to constitute a serious threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend until 28 February 2015 the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei as set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 1990(2011) and modified by resolution 2024(2011) and paragraph 1 of resolution 2075(2012), and, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, further decides to extend until 28 February 2015 the mandate of the Force as set out in paragraph 3 of resolution 1990(2011), and determines that, for the purposes of paragraph 1 of resolution 2024(2011), support to the operational activities of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism shall include support to the Ad Hoc Committees, as appropriate when so requested by consensual decisions of these mechanisms, within the operational area and existing capabilities of the Force;

2. *Takes note* of the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General of 30 September 2014, and welcomes the initiatives of the Force to support resumption of community dialogue and administration by the communities under the supervision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee; in this regard calls upon the communities and the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to take concrete steps towards that goal; and further welcomes the current and future support in these efforts from the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of Ethiopia;

3. *Reiterates its demand* that the Sudan and South Sudan immediately resume the work of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, and calls upon the Government of South Sudan to name immediately an Oversight Committee Co-Chair to ensure steady progress on the implementation of the Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area of 20 June 2011, including the implementation of the decisions of the Oversight Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an assessment of progress on these issues in his regular reports, including on his recommendations resulting from the strategic review of the Force in May 2014;

4. *Further reiterates its demand* that the Sudan and South Sudan urgently commence the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration and Council, including by resolving the deadlock over the composition of the Council, and constitute the Abyei Police Service, to enable it to take over policing functions throughout the Abyei Area, including the protection of oil infrastructure, in accordance with their commitments in the Agreement of 20 June 2011;

5. *Decides* to maintain the troops authorized by resolution 2104(2013) already deployed, and that the remaining authorized forces shall continue to be deployed consistent with the progressive reactivation of the Joint Border Veri-

fication and Monitoring Mechanism, to enable the Force to provide required force protection to the Mechanism and to enable the Force to fully support the Mechanism to conduct extended operations into the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone as soon as possible, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council fully updated on the status of deployment as part of his regular reporting cycle;

6. *Expresses concern* regarding the stalled efforts to fully operationalize the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, as a result of South Sudan's continued disagreement with the location of the centreline of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, and calls upon the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to make timely and effective use of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and other agreed joint mechanisms to ensure the security and transparency of the Zone, including the 14-mile area;

7. *Urges* renewed efforts to determine conclusively the centreline of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone on the ground, and reiterates that the centreline of the Zone in no way prejudices the current or future legal status of the border, ongoing negotiations on the disputed and claimed areas, and demarcation of the borders;

8. *Underscores* that the protection of civilians mandate of the Force as set out in paragraph 3 of resolution 1990(2011) includes taking the actions necessary to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence;

9. *Condemns* the presence of South Sudan security service personnel and Diffra oil police units deployed in the Abyei Area, as well as the repeated entry of Misseriya militias into the territory, and reiterates its demands that immediately and without preconditions the Government of South Sudan fully redeploy its security service personnel from the Abyei Area and that the Government of the Sudan also redeploy the oil police in Diffra from the Abyei Area, and further reiterates, in accordance with relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 1990(2011) and 2046(2012), that the Abyei Area shall be demilitarized from any forces, as well as armed elements of the local communities, other than the Force and the Abyei Police Service;

10. *Supports* the decision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee of 3 May 2013 on Abyei's status as a weapons-free area, underscores the concern expressed by the African Union Peace and Security Council in its communiqué of 7 May 2013 over reports that various communities living in Abyei are heavily armed, recalls that in the Agreement of 20 June 2011 it is stipulated that Abyei should be a weapons-free area and that only the Force is authorized to carry weapons inside the Area, and in this regard urges the two Governments to take all steps necessary to ensure that Abyei is effectively demilitarized, including through disarmament programmes as necessary;

11. *Requests* that the Force, consistent with its mandate and within its existing capabilities, observe, document and report on the movement of weapons into Abyei and the presence of weapons within Abyei as part of the Secretary-General's regular reporting cycle;

12. *Urges* the two Governments immediately to take steps to implement confidence-building measures among the respective communities in the Abyei Area, including through reconciliation processes at the grass-roots level and supporting the Force in convening a peace conference

between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya traditional chiefs, and strongly urges all Abyei communities to exercise maximum restraint in all their engagements and to desist from inflammatory acts or statements that may lead to violent clashes, or any further unilateral activities;

13. *Requests* the Force to continue its dialogue with the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee and with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities on effective strategies and oversight mechanisms for ensuring full compliance by all relevant parties with Abyei's status as a weapons-free area, with a particular priority placed on the urgent elimination of heavy or crew-served weapons, as well as rocket-propelled grenades, and calls upon the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan, the Oversight Committee and the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities to extend full cooperation to the Force in this regard;

14. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully with the findings and recommendations following the investigation by the Abyei Area Joint Investigation and Inquiry Committee into the killing of a Force peacekeeper and the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief;

15. *Expresses its intention* to review, as appropriate, the mandate of the Force for possible reconfiguration of the mission in the light of the compliance by the Sudan and South Sudan with the decisions set forth in resolution 2046(2012) and their commitments as set forth in the Agreements of 20 and 29 June and 30 July 2011 and 27 September 2012, including the redeployment of all forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, achieving full operational capability for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the Ad Hoc Committees, as well as completing the full demilitarization of the Abyei Area;

16. *Calls upon* all Member States, in particular the Sudan and South Sudan, to ensure the free, unhindered and expeditious movement to and from Abyei and throughout the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone of all personnel, as well as equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods, including vehicles, aircraft and spare parts, which are for the exclusive and official use of the Force;

17. *Renews its call upon* the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to provide full support to the United Nations, including by promptly issuing visas to military, police and civilian United Nations personnel, including humanitarian personnel, without prejudice to their nationality, facilitating basing arrangements and flight clearances, and providing logistical support, and calls upon all parties to fully adhere to their obligations under the status-of-forces agreements;

18. *Recognizes* the absence of critical infrastructure projects affecting peacekeeping personnel of the Force, notes the action being taken to address this situation, and urges the Secretary-General to continue to take the measures available to him to remediate this situation and better enable the Force to implement its mandate;

19. *Demands* that the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan continue to facilitate the deployment of the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to ensure the freedom of movement of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism as well as the identification and clearance of mines in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone;

20. *Also demands* that all parties involved provide humanitarian personnel with full, safe and unhindered access to civilians in need of assistance and all facilities nec-

essary for their operations, in accordance with international law, including applicable international humanitarian law, and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that effective human rights monitoring is carried out and the results included in his reports to the Security Council, and reiterates its call upon the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to extend their full cooperation to the Secretary-General to this end, including by issuing visas to the concerned United Nations personnel;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure full compliance of the Force with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Security Council informed if cases of such conduct occur;

23. *Stresses* that continued cooperation between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan is also critical for peace, security and stability and future relations between them;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with support from the African Union Commission and the Government of Ethiopia, to explore options in the context of the Peace and Security Council communiqué of 12 September 2014, in which the parties are urged to use creative provisions based on mutual understanding to expedite implementation of the outstanding administrative and security elements of the Agreement of 20 June 2011, as appropriate, and to include their findings in the consolidated recommendations on the Force to be presented to the Security Council in the next report of the Secretary-General;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to inform the Security Council of progress in implementing the mandate of the Force in two written reports, no later than 1 December 2014 and 2 February 2015 respectively, and to continue to bring to the Council's immediate attention any serious violations of the above-referenced agreements;

26. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure close cooperation among United Nations missions in the region, including the Force, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, as well as his Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, and requests him to continue this practice;

27. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to resolution 2179(2014) (see p. 327), the Secretary-General submitted a December report [S/2014/862] on the situation in Abyei and UNISFA operations. He stated that the security situation in the Abyei Area remained relatively calm despite underlying tensions and volatility. On 4 November, President al-Bashir and President Kiir held a summit meeting in Khartoum, at which they agreed to the resumption of Abyei Joint Oversight Committee meetings. President Kiir pledged to appoint a new Committee Co-Chair for South Sudan.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the strategic review of UNISFA (see p. 322), the AU Commission, Ethiopia, the UN Secretariat and UNISFA conducted a follow-up mission to Khartoum and Juba from 4

to 8 November to engage with officials from the Sudan and South Sudan. The delegation encouraged the two Governments to take concrete steps to promote the consolidation of peace and security in Abyei and to explore creative approaches, based on mutual understanding, for the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement, as called for in the communiqué of the 456th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council held on 12 September.

The Sudan agreed to work towards the resumption of Joint Oversight Committee meetings without preconditions regarding their location. It was ready to consider creative approaches to addressing the current public administration and law and order vacuum in Abyei, within the framework of intercommunal dialogue and under the supervision of the Committee. The Sudan reiterated its position that the oil police units should remain inside the oil complex in Difra until the formation of the Abyei Police Service provided for in the 20 June 2011 Agreement. South Sudan confirmed its intention to appoint a new Co-Chair of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee and resume meetings, provided that the meetings initially took place outside the Abyei Area, due to continuing intercommunal tensions following the assassination of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 277]. While also agreeing to explore creative approaches to addressing the situation in Abyei within the framework of intercommunal dialogue, South Sudan stated that a number of preconditions had to be fulfilled. First, the findings of the AU-led investigation into the assassination of the Paramount Chief had to be made available and the issue resolved through traditional mechanisms. Second, the Sudan had to withdraw its police units from Diffra. Should the police not be withdrawn, South Sudan said that it could deploy its own police elements in the territory to address its security concerns.

The UN Secretariat and UNISFA invited the Sudan and South Sudan, along with the AU Commission and Ethiopia, to participate in a high-level security meeting on Abyei in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 17 November. On 13 November, the Sudan requested that UNISFA postpone the meeting. On 18 November, the acting UNISFA Head of Mission met with Sudanese officials in Khartoum and urged them to participate in the meeting, which was rescheduled for late December. Following the postponement, Ethiopia reiterated to UNISFA, on 14 November, that should the Sudan and South Sudan continue to fail to meet their obligations towards the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement, Ethiopia would withdraw its troops from UNISFA.

On 7 September, the Sudan National Election Commission announced its intention to include Abyei as a constituency in the 2015 elections. The Chairman of the Western Kordofan State election commission, Abdul Jabar Ibrahim, was quoted in

the media, on 18 October, as stating that the Area was not among the State's constituencies for national or state polls. The Sudan considered the Abyei Area a district within the administrative boundaries of Western Kordofan State. Four days later, the media cited the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee Co-Chair for the Sudan, Hassan Ali Nimir, as reiterating that the citizens of Abyei would be included in the elections. On 17 November, the National Electoral Commission announced that the registration of voters for the 2015 elections had concluded. No registration was conducted in the Abyei Area.

As at 6 November, UNISFA, the Sudan and South Sudan had 15, 32 and 34 monitors deployed, respectively, to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. As at 16 November, the UNISFA military component stood at 3,942 of the authorized strength of 5,326. The strength of the UNISFA police component stood at 24 out of the authorized strength of 50 police officers. Humanitarian actors continued to assist approximately 81,000 people in the Abyei Area.

In November, DPKO, OCHA and UNDP finalized the report of the follow-up mission on the strategic review of UNISFA. The mission recommended that UNISFA adopt a more systematic approach to confiscating weapons from small armed groups or individuals. Such an approach would be consistent with the 3 May 2013 decision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee to make Abyei a "weapons-free zone".

The Secretary-General urged both Governments to reach an agreement on the modalities for the resumption of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee meetings without preconditions, and urged the Government of South Sudan to promptly appoint a new Committee Co-Chair. He called on the AU Commission to report the conclusions of the investigation into the assassination of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief to the AU Peace and Security Council.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/77], the Secretary-General stated that, consistent with the announcement made during the 4 November summit in Khartoum, President Salva Kiir, on 4 December, issued a decree appointing Deng Mading as the new Co-Chair for South Sudan of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee. The security situation at the headquarters of the Joint Border Verification Monitoring Mechanism in Kadugli deteriorated in mid-December, following an escalation of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SPLM-N. From 10–12 December, the headquarters reported shelling and artillery fire between the two parties near Kadugli.

UNISFA

The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) was established in 2011 by Security Council resolution 1990(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 195] for an initial period of six months following the violence and

population displacement that occurred in the Abyei Area as southern Sudan was preparing to declare its independence from the Sudan. The Area, straddling northern and southern Sudan, was claimed by both sides. UNISFA was deployed in the wake of the 20 June 2011 Agreement [ibid.] between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM to withdraw their respective forces and allow Ethiopian peacekeepers in Abyei. It was tasked with monitoring the border and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid, and was authorized to use force to protect civilians and humanitarian workers. By resolution 2024(2011) [ibid., p. 205], the UNISFA mandate was broadened to include tasks in support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The Council, by resolution 2104(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 226], increased the authorized UNISFA troop ceiling to 5,326. By resolution 2156(2014) of 29 May (see p. 323), the Council extended the UNISFA mandate until 15 October; by resolution 2179(2014) of 14 October (see p. 327), the Council extended the mandate until 28 February 2015.

Appointment. By an 18 November letter [S/2014/835], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Major General Birhanu Jula Gelacha (Ethiopia) as UNISFA Force Commander. He replaced Major-General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam (Ethiopia), who completed his assignment on 19 June. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 20 November [S/2014/836].

Financing

In June, the General Assembly considered the report [A/68/604] of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of UNISFA for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, which showed an expenditure of \$257,846,200 gross (\$256,308,900 net) against an apportionment of \$257,932,000 gross (\$256,573,400 net). The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of \$85,800 with respect to the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, and on the treatment of other income/adjustments for the period ended 30 June 2013 amounting to \$6,906,600.

The Assembly also had before it a January report [A/68/728] of the Secretary-General on the UNISFA budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, which amounted to \$328,210,600 gross (\$326,075,900 net). The budget provided for the deployment of 225 military observers, 5,101 military contingent personnel, 50 UN police officers, 165 international staff, 107 national staff and 37 United Nations Volunteers.

ACABQ, in April [A/68/782/Add.4], recommended measures that would entail a reduction of \$1,037,600 to the proposed UNISFA budget. It recommended that

the Assembly appropriate \$327,173,000 for the maintenance of the mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015; and that the unencumbered balance of \$85,800 for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, as well as other income/adjustments amounting to \$6,906,600 for the period ended 30 June 2013, be credited to Member States.

The General Assembly, by **decision 69/554** of 29 December, decided that the agenda item on UNISFA financing would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/672/Add.1], adopted **resolution 68/258 B** without vote [agenda item 148].

Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1990(2011) of 27 June 2011, by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei for a period of six months, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2156(2014) of 29 May 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 15 October 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 66/241 A of 24 December 2011 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/258 A of 27 December 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 41.2 million United States dollars, representing some 6 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 58 Member States have paid their

assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei the amount of 343,815,800 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 318,925,200 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 20,636,700 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 4,253,900 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 99,817,490 dollars for the period from 1 July to 15 October 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in

the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,094,633 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 604,045 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 380,265 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 110,323 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

15. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 243,998,310 dollars for the period from 16 October 2014 to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of 28,651,317 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

16. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,675,767 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,476,555 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 929,535 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 269,677 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 6,992,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

18. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 6,992,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. *Decides* that the increase of 178,700 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 6,992,400 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

22. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei".

Children and armed conflict

In May [A/68/878-S/2014/339], the Secretary-General issued his report on children and armed conflict, which included information on grave violations committed against children during armed conflict in the Sudan in 2013. The United Nations recorded the recruitment and use of 42 children in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, including 2 by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF). At least 6 children were killed in clashes and 10 were injured in mortar attacks. Unexploded ordnance-related incidents resulted in at least six children being injured in Blue Nile, and six children reportedly killed and nine others injured in a single incident in Um Baraka, South Kordofan province.

Sexual violence against children in the three areas—South Kordofan, Blue Nile State and Abyei—continued to be underreported in 2013 owing to limited monitoring capacity and victims' fear of stigmatization. The United Nations documented the rape of three girls, between 14 and 17 years of age, by pro-Government militias in two separate incidents in Abu Zabad, South Kordofan, on 19 November. It organized child protection training and orientation for 131 SAF and Popular Defence Force (PDF) officers. Nine children released by PDF in Abugibaiha, Talodi, and Kalogi, South Kordofan, and the 10 children who fled from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) camp in Mandi were reintegrated with support from the United Nations.

UNMIS

The United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) was established by Security Council resolution 1590(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 304] to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [ibid., p. 301]; facilitate and coordinate the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons; assist with demining; and protect and promote human rights. The UNMIS mandate ended on 9 July 2011 with the establishment of South Sudan as an independent country on that date. UNMIS was closed by 31 August 2011 and its administrative liquidation was completed by 31 December 2011.

Financing

In a January report on the financing of UNMIS [A/68/709 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General stated that the Mission's assets, with a total inventory value of \$293,013,900, were disposed of as at 31 July 2013. He recommended that the General Assembly approve the donation, on a free-of-charge basis, of assets with an inventory value of \$6,276,200 and a corresponding residual value of \$2,114,800 to the Government of the Sudan, and assets with an inventory value of \$47,400 and a corresponding residual value of \$25,600 to

the Joint Integrated Units. In May [A/68/866], ACABQ recommended that the Assembly approve the donation of UNMIS assets as recommended by the Secretary-General.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/920], adopted **resolution 68/294** without vote [agenda item 161].

Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1590(2005) of 24 March 2005, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in the Sudan for an initial period of six months as from 24 March 2005, the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, and resolution 1997(2011) of 11 July 2011, by which the Council decided to withdraw the Mission effective 11 July 2011 and called upon the Secretary-General to complete the withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian Mission personnel, other than those required for the liquidation of the Mission, by 31 August 2011,

Recalling also its resolution 59/292 of 21 April 2005 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/281 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Trust Fund in Support of the Peace Process in the Sudan,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan as at 30 April 2014, including the credits in the amount of 17.7 million United States dollars;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

3. *Notes with concern* the delay in the Secretary-General's request for approval by the General Assembly to transfer assets of the Mission, and in this regard stresses the need to abide by the relevant provisions, regulations and rules governing the transfer of the assets of missions;

Disposition of assets of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the Mission;

5. *Approves* the donation of assets of the Mission, with a total inventory value of 6,276,200 dollars and corresponding residual value of 2,114,800 dollars, to the Government of the Sudan;

6. *Also approves* the donation of assets of the Mission, with a total inventory value of 47,400 dollars and corresponding residual value of 25,600 dollars, to the Joint Integrated Units;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan”.

The General Assembly, by **decision 69/554** of 29 December, decided that the agenda item on UNMIS financing would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

South Sudan

The parties to the armed conflict in South Sudan made little progress towards a political settlement in 2014. On 23 January, the Government and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in Opposition signed agreements on the cessation of hostilities and on the status of detainees. On 30 January, the Government signed a cessation of hostilities agreement with the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/A) Cobra Faction. On 9 May, the two sides pledged to facilitate the deployment of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Monitoring and Verification Mechanism. On 11 May, the President outlined his road map for the peace process, stating that it should begin with a cessation of hostilities, the full deployment of the Mechanism and the opening of humanitarian access. On 24 July, President Kiir established the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, an autonomous area within Jonglei State. In November, the sixth IGAD summit authorized the IGAD region to intervene directly in South Sudan to protect life and restore peace. On 9 November, the Government and SPLM/A in Opposition signed the implementation matrix for the 23 January agreement (see below). The Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan until 30 May 2015.

Political and security developments

Communications. By an 8 January letter [S/2014/8], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a communiqué on the situation in South Sudan, adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council at its 411th meeting (Banjul, Gambia, 30 December 2013). The Peace and Security Council condemned attacks against civilians in South Sudan, including the targeting of ethnic groups and other communities, and condemned the 19 December 2013 attack against the Akobo camp of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), in which two peacekeepers and many civilians were killed. It urged South Sudanese stakeholders to extend full cooperation to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to facilitate an early solution

to the crisis in the country, and demanded that the parties unconditionally cease hostilities.

By a 23 January letter [S/2014/46], South Sudan conveyed to the Security Council a press release issued the same date by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan, which noted a misinterpretation in some circles of a statement made by the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir. South Sudan affirmed its wish to continue its relationship with the United Nations, particularly UNMISS, and the international community. It looked forward to a constructive dialogue on mechanisms to improve communication and logistical concerns as partners in mitigating the suffering of the people of South Sudan.

By an 11 March letter [S/2014/171], Eritrea conveyed to the Security Council a press statement on the recent developments in South Sudan, issued the same day by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea.

Report of Secretary-General (March). In response to Security Council resolution 2109(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 238], the Secretary-General submitted a March report [S/2014/158] covering major developments in South Sudan since the issuance of his November 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 242], as well as the implementation of resolution 2132(2013) [ibid., p. 243], by which the Council temporarily increased the overall force levels of UNMISS to support the protection of civilians and the provision of humanitarian assistance during the crisis that started on 15 December 2013 [ibid., p. 242].

On 4 January, IGAD, following individual consultations, proxy talks and direct talks, commenced the formal negotiation process between the parties in Addis Ababa. On 23 January, the Government and SPLM/A in Opposition signed agreements on the cessation of hostilities and on the status of detainees, paving the way towards an inclusive dialogue and a process of national reconciliation. The second phase of the political dialogue and national reconciliation process resumed in Addis Ababa on 11 February and adjourned on 3 March. The parties reached agreement on the modalities of the monitoring and verification mechanism and discussed the way forward on the national dialogue and issues related to the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM). In the meantime, fighting at various locations continued and both sides remained in breach of the cessation of hostilities agreement. The President declared a state of emergency in Jonglei and Unity States on 1 January and in Upper Nile State on 17 January. On 20 January, the National Legislative Assembly, in an emergency session, unanimously approved the President’s decisions for a period of six months. On 30 January, in Addis Ababa, the Government signed a cessation of hostilities agreement with the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/A) Cobra Faction, the armed group led by David Yau Yau.

The group agreed to remain neutral in the conflict between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition forces.

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan deteriorated sharply following the outbreak of violence. Within the first four weeks of the crisis, almost 500,000 persons were displaced within South Sudan and around 74,300 people crossed into neighbouring countries. Total displacement reached 900,000 persons, some 167,000 of whom crossed into neighbouring countries. The number of civilians in the “acute” or “emergency” categories of food insecurity increased from 1.1 million to 3.2 million. Some 500,000 displaced persons were in urgent need of food aid; thus, the survival of 3.7 million South Sudanese was in question. UNMISS assumed the lead in the management of safety and security of civilians in the protection sites within its bases, while humanitarian aid partners provided clean water, emergency latrines, food, health care and shelter to civilians. The Government and SPLM/A in Opposition committed themselves to facilitating humanitarian access to all civilians in need. Nevertheless, in several of the areas in greatest need, daily activities and humanitarian access were constrained by active hostilities, interference in humanitarian operations and attacks on aid workers.

On 21 February, UNMISS issued a public interim report on the serious human rights violations that had occurred from 15 December 2013 to 31 January 2014. As noted in the report, the crisis had widespread negative consequences for the human rights situation in many parts of the country. UNMISS estimated that thousands of people had been killed during the hostilities.

Mounting anti-UN sentiment emanated from misperceptions about the Mission’s role during the crisis. Unfounded allegations were made that UNMISS was not impartial and that the Mission was aiding and abetting the anti-government forces. The ability of UNMISS to move freely was increasingly obstructed. Demonstrations against the United Nations were organized in several state capitals. The situation reached a critical point on 19 January, when the Minister of Information, together with 65 armed SPLA soldiers, tried to forcibly enter the site for the protection of civilians in the UNMISS compound in Bor, Jonglei State. After the State Coordinator refused to grant entry to the armed soldiers, some of them threatened the State Coordinator and revoked all safety assurances previously given to UN personnel and assets in the area. Subsequently, following hostile statements against the United Nations from the Government, a number of incidents of harassment, threats and serious status-of-forces agreement violations occurred. In a 20 January press conference, President Kiir criticized UNMISS and accused the United Nations of attempting to act as a parallel government. On 23 January, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press statement explaining that the President’s remarks had been misinterpreted

(see p. 335). Following his meeting with the Secretary-General’s Special Representative, Hilde Johnson, on 24 January, the President largely retracted his comments about UNMISS and instructed security ministers to protect UN and international personnel. While the situation abated to some degree, some government officials continued to make critical public remarks about the Mission. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, visited Juba on 3 February and protested such issues in his meeting with the President of South Sudan.

The Secretary-General called on SPLM to address its internal political crisis. He also called on the Government and South Sudanese stakeholders to engage in dialogue towards national reconciliation and an open democratic system of governance and pledged to make every effort to ensure that the perpetrators of crimes committed against civilians were brought to justice.

Letter of the Secretary-General. In a 9 May letter addressed to the Security Council [S/2014/337], the Secretary-General stated that on 13 March, the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of IGAD issued a communiqué on the situation in South Sudan, in which the Heads of State urged the parties to the conflict to comply with the 23 January Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. They requested the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council to provide all necessary support for the deployment of a Protection and Deterrence Force as part of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism established under the Agreement. In an 8 April letter addressed to the Secretary-General, the IGAD Chair, Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, requested the support of the United Nations for the Mechanism’s deployment. On 5 May, the United Nations received a proposal from IGAD outlining the concept of the proposed Force. The Secretariat was examining the proposal and would provide recommendations to the Security Council. President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar met on 9 May in Ethiopia, where they signed the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan. Pending the Security Council’s decision on the IGAD request, the Secretary-General requested the Council to consider endorsing the provision by UNMISS of security to the monitoring and verification teams on an interim basis and within its existing capabilities. The Security Council took note of the Secretary-General’s letter on 14 May [S/2014/338].

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 May [meeting 7182], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2155(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/367] was submitted by Australia, Chad, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions 1996(2011) of 8 July 2011, 2046(2012) of 2 May 2012, 2057(2012) of 5 July 2012, 2109(2013) of 11 July 2013 and 2132(2013) of 24 December 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of South Sudan, and recalling the importance of the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Recalling its resolution 2086(2013) of 21 January 2013 and reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Expressing grave alarm and concern regarding the rapidly deteriorating political, security and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan resulting from the internal Sudan People's Liberation Movement political dispute and subsequent violence caused by the country's political and military leaders,

Strongly condemning reported and ongoing human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving extrajudicial killings, ethnically targeted violence, sexual and gender-based violence, rape, recruitment and use of children, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, violence aimed at spreading terror among the civilian population, and attacks on schools and hospitals as well as United Nations peacekeeping personnel, by all parties, including armed groups and national security forces, as well as the incitement to commit such abuses and violations, and emphasizing that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights must be held accountable and that the Government of South Sudan bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including from potential crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Expressing deep concern over the large-scale displacement of persons and deepening humanitarian crisis, stressing the responsibility borne by all parties to the conflict for the suffering of the people of South Sudan, and the necessity of ensuring that the basic needs of the population are met, commending United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners for their efforts to provide urgent and coordinated support to the population, calling upon all parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies to all those in need and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to internally displaced persons and refugees, condemning all attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities, and recalling that attacks against humanitarian personnel and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival may amount to violations of international humanitarian law,

Commending the Intergovernmental Authority on Development initiative, as supported by the United Nations and African Union, in establishing a forum for political

and security dialogue, and expecting all parties to participate in this process and respect the decisions reached by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on 13 March 2014,

Welcoming the cessation of hostilities and status of detainees agreements of 23 January 2014, mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, consensus on the declaration of principles between the parties, the establishment of the ceasefire Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, and the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan, of 9 May 2014, while condemning repeated violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement by all parties, which undermine peace efforts,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the actions taken by United Nations Mission in South Sudan peacekeepers and troop- and police-contributing countries to protect civilians, including foreign nationals, under threat of physical violence and to stabilize the security situation, and further expressing appreciation for those Member States that have responded immediately to expedite the deployment of troops and police immediately after the adoption of resolution 2132(2013),

Taking note with interest of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan interim human rights report of 21 February 2014, and its report entitled "Conflict in South Sudan: A Human Rights Report", of 8 May 2014,

Expressing grave concern that, according to the report of 8 May 2014, there are reasonable grounds to believe that war crimes and crimes against humanity, including extrajudicial killings, rape and other acts of sexual violence, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests and detention, have been committed by all parties to the conflict in South Sudan,

Stressing the urgent and imperative need to end impunity in South Sudan and to bring to justice perpetrators of such crimes,

Welcoming the inaugural meeting, held on 12 March 2014, and the initiation of the work of the African Union Commission of Inquiry for South Sudan as critical steps in independent and public human rights monitoring, investigation and reporting,

Strongly condemning the use of radio to broadcast hate speech and transmit messages instigating sexual violence against a particular ethnic group, which has the potential to play a significant role in promoting mass violence and exacerbating conflict, calling upon the Government of South Sudan to take the appropriate measures in order to deter such activity, and further urging all parties to desist from these actions and instead to contribute to promoting peace and reconciliation among the communities,

Emphasizing that persisting barriers to full implementation of resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 will only be dismantled through dedicated commitment to women's empowerment, participation and human rights, and through concerted leadership, consistent information and action, and support, to build women's engagement in all levels of decision-making,

Expressing deep concern at persistent restrictions placed upon the movement and operations of the Mission, strongly condemning the attacks by government and opposition forces and other groups on United Nations personnel and facilities, including the December 2012 downing of a United Nations helicopter by the Sudan People's Liberation

Army, the April 2013 attack on a United Nations convoy, the December 2013 attack on the Mission camp in Akobo and the 2014 attacks on the Mission camp in Bor, and calling upon the Government of South Sudan to complete its investigations of these attacks in a swift and thorough manner and to hold those responsible to account,

Expressing grave concern regarding the threats made to oil installations, petroleum companies and their employees, and urging all parties to ensure the security of economic infrastructure,

Recalling its resolution 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013, and expressing grave concern at the threat to peace and security in South Sudan arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Noting with serious concern reports of the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions, made by the United Nations Mine Action Service in Jonglei State in February 2014, and urging all parties to refrain from similar such use in the future,

Welcoming the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development for the deployment of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, calling for the re-deployment and/or progressive withdrawal of armed groups and allied forces invited by either side, consistent with the cessation of hostilities agreement of 23 January 2014, and warning of the serious consequences that could result from any regionalization of the conflict,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003 on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel; resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012, and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict; resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security; resolution 2150(2014) of 16 April 2014 on the prevention of and fight against genocide; and resolution 2151(2014) of 28 April 2014 on security sector reform,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 6 March 2014 and the recommendations contained therein,

Determining that the situation in South Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Endorses* the cessation of hostilities agreement accepted and signed by South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition) on 23 January 2014, also endorses the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan signed on 9 May 2014 by South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition); calls for immediate and full implementation of the agreements by both parties, and expresses its readiness to consider all appropriate measures against those who take action that undermines the peace, stability and security of South Sudan, including those who prevent the implementation of these agreements;

2. *Urges* all parties to engage in an open and fully inclusive national dialogue seeking to establish lasting peace, reconciliation and good governance, including through the full and effective participation of youth, women, diverse communities, faith groups, civil society and the formerly detained Sudan People's Liberation Movement leaders, encourages the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the United Nations to reach a peace agreement between the parties, and further urges them to ensure that child protection provisions are integrated into all peace negotiations and peace agreements;

3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan until 30 November 2014, and also decides that the Mission shall, within the authorized troop ceiling of 12,500 set out in paragraph 8 below, include a component consisting, inter alia, of three battalions, with additional responsibility for protecting the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development as set out in paragraph 4 (d) below, as well as implementing the overall mandate of the Mission as set out in paragraphs 4 (a), (b) and (c) below, consistent with paragraph 5 below;

4. *Also decides* that the mandate of the Mission shall be as follows, and authorizes the Mission to use all means necessary to perform the following tasks:

(a) *Protection of civilians:*

- (i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission's child protection and women's protection advisers;
- (ii) To deter violence against civilians, including foreign nationals, especially through proactive deployment, active patrolling with particular attention to displaced civilians, including those in protection sites and refugee camps, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders, and identification of threats and attacks against the civilian population, including through regular interaction with the civilian population and closely with humanitarian, human rights and development organizations, in areas at high risk of conflict, including, as appropriate, schools, places of worship, hospitals and the oil installations, in particular when the Government of South Sudan is unable or failing to provide such security;
- (iii) To implement a Mission-wide early warning strategy, including a coordinated approach to information-gathering, monitoring, verification, early warning and dissemination, and response mechanisms, including response mechanisms to prepare for further potential attacks on United Nations personnel and facilities;
- (iv) To maintain public safety and security within and of the Mission's protection of civilians sites;
- (v) To exercise good offices, confidence-building and facilitation in support of the Mission's protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children, including to facilitate intercommunal reconciliation in areas of high risk of conflict as an essential part of long-term State-building activity;

- (vi) To foster a secure environment for the eventual safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees, including, where compatible and in strict compliance with the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, through monitoring of, ensuring the maintenance of international human rights standards by, and specific operational coordination with the police services in relevant and protection-focused tasks, in order to strengthen the protection of civilians;
- (b) *Monitoring and investigating human rights:*
- (i) To monitor, investigate, verify and report publicly and regularly on abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those that may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity;
 - (ii) To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict by accelerating the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for grave violations against children;
 - (iii) To coordinate with, and offer technical support to, where appropriate, the African Union Commission of Inquiry for South Sudan;
- (c) *Creating the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance:*
- (i) To contribute to the creation of the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including by helping to establish the necessary security conditions and by exercising its good offices, confidence-building and facilitation, so as to allow, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel to all those in need in South Sudan and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to internally displaced persons and refugees;
 - (ii) To ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel where appropriate, and to ensure the security of installations and equipment necessary for the implementation of mandated tasks;
- (d) *Supporting the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement:*
- (i) To ensure proper coordination with the Joint Technical Committee, Monitoring and Verification Mechanism and Monitoring and Verification Teams, as appropriate;
 - (ii) To provide mobile and dedicated fixed site security to the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as established in line with the decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority at its meetings held on 31 January and 13 March 2014;
 - (iii) To provide support to the work of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism as described in the cessation of hostilities agreement;
- 5. *Emphasizes* that the protection of civilians, as described in paragraph 4 (a) above, must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources within the Mission;
 - 6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for South Sudan, to continue to direct the operations of an integrated Mission, coordinate all activities of the United Nations system in South Sudan, and support a coherent international approach to achieving peace in South Sudan;
 - 7. *Endorses* the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in his report of 6 March 2014 to increase the overall force levels of the Mission to support its restructured mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of the present resolution;
 - 8. *Decides* that the Mission shall consist of a military component of up to 12,500 troops of all ranks and of a police component, including appropriate formed police units, of up to 1,323 personnel; and that the civilian component shall be reduced accordingly to tasks outlined in paragraph 4 above; requests that the Secretary-General provide detailed information on force generation, restructuring of the Mission force, logistical support and enablers, including as part of his regular reports; and requests the Secretary-General to review needs on the ground and provide an updated assessment of the force's operations, deployment and future requirements 120 days after the present resolution;
 - 9. *Requests* the Mission to focus and streamline its activities across its military, police and civilian components in order to achieve progress on the tasks outlined in paragraph 4 above, recognizes that certain Mission tasks will therefore be ceased, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to undertake a full personnel review in June 2014 and to include the details in his next regular report on the Mission;
 - 10. *Expresses its intention* to keep the requirements and composition of Mission components under active review, and to review this mandate and make any necessary adjustments, at an appropriate stage in the implementation of a credible peace agreement between the parties;
 - 11. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary, in accordance with paragraph 8 above, to expedite force and asset generation and, as necessary, discontinue the inter-mission cooperation already authorized under resolution 2132(2013);
 - 12. *Requests* the Mission to increase its presence and active patrolling in areas of high risk of conflict, high concentrations of internally displaced persons, including as guided by its early warning strategy, and key routes for population movement, and to conduct regular reviews of its geographic deployment to ensure that its forces are best placed to protect civilians, and requests the Secretary-General to provide updates on these reviews as part of his regular reports;
 - 13. *Further requests* that the Mission continue to ensure full compliance with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and keep the Security Council fully informed about the progress of the Mission in this regard, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action, including predeployment awareness training, and to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

14. *Encourages* the Mission to fully implement the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, and requests the Secretary-General to include progress made in implementing the policy in his reports to the Council;

15. *Condemns in the strongest terms* attacks on and threats made to Mission personnel and United Nations facilities, including violations of the status-of-forces agreements, stresses that such attacks may constitute war crimes, demands that all parties respect the inviolability of United Nations premises and immediately desist and refrain from any violence against those gathered at United Nations facilities, and stresses that efforts to undermine the ability of the Mission to implement its mandate and attacks on United Nations personnel will not be tolerated;

16. *Demands* that the Government of South Sudan and all relevant parties cooperate fully in the deployment, operations and monitoring, verification and reporting functions of the Mission, in particular by guaranteeing the safety, security and unrestricted freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel, throughout the territory of South Sudan, and further calls upon the Government to ensure freedom of movement for internally displaced persons, including those leaving and entering protection of civilians sites, and to continue to support the Mission by the allocation of land for protection of civilians sites;

17. *Also demands* that all parties allow, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies to all those in need and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to internally displaced persons and refugees, and stresses that any returns of internally displaced persons or refugees must be undertaken on a voluntary and informed basis in conditions of dignity and safety;

18. *Further demands* that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence, human rights violations and abuses, violations of international humanitarian law, including gender-based violence, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and violations and abuses against children in violation of applicable international law such as those involving their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, abduction and attacks against schools and hospitals, strongly urges the Government of South Sudan to fully and immediately implement its action plan to end and prevent child recruitment signed on 12 March 2012, further strongly urges the opposition forces to fully and immediately implement their commitment to end grave violations against children, signed on 10 May 2014, and calls for specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence in accordance with resolutions 1960(2010) and 2106(2013);

19. *Calls upon* the Government of South Sudan to move forward expeditiously and transparently to complete the investigations of allegations of human rights violations and abuses consistent with international standards, to hold to account all those responsible for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law and to ensure that all victims of sexual violence have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, and to safeguard equal respect for the rights of women and girls in these processes;

20. *Emphasizes* the importance of the full and effective participation of women at all levels in the implementation of agreements and in the prevention and resolution of con-

flict and peacebuilding more broadly, calls upon all parties to take measures to ensure women's full and effective representation and leadership in all conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts, including through support to women's civil society organizations and incorporating gender expertise in peace talks, encourages troop- and police-contributing countries to take measures to increase the deployment of women in the military, police and civilian components of the Mission, and reaffirms the importance of appropriate gender expertise and training in all missions mandated by the Council;

21. *Condemns* attacks on oil installations, petroleum companies and their employees, and the continued fighting around these facilities, and urges all parties to ensure the security of economic infrastructure;

22. *Requests* that the Secretary-General report to the Council on the implementation of the mandate of the Mission every 60 days following the adoption of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General (July). In response to Security Council resolution 2155(2014) (see p. 336), the Secretary-General submitted a July report [S/2014/537] on developments in South Sudan, including the reconfiguration of UNMISS and the personnel review. The third session of the peace process opened on 28 April, culminating on 5 May in the signing by the Government and SPLM/A in Opposition of an agreement by which the parties recommitted themselves to the cessation of hostilities agreement of 23 January (see p. 335). On 6 May, the parties adopted an agenda for the political dialogue, which included discussions on a permanent ceasefire, transitional governance and interim arrangements and a permanent constitution. On 9 May, President Salva Kiir and former Vice-President Riek Machar met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and signed an agreement to resolve the crisis in South Sudan, under which they pledged to facilitate the deployment of the IGAD monitoring and verification mechanism. On 19 May, the talks adjourned without agreement on the matrix prepared by the IGAD mediation team outlining the steps required for the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement or a framework for discussions on transitional arrangements.

On 5 April, the IGAD mediation team launched an SPLM intra-party dialogue forum, with a view to addressing the party leadership dispute and creating an environment conducive to political talks. On 10 June, the President and Riek Machar met on the margins of a summit held by the IGAD Heads of State and agreed to complete dialogue on the formation of a transitional government of national unity within 60 days. Nevertheless, SPLM/A in Opposition refused to attend multi-stakeholder round-table negotiations when they were reconvened on 20 June, citing objections to the presence of stakeholders other than those from the Government. The negotiations were subsequently adjourned.

On 11 May, the President outlined his road map for the peace process, stating that it should begin with a cessation of hostilities, the full deployment of the IGAD monitoring and verification mechanism, including its protection force, and the opening of humanitarian access. Thereafter, and pending the implementation of a comprehensive ceasefire, the Government would consider an amnesty for the crimes committed during the crisis and a transitional government of national unity would be formed. The transitional Government would then organize an all-inclusive national reconciliation conference in Juba, which would address the key political and security reforms necessary for the stability of the country, thereby setting the stage for a constitutional review process and the holding of general elections in 2017 or 2018. In a 19 June address to the parliament, the President stressed that a transitional Government could be formed only under his leadership, although additional posts might be created in the Government and the parliament for SPLM/A in Opposition, and that no elected leader would be removed from his or her post. During a consultative conference held in Nasser, Upper Nile State, from 15 to 18 April, SPLM/A in Opposition announced the launch of a resistance movement and recommended the immediate establishment of a federal system of government under a new leadership, following the signature of a comprehensive peace agreement.

On 5 April, the Government announced the establishment of a national platform for peace and reconciliation. On 9 May, separate talks in Addis Ababa between the Government and the SSDM/A Cobra Faction concluded with the signing of an agreement on the resolution of the conflict. The agreement established a Greater Pibor administrative area as an autonomous area within Jonglei State. It also stipulated that Cobra Faction forces were to be integrated into the ranks of the army, the national police and other security forces. On 10 June, the IGAD Heads of State announced their intention to consider punitive measures against those continuing to undermine the peace process.

Following the adoption of resolution 2155(2014) (see p. 336), UNMISS realigned its organizational structure and activities with reprioritized mandated tasks. The Mission revised its civilian protection strategy and developed a new human rights strategy and a strategy for the creation of conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It also developed arrangements for supporting the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement.

On 8 May, UNMISS released its comprehensive public report on grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by both sides during the crisis in South Sudan. The report documented the widespread negative consequences of the conflict on the human rights situation in the country, including the deliberate targeting of civilians in extrajudicial and other unlawful killings, arbitrary

arrest and detention, gender-based violence, enforced disappearances and ill-treatment and torture. UNMISS worked with the IGAD joint technical commission in Juba and provided logistical support for the deployment of IGAD monitoring and verification teams on the ground.

Security Council mission. On 8 August [S/2014/579], the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that it would send a mission to Africa and Europe, visiting Belgium and the Netherlands as well as Kenya, Somalia (see p. 355) and South Sudan, from 8 to 14 August. Eugène-Richard Gasana (Rwanda) and Samantha Power (United States) would lead the mission in South Sudan. Briefing the Council on 19 August [S/PV.7245], the United States reported that the mission held candid exchanges with President Kiir and Riek Machar. It stated there was no military solution to the crisis in South Sudan. It was time to resume the peace talks led by IGAD and develop plans for a transitional Government of national unity. There had to be accountability for the perpetrators of human rights violations, and the parties had to cooperate with UNMISS. The Council was prepared to impose consequences on spoilers of the peace process.

Report of Secretary-General (September). In his September report [S/2014/708] on South Sudan, the Secretary-General stated that the parties to the conflict in the country made little progress towards a political settlement. They continued to engage in sporadic fighting on the ground, with severe consequences for the civilian population, a deepening humanitarian crisis and violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement. Following a six-week adjournment, peace negotiations were reconvened in Addis Ababa on 4 August, but on 16 August, talks were again derailed when the Government suspended its participation until SPLM/A in Opposition signed the cessation of hostilities implementation matrix. The AU Peace and Security Council, in a 21 August communiqué, urged the parties to end the fighting and conclude the IGAD-facilitated talks. On 25 August, the IGAD Heads of State held an extraordinary summit in Addis Ababa. The summit, chaired by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, was attended by the President of South Sudan and the leader of SPLM/A in Opposition. The IGAD Heads of State and Government endorsed a protocol on agreed principles on transitional arrangements towards resolution of the crisis, and called on stakeholders to conclude an agreement establishing a transitional Government of national unity within 45 days and to operationalize the principles set out in the protocol. The protocol confirmed President Kiir as the Head of State, Government and the armed forces for an interim period of 30 months, as well as his powers to appoint a Vice-President. SPLM/A in Opposition was granted authority to nominate a Prime Minister, mandated to coordinate the implementation of the agenda for the transition. The IGAD Heads of State also

called on SPLM/A in Opposition to sign the protocol, and stated that those who obstructed the peace process would be held responsible and be denied participation in future political arrangements. SPLM/A in Opposition rejected the protocol, stating that it heavily favoured President Kiir and the Government, and denied having signed the implementation matrix. On 24 July, President Kiir signed a decree establishing the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, an autonomous area within Jonglei State. On 30 July, David Yau Yau was appointed Chief Administrator of the Area and was sworn in by the President on 12 August.

In Bunj, Maban County, between 3 and 5 August, Maban Defence Force elements targeted Nuer civilians and killed five Nuer humanitarian workers. UNMISS forces arrived in Bunj on 6 August to extract non-essential humanitarian workers and secure the airstrip as well as the compound of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On 26 August, an UNMISS helicopter crashed during a flight from Wau to Bentiu. Three of the four Russian crew members died in the crash. The preliminary finding of a civil aviation investigation team confirmed that the helicopter was shot down by hostile fire. The Secretary-General condemned the killing of humanitarian workers and the shooting down of the UNMISS helicopter.

Communiqué. A 7 November letter [S/2014/796] from the Secretary-General addressed to the Security Council contained a joint communiqué on the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence. The communiqué was signed by the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, and President Kiir during the Special Representative's visit to South Sudan (6–11 October), in accordance with Council resolution 2106(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 1112]. Elements of the communiqué included issuing and enforcing clear orders prohibiting sexual violence; developing action plans specific to SPLA and the South Sudan National Police Service; fighting the impunity of perpetrators and ensuring the access of survivors to justice through reform and capacity-building in the justice sector; ensuring the provision of appropriate services for survivors of sexual violence; and speaking out publicly against conflict-related sexual violence.

Report of Secretary-General (November). In November [S/2014/821], the Secretary-General reported that on 22 September, IGAD opened the sixth session of the peace talks in Barhir Dar, Ethiopia. Participants agreed on the duration of the transition period, decision-making mechanisms during the transition, a bicameral structure for the legislature, the size of the Cabinet, and the right of the appointee to a new Prime Minister post to contest elections at the end of the transition period. The 45-day deadline set out in the 25 August protocol expired on 9 October, without agreement on the formation of a transi-

tional Government of national unity. Following the adjournment of the negotiations on 5 October, the IGAD Special Envoys engaged in a series of consultations with IGAD Heads of State and Government, as well as with President Kiir, opposition leader Riek Machar and other stakeholders, on the way forward. On 22 October, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Dessalegn, the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, and the Prime Minister of Uganda, Ruhakana Rugunda, met with President Kiir in Juba.

From 15 to 18 October, talks aimed at promoting reconciliation within the leadership of SPLM took place in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The talks were facilitated by the ruling party of Tanzania, Chama Cha Mapinduzi. Officials from SPLM, SPLM/A in Opposition, and formerly detained SPLM leaders established a framework for intra-SPLM dialogue. On 20 October, the framework document was signed by the SPLM factions in the presence of President Kiir and Riek Machar. On 23 and 24 October, President Kiir held consultative meetings with his Cabinet and the SPLM/A leadership on the 22 October "mini-summit" in Juba, as well as on the outcome of the first round of the intra-SPLM leadership dialogue in Arusha. SPLM/A in Opposition also held internal consultations in Nairobi in late October.

The sixth IGAD summit, devoted solely to the crisis in South Sudan, was held in Addis Ababa from 6 to 8 November. Participants included members of SPLM/A in Opposition, led by Riek Machar; formerly detained SPLM leaders; representatives of civil society; faith leaders; and members of the "women's block". The summit focused on reaching a power-sharing agreement between President Salva Kiir and former Vice-President Riek Machar. It granted the warring parties 15 days to consult with their constituencies on the structure of the transitional government. Resolutions adopted at the summit committed the parties to an unconditional, complete and immediate end to all hostilities. IGAD leaders resolved that any further violation of the cessation of hostilities agreement by any party would "invite" collective punitive action by the IGAD region against those responsible for such violations, including asset freezes, travel bans and an arms embargo. The IGAD leaders also authorized the IGAD region to intervene directly in South Sudan to protect life and restore peace. On 9 November, the Government and SPLM/A in Opposition signed the implementation matrix for the cessation of hostilities agreement of 23 January.

As at 5 November, the UNMISS troop strength stood at 10,335 military personnel out of an authorized military component of 12,500. As at 11 November, the actual strength of the UNMISS police component stood at 913 officers out of an authorized ceiling of 1,323 personnel.

The Secretary-General condemned the abduction of three UNMISS contractors and one UN staff

member, two of whom remained missing. He called on the parties concerned to release the abductees and called on the Government to accord due process to the detainees. The Secretary-General recommended that the UNMISS mandate be extended for six months.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 7322], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2187(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/844] was submitted by Australia, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions 1996(2011) of 8 July 2011, 2046(2012) of 2 May 2012, 2057(2012) of 5 July 2012, 2109(2013) of 11 July 2013, 2132(2013) of 24 December 2013 and 2155(2014) of 27 May 2014,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of South Sudan, and recalling the importance of the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Recalling its resolution 2086(2013) of 21 January 2013 and reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Expressing grave alarm and concern regarding the further deteriorating political, security and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan resulting from the internal Sudan People's Liberation Movement political dispute and subsequent violence caused by the country's political and military leaders,

Strongly condemning reported and ongoing human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving extrajudicial killings, ethnically targeted violence, rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment and use of children, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, violence aimed at spreading terror among the civilian population, and attacks on schools, places of worship, hospitals and United Nations and associated peacekeeping personnel, by all parties, including armed groups and national security forces, as well as the incitement to commit such abuses and violations, further condemning harassment and targeting of civil society, humanitarian personnel and journalists, and emphasizing that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights must be held accountable and that the Government of South Sudan bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including from potential crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Expressing deep concern over the large-scale displacement of persons and deepening humanitarian crisis, stressing the responsibility borne by all parties to the conflict for the suffering of the people of South Sudan, and the necessity of ensuring that the basic needs of the population are met, commending United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners for their efforts to provide urgent and coordinated

support to the population, calling upon all parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies to all those in need and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to internally displaced persons and refugees, condemning all attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities, and recalling that attacks against humanitarian personnel and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival may amount to violations of international humanitarian law,

Commending the Intergovernmental Authority on Development initiative, as supported by the United Nations and the African Union, in establishing a forum for political and security dialogue, and expecting all parties to participate in this process and respect the decisions reached by successive Assemblies of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority,

Welcoming the cessation of hostilities and status of detainees agreements of 23 January 2014 mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, consensus on the declaration of principles between the parties, the establishment of the ceasefire Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan of 9 May 2014 and the rededication and implementation modalities for the cessation of hostilities agreement, of 9 November 2014, while strongly condemning repeated and continuing violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement by all parties, which undermine peace efforts,

Acknowledging with appreciation the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Assembly of Heads of State and Government communiqués of 10 June, 25 August and 7 November 2014, highlighting commitments in the areas of inclusive governance, security, economic and financial management, justice, humanitarian action and constitutional process, and the African Union Peace and Security Council communiqués of 12 June and 17 September 2014,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the actions taken by United Nations Mission in South Sudan peacekeepers and troop- and police-contributing countries to protect civilians, including foreign nationals, under threat of physical violence and to stabilize the security situation within and beyond Mission sites, expressing appreciation for the efforts of the Mission to support internally displaced persons seeking protection on its sites, while underlining the necessity to find sustainable solutions for the internally displaced population, including in alternative safe and secure locations, and in keeping with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and further expressing appreciation for those Member States that have deployed troops and police after the adoption of resolution 2155(2014),

Taking note with interest of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan interim human rights report, of 21 February 2014, and its report entitled "Conflict in South Sudan: A Human Rights Report", of 8 May 2014,

Expressing grave concern that, according to the report of 8 May 2014, there are reasonable grounds to believe that war crimes and crimes against humanity, including extrajudicial killings, rape and other acts of sexual violence, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests and detention have been committed by both government and opposition forces,

Stressing the increasingly urgent and imperative need to end impunity in South Sudan and to bring to justice perpetrators of such crimes,

Welcoming the work of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan in independent and public human rights monitoring, investigation and reporting, and the interim report of the Commission of Inquiry, of 27 June 2014, and anticipating with interest its findings and recommendations,

Strongly condemning the use of radio to broadcast hate speech and transmit messages instigating sexual violence against a particular ethnic group, which has the potential to play a significant role in promoting mass violence and exacerbating conflict, calling upon the Government of South Sudan to take the appropriate measures in order to deter such activity, and further urging all parties to desist from these actions and instead to contribute to promoting peace and reconciliation among the communities,

Emphasizing that persistent barriers to full implementation of resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 will only be dismantled through dedicated commitment to women's empowerment, participation and human rights, and through concerted leadership, consistent information and action, and support, to build women's engagement in all levels of decision-making,

Expressing deep concern at persistent restrictions placed upon the movement and operations of the Mission, strongly condemning the attacks by government and opposition forces and other groups on United Nations and Intergovernmental Authority on Development personnel and facilities, including the December 2012 downing of a United Nations helicopter by the Sudan People's Liberation Army, the April 2013 attack on a United Nations convoy, the December 2013 attack on the Mission camp in Akobo, the August 2014 shooting down of a United Nations helicopter by unidentified armed groups, the August 2014 arrest and detention of an Intergovernmental Authority monitoring and verification team, the detentions and kidnappings of United Nations and associated personnel and the 2014 attacks on the Mission camps in Bor and Bentiu, and calling upon the Government of South Sudan to complete its investigations of these attacks in a swift and thorough manner and to hold those responsible to account,

Reiterating its request that the Mission take additional measures, as appropriate, to ensure the security of its air operations in South Sudan, and report thereon to the Security Council,

Stressing the importance of effective engagement and liaison with local communities, both within and outside the protection of civilians sites, in order to fulfil the protection of civilians mandate of the Mission,

Expressing grave concern regarding the threats made to oil installations, petroleum companies and their employees, and urging all parties to ensure the security of economic infrastructure,

Recalling its resolution 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013, and expressing grave concern at the threat to peace and security in South Sudan arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Noting with serious concern reports of the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions, made by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations in Jonglei State in February 2014,

and urging all parties to refrain from similar such use in the future,

Welcoming the deployment by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, calling for the redeployment and/or progressive withdrawal of armed groups and allied forces invited by either side, consistent with the cessation of hostilities agreement of 23 January 2014, and warning of the serious consequences that could result from any regionalization of the conflict,

Welcoming also the appointment by the Secretary-General of Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj as his Special Representative for South Sudan and Head of the Mission and Lieutenant General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam as the Force Commander of the Mission,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003 on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel; resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict; and resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace, and security; resolution 2150(2014) of 16 April 2014 on the prevention of and fight against genocide; resolution 2151(2014) of 28 April 2014 on security sector reform; and resolution 2171(2014) of 21 August 2014 on conflict prevention,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General of 30 September and 18 November 2014 and the recommendations contained therein,

Determining that the situation in South Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reiterates its endorsement* of the cessation of hostilities agreement accepted and signed by the Government of South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition) on 23 January 2014, further reiterates its endorsement of the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis in South Sudan signed on 9 May 2014 by the Government of South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition); endorses the rededication and implementation modalities for the cessation of hostilities agreement, of 9 November 2014; calls for immediate and full implementation of the agreements by both parties, and expresses its intention to consider all appropriate measures, in consultation with relevant partners, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union, against those who take action that undermines the peace, stability and security of South Sudan, including those who prevent the implementation of these agreements;

2. *Urges* all parties to engage in an open and fully inclusive national dialogue seeking to establish lasting peace, reconciliation and good governance, including through the full and effective participation of youth, women, diverse communities, faith groups, civil society and the formerly

detained Sudan People's Liberation Movement leaders, encourages the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the United Nations to reach a peace agreement between the parties, and further urges them to ensure that child protection provisions are integrated into all peace negotiations and peace agreements;

3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan until 30 May 2015;

4. *Also decides* that the mandate of the Mission shall be as follows, and authorizes the Mission to use all means necessary to perform the following tasks:

(a) *Protection of civilians:*

- (i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission's child protection and women's protection advisers;
- (ii) To deter violence against civilians, including foreign nationals, especially through proactive deployment, active patrolling with particular attention to displaced civilians, including those in protection sites and refugee camps, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders, and identification of threats and attacks against the civilian population, including through regular interaction with the civilian population and closely with humanitarian, human rights and development organizations, in areas at high risk of conflict, including, as appropriate, schools, places of worship, hospitals and the oil installations, in particular when the Government of South Sudan is unable or failing to provide such security;
- (iii) To implement a Mission-wide early warning strategy, including a coordinated approach to information-gathering, monitoring, verification, early warning and dissemination, and response mechanisms, including response mechanisms to prepare for further potential attacks on United Nations personnel and facilities;
- (iv) To maintain public safety and security within and of the Mission's protection of civilians sites;
- (v) To exercise good offices, confidence-building and facilitation in support of the Mission's protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children, including to facilitate intercommunal reconciliation in areas at high risk of conflict as an essential part of long-term State-building activity;
- (vi) To foster a secure environment for the eventual safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees, including, where compatible and in strict compliance with the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, through monitoring of, ensuring the maintenance of international human rights standards by, and specific operational coordination with the police services in relevant and protection-focused tasks, in order to strengthen the protection of civilians;

(b) *Monitoring and investigating human rights:*

- (i) To monitor, investigate, verify and report publicly and regularly on abuses and violations of human

rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those that may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity;

- (ii) To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict by accelerating the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for grave violations against children;
- (iii) To coordinate with, and offer technical support to, where appropriate, the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan;

(c) *Creating the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance:*

- (i) To contribute to the creation of the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including by helping to establish the necessary security conditions and by exercising its good offices, confidence-building and facilitation, so as to allow, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel to all those in need in South Sudan and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to internally displaced persons and refugees;
- (ii) To ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel where appropriate, and to ensure the security of installations and equipment necessary for the implementation of mandated tasks;

(d) *Supporting the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement:*

- (i) To ensure proper coordination with the Joint Technical Committee, the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism and monitoring and verification teams, as appropriate;
- (ii) To provide mobile and dedicated fixed site security to the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as established in line with the decisions taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority at its meetings held on 31 January and 13 March 2014;
- (iii) To provide support to the work of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism as described in the cessation of hostilities agreement;

5. *Emphasizes* that the protection of civilians, as described in paragraph 4 (a) above, must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources within the Mission;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for South Sudan, to continue to direct the operations of an integrated Mission, coordinate all activities of the United Nations system in South Sudan and support a coherent international approach to achieving peace in South Sudan;

7. *Endorses* the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in his report of 18 November 2014 to maintain the

overall force levels of the Mission to support its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* that the Mission shall consist of a military component of up to 12,500 troops of all ranks and of a police component, including appropriate formed police units, of up to 1,323 personnel; and that the civilian component shall continue to be reduced according to tasks outlined in paragraph 4 above; requests that the Secretary-General provide detailed information on force generation, restructuring of the Mission force, logistical support and enablers, including as part of his regular reports; and requests the Secretary-General to review needs on the ground and provide an updated assessment of the force's operations, deployment and future requirements in his regular reports to the Security Council;

9. *Requests* the Mission to continue to focus and streamline its activities across its military, police and civilian components in order to achieve progress on the tasks outlined in paragraph 4 above, and recognizes that certain Mission tasks will therefore be ceased;

10. *Expresses its intention* to keep the requirements and composition of Mission components under active review, and to review this mandate and make any necessary adjustments, at an appropriate stage in the implementation of a credible peace agreement between the parties;

11. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary, in accordance with paragraph 8 above, to expedite force and asset generation;

12. *Requests* the Mission to increase its presence and active patrolling in areas of high risk of conflict, high concentrations of internally displaced persons, including as guided by its early warning strategy, in both government- and opposition-held areas, and key routes for population movement, and to conduct regular reviews of its geographic deployment to ensure that its forces are best placed to protect civilians, and requests the Secretary-General to provide updates on these reviews as part of his regular reports;

13. *Further requests* that the Mission continue to ensure full compliance with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council fully informed about the progress of the Mission in this regard, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action, including predeployment awareness training, and to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

14. *Encourages* the Mission to fully implement the human rights due diligence policy, and requests the Secretary-General to include progress made in implementing the policy in his reports to the Council;

15. *Condemns in the strongest terms* attacks on and threats made to Mission personnel and United Nations facilities, as well as those of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, such as the August 2014 shooting down of a United Nations helicopter by unidentified armed groups, the August 2014 arrest and detention of an Intergovernmental Authority monitoring and verification team, the detentions and kidnappings of United Nations and associated personnel, and the 2014 attacks on the Mission camps in Bor and Bentiu, stresses that such attacks may constitute violations of the status-of-forces agreement and/or war crimes, demands that all parties respect the inviolability of United Nations premises and immediately desist and refrain from any violence against those gathered at United Nations facilities, further demands the immediate and safe release of detained

and kidnapped United Nations and associated personnel, and stresses that efforts to undermine the ability of the Mission to implement its mandate and attacks on United Nations personnel will not be tolerated;

16. *Reiterates its request* that the Mission take additional measures, as appropriate, to ensure the security of its air operations in South Sudan and report thereon to the Council;

17. *Demands* that the Government of South Sudan and all relevant parties cooperate fully in the deployment, operations and monitoring, verification and reporting functions of the Mission, in particular by guaranteeing the safety, security and unrestricted freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel throughout the territory of South Sudan, and further calls upon the Government to ensure freedom of movement for internally displaced persons, including those leaving and entering protection of civilians sites, and to continue to support the Mission by the allocation of land for protection of civilians sites;

18. *Also demands* that all parties allow, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies to all those in need and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to internally displaced persons and refugees, and stresses that any returns of internally displaced persons or refugees must be undertaken on a voluntary and informed basis in conditions of dignity and safety;

19. *Further demands* that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence, human rights violations and abuses, violations of international humanitarian law, including rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and violations and abuses against children in violation of applicable international law such as those involving their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, abduction and attacks against schools and hospitals, strongly urges the Government of South Sudan to fully and immediately implement its revised action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, as recommitted to on 24 June 2014, and its military order of 14 August 2013 prohibiting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to attack, occupy or use for any purposes schools, school buildings or property, takes note of the national launch on 29 October 2014 of the "Children, Not Soldiers" campaign by the Government, and further strongly urges the opposition forces to fully and immediately implement their commitment to end grave violations against children, signed on 10 May 2014;

20. *Expresses grave concern* at the findings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict of rampant sexual violence, and welcomes the joint communiqué of South Sudan and the United Nations on the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence of 11 October 2014, urges the Government of South Sudan to implement without delay the commitments made in accordance with resolutions 1960(2010) and 2106(2013), calls upon the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (in Opposition) to sign and implement such a communiqué, and further calls for specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence in accordance with resolutions 1960(2010) and 2106(2013);

21. *Calls upon* the Government of South Sudan to move forward expeditiously and transparently to complete the investigations of allegations of human rights violations

and abuses consistent with international standards, to hold to account all those responsible for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law and to ensure that all victims of sexual violence have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, and to safeguard equal respect for the rights of women and girls in these processes;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of the full and effective participation of women at all levels in the implementation of agreements and in the prevention and resolution of conflict and peacebuilding more broadly, calls upon all parties to take measures to ensure women's full and effective representation and leadership in all conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts, including through support to women's civil society organizations and incorporating gender expertise in peace talks, encourages troop- and police-contributing countries to take measures to increase the deployment of women in the military, police and civilian components of the Mission, and reaffirms the importance of appropriate gender expertise and training in all missions mandated by the Council;

23. *Condemns* attacks on oil installations, petroleum companies and their employees, and the continued fighting around these facilities, and urges all parties to ensure the security of economic infrastructure;

24. *Requests* that the Secretary-General report to the Council on the implementation of the mandate of the Mission in two written reports, no later than 16 February 2015 and 30 April 2015 respectively, which could include the issues of accountability in South Sudan;

25. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/118], the Secretary-General stated that, following the sixth summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government, government consultations were held in Juba on 24 November. On the issue of power-sharing, the Government concluded that executive power during the transition should remain with the President and the Vice-President, offering SPLM/A in Opposition a position of Prime Minister without executive power. It recommended that the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of opposition forces be completed before the end of a pre-transition period of three months, and that deliberations on a federal system of governance be held through the constitution-making process during the transition.

SPLM/A in Opposition held consultations from 6 to 12 December in Pagak, Upper Nile State. It concluded that an executive Prime Minister from SPLM/A in Opposition should lead the transitional Government, with a ceremonial head of State; the Government and SPLM/A in Opposition should maintain separate armies throughout the transitional period until the holding of elections; and South Sudan should be reorganized as a federation of 21 states. On 18 December, the negotiation committees on leadership, security arrangements, and economic, wealth sharing, and public finance management resumed talks in Addis Ababa, with limited results. The IGAD Special Envoys adjourned the talks on 21 December.

Children and armed conflict

Report of Secretary-General (May). In May [A/68/878-S/2014/339], the Secretary-General issued his report on children and armed conflict, which included information on grave violations committed against children during the conflict in South Sudan in 2013. The United Nations received credible information on grave violations against children by both pro-Government forces and opposition forces aligned with Riek Machar Teny. Thousands of children were reportedly mobilized in Upper Nile and Jonglei States by the Nuer ethnic group aligned with opposition forces, also known as the "White Army". Thousands of children were killed or maimed, raped, displaced or orphaned. Attacks on schools and hospitals and their military use by all parties were also widespread, depriving children of access to education and health care, and adding to the humanitarian crisis.

Before the crisis that began in December 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 242], the United Nations verified the recruitment and use of 162 children, all boys and mostly between 14 and 17 years of age. Of the 162 children, 99 were associated with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), 3 with South Sudan national police services and 35 with militia allied to David Yau Yau in Jonglei, and 25 were mobilized from Lou Nuer tribe to conduct community policing in Jonglei State. Sixty-three children were killed and 83 injured prior to the crisis. Child casualties resulted from clashes between SPLA and armed groups, from intercommunal conflict, and from five separate incidents involving explosive remnants of war.

The United Nations verified information of seven cases of sexual violence affecting seven girls. SPLA soldiers were allegedly responsible for those incidents. Twenty-six new incidents of military use of schools and hospitals by SPLA, South Sudan national police services and non-State actors were documented, affecting the access to education of approximately 13,000 children. The United Nations received reports of 250 children abducted as a result of intercommunal conflict.

Report of Secretary-General (December). In response to Security Council resolution 1612(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 863], the Secretary-General submitted a December report [S/2014/884] on the situation of children affected by armed conflict in South Sudan from 1 March 2011 to 30 September 2014. All parties to the conflict committed grave violations against children, including the recruitment and use of children in armed forces and groups, the killing and maiming of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks against schools and hospitals and the military use of schools, abduction, and the denial of humanitarian access. A total of 1,243 incidents were reported, affecting 68,776 children (33,207 boys, 22,487 girls and 13,082 sex unknown), of which 920 incidents affecting 54,674 children (25,018 boys, 17,744 girls and

11,912 sex unknown) were verified. The military use of schools alone affected the access of more than 50,000 children to education and safe spaces. The number and scale of violations had increased dramatically since the outbreak of conflict between SPLA and SPLA in Opposition in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 242]. From December 2013 to September 2014, the United Nations received reports of 591 incidents affecting 23,041 children, of which 475 incidents affecting 14,537 children were verified. More incidents were reported during that period than in 2012 and 2013 combined. From March 2011 to September 2014, a total of 64 children (18 boys and 46 girls) either escaped or were rescued from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

South Sudan renewed the action plan on the release of children from armed forces and groups, which was first signed on 20 November 2009 by SPLA, by signing a revised action plan on 13 March 2012. Prior to the escalation of armed conflict in December 2013, South Sudan made progress in implementing the action plan. From January 2009 to 15 December 2013, 955 children associated with SPLA were released. With the escalation of violence in December 2013, however, those efforts were not only suspended, but largely reversed.

On 24 June 2014, during the visit to South Sudan of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs and SPLA signed a re-commitment to the revised action plan, which contained explicit commitments to put an end to the recruitment, use, killing and maiming of children and sexual violence against children; stop and prevent attacks on schools and hospitals; vacate schools used by government forces and reinstate them as safe havens for learning; and investigate and hold accountable perpetrators of those grave violations. On 10 September, military orders were issued by the acting SPLA Chief of General Staff to reinforce previous orders prohibiting the recruitment and use of children and the occupation and military use of schools. At the end of September, 27 schools were still being used for military purposes by armed actors.

The Secretary-General condemned all grave violations committed against children. He urged the Government of South Sudan to take all the necessary measures to ensure accountability and to redouble efforts to advance the investigations in progress and prosecute those responsible for grave violations against children. He called on the Security Council, the AU and IGAD to ensure that accountability was central to any political settlement. The Secretary-General also urged the Government to develop a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for children separated from armed forces and groups, ensuring that all children were afforded adequate support and reintegration opportunities, with particular attention to the specific needs of girls.

UNMISS

With the establishment of South Sudan as an independent country on 9 July 2011, and the ending of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) on that day [YUN 2011, p. 196], the Security Council, by resolution 1996(2011) [ibid., p. 197], established the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) with the priority mandate of the protection of civilians and achievement of an improved security environment. In response to the crisis that began in December 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 242], the Council, by resolution 2132(2013) [ibid., p. 243], temporarily increased the overall troop and police strength of UNMISS to 12,500 personnel and the police component to 1,323 personnel. By resolution 2155(2014) of 27 May 2014 (see p. 336), the Council extended the UNMISS mandate until 30 November, with the responsibility of protecting the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism in addition to protecting civilians, monitoring and investigating human rights violations, creating the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and supporting the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement of 23 January. By resolution 2187(2014) of 25 November (see p. 343), the Council extended the UNMISS mandate until 30 May 2015.

Appointments. By a 12 June letter [S/2014/413], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Lieutenant General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam (Ethiopia) as the UNMISS Force Commander, replacing Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi (Ghana), who completed his assignment on 9 June. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 16 June [S/2014/414].

On 18 July [S/2014/516], the Secretary-General informed the Council of his intention to appoint Ellen Margrethe Løj (Denmark) as his Special Representative and Head of UNMISS. She would succeed Hilde Johnson (Norway), who completed her assignment on 7 July. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 22 July [S/2014/517].

Financing

The report of the Secretary-General on the performance of the UNMISS budget for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/616] showed an expenditure of \$838,447,000 gross (\$819,717,500 net) against an apportionment of \$839,490,000 gross (\$821,466,800 net). The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of \$1,043,000 with respect to the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013; and on the treatment of other income/adjustments for the period ended 30 June 2013, amounting to \$21,953,700.

In an April note [A/68/828] on financing UNMISS for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, the Secretary-General recommended that the

Assembly authorize him to enter into commitments in the amount of \$599,319,100 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015; assess the amount of \$48,332,185 for the period from 1 to 15 July 2014; and assess the amount of \$550,986,915 for the period from 16 July to 31 December 2014 at a monthly rate of \$99,886,517, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission.

In May [A/68/782/Add.17], ACABQ recommended that the unencumbered balance of \$1,043,000 for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, as well as other income/adjustments in the amount of \$21,953,700 for the period ended 30 June 2012, be credited to Member States. It also recommended that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of \$586,044,400 for the maintenance of UNMISS for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 and assess that amount at a monthly rate of \$97,674,067, should the Council decide to extend the Mission's mandate.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/929], adopted **resolution 68/293** without vote [agenda item 160].

Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1996(2011) of 8 July 2011, by which the Council established, as from 9 July 2011, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for an initial period of one year with the intention to renew for further periods as might be required, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2155(2014) of 27 May 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 November 2014 and decided that the Mission will consist of a military component of up to 12,500 troops of all ranks and a police component, including formed police units, of up to 1,323 personnel,

Recalling also its resolution 66/243 A of 24 December 2011 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/280 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 52.3 million United States dollars, representing some 2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 91 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Recalls* paragraphs 17 and 36 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to consider the administrative arrangements associated with inter-mission cooperation during the second part of the resumed sixty-ninth session, while maintaining existing arrangements;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Financing arrangements for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014

13. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 in a total amount not exceeding 580,830,400 dollars;

Financing of the appropriation

14. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 484,025,333 dollars for the period from 1 July to 30 November 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

15. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 8,253,500 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July to 30 November 2014;

16. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 96,805,067 dollars for the period from 1 to 31 December 2014, at a monthly rate of 96,805,067 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

17. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,650,700 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission for the period from 1 to 31 December 2014;

18. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 22,996,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

19. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 22,996,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 18 above;

20. *Decides* that the increase of 706,300 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 22,996,700 dollars referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above;

21. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

23. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan".

In October [A/69/550], the Secretary-General submitted a budget for UNMISS for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 in the amount of \$1,097,894,000 gross (\$1,078,806,400 net). The budget provided for the deployment of up to 166 military observers, 12,334 military contingent personnel, 663 UN police officers, 660 formed police unit personnel, 1,002 international staff, 1,608 national staff and 480 United Nations Volunteers. The proposed resources represented an increase of 18.8 per cent from the 2013–2014 apportionment. The increase was primarily attributable to the increase in the authorized strength of the military contingent and formed police unit personnel, as mandated by the Council in resolution 2155(2014) (see p. 336). The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly appropriate \$1,097,894,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of the amount of \$580,830,400 previously authorized for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 under the terms of resolution 68/293 (see p. 349); and assess \$517,063,600 for the period from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015, should the Council decide to extend the mandate of the Mission, in addition to the amount already assessed for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014.

In December [A/69/650], ACABQ recommended that the proposed requirement of \$1,097,894,000 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 be reduced by \$578,900. Accordingly, it recommended that the Assembly appropriate \$1,097,315,100 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of the amount of \$580,830,400 previously authorized for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, should the Council decide to extend the UNMISS mandate; and assess \$516,484,700 for the period from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015, in addition to the amount of \$580,830,400 already assessed for the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014.

The General Assembly, by **decision 69/554** of 29 December, decided that the agenda item on UNMISS financing would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/686], adopted **resolution 69/260** without vote [agenda item 162].

Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in South

Sudan and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1996(2011) of 8 July 2011, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and the subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 2187(2014) of 25 November 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 May 2015,

Recalling also its resolution 66/243 A of 24 December 2011 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/293 of 30 June 2014,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

2. *Takes note* of paragraph 70 of the report of the Advisory Committee, requests the Secretary-General to make flight services available to non-Mission entities and passengers, as appropriate and when compatible with the interests of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and to report thereon in the context of the next performance reports;

3. *Decides* to defer consideration of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 79 and 80 of the report of the Advisory Committee until the second part of the resumed sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure more effective cooperation among the Mission, the United Nations country team and other United Nations entities with a field presence, in line with their respective roles and mandates;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mitigate the environmental impact of the Mission in full compliance with the relevant rules and regulations, including but not limited to the United Nations environmental and waste management policy and procedures;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

6. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan the amount of 1,097,315,100 United States dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 for the maintenance of the Mission, inclusive of the amount of 580,830,400 dollars already authorized for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 under the terms of its resolution 68/293;

Financing of the appropriation

7. *Decides*, taking into account the amount of 580,830,400 dollars already apportioned under the terms of its resolution 68/293 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 425,041,775 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 May 2015 for the maintenance of the Mission, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

8. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States,

as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 7,553,533 dollars, representing the additional estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 May 2015;

9. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 91,442,925 dollars for the period from 31 May to 30 June 2015, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

10. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,587,067 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission for the period 31 May to 30 June 2015;

11. *Also decides* to keep under review during its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan".

Chad

Children and armed conflict

In May [A/68/878-S/2014/339], the Secretary-General issued his report on children and armed conflict, which included information on grave violations committed against children during armed conflict in Chad in 2013. The Secretary-General's Special Representative, jointly with UNICEF, visited Chad in May 2013. Chadian authorities renewed their commitment to engage constructively with the United Nations to expedite the implementation of the action plan to end and prevent underage recruitment in the Armée nationale tchadienne, signed in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 223]; appointed a high-level focal point in that regard; and adopted a road map detailing 10 specific, time-bound measures to achieve compliance with the plan. Chad had taken significant steps to fulfil its obligations. A central child protection unit in the Ministry of Defence and one in each of the eight "defence and security zones" were established to coordinate the monitoring and protection of children's rights and to implement awareness-raising activities. Between August and October 2013, the Government and the United Nations jointly conducted screening and age verification of approximately 3,800 troops of the Armée nationale tchadienne in all eight zones. Since July 2013, troops of the Armée nationale tchadienne to be deployed in Mali had received predeployment training on child protection and international humanitarian law. In October 2013, a presidential directive confirmed 18 years as the minimum age for recruitment into the armed and security forces. It also established age verification procedures and instructed that "penal and disciplinary sanctions" would be taken against those violating the orders. On

4 February 2014, the recruitment and use of children was explicitly criminalized through the adoption of a presidential decree.

The Secretary-General said that Chad should pursue comprehensive screening and training of its armed and security forces to continue to prevent the presence of children. Although no new cases of the recruitment of children were documented by the United Nations in 2013 and no children were found during the joint screening exercises, interviews confirmed that, in the past, soldiers under the age of 18 were integrated into the *Armée nationale tchadienne* from armed groups.

The crisis in the Central African Republic (see p. 219), porous borders and weak State authority in the country resulted in the flow of approximately 80,000 refugees, including unaccompanied children, into Chad. In May 2013, the United Nations received allegations of cross-border recruitment of Chadian children by Séléka. Children associated with the ex-Séléka were reportedly crossing the border into the Central African Republic in the Tissi area.

Somalia

Despite progress towards key political milestones in Somalia, the security situation remained volatile in 2014. The Interim Juba Administration was formally inaugurated in January, and the implementation of the New Deal Somalia Compact, which included peacebuilding and State-building goals, gained momentum. A revised version of Vision 2016, the Federal Government's policy for the political transformation of Somalia, was issued in June. The AU Peace and Security Council adopted a revised concept of operations for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which focused on operations against Al-Shabaab strongholds. AMISOM and the Somali National Army launched joint operations in the country that resulted in significant gains in territory controlled by Al-Shabaab. The capital Mogadishu, however, experienced protracted insecurity, as targeted killings and attacks against federal institutions and international personnel continued. Security within Mogadishu International Airport was bolstered with the deployment of the United Nations Guard Unit. On 1 September, the leader of Al-Shabaab was killed in a missile strike in Shabelle Hoose. The Secretary-General visited Mogadishu in October and called on Somali political leaders to work together and avoid political instability. On 14 October, the Puntland State of Somalia and the Federal Government signed an agreement to resume relations, which had been suspended since 2013.

In May, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) for one year.

Political and security developments

Report of Secretary-General (March). In a March report on Somalia [S/2014/140], submitted in response to Security Council resolution 2102(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 252], the Secretary-General provided information on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and assessed the political and security implications of UN deployments in the country. The report covered the period from 16 November 2013 to 15 February 2014.

Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon lost a no-confidence motion in the Somali Federal Parliament on 2 December 2013. Following extensive consultations, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud nominated Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed as the new Prime Minister on 12 December 2013. He was endorsed by the Parliament on 21 December 2013. On 17 January 2014, Mr. Ahmed announced the formation of his expanded cabinet composed of 25 members, including two women. On 20 January, the Interim Juba Administration was formally inaugurated in Kismaayo in a ceremony attended by international partners. On 8 January, the Parliament of Puntland elected Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas as President for a five-year term. In "Somaliland", relations between the Government and the opposition deteriorated. The Justice and Welfare Party claimed it had been denied freedom of movement and permission to hold peaceful demonstrations against the Government. From 16 to 19 January, a third round of talks between the Federal Government of Somalia and "Somaliland" was hosted by Turkey in Istanbul. The two delegations adopted a communiqué establishing a joint secretariat in Turkey to institutionalize the process and agreeing that talks should take place every 90 days. The communiqué also provided for the establishment of a joint air traffic control board, and condemned the "atrocities committed" by the former Siad Barre regime, particularly in "Somaliland".

The security situation in Mogadishu remained volatile. Three justice officials were murdered on 23 and 30 November 2013, and a member of parliament was killed by a car bomb outside Villa Somalia on 6 December 2013. On 1 January 2014, Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for a coordinated suicide car bombing that killed at least 12 people and injured several others at the Jazeera Hotel. On 10 February, a car bomb targeted a meeting at the Oriental Hotel, killing two and injuring five. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for a 13 February attack by a suicide car bomber on a UN convoy. Several Somali bystanders were killed in the attack.

Puntland also experienced renewed Al-Shabaab activities. On 5 December 2013, an Al-Shabaab suicide car bomber hit a convoy of the Puntland security forces in central Boosaaso, killing three police officers and four civilians and injuring several others. In early

January 2014, Al-Shabaab carried out four raids against police checkpoints outside Boosaaso. On 21 January, two roadside explosions in Gaalkacyo killed three civilians and injured 13 others. Nevertheless, the elections in Puntland were held without major security incidents. “Somaliland” was relatively calm.

Implementation of the New Deal Somalia Compact and its peacebuilding and State-building goals gained momentum. The establishment of the UN multi-partner trust fund was completed. The United Nations continued to assist the Federal Government of Somalia with the provision of technical advice on the formation of the Federal Member States. UNSOM provided the Federal Government of Somalia with an options paper on State formation, including confidence-building measures.

Significant progress was made towards the implementation of resolution 2124(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 256]. On 21 January, the AU Peace and Security Council adopted a revised concept of operations for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which focused on operations against Al-Shabaab’s strongholds and a degradation of its capability, which were to be followed by stabilization and drawdown phases. The United Nations worked with AMISOM and the Federal Government of Somalia on the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in Somalia, which included the development of a joint strategy and the establishment of a working group, as provided for in the revised Concept of Operations. As at 12 February, a total of 357 international and 973 national staff members from UNSOM and UN agencies, funds and programmes were deployed. The UNSOM deployment strength alone stood at 65 international and 19 national staff.

The Secretary-General observed that the change of Prime Minister and the appointment of a new cabinet through a constitutional process showed that Somalia’s political institutions continued to evolve positively. Inter-clan conflicts remained a potent source of instability and insecurity, however. He called on the Federal Government of Somalia and AMISOM to prevent the export of Somali charcoal and on Member States to prevent the import of that material, in compliance with the ban set out in Security Council resolution 2036(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 244].

Letter of Secretary-General. In a 1 April letter [S/2014/239], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that UNSOM had requested the consent of the Federal Government of Somalia to have a UN guard unit deployed to Somalia as soon as possible to strengthen UNSOM security within Mogadishu International Airport, as recommended by the Secretary-General in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 256]. Authorities confirmed their consent for the deployment of the guard unit, and Uganda agreed to contribute 410 personnel. They were expected to deploy by the end of April.

Report of Secretary-General (May). In May [S/2014/330], the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council on major developments in Somalia from 16 February and 30 April. He stated that the priority of the Federal Government was to advance the state formation process, in particular by establishing interim regional administrations. That process, however, remained rife with challenges. On 20 February, the Interim Juba Administration announced new ministerial and deputy ministerial appointments. Following elections in January, the government of Puntland continued to enhance its relations with regional and international actors. In March, the President of Puntland, Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas, visited Ethiopia and Djibouti.

Tension between Puntland and “Somaliland” increased over the contested Sool and Sanaag regions. The 16 March visit to the disputed Sanaag region by the President of “Somaliland”, Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud Silanyo, triggered a military build-up on both sides. Accusations made by senior Puntland officials that “Somaliland” was supporting Al-Shabaab further strained relations. “Somaliland” refuted the allegations and called on the Federal Government to intervene. On 15 April, “Somaliland” deployed its forces to the disputed Sool region and occupied the town of Taleex. The troops left the town the next day.

Early in March, AMISOM and the army launched Operation Eagle. During the first phase of the joint operations, significant gains were achieved on multiple fronts in territory controlled by Al-Shabaab. At the same time, Mogadishu experienced protracted insecurity. Mortar shelling, likely perpetrated by Al-Shabaab with the support of local sympathizers, continued. On 7 April, two international consultants working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) were shot dead by a security guard at the airport in Gaalkacyo. The assailant and three suspects were arrested.

UNSOM provided advice to the Federal Government, at its request, on the implementation of the Vision 2016 political road map. UNSOM and UNDP, with support from DPA, deployed an electoral adviser to provide advice to the Federal Government on electoral priorities and legislation. On 26 February, the United Nations signed a status-of-mission agreement with the Federal Government.

The Secretary-General said that the lack of military helicopters threatened to limit the impact of the extended effort authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2124(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 256]. He called on Member States to expedite the deployment of helicopters and other force enablers in line with the AMISOM concept of operations. The Secretary-General also urged the Federal Government and the international community to accelerate the implementation of their political and financial commitments under the Somali Compact and Vision 2016.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 May [meeting 7188], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2158(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/377] was submitted by Australia, Chad, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions and the statements by its President on the situation in Somalia,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Somalia,

Commending the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia for its first 12 months of operation, and noting with appreciation the Assistance Mission's positive impact in supporting the Federal Government of Somalia in the peace and reconciliation process,

Underlining the need for urgent progress in the development of a federal system, the review and implementation of the Somali Provisional Federal Constitution and preparations for elections in 2016,

Expressing concern about the heightened tension in Baidoa and the potential for confrontation between Puntland and "Somaliland", and encouraging in this regard the Federal Government of Somalia to strengthen dialogue with Puntland and resume talks with "Somaliland" in order to find peaceful solutions in line with the Provisional Federal Constitution,

Recognizing the primary responsibility of the Federal Government of Somalia, with the support of the African Union Mission in Somalia, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and international partners, in consolidating security and establishing basic governance and the rule of law, as well as providing humanitarian access and basic social services, in areas secured by the African Union Mission and the Somali security forces,

Recalling the need for all parties to respect the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the positive relationship between the Assistance Mission and the African Union Mission, underlining the fundamental importance of both Missions working closely together in accordance with their respective Security Council mandates, and noting the need for continuing collaboration with the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia,

Underlining the importance of the Assistance Mission working closely with the Federal Government of Somalia, and in that context welcoming the Assistance Mission's plans to relocate outside of Mogadishu International Airport as well as expanding its presence and work into the regions as security conditions permit,

Welcoming the achievements of the current joint Somali National Army and African Union Mission operations, underlining its expectation that these operations will continue, and commending the extraordinary bravery and sacrifices made by African Union Mission and National Army personnel in pursuit of peace and stability in Somalia,

Expressing concern that the African Union Mission has not yet established a Civilian Casualty Tracking Analysis

and Response Cell, the importance of which was stressed in Council resolutions 2093(2013) of 6 March 2013 and 2124(2013) of 12 November 2013,

Expressing concern also at the reports of violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, violence against women, children and journalists, arbitrary detention and pervasive sexual violence in Somalia, including in camps for internally displaced persons, and underscoring the need to end impunity, uphold human rights and hold accountable those who commit such crimes,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia for a period of 12 months, as follows:

(a) To provide United Nations "good offices" functions, supporting the Federal Government of Somalia's peace and reconciliation process;

(b) To support the Federal Government of Somalia, and the African Union Mission in Somalia as appropriate, by providing strategic policy advice on peacebuilding and State-building, including on:

(i) Governance, including public financial management;

(ii) Security sector reform, the rule of law (including police, justice and corrections within the framework of the United Nations Global Focal Point), disengagement of combatants, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, maritime security and mine action;

(iii) The development of a federal system, the constitutional review process and subsequent referendum on the constitution, and preparations for elections in 2016;

(c) To assist the Federal Government of Somalia in coordinating international donor support, working with bilateral and multilateral partners, in full respect of the sovereignty of Somalia, in particular on:

(i) Security sector assistance, including with the Government's requirements under the terms of the partial suspension of the arms embargo;

(ii) Maritime security;

(d) To help to build the capacity of the Federal Government of Somalia:

(i) To promote and protect human rights and women's empowerment, including through the provision of gender advisers and human rights advisers;

(ii) To promote child protection and to implement the relevant Government action plans on children and armed conflict, including through the provision of child protection advisers;

(iii) To prevent conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, including through the provision of women's protection advisers;

(iv) To strengthen Somalia's justice institutions and help to ensure accountability, in particular with respect to crimes against women and children;

(e) To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Security Council on, and help to prevent:

(i) Any abuses or violations of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law committed in Somalia, including through the deployment of human rights observers;

(ii) Any violations or abuses committed against children in Somalia;

- (iii) Any violations or abuses committed against women, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict;
2. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Assistance Mission as an integrated mission under the strategic direction of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, welcomes also the reopening of the United Nations common compound in Mogadishu on 24 April 2014, encourages the United Nations country team to continue relocating to Mogadishu as security conditions permit, and reiterates paragraph 5 of resolution 2102(2013) of 2 May 2013 and paragraph 17 of resolution 2124(2013) regarding the structures and reporting lines of the Assistance Mission;
3. *Stresses* the importance it attaches to the Assistance Mission working with the Federal Government of Somalia in supporting the Government's stabilization efforts and coordinating international assistance, in particular in areas recovered from Al-Shabaab;
4. *Encourages* the Assistance Mission, the African Union Mission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to continue to develop and implement joint activities, in accordance with their respective mandates, in support of peacebuilding and State-building in Somalia, and in this regard requests the Special Representative to align closely United Nations country team activities in Somalia with the priorities of the Assistance Mission and to coordinate United Nations activities with the Federal Government of Somalia as well as the African Union (including the African Union Mission), the Intergovernmental Authority, the European Union and other regional, bilateral and multilateral partners;
5. *Highlights* that the long-term security of Somalia is dependent on the development of the Somali National Army, underlines the importance of continued coordinated and transparent support from the international community to develop the National Army, further underlines the leadership role for the Federal Government of Somalia in this process, and encourages Member States to support, as requested by the Council in paragraph 14 of resolution 2124(2013), the National Army, including through donations to the United Nations trust fund to provide non-lethal logistical support to the National Army when it is on joint operations with the African Union Mission and which are part of the overall strategic concept for the Mission;
6. *Reiterates* the importance of the Assistance Mission adhering to the Secretary-General's human rights due diligence policy and the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse;
7. *Condemns in the strongest terms* recent terrorist attacks perpetrated by Al-Shabaab in Somalia and the region, notes with concern the number of attacks in Mogadishu, expresses further concern that Al-Shabaab continues to carry out terrorist acts in Somalia, underlines the importance of holding perpetrators to account (in full compliance with international law), and reiterates that terrorist attacks will not lessen its resolve to support the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia;
8. *Welcomes* the recent deployment of a United Nations guard unit to strengthen security at Assistance Mission compounds;
9. *Calls upon* the Federal Government of Somalia to develop a clear plan towards elections in 2016, including

achieving key milestones such as a referendum on the constitution and the formation of interim State administrations, expresses its willingness to support such a plan, and in this context encourages close dialogue between the Federal Government and appropriate regional administrations;

10. *Expresses deep concern* at the humanitarian situation in Somalia, highlights in particular that 2.9 million Somali people require humanitarian assistance, underlines the risk of further deterioration, highlights the urgent need for funding for the United Nations Consolidated Appeal for Somalia, which is only 19 per cent funded, and reiterates its demand that all parties allow and facilitate full, safe and unhindered access for the timely delivery of aid to persons in need across Somalia;

11. *Stresses* the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to ensure that all perpetrators of serious violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable, and emphasizes the importance of the Assistance Mission supporting the Federal Government in developing and implementing a national strategy for preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence;

12. *Calls upon* the Assistance Mission to implement its mandate consistent with, inter alia, resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, deplores the ongoing incidents of sexual violence in Somalia, welcomes the Federal Government of Somalia's development of a national action plan to end sexual violence as well as the implementation plan for the joint communiqué of the Federal Government of Somalia and the United Nations on the prevention of sexual violence, and encourages the United Nations, Member States and regional and international organizations to support implementation;

13. *Strongly condemns* reports of grave violations against children, welcomes the signing by the Federal Government of Somalia of the standard operating procedures for the reception and handover of children separated from armed groups, and urges the Federal Government to continue to implement the action plans on children and armed conflict, including bringing perpetrators of such acts to justice;

14. *Expresses concern* at the reports of human rights violations received by the Assistance Mission and its partners, some of which were allegedly perpetrated in relation to the continuing military campaign, and at the forced evictions of internally displaced persons, stresses the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to ensure that all perpetrators of such violations are held accountable, and calls upon the Federal Government to promote respect for and actively protect human rights, including of persons in detention centres;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of the implementation of the mandate of the Assistance Mission, including through oral updates and no fewer than three written reports, with the first written report by 25 September 2014, and every 120 days thereafter;

16. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Security Council mission. On 8 August [S/2014/579], the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that it would send a mission to Africa and Europe, visiting Belgium and the Netherlands as well as Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan

(see p. 341), from 8 to 14 August. Usman Sarki (Nigeria) and Mark Lydall Grant (United Kingdom) would lead the mission in Somalia. Briefing the Council on 19 August [S/PV.7245], the United Kingdom stated that President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Prime Minister Abdiwali Sheikh Ahmed and Speaker of the Parliament Mohamed Osman Jawari had hailed the United Nations as a key contributor to the protection of the sovereignty of Somalia. The mission had reiterated the importance of holding a referendum on the Constitution in 2015 and democratic elections in 2016, and had underlined the importance of the participation of women in the peace and reconciliation process. It had also reiterated the Council's determination to end the threat posed by Al-Shabaab to Somalia and the region.

Report of Secretary-General (September). In response to Security Council resolution 2158(2014) (see p. 354), the Secretary-General submitted a September report on Somalia [S/2014/699] covering major developments during the period from 1 May to 31 August. He stated that in May and June, tensions between State institutions threatened to derail political progress when a group of parliamentarians petitioned the President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, to resign for failing to implement the Federal Government's six-pillar policy for the political transformation of Somalia, known as Vision 2016. The President's 16 June address to the Federal Parliament helped to defuse the situation. A revised version of Vision 2016 was issued by the Federal Government on 30 June.

On 23 June, the Federal Government brokered an agreement on south-west Somalia between the two rival political initiatives based in Baidoa to establish an interim south-west administration. Key figures in the six-region state initiative, however, opposed the agreement. There were also positive developments in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Agreement of August 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 259]. The militia leader, Barre Adan Shire ("Hiralle"), returned to Mogadishu on 30 August 2014. About 118 members of his militia also returned and surrendered their weapons to AMISOM. Tension in the disputed Sool region grew when "Somaliland" forces seized the town of Taleex on 12 June. On 26 June, "Somaliland" forces withdrew from Taleex, leaving behind a pro-"Somaliland" Dhulbahante militia.

The overall security situation in Somalia remained volatile. In Mogadishu, the number of incidents attributed to Al-Shabaab abated during May and June, but incidents during Ramadan increased. On 24 May, Al-Shabaab fighters stormed the Federal Parliament building. Three AMISOM and 11 Somali troops were killed, while more than 20 others were injured, including a parliamentarian. Al-Shabaab vowed more attacks against the Federal Government and those it termed "invaders", including the United Nations. In July, Mogadishu experienced a surge in targeted assassinations. The victims comprised members of the

Somali security forces and civilians, including two parliamentarians. On 30 August, Al-Shabaab attacked a National Intelligence and Security Agency prison in Mogadishu, resulting in the deaths of seven attackers and three Agency personnel.

Al-Shabaab continued to exert pressure in southern and central Somalia. It intensified guerrilla activities around Ceel Buur and Buulobarde in the Galguduud and Hiraan regions. On 26 June, insurgents carried out a complex attack against a Djiboutian base in Buulobarde, killing two Somali troops. On 8 May, Al-Shabaab fighters clashed with Puntland security forces in Feloja, Bari region. On 4 August, the Police Commissioner for the Bari region was killed in a suicide bombing in Boosaaso.

In support of the implementation of Vision 2016, UNSOM and UNDP deployed a chief electoral adviser and a senior electoral affairs officer to Somalia. UNSOM conducted a baseline survey of small arms and ammunition in Mogadishu. Its results were included in the Federal Government's report to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) [YUN 1992, p. 202] and 1907(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 299] concerning Somalia and Eritrea. The Ministry of National Security, supported by UNSOM, convened the first meeting of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Working Group in Mogadishu on 10 July. Logistical support continued to be provided by the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM, also to the army, as authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 2124(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 256] and the revised AMISOM concept of operations. It made arrangements to support the second joint AMISOM and army offensive, "Operation Indian Ocean", which began in August.

Security within Mogadishu International Airport was bolstered with the deployment of the United Nations Guard Unit, as recommended by the Secretary-General in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 256]. The Unit's first-phase deployment of 332 personnel within the main compounds at the airport was completed on 15 June. The second-phase deployment of 78 personnel was completed on 8 and 9 July, thereby achieving the mandated strength of 410 troops. The amendment to the status-of-mission agreement, aimed at facilitating the Unit's operations, remained under negotiation with the Federal Government.

The Secretary-General said that it was essential that military operations be followed by efforts to establish or improve governance structures in recovered areas and by the delivery of basic services, including security. He called on the international community to rally behind the Federal Government to consolidate those gains.

Year-end developments. In a later report on the situation in Somalia [S/2015/51], covering the period from 1 September to 31 December, the Secretary-General stated that a serious political crisis in the

Federal Government arose following the 25 October announcement by Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed of a cabinet reshuffle, which reportedly targeted a Minister close to the President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. On 6 December, Parliament voted to withdraw confidence in the Prime Minister. On 17 December, President Mohamud nominated Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke as Prime Minister-designate. The nomination was confirmed by Parliament on 24 December. Despite the crisis, some progress was made on key political milestones. On 21 December, the Federal Parliament approved the Boundaries and Federation Commission and the Government budget for 2015. On 9 December, the Speaker established the Parliamentary Oversight Committee, a key body for the constitutional review process.

On 14 October, the Puntland State of Somalia and the Federal Government signed an agreement to resume relations, which had been suspended since August 2013. The implementation of the Addis Ababa Agreement of August 2013 continued in the Juba regions. A reconciliation conference was held in Kismaayo from 16 September to 5 October, with about 900 delegates attending. Some key stakeholders were absent, however, including opponents of the Interim Juba Administration. Representatives of the latter convened a parallel conference in Garbahaarrey from 6 to 23 October.

In “Somaliland”, political tension between the government and the opposition intensified over delays in approving the National Electoral Commission of “Somaliland” and passing the voter/civic registration act. On 15 November, parliamentarians from the ruling Kulmiye Party of “Somaliland” tabled an impeachment motion against the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi “Irro”. On 29 November, Parliament endorsed the National Electoral Commission.

On 1 September, the leader of Al-Shabaab, Sheikh Muktar Abu Zubeyr (Ahmed Godane), was killed in a missile strike in Shabelle Hoose. Al-Shabaab subsequently announced the name of their new leader, Al Sheikh Ahmad Dirie Abdikadir Umar (Abu Ubaidah), reasserted its alliance with the Al-Qaeda network, and announced its resolve to conduct reprisal attacks.

Attacks spiked in Mogadishu, targeting primarily officials of the Federal Government and causing civilian casualties. The United Nations was affected by security incidents on 3 and 14 December, resulting in a number of deaths and injuries among Somali bystanders and private security guards. On 25 December, elements of Al-Shabaab launched an attack inside the AMISOM protected area resulting in the death of AMISOM troops and civilian contractors.

In southern and central Somalia, AMISOM and the Somali National Army completed “Operation Indian

Ocean” on 31 October. The operation recovered Jalaqsi, the last remaining Al-Shabaab stronghold in the Hiraan region, on 3 September; Rage-Ceele and Cadale in Shabelle Dhexe on 30 September and 1 October, respectively; and Baraawe in Shabelle Hoose, the key operational and revenue-generating hub of Al-Shabaab, on 6 October. AMISOM and security forces of the Interim Juba Administration captured Bulagadud, in Juba Hoose, on 7 October, but lost Koday Island to Al-Shabaab on 8 November. Stability had not yet been achieved in most of the recovered areas, and Al-Shabaab continued to attack AMISOM and Somali National Army forces. In Puntland, security forces began extensive operations against Al-Shabaab in the Galgala Mountains.

On 29 October, the Secretary-General visited Mogadishu with the President of the World Bank Group, the President of the Islamic Development Bank, and senior representatives of the African Development Bank and the AU. The Secretary-General met with the leadership of the Federal Government and other local stakeholders, including representatives of Somali women’s and youth groups. He called on Somali political leaders to work together and avoid political instability, and reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to supporting Somalia.

UNSOM and UNDP strengthened the Integrated Electoral Support Group to facilitate electoral planning, and to provide strategic advice to the Federal Government, Parliament and UNSOM leadership. The United Nations supported the Federal Government in implementing its stabilization strategy, which envisaged the establishment of caretaker administrations and law enforcement actors in 25 government-identified districts. Thirteen of those districts were recovered through joint operations, and caretaker administrations were deployed to 12 of them. UNDP and the Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs were implementing a \$3.5 million Peacebuilding Fund project to address the critical gaps in recovered areas.

Humanitarian conditions in Somalia worsened owing to drought, conflict, rising food prices, access constraints and slow funding. Over 1 million people were unable to meet their basic food requirements, an increase of 20 per cent since February 2014. The number of people in need of humanitarian aid reached 3.2 million. Over 2,200 violent incidents against humanitarian personnel and assets were recorded during the year, involving the deaths of six aid workers, the abduction of six, the injury of two, the attempted rape of one and the arrest of three people.

(For information on the human rights situation in Somalia, see p. 000.)

Piracy

In response to Security Council resolution 2125(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 260], the Secretary-General

submitted an October report [S/2014/740] on piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia covering major developments from 21 October 2013 to 15 October 2014. Piracy and armed robbery remained a major threat to shipping off the coast of Somalia, although there were no incidents of hijacking of commercial vessels during the reporting period. Thirteen incidents were reported to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the first three quarters of 2014, compared to some 20 attacks or attempted attacks by Somali pirates in 2013. Recent figures represented a significant decrease in incidents when compared to the 75 ships attacked in 2012 and 237 ships targeted by Somali pirates in 2011. No large commercial vessel had been hijacked or held for ransom by Somali pirates in more than two years.

The international community achieved considerable success in its efforts to combat Somali piracy as a result of close cooperation between and among States, regions, organizations, the maritime industry, the private sector and civil society. A Somali pirate kingpin, Mohamed Abdi Hassan, known as “Afweyne”, was arrested in October 2013 in Brussels. Another pirate leader, Mohamed Garfanji, was arrested in August 2014 in Mogadishu. The Secretary-General condemned the killing of two experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Clément Gorrisen and Simon Davis, at the airport in Gaalkacyo, Puntland on 7 April. The experts were on a mission related to illicit financial flows accruing from piracy. Two suspects were in custody in a prison built under the UNODC Maritime Crime Programme. As at 13 October, 37 seafarers continued to be held hostage by Somali pirates.

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia held an extended gathering (Djibouti, 10–15 November), which included the fifteenth plenary session and the fourteenth meeting of the Board of the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. The fifteenth meeting of the Board of the Trust Fund and the sixteenth plenary session of the Contact Group were held in New York on 13 and 14 May 2014, respectively. During the reporting period, the Board approved 12 projects worth \$4.9 million.

The Secretary-General observed that long-term security off the Somali coast needed to be built up onshore. Reconstructing Somalia’s judicial and maritime security capacity was the most critical and challenging element of the international community’s counter-piracy efforts. A strategy that supported security sector reform and the creation of regional security architecture would be critical to sustaining the progress achieved. The UN system and UNSOM were committed to supporting the Federal Government and the people of Somalia by providing assistance with regard to long-term sustainable development, institution-building and peacebuilding.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 November [meeting 7309], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2184(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/803] was submitted by 14 Member States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the situation in Somalia, especially resolutions 1814(2008) of 15 May 2008, 1816(2008) of 2 June 2008, 1838(2008) of 7 October 2008, 1844(2008) of 20 November 2008, 1846(2008) of 2 December 2008, 1851(2008) of 16 December 2008, 1897(2009) of 30 November 2009, 1918(2010) of 27 April 2010, 1950(2010) of 23 November 2010, 1976(2011) of 11 April 2011, 2015(2011) of 24 October 2011, 2020(2011) of 22 November 2011, 2077(2012) of 21 November 2012 and 2125(2013) of 18 November 2013, as well as the statements by its President of 25 August 2010 and of 19 November 2012,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 16 October 2014, as requested in resolution 2125(2013), on the implementation of that resolution and on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, including Somalia’s sovereign rights in accordance with international law, with respect to offshore natural resources, including fisheries,

While noting that the joint counter-piracy efforts of States, regions, organizations, the maritime industry, the private sector, think tanks and civil society have resulted in a sharp decline in pirate attacks as well as hijackings since 2011, continuing to be gravely concerned by the ongoing threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea pose to the prompt, safe and effective delivery of humanitarian aid to Somalia and the region, to the safety of seafarers and other persons, to international navigation and the safety of commercial maritime routes and to other ships, including fishing activities in conformity with international law, and also gravely concerned by the extended range of the piracy threat into the western Indian Ocean and adjacent sea areas and increased pirate capacities,

Expressing concern about the reported involvement of children in piracy off the coast of Somalia, reported sexual exploitation of women and girls in areas controlled by pirates, as well as their reported coercion to participate in activities that support piracy,

Recognizing the need to investigate and prosecute not only suspects captured at sea, but also anyone who incites or intentionally facilitates piracy operations, including key figures of criminal networks involved in piracy who plan, organize, facilitate or illicitly finance or profit from such attacks, reiterating its concern over persons suspected of piracy having been released without facing justice, and reaffirming that the failure to prosecute persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia undermines anti-piracy efforts,

Further reaffirming that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, sets out the legal framework applicable to activities in the ocean, including countering piracy and armed robbery at sea,

Underlining the primary responsibility of the Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at

sea off the coast of Somalia, and noting the several requests from Somali authorities for international assistance to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia, including the letter dated 4 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations expressing the appreciation of Somali authorities to the Security Council for its assistance, expressing their willingness to consider working with other States and regional organizations to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia and requesting that the provisions of resolution 2125(2013) be renewed for an additional 12 months,

Welcoming the participation of the Federal Government of Somalia and regional partners in the seventeenth plenary session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai on 28 October 2014,

Recognizing the work of the Contact Group to facilitate the prosecution of suspected pirates and to promote the establishment of the Law Enforcement Task Force, an ongoing network and mechanism for sharing information and evidence between investigators and prosecutors, in accordance with international law, welcoming the work of the Working Group on Capacity-Building of the Contact Group to coordinate judicial, penal and maritime capacity-building efforts to enable regional States to better tackle piracy, and welcoming the work of the Working Group on Disrupting Pirate Networks Ashore of the Contact Group to disrupt illicit financial flows linked to piracy,

Welcoming the financing provided by the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (the Trust Fund) to strengthen regional ability to prosecute suspected pirates and imprison those convicted in accordance with applicable international human rights law, noting with appreciation the assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Maritime Crime Programme, and being determined to continue efforts to ensure that pirates are held accountable,

Commending the efforts of the European Union operation Atalanta, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Operation Ocean Shield, the Combined Maritime Forces' Combined Task Force 151 commanded by the Republic of Korea, followed by New Zealand, as well as United States ships assigned to Combined Task Force 151 and North Atlantic Treaty Organization Task Force 508, the counter-piracy activities of the African Union onshore in Somalia and the naval activities of the Southern African Development Community and other States acting in a national capacity in cooperation with Somali authorities and each other to suppress piracy and to protect ships transiting through the waters off the coast of Somalia, and welcoming the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction initiative and the efforts of individual countries, including China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, which have deployed naval counter-piracy missions in the region, as stated in the report of the Secretary-General,

Noting the efforts of flag States in taking measures to permit vessels sailing under their flag transiting the high-risk area to embark vessel protection detachments and privately contracted armed security personnel, and encouraging States to regulate such activities in accordance with applicable international law and permit charters to favour arrangements that make use of such measures,

Noting also the request of some Member States on the need to review the boundaries of the high-risk area on an

objective and transparent basis, taking into account actual incidents of piracy, and noting that the high-risk area is set and defined by the insurance and maritime industry,

Welcoming the capacity-building efforts in the region made by the International Maritime Organization-funded Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (the Djibouti Code of Conduct), the Trust Fund and the activities of the European Union under its Mission on Regional Maritime Capacity-building in the Horn of Africa (EUCAP Nestor), which is working with the Federal Government of Somalia to strengthen its criminal justice system, and recognizing the need for all engaged international and regional organizations to coordinate and cooperate fully,

Supporting the development of a coastal police force, noting with appreciation the efforts made by the International Maritime Organization and the shipping industry to develop and update guidance, best management practices and recommendations to assist ships to prevent and suppress piracy attacks off the coast of Somalia, including in the Gulf of Aden, and the Indian Ocean area, and recognizing the work of the International Maritime Organization and the Contact Group in this regard, noting the efforts of the International Organization for Standardization, which has developed industry standards of training and certification for private maritime security companies when providing privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in high-risk areas, and further welcoming the European Union's EUCAP Nestor, which is working to develop the sea-going maritime security capacities of Somalia, Djibouti, Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania,

Noting with concern that the continuing limited capacity and domestic legislation to facilitate the custody and prosecution of suspected pirates after their capture has hindered more robust international action against the pirates off the coast of Somalia, and too often has led to pirates being released without facing justice, regardless of whether there is sufficient evidence to support prosecution, and reiterating that, consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning the repression of piracy, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation of 10 March 1988 provides for parties to create criminal offences, establish jurisdiction and accept delivery of persons responsible for or suspected of seizing or exercising control over a ship by force or threat thereof or any other form of intimidation,

Underlining the importance of continuing to enhance the collection, preservation and transmission to competent authorities of evidence of acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, welcoming the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and industry groups to develop guidance to seafarers on the preservation of crime scenes following acts of piracy, and noting the importance of enabling seafarers to give evidence in criminal proceedings to prosecute acts of piracy,

Recognizing that pirate networks continue to rely on kidnapping and hostage-taking to help generate funding to purchase weapons, gain recruits and continue their operational activities, thereby jeopardizing the safety and security of civilians and restricting the flow of commerce,

and welcoming international efforts to coordinate the work of investigators and prosecutors, inter alia, through the Law Enforcement Task Force, and collect and share information to disrupt the pirate enterprise, as exemplified by INTERPOL's Global Database on Maritime Piracy, and taking note of the ongoing efforts of the Regional Fusion and Law Enforcement Centre for Safety and Security at Sea, hosted by Seychelles, to combat piracy and transnational organized crime,

Reaffirming international condemnation of acts of kidnapping and hostage-taking, including offences contained within the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, strongly condemning the continuing practice of hostage-taking by pirates operating off the coast of Somalia, expressing serious concern at the inhumane conditions that hostages face in captivity, recognizing the adverse impact on their families, calling for the immediate release of all hostages, and noting the importance of cooperation between Member States on the issue of hostage-taking and the prosecution of suspected pirates for taking hostages,

Commending Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania for their efforts to prosecute suspected pirates in their national courts, and noting with appreciation the assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Maritime Crime Programme, the Trust Fund and other international organizations and donors, in coordination with the Contact Group, to support Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania, Somalia and other States in the region with their efforts to prosecute, or incarcerate in a third State after prosecution elsewhere, pirates, including facilitators and financiers ashore, consistent with applicable international human rights law, and emphasizing the need for States and international organizations to further enhance international efforts in this regard,

Welcoming the readiness of the national and regional administrations of Somalia to cooperate with each other and with States that have prosecuted suspected pirates with a view to enabling convicted pirates to be repatriated back to Somalia under suitable prisoner transfer arrangements, consistent with applicable international law, including international human rights law, and acknowledging the return from Seychelles to Somalia of convicted prisoners willing and eligible to serve their sentences in Somalia,

Recalling the reports of the Secretary-General which illustrate the seriousness of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia and provide useful guidance for the investigation and prosecution of pirates, including on specialized anti-piracy courts,

Stressing the need for States to consider possible methods to assist the seafarers who are victims of pirates, and welcoming in this regard the efforts of the Hostage Support Programme and the new Piracy Survivor Family Fund launched at the recent Contact Group session to provide support to hostages during their release and return home, as well as to their families throughout the hostage situation,

Recognizing the progress made by the Contact Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the use of public information tools to raise awareness of the dangers of piracy and highlight the best practices to eradicate this criminal phenomenon,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support efforts to enhance Somalia's maritime security and law

enforcement capacities, and noting efforts by the Office and the United Nations Development Programme and the funding provided by the Trust Fund, the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and other donors to develop regional judicial and law enforcement capacity to investigate, arrest and prosecute suspected pirates and to incarcerate convicted pirates consistent with applicable international human rights law,

Bearing in mind the Djibouti Code of Conduct, noting the operations of information-sharing centres in Yemen, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania and the regional maritime training centre in Djibouti, and recognizing the efforts of signatory States to develop the appropriate regulatory and legislative frameworks to combat piracy, enhance their capacity to patrol the waters of the region, interdict suspect vessels and prosecute suspected pirates,

Emphasizing that peace and stability within Somalia, the strengthening of State institutions, economic and social development and respect for human rights and the rule of law are necessary to create the conditions for a durable eradication of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, and further emphasizing that Somalia's long-term security rests with the effective development by Somali authorities of the Somali National Security Forces,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Indian Ocean Rim Association at the 14th meeting of its Council of Ministers to bolster maritime security and safety, including through the announcement of the second Indian Ocean Dialogue, which will continue to explore options to enhance counter-piracy cooperation, including through improved maritime information-sharing arrangements and stronger national legal capacity and laws, encouraging the Association to pursue efforts that are complementary to and coordinated with the ongoing work of the Contact Group, and welcoming Somalia's application for membership in the Association as an important step towards building closer regional cooperation on maritime security and other issues,

Recognizing that the ongoing instability in Somalia and the acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off its coast are inextricably linked, and stressing the need to continue the comprehensive response by the international community to repress piracy and armed robbery at sea and tackle its underlying causes, recognizing the need to undertake long-term and sustainable efforts to repress piracy and the need to create adequate economic opportunities for the citizens of Somalia,

Determining that the incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, as well as the activity of pirate groups in Somalia, are an important factor exacerbating the situation in Somalia, which continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reiterates* that it condemns and deplores all acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia;

2. *Recognizes* that the ongoing instability in Somalia is one of the underlying causes of the problem of piracy and contributes to the problem of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, while piracy in turn exacerbates instability by introducing large amounts of illicit cash that fuels additional crime and corruption in Somalia;

3. *Stresses* the need for a comprehensive response to repress piracy and tackle its underlying causes by the international community;

4. *Underlines* the primary responsibility of Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, and urgently requests the Somali authorities, with assistance from the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations entities, to pass a comprehensive set of anti-piracy and maritime laws without further delay and establish security forces with clear roles and jurisdictions to enforce these laws, and to continue to develop, with international support as appropriate, the capacity of Somali courts to investigate and prosecute persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery, including key figures of criminal networks involved in piracy who plan, organize, facilitate or illicitly finance or profit from such attacks, and notes the proclamation by the President of Somalia on 30 June 2014 of the exclusive economic zone of Somalia;

5. *Recognizes* the need to continue to investigate and prosecute those who plan, organize or illicitly finance or profit from pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia, including key figures of criminal networks involved in piracy, and urges States, working in conjunction with relevant international organizations, to adopt legislation to facilitate prosecution of suspected pirates off the coast of Somalia;

6. *Calls upon* the Somali authorities to interdict and, upon interdiction, to have mechanisms in place to safely return effects seized by pirates, to investigate and prosecute pirates and to patrol the territorial waters off the coast of Somalia to suppress acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea;

7. *Also calls upon* the Somali authorities to make all efforts to bring to justice those who are using Somali territory to plan, facilitate or undertake criminal acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea, and calls upon Member States to assist Somalia, at the request of Somali authorities and with notification to the Secretary-General, to strengthen maritime capacity in Somalia, including regional authorities, and stresses that any measures undertaken pursuant to the present paragraph shall be consistent with applicable international law, in particular international human rights law;

8. *Calls upon* States to cooperate also, as appropriate, on the issue of hostage-taking, and the prosecution of suspected pirates for taking hostages;

9. *Calls for* the immediate and unconditional release of all seafarers held hostage by Somali pirates, and further calls upon the Somali authorities and all relevant stakeholders to redouble their efforts to secure their safe and immediate release;

10. *Recognizes* the need for States, international and regional organizations and other appropriate partners to exchange evidence and information for anti-piracy law enforcement purposes with a view to ensuring effective prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted, pirates and with a view to the arrest and prosecution of key figures of criminal networks involved in piracy who plan, organize, facilitate or illicitly finance and profit from piracy operations, and keeps under review the possibility of applying targeted sanctions against individuals or entities that plan, organize, facilitate or illicitly finance or profit from piracy operations if they meet the listing criteria set out in paragraph 8 of resolution 1844(2008); and calls upon all States

to cooperate fully with the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, including on information-sharing regarding possible violations of the arms embargo or charcoal ban;

11. *Renews its call upon* States and regional organizations that are able to do so to take part in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, in particular, consistent with the present resolution and international law, by deploying naval vessels, arms and military aircraft, by providing basing and logistical support for counter-piracy forces and by seizing and disposing of boats, vessels, arms and other related equipment used in the commission of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, or for which there are reasonable grounds for suspecting such use;

12. *Highlights* the importance of coordination among States and international organizations in order to deter acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, commends the work of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia to facilitate such coordination, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, flag States and Somali authorities, and urges continued support of these efforts;

13. *Encourages* Member States to continue to cooperate with Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea, notes the primary role of Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, and decides to renew, for a further period of 12 months from the date of the present resolution, the authorizations as set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 1846(2008) and paragraph 6 of resolution 1851(2008), as renewed by paragraph 7 of resolution 1897(2009), paragraph 7 of resolution 1950(2010), paragraph 9 of resolution 2020(2011), paragraph 12 of resolution 2077(2012) and paragraph 12 of resolution 2125(2013), granted to States and regional organizations cooperating with Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, for which advance notification has been provided by Somali authorities to the Secretary-General;

14. *Affirms* that the authorizations renewed in the present resolution apply only with respect to the situation in Somalia and shall not affect the rights, obligations or responsibilities of Member States under international law, including any rights or obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea with respect to any other situation, and underscores in particular that the present resolution shall not be considered as establishing customary international law; and affirms further that such authorizations have been renewed only following the receipt of the letter dated 4 November 2014 conveying the consent of Somali authorities;

15. *Decides* that the arms embargo on Somalia imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 733(1992) of 23 January 1992 and further elaborated upon in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1425(2002) of 22 July 2002 and modified by paragraphs 33 to 38 of resolution 2093(2013) of 6 March 2013 does not apply to supplies of weapons and military equipment or the provision of assistance destined for the sole use of Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations taking measures in accordance with paragraph 13 above;

16. *Requests* that cooperating States take appropriate steps to ensure that the activities they undertake pursuant to the authorizations in paragraph 13 above do not have

the practical effect of denying or impairing the right of innocent passage to the ships of any third State;

17. *Calls upon* all States, in particular flag, port and coastal States, States of the nationality of victims and perpetrators of piracy and armed robbery and other States with relevant jurisdiction under international law and national legislation, to cooperate in determining jurisdiction and in the investigation and prosecution of all persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia, including key figures of criminal networks involved in piracy who plan, organize, facilitate or illicitly finance or profit from such attacks, consistent with applicable international law, including international human rights law, to ensure that all pirates handed over to judicial authorities are subject to a judicial process, and to render assistance by, among other actions, providing disposition and logistics assistance with respect to persons under their jurisdiction and control, such as victims, witnesses and persons detained as a result of operations conducted under the present resolution;

18. *Also calls upon* all States to criminalize piracy under their domestic law and to favourably consider the prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of those convicted, pirates apprehended off the coast of Somalia, and their facilitators and financiers ashore, consistent with applicable international law, including international human rights law, and decides to keep these matters under review, including, as appropriate, the establishment of specialized anti-piracy courts in Somalia with substantial international participation and/or support, as set forth in resolution 2015(2011), and encourages the Contact Group to continue its discussions in this regard;

19. *Welcomes*, in this context, the continued work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Maritime Crime Programme with authorities in Somalia and in neighbouring States to ensure that individuals suspected of piracy are prosecuted and that those convicted are imprisoned in a manner consistent with international law, including international human rights law;

20. *Urges* all States to take appropriate actions under their existing domestic law to prevent the illicit financing of acts of piracy and the laundering of its proceeds;

21. *Urges* States, in cooperation with INTERPOL and the European Police Office (Europol), to further investigate international criminal networks involved in piracy off the coast of Somalia, including those responsible for illicit financing and facilitation;

22. *Urges* all States to ensure that counter-piracy activities, particularly land-based activities, take into consideration the need to protect women and girls from exploitation, including sexual exploitation;

23. *Commends* INTERPOL for operationalizing the global piracy database that consolidates information about piracy off the coast of Somalia and facilitates the development of actionable analysis for law enforcement, and urges all States to share such information with INTERPOL for use in the database, through appropriate channels;

24. *Commends* the contributions of the Trust Fund and the International Maritime Organization-funded Djibouti Code of Conduct, and urges both State and non-State actors affected by piracy, most notably the international shipping community, to contribute to them;

25. *Urges* States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety

of Maritime Navigation to implement fully their relevant obligations under these conventions and customary international law and to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Maritime Organization and other States and international organizations to build judicial capacity for the successful prosecution of persons suspected of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia;

26. *Acknowledges* the recommendations and guidance provided by the International Maritime Organization on preventing and suppressing piracy and armed robbery at sea, urges States, in collaboration with the shipping and insurance industries and the Organization, to continue to develop and implement avoidance, evasion and defensive best practices and advisories to take when under attack or when sailing in the waters off the coast of Somalia, and further urges States to make their citizens and vessels available for forensic investigation, as appropriate, at the first suitable port of call immediately following an act or attempted act of piracy or armed robbery at sea or release from captivity;

27. *Encourages* flag States and port States to further consider the development of safety and security measures on board vessels, including, where applicable, developing regulations for the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships, aimed at preventing and suppressing piracy off the coast of Somalia, through a consultative process, including through the International Maritime Organization and the International Organization for Standardization;

28. *Invites* the International Maritime Organization to continue its contributions to the prevention and suppression of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, in coordination, in particular, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Food Programme, the shipping industry and all other parties concerned, and recognizes the role of the Organization concerning privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in high-risk areas;

29. *Notes* the importance of securing the safe delivery of World Food Programme assistance by sea, and welcomes the ongoing work by the World Food Programme, the European Union operation Atalanta and flag States with regard to vessel protection detachments on World Food Programme vessels;

30. *Requests* States and regional organizations cooperating with Somali authorities to inform the Security Council and the Secretary-General in nine months of the progress of actions undertaken in the exercise of the authorizations provided in paragraph 13 above, and further requests all States contributing through the Contact Group to the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia, including Somalia and other States in the region, to report by the same deadline on their efforts to establish jurisdiction and cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of piracy;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council within 11 months of the adoption of the present resolution on the implementation of the present resolution and on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia;

32. *Expresses its intention* to review the situation and consider, as appropriate, renewing the authorizations provided in paragraph 13 above for additional periods upon the request of Somali authorities;

33. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Sanctions

By resolution 733(1992) [YUN 1992, p. 199], the Security Council imposed a general and complete arms embargo on Somalia, and by resolution 751(1992) [ibid., p. 202], the Council established a Committee to oversee the embargo, expanding its mandate by resolution 1907(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 299]. The Council subsequently outlined certain exemptions to the embargo and further elaborated the scope of the measures. Following the adoption of resolution 1907(2009), which imposed a sanctions regime on Eritrea, the Committee, in 2010, changed its name to the “Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea”.

The Council, in 2002, by resolution 1425(2002) [YUN 2002, p. 206], established a Panel of Experts on Somalia to generate information on violations of the arms embargo with a view to strengthening it. The Panel of Experts was succeeded by the Monitoring Group on Somalia, established pursuant to resolution 1519(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 254], to focus on arms embargo violations. Subsequent resolutions extended and expanded the mandate of the Monitoring Group. After the adoption of resolution 1907(2009), the Monitoring Group changed its name to the “Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea”.

By resolution 1916(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 298], the Council decided that the assets freeze it had imposed by resolution 1844(2008) [YUN 2008, p. 297] should not apply to the payment of funds, other financial assets or economic resources necessary to ensure the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia. By the same resolution, the Council requested the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia to report to the Council every 120 days on any impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In resolution 1972(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 255], the Council renewed that exemption for 16 months. In 2012, the Council extended the mandate of the Group monitoring the sanctions imposed on Somalia, explicitly targeting those who obstructed the political transition process, while relaxing funding and equipment restrictions that could negatively impact the delivery of humanitarian aid.

In resolution 2111(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 270], the Council decided that until 6 March 2014, the arms embargo on Somalia would not apply to deliveries of weapons or military equipment or the provision of advice, assistance or training intended solely for the development of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia. By resolution 2142(2014), the Council renewed the partial lift of the arms embargo until 25 October 2014. By resolution 2182(2014) (see p. 367), the Council further renewed the exemption until 30 October 2015 and extended the mandate of the Monitoring Group until 30 November 2015.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 5 March [meeting 7127], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2142(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/137] was submitted by Australia, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling the previous statements by its President and its resolutions on the situation in Somalia, in particular resolutions 2036(2012) of 22 February 2012, 2093(2013) of 6 March 2013 and 2111(2013) of 24 July 2013,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia,

Noting the letter dated 6 February 2014 from the Federal Government of Somalia to the Security Council, welcoming the new information it provides as well as noting its shortcomings, further noting the letter dated 20 February 2014 from the National Security Adviser to the Federal Government of Somalia to the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009), and encouraging the Federal Government to continue to submit appropriately detailed information to the Council,

Welcoming the measures taken by the Federal Government of Somalia to manage better its weapons and ammunition, and looking forward to the Federal Government taking further steps to improve its weapons management further,

Underlining the imperative need for the Federal Government of Somalia to improve its compliance with its requirements under the partial suspension of the arms embargo,

Taking note of the report of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea of 6 February 2014 on compliance by the Federal Government of Somalia with its requirements under the terms of the partial suspension of the arms embargo on the Federal Government,

Condemning flows of weapons and ammunition supplies to and through Somalia in violation of the arms embargo on Somalia, as well as the destabilizing accumulation and misuse of such weapons, as a serious threat to peace and stability in the region,

Expressing serious concern that the requirements under the suspension of the arms embargo as set out in resolutions 2093(2013) and 2111(2013) have not been fully met,

Noting with concern the reports by the Monitoring Group of diversions of arms and ammunition, including to Al-Shabaab, which has been cited as a potential recipient of diverted arms and ammunition, and further noting that, pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1844(2008) of 20 November 2008, all Member States are required to take the measures necessary to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer of weapons and military equipment to designated individuals and entities, which includes Al-Shabaab,

Stressing that any decision to continue or end the partial suspension of the arms embargo on the Federal Government of Somalia will be taken in the light of the thoroughness of the Federal Government's implementation of its requirements as set out in the present resolution and other relevant Council resolutions,

Noting the request of the Federal Government of Somalia for assistance in weapons management, and encouraging

relevant international actors, including the United Nations, to support the Federal Government in managing weapons and military equipment in an effective manner,

Reiterating the need for all Member States to respect and implement, in accordance with relevant Council resolutions, their obligations with respect to preventing unauthorized deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia and to prevent the direct or indirect import of charcoal from Somalia in violation of the relevant Council resolutions,

Recalling the report of the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General Issues of Sanctions on best practices and methods, including paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 thereof, which discuss possible steps for clarifying methodological standards for monitoring mechanisms,

Determining that the situation in Somalia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the arms embargo on Somalia, imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 733(1992) of 23 January 1992 and further elaborated upon in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1425(2002) of 22 July 2002 and modified by paragraphs 33 to 38 of resolution 2093(2013) and paragraphs 4 to 17 of resolution 2111(2013);

2. *Decides* that until 25 October 2014 the arms embargo on Somalia shall not apply to deliveries of weapons, ammunition or military equipment or the provision of advice, assistance or training intended solely for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, to provide security for the Somali people, except in relation to deliveries of the items set out in the annex to resolution 2111(2013);

3. *Also decides* that the Federal Government of Somalia has the primary responsibility to notify the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) (the Committee) for its information at least five days in advance of any deliveries of weapons, ammunition or military equipment or the provision of advice, assistance or training to its security forces, as permitted in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, as well as for the exemption procedure for those items set out in the annex to resolution 2111(2013), as provided for in paragraph 7 of resolution 2111(2013);

4. *Further decides* that the Member State or international, regional or subregional organization delivering assistance may, in the alternative, make the notification referred to in paragraph 3 above in consultation with the Federal Government of Somalia;

5. *Decides* that all such notifications concerning the provision of weapons or military equipment to the Committee shall include details of the manufacturer and supplier of the arms and ammunition, a description of the arms and ammunition, including the type, calibre and quantity, the proposed date and place of delivery and all relevant information concerning the intended destination unit in the Somali National Security Forces, or the intended place of storage;

6. *Also decides* that, no later than 30 days after the delivery of arms or ammunition, the Federal Government of Somalia shall submit to the Committee a written confirmation of the completion of the delivery, including the serial numbers for the arms and ammunition delivered, shipping

information, bill of lading, cargo manifests or packing lists, and the specific place of storage, and recognizes the value of the supplying Member State or international, regional or subregional organization doing the same, in cooperation with the Federal Government;

7. *Further decides* that, within five days of the distribution of imported arms or ammunition, the Federal Government of Somalia shall inform the Committee in writing of the destination unit in the Somali National Security Forces or the place of storage;

8. *Reiterates* that weapons or military equipment sold or supplied solely for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia may not be resold to, transferred to, or made available for use by any individual or entity not in the service of the security forces of the Federal Government, and underlines the responsibility of the Federal Government to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles;

9. *Requests* the Federal Government of Somalia to report to the Council by 13 June 2014 and again by 13 September 2014 on:

(a) The structure, strength and composition (including the status of allied militia) of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, including the names of current commanders, the locations of the headquarters and the status of militias;

(b) The infrastructure in place to ensure the safe storage, registration, maintenance and distribution of military equipment by the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, including details of all available armouries and storerooms, their location, storage capacity, staffing capacity, arms and ammunition management systems and status of use;

(c) The procedures and codes of conduct in place for the registration, distribution, use and storage of weapons by the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, and on training needs in this regard, including procedures for receipt, verification and recording of weapons imports through any Federal Government-controlled port of entry, procedures for the transport of weapons and ammunition with the security forces, and the current systems of logging and auditing in the security forces;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide options and recommendations, within 30 days, on United Nations (including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia) and other technical assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia in:

(a) Complying with its requirements as set out in paragraphs 3 to 7 of the present resolution and with the requests set out in paragraph 9 of the present resolution;

(b) Assisting in improving its capacities in the safe and transparent storage, distribution and management of weapons and military equipment, including in monitoring and verification;

11. *Urges* the Federal Government of Somalia, all other parties and States, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union Mission in Somalia, to ensure cooperation with the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea and ensure the safety of the members of the Monitoring Group and unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites that the Monitoring Group deems relevant to the execution of its mandate;

12. *Requests* the Monitoring Group to provide to the Federal Government of Somalia feedback on its reporting to the Committee and to keep the Council regularly informed on compliance by the Federal Government with the present resolution and other relevant Council resolutions;

13. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Report of Emergency Relief Coordinator (March).

On 10 March [S/2014/177], the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) on Somalia and Eritrea transmitted to the Council the report of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia, in accordance with resolution 2060(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 239]. The report covered the period from July 2013 to January 2014. It focused on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations in the regions of Somalia under the control or in areas of influence of Al-Shabaab. It outlined constraints to humanitarian access and mitigation measures to address the politicization, misuse and misappropriation of humanitarian assistance. The previous report on the topic covered the period from November 2012 to June 2013 [S/2013/415].

Despite continuous improvements, humanitarian needs remained vast and the gains fragile. Approximately 857,000 people were unable to meet basic food requirements without continued assistance, and a further two million people relied on livelihood support. Malnutrition rates remained among the highest in the world. One in seven children under the age of five, or 203,000 children, were estimated to be acutely malnourished. More than one million people were displaced and lacked access to adequate and basic services, such as shelter, water, sanitation, health and education.

The Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator concluded that the lack of effective local administrations and rampant insecurity, including attacks by Al-Shabaab explicitly targeting humanitarian personnel, made Somalia one of the most volatile and operationally challenging environments for humanitarian workers. The implementation of enhanced due diligence measures by the Risk Management Unit significantly increased the ability of the humanitarian community to identify and redress the misuse and diversion of assistance. The Federal Government of Somalia needed to discharge its responsibility regarding “gatekeepers”—namely, self-appointed powerful guardians of settlements of internally displaced persons (IDPs)—to allow IDPs unfettered access to humanitarian assistance. Improved access in some parts of southern Somalia, mainly in towns recovered from Al-Shabaab, was expected to improve monitoring and enhance the accountability of humanitarian partners. In order to ensure robust risk analysis, all UN entities were encouraged to

provide the Risk Management Unit with profile and biographical information and performance ratings of contractors and subcontractors.

Assessment team. In a 3 April letter to the Security Council [S/2014/243], the Secretary-General provided the findings of the assessment team, led by the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), that visited Mogadishu, Somalia, and Nairobi, Kenya, from 12 to 18 March. The team was deployed in line with Council resolution 2142(2014) (see p. 363), by which the Secretary-General was requested to provide, by 4 April, options and recommendations on UN technical assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia in complying with the resolution, and to improve its capacities to manage weapons and military equipment.

The political and security environment presented a considerable challenge to the Government’s effort to meet its reporting obligations and effectively manage weapons and ammunition stockpiles. Nevertheless, the Government and its international partners made some progress in establishing an institutional framework for overseeing weapons and ammunition management that was in line with national development priorities under the Somali Compact. The Somali Explosives Management Authority was established by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in August 2013. On 22 January 2014, the Government established an Arms and Ammunition Management Steering Committee to coordinate and monitor the implementation by the Federal Government of activities related to arms control and stockpile management, import, export and transit of weapons, tracking of weapons, public awareness-raising and legislative development. A multi-stakeholder Weapons and Ammunition Management Technical Working Group supported the Steering Committee in the implementation of its mandate. The Working Group’s workplan for 2014 included supporting compliance with resolutions 2093(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 247] and 2142(2014), establishing an arms registration system, constructing armouries and ammunition storage facilities and holding a government-wide workshop on arms and ammunition management responsibilities.

Options for enhancing reporting and weapons management included the provision of training and technical support; enhancement of codes of conduct and procedures for reporting on the structure and composition of security forces, infrastructure and weapons management; and establishment, under the authority of the Arms and Ammunition Management Steering Committee, of a joint verification team composed of Somali and international experts. International assistance was required to enhance the technical, human and administrative capacity of the Office of the National Security Adviser to the President to enable it to better coordinate inter-agency inputs to the Government’s notification and

reporting obligations. The Office should update its recent reporting to the Security Council on the structure of the Somalia security forces; address the gaps identified by the Monitoring Group and the requirements of resolution 2142(2014); commence a baseline registration survey of the security sector; and begin a phased weapons and ammunition baseline survey through a weapons marking and registration process.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 May [meeting 7181], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/9** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the letter dated 3 April 2014 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (the letter) identifying options for supporting the Federal Government of Somalia in meeting its obligations under the partial suspension of the arms embargo. The Council underlines that improved arms and ammunition management in Somalia is a fundamental component of greater peace and stability for both Somalia and the region.

The Council underscores the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to show tangible progress in complying with the terms of the partial suspension of the arms embargo as highlighted in both the letter and resolution 2142(2014). The Council remains concerned about the diversion of arms and ammunition, including potentially to Al-Shabaab, which was also highlighted in resolution 2142(2014). In that regard, the Council welcomes the establishment by the Federal Government of an Arms and Ammunition Steering Committee as the overall body responsible for arms and ammunition management. The Council highlights the important role which should also be played by the Weapons and Ammunition Management Technical Working Group (Working Group) with respect to improving weapons management. The Council reiterates that its decision in October 2014 on the continuation of the suspension of the arms embargo will be informed by the Federal Government's compliance with its obligations to carry out Council decisions.

The Council underlines the importance of the international community supporting the Federal Government of Somalia in the areas identified in the letter. In particular, the Council underlines the urgent need for international support to the Office of the National Security Adviser, which coordinates the Federal Government's reporting obligations to the Council, as well as oversees the national architecture for weapons and ammunition management. The Council appeals to Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to provide support and equipment which focus on:

- (i) Improving the Federal Government of Somalia's reporting to the Council on the structure of its security forces, as well as improving its notifications to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea (sanctions committee);
- (ii) Completing a baseline registration survey of the Somali security sector;

- (iii) Starting a weapons marking and registration process, in order to inform future verification activities.

The Council encourages Member States to provide financing and in-kind resources to accelerate key deliverables in the 2014 workplan of the Arms and Ammunition Steering Committee and its Working Group.

The Council also emphasizes, in particular, the need for five weapons marking machines, equipment required for mobile marking units for armouries outside of Mogadishu, and interim weapons storage facilities.

The Council underlines to all Member States and international organizations that all deliveries of military equipment and notifications should be coordinated through the Office of the National Security Adviser, which the Federal Government of Somalia has identified as the coordinating entity for arms and ammunition management.

The Federal Government of Somalia should consider establishing a joint verification team with international experts. The team should focus on physical verification of arms and ammunition provided to the Federal Government, as well as the systems of control in place for arms and ammunition management. The team should focus on supporting the Federal Government in complying with the decisions of the Council and the sanctions committee, in particular with respect to arms and ammunition management. The Council underlines that this team would complement the work of, and should coordinate with, the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, in order to avoid any duplication in their respective activities. The Council encourages Member States, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to support the establishment of this team. The Council further encourages Member States to provide sufficient financial resources to support the prompt establishment of this team.

The Council highlights that the work of the Monitoring Group is of paramount importance. The Council reiterates paragraph 32 of resolution 2111(2013) and reminds the Federal Government of Somalia of the importance of cooperating with the Monitoring Group. In that context, the Council encourages the Monitoring Group to increase its presence in Mogadishu and step up its interaction with the Office of the National Security Adviser, including by regular participation in the meetings of the Working Group.

The Council encourages all relevant members of the international community, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, the United Nations agencies and the African Union to support the Federal Government of Somalia in improving its arms and ammunition management, including through providing financial and in-kind support to enhance its capacity. The Council underlines that the Federal Government is ultimately responsible for the management of its weapons and military equipment. The Council highlights its expectation that the Federal Government will make substantive progress in the months ahead.

Report of Emergency Relief Coordinator (September). In September [S/2014/655], the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator transmitted his report

covering the period from February to August. He stated that, according to an assessment conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, issued on 2 September, over 1 million people in Somalia faced acute food insecurity, a 20 per cent increase over the number of people affected six months earlier. The deterioration in the humanitarian situation was due to drought, conflict, restricted flow of commercial goods into areas affected by military operations and surging food prices. Drought conditions were present in southern, central and north-eastern Somalia from July 2014.

Delivering aid remained extremely difficult in Somalia, especially in areas under the control of Al-Shabaab. Territorial gains through military action by Somali and AMISOM security forces had not translated into safe and predictable road access. Al-Shabaab and other armed groups continued their attempts to control aid delivery. Humanitarian organizations strengthened efforts to identify risks, evaluate the capacity of implementing partners and track programmes with stronger reporting and auditing tools to ensure the delivery of critical, life-saving programmes. The Risk Management Unit continued to support the UN country team by conducting risk assessments of actual or proposed UN partner entities.

The Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator concluded that conditions in Somalia were similar to the pre-famine period in 2010, when the combination of reduced humanitarian access, insecurity, an increase in commodity prices and two consecutive failed rainy seasons led to a crisis. Humanitarian partners required improved security and access and increased and flexible funding to effectively assist 3.1 million Somalis. The Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator invited the Security Council to renew the humanitarian exemption provided in resolution 2111(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 270].

Report of Monitoring Group. On 10 October [S/2014/726], the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009), in accordance with Council resolution 2011(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 270], transmitted to the Council the Somalia report of Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea. The Monitoring Group stated that, since its previous report [YUN 2013, p. 265], international investment at the political level and reform efforts had not altered the underlying dynamics of the government system in terms of lack of transparency and accountability for public resources and clan-based interests dominating security forces and logistics. The deepening reliance on financial and security coping mechanisms produced lines of control parallel to the formal institutions of government. Consequently, the decline of popular support for the political configuration to the levels from before the end of the transition, and increasing clan-based in-

stability in the capital and elsewhere, threatened to undermine the Federal Government, the prospects of reinforcing State institutions and peace and security in the country.

Al-Shabaab remained the principal threat to peace and security in Somalia and throughout the Horn of Africa. While the group was not able to retain its military strength and posture, it managed to maintain a violent footprint in Mogadishu and demonstrated its operational reach beyond the capital. It generated fatal attacks throughout southern and central Somalia, and inspired and coordinated attacks against the country's neighbours. The sustained counter-terrorism pressure and successful overcoming of internal divisions forced the Al-Shabaab core to place greater emphasis on exporting its violence beyond the borders of Somalia.

With the creation by the Security Council of an exemption to the arms embargo for the Federal Government, the Government incurred a corresponding set of obligations in terms of notifying the Committee of deliveries for the security sector and reporting to the Council on the structure of the government security forces and weapons management. Since the introduction of the exemption, the number of various types of arms that had been delivered or were expected to be delivered to the Federal Government pursuant to formal notifications to the Committee exceeded 13,000, with some 5.5 million rounds of ammunition. Some of the weapons and ammunition were diverted to arms markets in Mogadishu. Overall, given the anomalies, inaccuracies or lack of notifications to the Committee, the Federal Government had not imported weapons into Somalia in full compliance with its obligations. In addition, the Monitoring Group identified other violations of the arms embargo, including the diversion of weapons to arms networks connected to the Federal Government, arms deliveries to Puntland, the delivery of detonator cords to north-eastern Somalia and the delivery of military-type vehicles to Jubaland.

The scale of the international trade in Somali charcoal was largely consistent with the 2012–2013 period. On the basis of shipments documented and estimates of additional shipments, some 1 million bags of charcoal were exported each month from Kismayo, in addition to those exported from Al-Shabaab-controlled Barawe and other smaller ports. Al-Shabaab continued to benefit from the revenue generated.

Communication. In a 23 October letter to the Security Council [S/2014/760], Egypt, on behalf of the Arab Group, requested that the Council defer consideration of operative paragraphs 11 to 21 in the section of the draft resolution on the situation in Somalia entitled "Maritime interdiction of charcoal and arms".

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 October [meeting 7286], the Security Council adopted **resolution 2182(2014)** by vote (13-0-2). The

draft [S/2014/757] was submitted by Australia, France, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United States and the United Kingdom.

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions and the statements by its President on the situation in Somalia and Eritrea, in particular resolutions 733(1992) of 23 January 1992, 1844(2008) of 20 November 2008, 1907(2009) of 23 December 2009, 2023(2011) of 5 December 2011, 2036(2012) of 22 February 2012, 2093(2013) of 6 March 2013, 2111(2013) of 24 July 2013, 2124(2013) of 12 November 2013, 2125(2013) of 18 November 2013 and 2142(2014) of 5 March 2014,

Taking note of the final reports of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea and the conclusions contained therein on the situations in both Somalia and Eritrea,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, Djibouti and Eritrea, respectively,

Condemning flows of weapons and ammunition supplies to and through Somalia in violation of the arms embargo on Somalia and to Eritrea in violation of the arms embargo on Eritrea, as a serious threat to peace and stability in the region,

Somalia

Welcoming the recent high-level event on Somalia, chaired by the Secretary-General, and looking forward to all participants following up on their commitments,

Highlighting, in particular, the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia to establish interim regional administrations by the end of 2014, which is an essential step under the Vision 2016 programme, and emphasizing the importance of this being an inclusive and consultative process,

Underlining the importance of full and effective participation in the peace and reconciliation process across Somali society, including women, youth and minority groups,

Welcoming the establishment of the Independent Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission, and emphasizing the importance of establishing the Boundaries and Federation Commission within the upcoming parliamentary session,

Welcoming also the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia to a credible electoral process in 2016, emphasizing the need for legislation to establish the National Independent Electoral Commission as soon as possible, underlining the importance of all partners supporting a Somali-led process, and looking forward in particular to the upcoming United Nations electoral assessment mission,

Underlining the importance of capacity-building of the Somali security forces, and in this regard reaffirming the importance of re-establishing training, equipping and retention in the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, which is vital for the long-term stability and security of Somalia, expressing its support for the ongoing European Union Training Mission and other capacity-building programmes, and emphasizing the importance of increased coordinated, timely and sustained support from the international community,

Underlining also the need for greater effort in improving the institutional transparency and accountability of public financial management in Somalia, welcoming the establishment of a Financial Governance Committee, encouraging

the Federal Government of Somalia to use the Committee effectively, and underlining the need for increased mutual transparency and accountability between the Federal Government and the donor community,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General and the World Bank to develop an initiative aimed at promoting economic development in the Horn of Africa, and looking forward to the results of the initiative,

Recalling the total ban on the export and import of charcoal from Somalia, irrespective of whether such charcoal originated in Somalia, as set out in resolution 2036(2012),

Expressing concern at the continuing violations and abuses of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, violence against women, children and journalists, arbitrary detention and pervasive sexual violence in Somalia, including in camps for internally displaced persons, underscoring the need to end impunity, promote and protect human rights and hold accountable those who commit such crimes, welcoming the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia to address violations and abuses of human rights, including by implementing the two action plans signed on children and armed conflict and by developing a national action plan to combat sexual violence, and encouraging the Federal Government to establish its National Human Rights Commission and to take concrete measures to implement fully the post-transition human rights road map of August 2013,

Recalling the arms embargo on Somalia, and in particular the need for all supplies of weapons and military equipment destined for the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia to be notified to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) (the Committee), and further recalling that improved arms and ammunition management in Somalia is a fundamental component of greater peace and stability for the region,

Stressing that any decision to continue or end the partial suspension of the arms embargo on the Federal Government of Somalia will be taken in the light of the thoroughness of the Federal Government's implementation of its requirements as set out in the present resolution and other relevant Council resolutions,

Stressing also the need for all Member States to respect and implement, in accordance with relevant Council resolutions, their obligations with respect to preventing unauthorized deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia and to prevent the direct or indirect import of charcoal from Somalia in violation of the relevant Council resolutions,

Recalling that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, sets out the legal framework applicable to activities in the ocean,

Taking note of the Monitoring Group's continued assessment that the illegal charcoal trade continues to generate significant funding for Al-Shabaab, reiterating that charcoal exports from Somalia are a significant revenue source for Al-Shabaab and also exacerbate the humanitarian crisis, and deploring the continued violation of the ban,

Expressing concern that destination countries for Somali charcoal have not yet taken sufficient steps to prevent the importation of charcoal from Somalia,

Taking note of the letter dated 8 October 2014 from the President of Somalia to the Council requesting Member States to provide military assistance to prevent the export

of charcoal from Somalia and to prevent the import of weapons into Somalia in violation of the arms embargo,

Encouraging the Federal Government of Somalia, in consultation with all levels of government in Somalia, to mitigate properly against the petroleum sector in Somalia becoming a source of increased tension in Somalia, including through respecting the provisions of the constitution, and stressing the need to resolve issues of resource management and ownership as part of ongoing discussions around federalism,

Eritrea

Welcoming the meetings between representatives of the Government of Eritrea and the Monitoring Group held in Paris and Cairo and by telephone conference from New York, encouraging further cooperation, and underlining its expectation that this cooperation will deepen during the mandate of the Monitoring Group, including through regular visits to Eritrea by the Monitoring Group,

Stressing its demand that Eritrea make available information pertaining to Djiboutian combatants missing in action since the clashes of June 2008 so that those concerned may ascertain the presence and conditions of the Djiboutian prisoners of war,

Underlining the importance of full cooperation between the Monitoring Group and the Government of Eritrea,

African Union Mission in Somalia

Expressing its gratitude to the African Union Mission in Somalia for its work in bringing greater peace and stability to Somalia,

Welcoming the recent joint operations of the African Union Mission with the Somali National Army, and paying tribute to the extraordinary bravery and sacrifices made by both Mission and National Army personnel in the fight against Al-Shabaab,

Recognizing the importance of effective coordination among the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia, the African Union Mission, troop-contributing countries and donors in order for the Support Office to effectively plan, budget and provide authorized logistics for the operations of the Mission, and underscoring the necessity of enablers and force multipliers to address key limiting factors to Mission operations such as timely maintenance of key equipment, maintenance of logistical supply lines and availability of water,

Recalling and welcoming the efforts of the African Union Mission to assist in the provision of training to the Somali National Army, and underlining the importance of the Federal Government of Somalia taking on increased responsibility and ownership of the security sector, which is an essential part of the eventual exit strategy of the Mission,

Expressing concern at the reports of sexual violence and exploitation allegedly perpetrated by some African Union Mission troops, reminding the Mission of the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, underscoring in this context the importance of the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of peacekeeping, welcoming the deployment by the African Union of a team to conduct a full investigation into these allegations, and underlining the importance of holding to account those responsible for such abuses,

Welcoming the support of the international community to peace and stability in Somalia, in particular the European

Union, for its substantial contribution in supporting the African Union Mission, and emphasizing the importance of new contributors sharing the financial burden of supporting the Mission,

Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea

Taking note of the letter dated 7 February 2014 from the Monitoring Group recommending an exemption to the arms embargo to improve reporting on security operations for commercial shipping,

Determining that the situation in Somalia, Eritrea's influence in Somalia, as well as the dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea, continue to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Arms embargo

1. *Reaffirms* the arms embargo on Somalia, imposed by paragraph 5 of resolution 733(1992) and further elaborated upon in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1425(2002) of 22 July 2002 and modified by paragraphs 33 to 38 of resolution 2093(2013), paragraphs 4 to 17 of resolution 2111(2013), paragraph 14 of resolution 2125(2013) and paragraph 2 of resolution 2142(2014) (hereinafter referred to as "the arms embargo on Somalia");

2. *Notes with concern* that some deliveries of weapons and military equipment have not been notified to the Committee in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, underlines the fundamental importance of timely and detailed notifications to the Committee as set out in paragraphs 3 to 7 of resolution 2142(2014), notes with concern reports of the diversion of arms and ammunition, and encourages supplying Member States to assist the Federal Government of Somalia in improving its notifications to the Committee;

3. *Decides* to renew the provisions set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 2142(2014) until 30 October 2015, and in that context reiterates that the arms embargo on Somalia shall not apply to deliveries of weapons, ammunition or military equipment or the provision of advice, assistance or training intended solely for the development of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, to provide security for the Somali people, except in relation to deliveries of the items set out in the annex to resolution 2111(2013);

4. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Federal Government of Somalia to establish effective mechanisms in managing its weapons and military equipment, including the Arms and Ammunition Steering Committee, and notes with regret that these structures are not functioning with the required level of efficiency or at all levels of government;

5. *Expresses its disappointment* that a weapons marking and registration process has not yet commenced, despite the appeal by the Council in the statement by its President of 22 May 2014, and urges the Federal Government of Somalia to implement this process without further delay;

6. *Requests* the Somali National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia to document and register all military equipment captured as part of offensive operations or in the course of carrying out their mandates, including recording the type and serial number of the weapon and/or ammunition, photographing all items and relevant markings and facilitating inspection by the Monitoring Group

on Somalia and Eritrea of all military items before their redistribution or destruction;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Federal Government of Somalia, with the support of international partners, to establish a joint verification team which would conduct routine inspections of government security forces' stockpiles, inventory records and the supply chain of weapons, and requests that any such group provide its findings to the Committee, for the purpose of mitigating the diversion of arms and ammunition to entities outside of the security services of the Federal Government;

8. *Reiterates* that weapons or military equipment sold or supplied solely for the development of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia may not be resold to, transferred to, or made available for use by, any individual or entity not in the service of the Security Forces;

9. *Urges* the Federal Government of Somalia to implement fully all its requirements as set out in the present resolution and other relevant Council resolutions, and requests the Federal Government to report to the Council by 30 March 2015, and then by 30 September 2015, on:

(a) The current structure of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia;

(b) The infrastructure in place to ensure the safe storage, registration, maintenance and distribution of military equipment by the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia;

(c) The procedures and codes of conduct in place for the registration, distribution, use and storage of weapons by the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, and on training needs in this regard;

10. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Monitoring Group that weapons on board vessels engaged in commercial activity in Somali ports be granted an exemption to the arms embargo, expresses its willingness to take such a proposal forward, in close consultation with the Federal Government of Somalia, and requests the Federal Government and the Monitoring Group to work together and formulate a proposal which should be communicated to the Council by 27 February 2015;

Maritime interdiction of charcoal and arms

11. *Reaffirms* the ban on the import and export of Somali charcoal, as set out in paragraph 22 of resolution 2036(2012) (the charcoal ban), reiterates that the Somali authorities shall take the measures necessary to prevent the export of charcoal from Somalia, and reiterates its requests in paragraph 18 of resolution 2111(2013) that the African Union Mission support and assist the Somali authorities in doing so, as part of the implementation by the Mission of its mandate set out in paragraph 1 of resolution 2093(2013);

12. *Condemns* the ongoing export of charcoal from Somalia, in violation of the total ban on the export of charcoal from Somalia reaffirmed above;

13. *Urges* all Member States, including those contributing police and troop contingents to the African Union Mission, to respect and implement their obligations to prevent the direct or indirect import of charcoal from Somalia, whether or not such charcoal originated in Somalia, as set out in paragraph 22 of resolution 2036(2012), and affirms that this includes taking the measures necessary to prevent the use of their flag vessels for such importing;

14. *Condemns* the flow of weapons and military equipment to Al-Shabaab and other armed groups which are not part of the Security Forces of the Federal Government of Somalia, and expresses serious concern at the destabilizing impact of such weapons;

15. *Authorizes*, for a period of 12 months from the date of the present resolution, Member States, acting nationally or through voluntary multinational naval partnerships, such as the Combined Maritime Forces, in cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia and which the Federal Government has notified to the Secretary-General and which the Secretary-General has subsequently notified to all Member States, in order to ensure strict implementation of the arms embargo on Somalia and the charcoal ban, to inspect, without undue delay, in Somali territorial waters and on the high seas off the coast of Somalia extending to and including the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf, vessels bound to or from Somalia which they have reasonable grounds to believe are:

(i) Carrying charcoal from Somalia in violation of the charcoal ban;

(ii) Carrying weapons or military equipment to Somalia, directly or indirectly, in violation of the arms embargo on Somalia;

(iii) Carrying weapons or military equipment to individuals or entities designated by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009);

16. *Calls upon* all flag States of such vessels to cooperate with such inspections, requests Member States to make good-faith efforts to first seek the consent of the vessel's flag State prior to any inspections pursuant to paragraph 15 above, authorizes Member States conducting inspections pursuant to paragraph 15 to use all necessary measures commensurate with the circumstances to carry out such inspections and in full compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as may be applicable, and urges Member States conducting such inspections to do so without causing undue delay to or undue interference with the exercise of the right of innocent passage or freedom of navigation;

17. *Authorizes* Member States to seize and dispose of (such as through destruction, rendering inoperable or unusable, storage or transferring to a State other than the originating or destination States for disposal) any items identified in inspections pursuant to paragraph 15 above, the delivery, import or export of which is prohibited by the arms embargo on Somalia or the charcoal ban, authorizes Member States to collect evidence directly related to the carriage of such items in the course of such inspections, and decides that charcoal seized in accordance with the present paragraph may be disposed of through resale which shall be monitored by the Monitoring Group;

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of all Member States, including Somalia, taking the measures necessary to ensure that no claim shall lie at the instance of Somalia, or of any person or entity in Somalia, or of persons or entities designated for measures set out in resolutions 1844(2008), 2002(2011) of 29 July 2011 or 2093(2013), or any person claiming through or for the benefit of any such person or entity, in connection with any contract or other transaction where its performance was prevented by reason of the measures imposed by the present resolution or previous resolutions;

19. *Requests* Member States to dispose of any charcoal, weapons or military equipment seized pursuant to para-

graph 17 above in an environmentally responsible manner, taking into account the letter dated 4 September 2013 from the United Nations Environment Programme to the Chair of the Committee and the implementation assistance notice adopted by the Committee on 7 May 2014, calls upon all Member States in the region to cooperate in the disposal of such charcoal, weapons or military equipment, affirms that the authorization provided for in paragraph 15 above includes the authority to divert vessels and their crews to a suitable port to facilitate such disposal, with the consent of the port State, affirms that the authorization in paragraph 15 includes the authority to use all necessary measures to seize items pursuant to paragraph 17 in the course of inspections, and decides that any Member State cooperating in the disposal of items identified in inspections pursuant to paragraph 15, the delivery, import or export of which is prohibited by the arms embargo on Somalia or the charcoal ban, shall provide a written report to the Committee, no later than 30 days after such items enter its territory, on the steps taken to dispose of or destroy them;

20. *Decides* that any Member State that undertakes an inspection pursuant to paragraph 15 above shall promptly notify the Committee and submit a report on the inspection containing all relevant details, including an explanation of the grounds for and the results of the inspection and, where possible, including the flag of the vessel, the name of the vessel, the name and identifying information of the master of the vessel, the owner of the vessel and the original seller of the cargo, and efforts made to seek the consent of the vessel's flag State, requests the Committee to notify the flag State of the inspected vessel that an inspection has been undertaken, notes the prerogative of any Member State to write to the Committee concerning the implementation of any aspect of the present resolution, and further encourages the Monitoring Group to share relevant information with Member States operating under the authorization set out in the present resolution;

21. *Affirms* that the authorizations provided in the present resolution apply only with respect to the situation in Somalia and shall not affect the rights or obligations or responsibilities of Member States under international law, including any rights or obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including the general principle of exclusive jurisdiction of a flag State over its vessels on the high seas, with respect to any other situation, underscores in particular that the present resolution shall not be considered as establishing customary international law, and notes further that such authorizations have been provided only following receipt of the letter dated 8 October 2014 conveying the request of the President of Somalia;

22. *Decides* to review after six months from the date of the present resolution the provisions set out in paragraphs 11 to 21 above;

African Union Mission in Somalia

23. *Decides* to authorize the States members of the African Union to maintain the deployment of the African Union Mission as set out in paragraph 1 of resolution 2093(2013) until 30 November 2015, in line with the request of the Council to the African Union for a maximum level of 22,126 troops, which shall be authorized to take all measures necessary, in full compliance with the obligations of its Member States under international humanitarian law

and human rights law, and in full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, to carry out its mandate;

24. *Recalls* the benchmarks for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation as set out in both the letter dated 11 October 2013 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to the Secretary-General and the subsequent letter, dated 14 October 2013, from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council, requests that the Secretary-General keep these benchmarks under continuous review in close consultation with the African Union, and further requests the Secretary-General and the African Union to review jointly the impact of the temporary surge authorized in resolution 2124(2013) and to set out recommendations on the next steps in the military campaign by 30 May 2015, taking into due consideration the political situation in Somalia;

25. *Also recalls* that, in line with the joint African Union-United Nations review of the African Union Mission, the increases in the force strength decided in resolution 2124(2013) are to provide a short-term enhancement of the military capacity of the Mission, for a period of 18 to 24 months and as part of an overall exit strategy for the Mission, after which a decrease in the force strength of the Mission will be considered;

26. *Reiterates* paragraphs 4 and 14 of resolution 2124(2013) and paragraphs 4 and 5 of resolution 2093(2013) with regard to the logistical support package for the African Union Mission;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to work closely with and provide technical expertise to the African Union as set out in paragraph 9 of resolution 2124(2013), in particular by improving the efficiency in the planning and strategic management of the African Union Mission, including strengthening command and control structures and improving the coordination between troop contingents, sectors and joint operations with the Somali National Army;

28. *Welcomes* the recent joint African Union Mission and Somali National Army offensive operations, which have had a significant impact in reducing territory held by Al-Shabaab, underlines the importance of such operations continuing, further underlines that it is essential that military operations be followed immediately by national efforts to establish or improve governance structures in recovered areas and by the delivery of basic services, including security, and in that regard encourages the timely delivery of quick-impact projects in support of stabilization efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia;

29. *Underlines* the imperative of securing key supply routes to areas recovered from Al-Shabaab in view of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia, requests the African Union Mission and the Somali National Army to ensure that they give the utmost priority to securing key supply routes essential to improve the humanitarian situation in the most affected areas, and requests the Secretary-General to report, in consultation with the Federal Government of Somalia and the Mission, on progress in this regard in his written reports to the Council as set out in paragraph 15 of resolution 2158(2014) of 29 May 2014;

30. *Strongly urges* Member States to provide helicopters to the African Union Mission for the authorized aviation component of up to 12 military helicopters, provided for in paragraph 6 of resolution 2036(2012), as well as providing the enablers and force multipliers which were identified as

necessary in the 2013 joint United Nations-African Union benchmarking assessment;

31. *Reiterates its request*, and that of the African Union Peace and Security Council for the African Union Mission to develop further an effective approach to the protection of civilians, notes with concern that the Mission has not yet established a Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell, as requested in resolutions 2093(2013) and 2124(2013), and requests the African Union to conclude the deployment of this Cell without any further delay;

32. *Looks forward* to the results of both the investigation by the African Union and investigations by troop-contributing countries concerning acts of sexual exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by some African Union Mission soldiers, underlines the importance of accountability and transparency in this regard, requests the African Union to review and endorse the draft African Union policy on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, and requests the African Union and the Secretary-General to make public the outcomes of these investigations;

33. *Underlines* the need for African Union Mission troops to continue to receive appropriate information and predeployment training in relation to human rights principles, including gender equality and sexual violence, and for Mission personnel to be properly informed of the accountability mechanisms in place should any abuse be committed;

34. *Encourages* the African Union Mission to strengthen the mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, such as introducing a centralized database for the efficient and independent receipt, preliminary assessment and tracking of investigations into allegations of sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the institution of protective measures for complainants in order to prevent the redeployment of any individual who has been involved in serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including those related to sexual violence;

35. *Condemns* all violations and abuses committed against children by all parties in Somalia, calls for the immediate cessation of such violations and abuses and for those responsible to be held to account, and requests the Federal Government of Somalia and the African Union Mission to protect and treat as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, including through the full implementation of standard operating procedures for the protection and handover of those children;

36. *Reiterates* the need for the African Union Mission to ensure that any detainees in its custody, including disengaged combatants, are treated in strict compliance with applicable obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law, including ensuring their humane treatment, and further reiterates its request for the Mission to allow appropriate access to detainees by a neutral body;

37. *Reiterates its call* for new donors to support the African Union Mission through the provision of additional funding for troop stipends, equipment, technical assistance and uncaveated funding for the Mission to the United Nations trust fund for the Mission, calls upon the African Union to consider how to provide sustainable funding for the Mission, such as through its own assessed costs as it did for the African-led International Support Mission in Mali,

and underlines the African Union's call for its member States to provide financial support to the African Union Mission;

Public financial management in Somalia

38. *Expresses its concern* that corruption continues to undermine both security in the country and the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia to rebuild Somalia's institutions, and urges the Federal Government to fight corruption and tighten financial governance procedures in order to improve transparency and accountability of public financial management, and also urges the Federal Government to ensure that assets recovered from overseas and revenue raised, including through the ports, are documented transparently and channelled through the national budget;

39. *Underlines* the importance of ensuring that international aid is also delivered in a transparent manner, and encourages all Member States to use the structures currently being established between the Federal Government of Somalia and donors, particularly on recurrent financing;

Humanitarian situation in Somalia

40. *Expresses serious concern* at the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia, condemns in the strongest terms increased attacks against humanitarian actors and any misuse of donor assistance and the obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian aid, and reiterates paragraph 10 of resolution 2158(2014) in this regard;

41. *Decides* that, until 30 October 2015 and without prejudice to humanitarian assistance programmes conducted elsewhere, the measures imposed by paragraph 3 of resolution 1844(2008) shall not apply to the payment of funds, other financial assets or economic resources necessary to ensure the timely delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance in Somalia, by the United Nations, its specialized agencies or programmes, humanitarian organizations having observer status in the General Assembly that provide humanitarian assistance and their implementing partners, including bilaterally or multilaterally funded non-governmental organizations participating in the United Nations Consolidated Appeal for Somalia;

42. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to report to the Council by 1 October 2015 on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia and on any impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia, and requests relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations having observer status in the General Assembly and their implementing partners that provide humanitarian assistance in Somalia to increase their cooperation and willingness to share information with the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia in the preparation of such reports and in the interest of increasing transparency and accountability;

Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea

43. *Recalls* resolution 1844(2008), by which it imposed targeted sanctions, and resolutions 2002(2011) and 2093(2013), by which it expanded the listing criteria, and notes that one of the listing criteria under resolution 1844(2008) is engaging in acts that threaten the peace, security and stability of Somalia;

44. *Reiterates its willingness* to adopt targeted measures against individuals and entities on the basis of the above-mentioned criteria;

45. *Requests* Member States to assist the Monitoring Group in its investigations, and reiterates that obstructing the investigations or work of the Monitoring Group is a criterion for listing under paragraph 15 (e) of resolution 1907(2009);

46. *Decides* to extend until 30 November 2015 the mandate of the Monitoring Group as set out in paragraph 13 of resolution 2060(2012) of 25 July 2012 and updated in paragraph 41 of resolution 2093(2013), expresses its intention to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding the further extension no later than 30 October 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures, as expeditiously as possible, to re-establish the Monitoring Group, in consultation with the Committee, for a period of 13 months from the date of the present resolution, drawing, as appropriate, on the expertise of the members of the Monitoring Group established pursuant to previous resolutions;

47. *Requests* the Monitoring Group to submit, for the consideration of the Council, through the Committee, two final reports, one focusing on Somalia, the other on Eritrea, covering all the tasks set out in paragraph 13 of resolution 2060(2012) and updated in paragraph 41 of resolution 2093(2013), not later than 30 September 2015;

48. *Requests* the Committee, in accordance with its mandate and in consultation with the Monitoring Group and other relevant United Nations entities, to consider the recommendations in the reports of the Monitoring Group and recommend to the Council ways to improve the implementation of and compliance with the Somalia and Eritrea arms embargoes, the measures regarding the import and export of charcoal from Somalia, as well as implementation of the measures imposed by paragraphs 1, 3 and 7 of resolution 1844(2008) and paragraphs 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13 of resolution 1907(2009), taking into account paragraph 15 above, in response to continuing violations;

49. *Requests* the Monitoring Group to report on the implementation of the authorization set out in paragraph 15 above, as part of its regular reporting to the Committee;

50. *Encourages* Member States from East Africa to appoint focal points for the purpose of coordinating and exchanging information with the Monitoring Group on regional investigations into Al-Shabaab;

51. *Underlines* the importance of a constructive relationship between the Monitoring Group and the Federal Government of Somalia, welcomes efforts made by both so far, and emphasizes the need for this to continue and deepen during the course of this mandate;

52. *Welcomes* the ongoing and significant efforts of the Monitoring Group to engage with the Government of Eritrea and the Government's cooperation with the Monitoring Group, emphasizes that this must continue and strengthen, and reiterates its expectation that the Government will facilitate the entry of the Monitoring Group to Eritrea, as requested in paragraph 31 of resolution 2111(2013);

53. *Urges* Eritrea to make available information pertaining to Djiboutian combatants missing in action since the clashes of 10 to 12 June 2008;

54. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2182(2014):

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom, United States.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Jordan, Russian Federation.

Appointments. On 26 November [S/2014/854], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that, following the adoption of resolution 2182(2014) (see p. 367), he appointed five experts to serve on the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009).

Security Council Committee. On 17 December [S/2014/936], the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea transmitted to the Council a report on its 2014 activities. The Committee met six times in informal consultations (10 January, 21 February, 27 March, 15 May, 5 September and 10 October).

Children and armed conflict

In May [A/68/878-S/2014/339], the Secretary-General issued his report on children and armed conflict, which included information on grave violations committed against children during armed conflict in Somalia in 2013. The United Nations documented the recruitment and use of 1,293 children in Somalia, including by Al-Shabaab, the Somali National Army and allied militia, Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a (ASWJ), the Somaliland Armed Forces and unknown armed elements. Al-Shabaab continued its campaign to recruit children and youth. The arbitrary arrest and detention of 1,009 children by the national army, including during operations against Al-Shabaab, remained a grave concern. Upon advocacy by the United Nations, 41 children detained by the national army for alleged association with Al-Shabaab were released in 2013.

At least 237 children were reportedly killed (179 boys and 58 girls) and 494 children were injured (383 boys and 111 girls) in 2013. The national army and allied militias were reportedly responsible for 334 child casualties (98 killed and 236 injured), followed by unknown armed groups (83 killed, 174 injured), Al-Shabaab (47 killed, 67 injured), AMISOM (7 killed, 14 injured), ASWJ (two killed, one injured), and the Puntland and the Somaliland forces (one child injured by each party). Child casualties mainly resulted from crossfire during clashes and indiscriminate shelling. Thirty children were killed and 51 others injured in incidents involving improvised explosive devices.

In 154 incidents of sexual violence, 152 girls and 2 boys were raped, including by unknown armed elements, members of the national army and allied militias, Al-Shabaab, ASWJ and the Somaliland forces. Twenty of the girls were subjected to sexual violence in the context of forced marriages following recruitment into Al-Shabaab. Twenty-one children were raped in 19 separate incidents by national army and unknown armed elements inside internally displaced persons camps.

Children formerly associated with armed forces or groups, including 863 boys and 237 girls, were enrolled in reintegration programmes. The United Nations continued to engage with the Federal Government of Somalia to ensure the implementation of the two action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and the killing and maiming of children by the national army. With the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSAM) [YUN 2013, p. 252], one Child Protection Adviser was deployed to support the process. In addition, a working group on children and armed conflict, comprising representatives of the Government, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the donor community, was established in Mogadishu; it reviewed standard operating procedures for the handover of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups before adoption by the Government in March 2014.

UNSAM

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSAM) was established by the Security Council in resolution 2102(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 252] to support the peace and reconciliation process of the Federal Government of Somalia; provide policy advice to the Federal Government and AMISOM on peacebuilding and State-building, including on preparations for elections in 2016; and assist in the coordination of international donor support. The mandate also included monitoring and reporting to the Council on human rights violations, helping to prevent such abuses, and helping build the capacity of the Federal Government to promote respect for human rights, women's empowerment and child protection; the prevention of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence; and strengthening justice institutions and helping to ensure accountability. The Mission, launched on 3 June 2013, replaced the United Nations Political Office for Somalia [YUN 2013, p. 266]. By resolution 2158(2014) of 29 May (see p. 354), the Security Council extended the UNSAM mandate for one year.

Financing

In a March report [A/68/327/Add.10], the Secretary-General requested the General Assembly to approve additional resources for UNSAM for 2014 in the amount of \$22,156,200 net (\$22,205,100 gross), and to approve a charge of \$22,156,200 net against the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the 2014–2015 programme budget. In May [A/68/7/Add.26], ACABQ recommended that the Assembly approve additional resources for UNSAM for 2014 in the amount of \$21,972,400 net (\$22,016,500 gross) and approve a charge of \$21,972,400 against the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3 of the budget.

The Assembly, in **resolution 68/280** of 30 June (see p. 1629), approved the budgets of the special political missions authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council, including UNSAM, as well as the charges against the provision appropriated for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the 2014–2015 programme budget.

AMISOM

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was authorized in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 268] by the AU Peace and Security Council to support the transitional federal institutions in their efforts to stabilize the country, facilitate humanitarian assistance, and create conditions conducive to stabilization, reconstruction and development. By resolution 1744(2007) [ibid., p. 269], the Security Council approved the Mission's mandate, which was renewed every six months. Resolution 2036(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 244] widened the operational scope of AMISOM to four sectors and increased the Mission's force strength from 12,000 to a maximum of 17,731 uniformed personnel. The Mission was also called on to take necessary measures in coordination with the Transitional Federal Government to neutralize armed groups in the country. The Council, by resolution 2124(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 256], authorized an increase in AMISOM strength, from 17,731 to 22,126 uniformed personnel. By resolution 2182(2014) of 24 October (see p. 367), the Council authorized the deployment of AMISOM until 30 November 2015.

Report of AU Commission. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2093(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 247], the Secretary-General, on 13 February [S/2014/100], transmitted to the Council a report of the AU Commission on the implementation of the AMISOM mandate and of Council resolution 2124(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 256]. The Commission stated that the recovery process in Somalia remained fraught with challenges. The Federal Government of Somalia pursued the implementation of the Six-Pillar Plan launched in November 2012, which revolved around good governance, economic recovery, social reconciliation, service delivery, building collaborative international relations, and the unity and integrity of the country. The Federal Government registered significant progress in security, public finance management, reconciliation and political outreach, and in laying the foundations of good governance. On 16 September 2013, the Federal Government of Somalia and the international community reached an agreement on the New Deal Compact outlining peacebuilding and State-building goals on inclusive politics, security, justice, economic foundation and revenue and services. The Vision 2016 Conference (Mogadishu, 2–6 September 2013) adopted recommendations on the review and implementation of the Provisional Constitution, the transition to democratic legitimacy, and the finalization of the Constitution by

way of a referendum by December 2015. On 8 January 2014, the regional state of Puntland held presidential elections, which were won by former Federal Government of Somalia Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas. The new President assumed office on 14 January. On 21 January, the Interim Juba Administration was formally inaugurated, marking a major milestone in the implementation of the 2013 Addis Ababa Agreement [YUN 2013, p. 259].

Al-Shabaab continued to attack civilians, AMISOM and Somali National Security Forces. AMISOM resumed its operations against Al-Shabaab safe havens in the Middle, Lower Juba and Bay regions. Due to rotations, the deployed force strength of the AMISOM military component stood at 22,056 of the authorized 22,126. In addition to providing support to the Federal Government of Somalia in recovering territory from Al-Shabaab control, AMISOM continued to work closely with the Federal Government in activities aimed at extending state authority.

The Federal Government of Somalia adopted the Post-Transition Human Rights Roadmap for Somalia for the 2013–2015 period. On 16 October 2013, a joint strategy on the implementation of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in Somalia was agreed on between UNSOM, AMISOM and the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA), and a Joint Working Group was established. The AU Commission continued to encourage the development of strategies for AU-mandated peace support operations, using gender mainstreaming as a tool in streamlining and aligning functions, procedures and practices of current and future operations.

Financing

The Secretary-General's performance report on the financing of support for AMISOM for the period from 1 July to 30 June 2013 [A/68/605] detailed expenditures of \$412,570,500 gross (\$408,799,000 net) against an apportionment of \$436,905,000 gross (\$433,554,200 net). The mandate for the support provided to AMISOM was established by the Security Council in resolutions 1772(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 276] and 1863(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 271], and extended by subsequent Council resolutions. The United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) was mandated to provide a logistical support package to AMISOM to support the efforts of the Transitional Federal Institutions of Somalia towards the stabilization of the country, facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance, and create conditions conducive to long-term stabilization, reconstruction and development in Somalia.

In February [A/68/745], the Secretary-General submitted a budget proposal for UNSOA for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 in the amount of \$497,210,200 gross (\$492,687,600 net), representing an increase of 14.1 per cent (\$61,409,200 gross)

compared with the 2013–2014 approved budget. The budget provided for the deployment of 21,586 military contingent personnel, 260 AMISOM police officers, 280 AMISOM formed police personnel, 281 international staff, 191 national staff and 17 United Nations Volunteers. In May [A/68/782/Add.9], ACABQ recommended the appropriation of \$494,968,100 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015; assessment of \$164,989,367 for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2014; and assessment of \$329,978,733 for the period from 1 November 2014 to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of \$41,247,342, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the logistical support for AMISOM. It also recommended that the unencumbered balance of \$24,334,500 for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, as well as other income/adjustments amounting to \$4,139,300 for the period ended 30 June 2013, be credited to Member States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/933], adopted **resolution 68/298** without vote [agenda item 165].

Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863(2009)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1863(2009) of 16 January 2009, in which the Council expressed its intent to establish a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia as a follow-on force to the African Union Mission in Somalia, subject to a further decision of the Council by 1 June 2009, and requested the Secretary-General, in order for the forces of the Mission to be incorporated into a United Nations peacekeeping operation, to provide a United Nations logistical support package to the Mission, including equipment and services,

Recalling also the subsequent resolutions of the Council by which the logistical support package for the Mission was extended, the latest of which was resolution 2124(2013) of 12 November 2013, by which the Council extended the logistical support package until 31 October 2014,

Recalling further its resolution 63/275 A of 7 April 2009 on the financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863(2009) and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/285 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the United Nations Trust Fund established to support the African Union Mission in Somalia,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 115.0 million United States dollars, representing some 7 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 74 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Support Office for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

4. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia the amount of 528,207,800 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 489,968,100 dollars for the maintenance of the Support Office, 31,704,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 6,535,300 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

5. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 176,069,267 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

6. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 5 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,360,767 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,495,367 dollars approved for the Support Office, the prorated share of 670,767 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 194,633 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

7. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 352,138,533 dollars for the period from 1 November 2014 to 30 June 2015 at a monthly rate of 44,017,317 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Support Office;

8. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 4,721,533 dollars, comprising the estimated

staff assessment income of 2,990,733 dollars approved for the Support Office, the prorated share of 1,341,533 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 389,267 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

9. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Support Office, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 5 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 28,473,800 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

10. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Support Office, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 28,473,800 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 9 above;

11. *Decides* that the increase of 420,700 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 28,473,800 dollars referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 above;

12. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund established to support the African Union Mission in Somalia;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863(2009)".

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863(2009) would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Eritrea

Eritrea achieved independence from Ethiopia in 1993, following a 30-year war of liberation and a subsequent referendum, and its relations with its neighbours had since been turbulent. In the process of defining the borders of the new State, the country clashed with Ethiopia, Yemen and Djibouti, and maintained a complex relationship with the Sudan. In December 2009, invoking Eritrea's alleged support for Somali armed opposition groups and its border conflict with Djibouti, the Security Council imposed a sanctions regime on Eritrea, including a general and complete arms embargo, as well as a travel ban and an asset freeze on individuals and entities.

Sanctions

Appointment. By a 5 February letter [S/2014/79], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that, in view of the resignation of Cornelis Steenken,

arms expert for Eritrea, he had appointed Joakim Gundel (Denmark) to serve as arms expert on the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea.

Report of Monitoring Group. On 10 October [S/2014/727], the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, in accordance with resolution 2111(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 270], transmitted to the Council the October report on Eritrea of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea. Under the auspices of the Chair, two meetings between the Monitoring Group and Eritrea were convened, in Paris on 8 December 2013 and in Cairo, Egypt, on 14 February 2014.

The Monitoring Group found no evidence of Eritrean support to Al-Shabaab. It established that Eritrea continued to violate resolution 1907(2009) by importing weapons and ammunition from eastern Sudan with the knowledge and direction of Eritrean officials affiliated with the President's Office. The Group investigated allegations that Eritrea facilitated and in some cases provided weapons to three armed groups in South Sudan: the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement in Opposition, George Athor Deng's rebel forces, and the David Yau Yau group. It could not substantiate or confirm those allegations, as South Sudan did not provide any evidence to corroborate its claims. Eritrean support for regional armed groups continued to be linked to the Ethiopian-Eritrean rivalry in the Horn of Africa, the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the way in which the rivalry shaped Eritrean foreign policy. The Monitoring Group obtained evidence that Eritrea continued to support armed opposition groups from neighbouring countries, notably the Somalia-based Ogaden National Liberation Front, the Tigray People's Democratic Movement, and Ginbot Sebat.

The Government of Eritrea continued not to disclose its budget and appropriations, and the country's annual budget was not publicly available. The lack of financial transparency created limited effective monitoring of the country's compliance with resolution 1907(2009). The Group investigated whether hard currency from mining revenues was channelled through the financial structures of the Government to support activities that would constitute a violation of resolution 1907(2009). It did not identify any suspicious transfers but could not rule out that such funds had been diverted. It was the assessment of the Monitoring Group that senior Eritrean officials continued to collect millions of dollars each year through unofficial revenues by means of private business arrangements involving companies run by the People's Front for Democracy and Justice domestically and abroad. The Government continued to impose a variety of extraterritorial taxation requirements on Eritrean citizens abroad as well as foreign nationals of Eritrean descent. The Monitoring Group received

credible testimonies that Eritrean officials were resorting to coercive measures to extract payment from Eritrean nationals.

The Monitoring Group noted the lack of progress on article 3 of the Comprehensive Agreement, concerning prisoners of war, signed on 6 June 2010 by Djibouti and Eritrea under the auspices of Qatar. Djiboutian officials informed the Group that Eritrea continued to hold 17 Djiboutians. Eritrea had yet to acknowledge that it held Djiboutian combatants or provide information on their condition.

The Security Council, in resolution 2182(2014) of 24 October (see p. 367), took note of the Monitoring Group's report on Eritrea and urged Eritrea to make available information pertaining to Djiboutian combatants missing in action since 2008.

North Africa

Libya

In 2014, the United Nations sought a peaceful resolution to the political and institutional crisis in Libya as the security situation deteriorated. On 3 February, the General National Congress adopted a road map on future transitional arrangements. Elections for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly took place on 20 February. On 25 June, elections were held for a new legislative body: the House of Representatives.

In July, the most serious armed conflict since 2011 broke out in Tripoli, Benghazi and elsewhere in Libya. The violence spread to other parts of Tripoli, with reports of indiscriminate shelling of heavily populated residential areas. The fighting brought about a rapid deterioration in living conditions. Following six weeks of armed hostilities in July and August, Libya appeared to be descending into a period of instability. The House of Representatives called for an unconditional ceasefire, to be supervised by the United Nations.

The House of Representatives rejected the 6 November verdict of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court concerning the unconstitutionality of paragraph 11 of the seventh amendment of the Constitutional Declaration adopted on 11 March. Reactions by the main political actors to the ruling appeared to strengthen anxieties regarding parallel legislative and executive bodies and fuelled the political crisis.

In March, the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) was extended for a further 12-month period.

Political and security developments

Report of Secretary-General (February). In response to Security Council resolution 2095(2013)

[YUN 2013, p. 273], the Secretary-General, in February [S/2014/131], submitted a report on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The report covered major political and security developments in Libya, and provided an overview of the human rights situation.

On 3 February, the General National Congress adopted a road map on future transitional arrangements. It stipulated that the tenure of the General National Congress would continue until its authority could be transferred to a constitutionally elected legislative body, subject to the completion of the Constitution drafting process within the four-month period outlined in the Constitutional Declaration. If the Constitutional Drafting Assembly concluded, two months after convening, that it was unable to complete its task within the prescribed time, general elections would be called for a new interim Parliament and President under an amended Constitutional Declaration and new election law. The Parliament and President would serve for a period of 18 months from the date of the first session of the Constitutional Drafting Assembly, and any renewal of their terms would be subject to a popular referendum.

The General National Congress, in response to mounting public calls for it to be dissolved and replaced it with a new legislative body, adopted a resolution on 23 December 2013 stating that the Constitutional Drafting Assembly elections would be held in February 2014. The High National Election Commission recommended to the General National Congress that the vote take place on 20 February, in accordance with the Assembly electoral law. The elections took place as planned, but initial polling figures suggested a low turnout nationwide. The timeline also called for the completion of a draft constitution by July, to be followed by a referendum and general elections. The United Nations supported civic education and public outreach on constitutional issues.

The Secretary-General's proposal [YUN 2013, p. 278] to deploy a UN guard unit to ensure security for UN staff and premises in Tripoli, Libya, provoked a public controversy. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General called for a revision of the initial plan in a way that UNSMIL deemed to be most adapted to the Libyan situation. Other options were being considered and a new proposal was being finalized.

The Secretary-General observed that developments in Libya underscored the urgent need for the country's political forces to firmly commit themselves to the democratic process. Elections, while essential, were not the sole agent of democratization. Upholding principles of political pluralism and the recognition of diversity were central to any democratic process. He also called on all parties in Libya to voice their unambiguous support for the national dialogue and agree on a unified approach in order to maximize

the chances of its success. The Secretary-General remained concerned by the apparent lack of progress in investigating the accelerating spate of assassinations in Benghazi and in the east. He called on the authorities to assume their responsibilities in providing security and putting an end to impunity. He also urged all parties in Benghazi and the east to reject the use of violence to achieve political objectives.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 14 March [meeting 7136], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2144(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/188] was submitted by Chad, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1970(2011) of 26 February 2011, 1973(2011) of 17 March 2011, 2009(2011) of 16 September 2011, 2016(2011) of 27 October 2011, 2017(2011) of 31 October 2011, 2022(2011) of 2 December 2011, 2040(2012) of 12 March 2012 and 2095(2013) of 14 March 2013, as well as the statement by its President of 16 December 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict and its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security,

Looking forward to a future for Libya based on national reconciliation, justice, respect for human rights and the rule of law,

Emphasizing the importance of promoting the equal and full participation of all parts of Libyan society, including women, youth and minorities, in the political process,

Underlining the importance of agreement on immediate next steps for the democratic transition in Libya, and in this regard reaffirming the centrality of credible elections, an inclusive and transparent constitutional drafting process and the establishment of a single, inclusive and transparent national dialogue,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya to facilitate a meaningful Libyan-led national dialogue and strongly encouraging further steps forward in this regard, and reaffirming that the United Nations should lead the coordination of the efforts of the international community in supporting, in accordance with the principles of national ownership and national responsibility, the Libyan-led transition and institution-building process aimed at establishing a peaceful, democratic, independent and united Libya,

Welcoming also the holding of the election of the Constitutional Drafting Assembly on 20 February 2014, and urging political leaders to complete the formation of the Assembly and to work with minority communities to ensure their proper representation in the constitutional drafting process,

Expressing grave concern at the worsening security situation and political divisions in Libya, including abductions, assassinations and violent clashes between armed groups, in particular in the east of Libya and along its southern borders, which threaten to undermine the transition to democracy that meets the aspirations of the Libyan people,

Expressing support for the efforts by the Government of Libya to resolve peacefully the disruptions of Libya's energy exports, and reiterating that control of all facilities should be transferred back to the proper authorities,

Recalling its decision in resolution 1970(2011) to refer the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, and the importance of cooperation for ensuring that those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including attacks targeting civilians, are held accountable,

Expressing grave concern at the lack of judicial process for conflict-related detainees, including children, many of whom continue to be held outside State authority, and at reports of human rights violations and abuses, including torture and sexual and gender-based violence, in detention centres, and in that regard underlining that all parties in Libya should extend full cooperation to the Mission on all issues pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights,

Welcoming actions by the Government of Libya to address human rights issues, including the promulgation of a transitional justice law on 8 December 2013, the law against torture and discrimination on 9 April 2013 and the decree to redress the situation of victims of rape and violence adopted on 19 February 2014,

Reiterating that the voluntary, safe and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons will be an important factor for the consolidation of peace in Libya,

Expressing concern at the threat posed by unsecured arms and ammunition in Libya and their proliferation, which poses a risk to stability in Libya and the region, including through transfer to terrorist and violent extremist groups, and underlining the importance of coordinated international support to Libya and the region to address these issues,

Acknowledging, in this respect, the important contribution the Security Council-mandated arms embargo can make in assisting Libya to counter the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons and in supporting post-conflict peacebuilding, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform,

Reminding all Member States of the obligations contained in its resolutions 1970(2011) and 1973(2011), as modified in its subsequent resolutions, in particular those obligations relating to arms and related materiel of all types,

Supporting the intention of the Government of Libya to strengthen regional security, welcoming in this regard ongoing engagement with regional countries and the conference held in Rabat on 13 and 14 November 2013 and its recommendations to address border security issues, including the implementation of the Tripoli action plan, and

supporting further efforts of the European Union Border Assistance Mission in Libya to strengthen Libyan border management,

Welcoming the coordination of the international community in support of the Libyan transition at the Rome conference held on 6 March 2014, following up on the Paris conference held on 12 February 2013, endorsing the priorities and recommendations adopted at these meetings, and supporting their swift implementation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Mission, including the recommendation for the 12-month extension of the mandate of the Mission,

Taking note also of the final report of the Panel of Experts on Libya submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 (d) of resolution 2095(2013) and the findings and recommendations contained therein,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Secretariat to expand and improve the roster of experts for the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, bearing in mind the guidance provided by the note by the President of the Security Council of 22 December 2006,

Mindful of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. *Supports* the timely establishment of a single, inclusive and transparent national dialogue in Libya and an inclusive and transparent constitutional drafting process, and reiterates the need for the transitional period to be underpinned by a commitment to democratic processes and institutions, good governance, the rule of law, national reconciliation and respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people in Libya;

2. *Calls upon* the Government of Libya to promote and protect human rights, including those of women, children and people belonging to vulnerable groups, and to comply with its obligations under international law, including human rights law, calls for those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, including sexual violence and violations and abuses against children, to be held accountable in accordance with international standards, and urges all Member States to cooperate closely with the Government in its efforts to end impunity for such violations;

3. *Also calls upon* the Government of Libya to continue to cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the International Criminal Court and its Prosecutor as required by resolution 1970(2011);

4. *Condemns* cases of torture and mistreatment, and deaths by torture, in detention centres in Libya, calls upon the Government of Libya to take all steps necessary to accelerate the judicial process, transfer detainees to State authority and prevent and investigate violations and abuses of human rights, calls for all Libyan parties to cooperate with efforts of the Government in this regard, calls for the immediate release of all individuals arbitrarily arrested or detained in Libya, including foreign nationals, and underscores the primary responsibility of the Government for promoting and protecting the human rights of all persons in Libya, particularly those of African migrants and other foreign nationals;

5. *Encourages* Libya and neighbouring States to continue efforts to promote regional cooperation aimed at sta-

bilization of the situation in Libya and to prevent former Libyan regime elements and violent extremist groups from using the territories of Libya or such States to plan, fund or carry out violent or other illicit acts to destabilize Libya or States in the region, and notes that such cooperation would benefit regional stability;

United Nations mandate

6. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya until 13 March 2015 under the leadership of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya, and decides further that the mandate of the Mission as an integrated special political mission, in full accordance with the principles of national ownership, shall be to support efforts of the Government of Libya:

(a) As an immediate priority, to ensure the transition to democracy, including through promoting, facilitating and providing technical advice and assistance to a single, inclusive and transparent national dialogue, to Libyan electoral processes and to the process of preparing, drafting and adopting a new Libyan constitution, promoting the empowerment and political participation of all parts of Libyan society, in particular women, youth and minorities, and through the provision of good offices to support an inclusive Libyan political settlement and to promote a political environment for the integration of ex-combatants into Libyan national security forces or their demobilization and reintegration into civilian life;

(b) To promote the rule of law and monitor and protect human rights, in accordance with Libya's international legal obligations, particularly those of women, children and people belonging to vulnerable groups, such as minorities and migrants, including through assisting the Government of Libya to ensure the humane treatment of and due process for detainees, including children, and to implement fully its transitional justice law, and reform and build an independent judiciary and transparent and accountable law enforcement and correctional systems;

(c) To control unsecured arms and related materiel in Libya and counter their proliferation, by working to arrange access, ensure proper management, safe storage and, where appropriate, effective disposal of arms and related materiel, to support coherent partner efforts in this regard, including the coordination and facilitation of international assistance, and to strengthen border security, the development of capable Libyan institutions and effective national security coordination;

(d) To build governance capacity, as part of a coordinated international effort and drawing on the comparative advantage of the United Nations country team, by providing support to ministries, the national legislature and local government, with the aim of improving service delivery, transparency and coordination across government;

Arms embargo

7. *Stresses* that Member States notifying the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970(2011), in accordance with paragraph 13 (a) of resolution 2009(2011) as modified by paragraph 10 of resolution 2095(2013), of the supply, sale or transfer to Libya of arms and related materiel, including related ammunition and spare parts, should ensure that such notifications contain all relevant information,

8. *Also stresses* that arms and related materiel, including related ammunition and spare parts, that are supplied, sold or transferred as security or disarmament assistance to the Government of Libya in accordance with paragraph 13 (a) of resolution 2009(2011) as modified by paragraph 10 of resolution 2095(2013) should not be resold to, transferred to or made available for use by parties other than the designated end user;

9. *Urges* the Government of Libya to improve further the monitoring of arms or related materiel that is supplied, sold or transferred to Libya in accordance with paragraph 9 (c) of resolution 1970(2011) or paragraph 13 (a) of resolution 2009(2011) as modified by paragraph 10 of resolution 2095(2013), including through the use of end-user certificates, and urges Member States and regional organizations to provide assistance to the Government to strengthen the infrastructure and mechanisms currently in place to do so;

10. *Condemns* the reported continuing violations of the measures contained in resolutions 1970(2011) and 1973(2011), as modified in its subsequent resolutions, and recalls the mandate of the Committee, as defined in paragraph 24 of resolution 1970(2011), to examine and take appropriate action on information regarding alleged violations or non-compliance with those measures;

Asset freeze

11. *Directs* the Committee, in consultation with the Government of Libya, to review continuously the remaining measures imposed by resolutions 1970(2011) and 1973(2011), as modified by resolution 2009(2011), with respect to the Libyan Investment Authority and the Libyan Africa Investment Portfolio, and reaffirms its decisions that the Committee shall, in consultation with the Government, lift the designation of these entities as soon as practical to ensure that the assets are made available to and for the benefit of the people of Libya;

12. *Supports* the efforts of the Libyan authorities to recover funds misappropriated under the Qadhafi regime, and in this regard encourages the Libyan authorities and Member States that have frozen assets pursuant to resolutions 1970(2011) and 1973(2011) as modified by resolution 2009(2011) to consult with each other regarding claims of misappropriated funds and related issues of ownership;

Panel of Experts

13. *Decides* to extend until 13 April 2015 the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Libya, established pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1973(2011) and modified by resolution 2040(2012), expresses its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 12 months from the adoption of the present resolution, and decides that the Panel shall carry out the following tasks:

(a) Assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate as specified in paragraph 24 of resolution 1970(2011);

(b) Gather, examine and analyse information from States, relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and other interested parties regarding the implementation of the measures decided in resolutions 1970(2011) and 1973(2011) and modified in resolutions 2009(2011), 2040(2012), 2095(2013) and the present resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance;

(c) Make recommendations on actions that the Council, the Committee, the Government of Libya or other

States may consider to improve implementation of the relevant measures;

(d) Provide to the Council an interim report on its work no later than 180 days after the appointment of the Panel, and a final report to the Council, after discussion with the Committee, no later than 10 March 2015, with its findings and recommendations;

14. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies, including the Mission, and other interested parties to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on the implementation of the measures decided in resolutions 1970(2011) and 1973(2011) and modified in resolutions 2009(2011), 2040(2012), 2095(2013) and the present resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance;

15. *Encourages* the Panel of Experts to continue and expedite its investigations regarding sanctions non-compliance, including illicit transfers of arms and related materiel to and from Libya and the assets of individuals subject to the asset freeze established in resolutions 1970(2011) and 1973(2011) and modified in resolutions 2009(2011), 2040(2012), 2095(2013) and the present resolution, and encourages the Mission and the Government of Libya to support the investigatory work of the Panel inside Libya, including by sharing information, facilitating transit and granting access to weapons storage facilities, as appropriate;

16. *Also encourages* the Panel of Experts to submit to the Committee regular updates, including identifying information, with supporting documentation, on individuals and entities subject to the measures imposed by paragraph 15 of resolution 1970(2011) and/or paragraph 17 of resolution 1970(2011) or paragraph 19 of resolution 1973(2011), including, as applicable, their activities, movements and location, and any information related to the possible incarceration or death of listed individual;

Reporting and review

17. *Expresses its intent* to review the mandate of the Committee in the event that the measures imposed in resolutions 1970(2011) and 1973(2011) and modified in resolutions 2009(2011), 2040(2012), 2095(2013) and the present resolution should be lifted by a future decision of the Council;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution, including all elements of the mandate of the Mission, every 90 days;

19. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Communications. On 17 June [S/2014/417], the United States reported to the Security Council that it had taken action in Libya to capture Ahmed Abu Khattalah, a senior leader of the militant group Ansar al-Sharia-Benghazi in Libya. The United States ascertained that Ahmed Abu Khattalah was a key figure in the armed attack on the United States Temporary Mission Facility and Annex in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 256]. The measures taken were necessary to prevent armed attacks and were taken in accordance with the right of self-defence of the United States. They were reported to the Council in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

On 26 August [S/2014/632], Libya transmitted to the Security Council the “Security Maintenance and Sustainable Stability in Libya” plan, adopted by the House of Representatives and the interim Government on 23 August.

Report of Secretary-General (September). In response to Security Council resolution 2144(2014) (see p. 378), the Secretary-General, in September [S/2014/653], reported on political and security developments, the human rights situation and UNSMIL activities in Libya. He stated that the most serious armed conflict since 2011 broke out in Tripoli, Benghazi and elsewhere in July. On 5 July, an incident involving members of rival brigades at a checkpoint near the UNSMIL compound in Tripoli triggered fighting that quickly escalated into heavy intermittent clashes spreading to other parts of western Tripoli. Heavy artillery and rocket fire in and around the airport left large sections of it, along with a number of aircraft, badly damaged or destroyed, and all air travel was suspended. The fighting soon engulfed other parts of the capital, with reports of indiscriminate shelling of heavily populated residential areas. Both parties brought large numbers of troops and heavy armaments into Tripoli.

On 17 July, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Abdelaziz, addressed the Security Council and appealed for the establishment of a UN stabilization and institution-building mission for Libya to empower the Government and prevent the country from becoming a failed State. In response, the President of the General National Congress, Nouri Abu-Sahmain, and a number of party leaders issued statements rejecting what they saw as the Government’s calls for international intervention. On 23 August, the Libya Dawn military coalition declared that it had achieved its primary objective of evicting the Zintan-linked brigades from the capital. Both parties to the conflict were nominally under the command of the Libyan authorities.

In the east, air strikes against several positions belonging to the Libya Dawn coalition conducted before and in the days following the declaration of victory by the coalition did little to thwart its advance. There was no independent confirmation of the identity of the jets that carried out the strikes. Violence had escalated since fighting began in mid-May, spreading to heavily populated residential areas. Indiscriminate shelling had reportedly resulted in deaths and injuries to civilians, including children. In resolution 2174(2014) of 27 August (see p. 386), the Security Council called on all parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire and to engage in an inclusive political dialogue.

Following six weeks of armed hostilities in the capital in July and August, Libya appeared to be descending into a period of instability. The use of heavy weaponry in densely populated areas by all sides, particularly in the capital, resulted in an unprecedented population movement. An estimated 100,000 people

were displaced in Tripoli, with an additional 20,000 in the east. At least 100,000 crossed the borders into neighbouring countries. The fighting brought about a rapid deterioration in living conditions, including shortages of food, fuel, water and electricity, along with a rise in criminal activity.

Prior to the outbreak of armed conflict, on 2 March, protestors stormed chambers of the General National Congress. On 12 March, the General National Congress voted to approve a set of amendments to the Constitutional Declaration. Some of the recommendations were adopted, the most important being the provision for early legislative elections. Groups within the General National Congress passed a vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Ali Zeidan on 12 March. The Minister of Defence, Abdullah al-Thinni, was asked to serve as caretaker Prime Minister. On 4 May, the General National Congress elected Ahmed Meiteeg to succeed the caretaker Prime Minister. A group of 14 General National Congress members filed a legal challenge with the Supreme Court contesting the vote. The General National Congress confirmed Mr. Meiteeg's cabinet on 26 May. Mr. al-Thinni insisted that he would not vacate his position until the Supreme Court had issued its ruling. On 9 June, the Supreme Court declared the decision by the General National Congress to appoint Mr. Meiteeg unconstitutional. The General National Congress announced that it would abide by the decision, as did Mr. Meiteeg.

Security developments in the country notwithstanding, the constitutional process continued to move forward throughout the reporting period. On 20 February, initial polling in the national election for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly, although disrupted by boycotts and security problems, was sufficient to allow the High National Election Commission to announce preliminary results in 47 of the 60 races. Three rounds of subsequent polling filled 8 of the remaining 13 seats. On 21 April, the General National Congress convened the first session of the Constitutional Drafting Assembly in Al Baida. The Constitutional Declaration required the Constitutional Drafting Assembly to adopt a draft of the constitutional text for public referendum by 19 August. That schedule did not provide the Assembly with sufficient time to complete its work. Despite security challenges, municipal elections were held in 65 of the country's 102 municipalities.

Libya began its third transitional period with the holding of elections, on 25 June, for a new 200-member legislative body: the House of Representatives. Turnout for the elections was estimated at around 42 per cent of the 1.5 million registered voters, a significant decrease compared with the General National Congress elections of July 2012. The new Parliament convened for the first time on 4 August in Tobruk, but only 158 of the 188 elected members were present. The Parliament elected a speaker and two dep-

uties. It also amended the Constitutional Declaration and restored some of the powers previously attributed to the President to the House of Representatives until the President of Libya was elected. The House of Representatives also called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, to be complied with by all parties, and for the United Nations to supervise the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. In a direct challenge to the authority of the House of Representatives, the Libya Dawn coalition called on the former General National Congress to convene, charging that the transitional caretaker government and the House of Representatives had violated the Constitutional Declaration and consequently lost legitimacy.

The nine-month stand-off between the Libyan authorities and federalist armed groups over control of four oil terminals was resolved on 6 April, when both sides agreed on a phased reopening of the terminals. The authorities agreed to investigate all cases of financial and administrative mismanagement in the oil sector since 2011, drop all legal proceedings against those involved in the closures, pay petroleum guards past salaries and entitlements, and relocate their headquarters to Brega, in the east.

At the beginning of July, 229 UNSMIL international and national staff members and government-provided personnel had been deployed in the country. On 7 July, owing to security conditions, UNSMIL, with the approval of the relevant departments at United Nations Headquarters, decided to temporarily relocate 69 of the 113 non-security international staff from the Mission area. On 13 and 14 July, almost all remaining internationally recruited staff were evacuated to Tunisia. On 22 July, the temporary evacuation was extended to all remaining internationally recruited staff members of UN agencies, funds and programmes. Five international security officers remained in Tripoli, including the Chief Security Adviser, to provide security reporting, daily monitoring of UN premises and assets, and security advice for national staff.

The Secretary-General said that a durable solution to Libya's political problems could only be attained through an inclusive political dialogue that was committed to uphold Libya's democratic transition. He was concerned about reports of torture, deaths in custody, kidnapping and secret detentions by brigades nominally affiliated with the Ministry of Justice or the Ministry of Defence. The handover of all detainees to the State was a prerequisite for the establishment of the rule of law in Libya. The Secretary-General called on the Libyan authorities to conduct criminal investigations into attacks targeting humanitarian workers, human rights defenders and media professionals and ensure that those responsible were held to account. He asked the Secretariat to conduct a review of the UN presence in Libya, in partnership with the Libyan authorities and in consultation with regional and international partners.

Communication. In a 7 November letter addressed to the Security Council [S/2014/801], Libya stated that the House of Representatives rejected the 6 November verdict of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court. The Court's verdict stated the unconstitutionality of paragraph 11 of the seventh amendment of the Constitutional Declaration adopted on 11 March and all of its effects; a judgment that was interpreted by the media as meaning the dissolution of the House of Representatives. In its statement, which was annexed to the letter, the House of Representatives said it rejected that verdict because the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction over the Constitution, and the verdict was adopted at the Court's headquarters in Tripoli, which had been under the rule of militias since August and completely out of the control of the legitimate interim Government.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/144], the Secretary-General stated that the reactions by the main political actors to the 6 November ruling of the Supreme Court (see above) appeared to have strengthened anxieties regarding parallel legislative and executive bodies. The ruling and its aftermath continued to fuel the political crisis.

Following the Libya Dawn coalition's declaration of victory in Tripoli and the subsequent move by the General National Congress to reassert itself on the political scene, the coalition's leadership announced the appointment of a "government of national salvation". Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni continued to be regarded as the legitimate Head of Government. In late September, the House of Representatives reconfirmed Mr. al-Thinni as caretaker Prime Minister, who had effectively relocated the seat of Government to the east in view of political and security developments in the capital. The Libya Dawn coalition commenced a major military operation in the Warshafana tribal belt area. Weeks of heavy shelling of the Azizya and Suwani areas between late August and early October triggered a severe humanitarian crisis; at least 120,000 people were estimated to have been displaced.

A military counter-offensive by Zintani forces against Kikla and al-Qal'a areas in the Nafusa Mountains left more than 170 people dead by the end of November, with hundreds injured and some 5,700 families displaced. Repeated calls by UNSMIL for all parties to cease fighting and allow for the delivery of humanitarian aid went largely unheeded. A major escalation in combat operations occurred on 13 December, when Misratan armed groups attacked al-Sidra, the country's biggest oil load port. The move signalled the launch of Operation Sunrise, the primary objective of which was to wrest control of the oil crescent area from the Petroleum Facilities Guard. In Eastern Libya, fighting intensified between Operation Dignity, whose ranks largely comprised elements of the Libyan army and other forces loyal to General

Khalifa Haftar, and the Benghazi Revolutionaries Shura Council, a coalition of Islamist revolutionary brigades. In Derna, on 3 October, the Shura Council of Islamic Youth pledged allegiance to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

On 29 September, parliamentarians within the House of Representatives, including members who boycotted parliamentary sessions in Tobruk, attended face-to-face talks in Ghadames. The meeting, presided over by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, concluded with a public commitment to convene a second round of talks to address outstanding differences between the two camps. In an unannounced visit on 11 October, the Secretary-General addressed the second round of talks. He stressed that military means could not solve the country's political and institutional crisis, and that a viable solution should be sought through peaceful dialogue.

The trial of Saif al-Islam Qadhafi, Abdullah Al-Senussi and 35 other former regime officials before the Tripoli Court of Assize, which was suspended during the fighting in Tripoli, resumed in October. Mr. Qadhafi remained in detention in Zintan, and eight defendants previously held in Misrata were moved to Tripoli in November.

ICC activities

Communications. In a 17 March letter [S/2014/197], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a 24 January letter from the Registrar of the International Criminal Court (icc). By his letter, the Registrar, pursuant to the Negotiated Relationship Agreement between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations, transmitted the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the Court dated 31 May 2013 on the admissibility of the case against Saif al-Islam Qadhafi before the Court in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi*. Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected the challenge by Libya to the admissibility of the case.

On 19 March [S/2014/203], the Secretary-General transmitted a 28 January letter from the icc Registrar transmitting the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I, entitled *Decision on the admissibility of the case against Abdullah Al-Senussi*, in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi*. Pre-Trial Chamber I decided, on 11 October 2013, that the case of Abdullah Al-Senussi was inadmissible before the Court, owing to the principle of complementarity set forth in article 17 (1) (a) of the Rome Statute [YUN 2013, p. 279]. The Registrar also informed the Secretary-General that the decision had been appealed.

Briefings by ICC Prosecutor. The Prosecutor of ICC, Fatou Bensouda, briefed the Council on 13 May [S/PV.7173] and 11 November [S/PV.7306] on the activities undertaken by her Office with regard to Libya. In her November briefing, the Prosecutor

said that despite the elections in June, Libya was split, with two Governments vying for legitimacy. A worrisome aspect of the deteriorating situation was the ongoing spate of assassinations in Benghazi and the threats to media workers, human rights defenders and women in particular, and to prosecutors, judges and lawyers. There were indications that crimes that fell within ICC jurisdiction were being committed. The Prosecutor said that the possibility of forming an international contact group on justice issues through which material, legal and other support could be provided to Libya ought to be explored.

Progress was slow on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Prosecutor's Office and the Government, which was meant to facilitate collaborative efforts to ensure that individuals allegedly responsible for committing crimes in Libya as at 15 February 2011 were brought to justice. The government focal point arranged a meeting outside of the country between members of the Prosecutor's investigation team and Libyan national investigators. The meeting provided an opportunity for valuable exchanges of information and ensured plans for follow-up meetings. It also laid the groundwork for coordination in the investigation and prosecution of individuals of concern. Nevertheless, the combined effect of instability and lack of resources severely undermined her Office's investigative efforts in Libya. The Office was obliged to scale down resources for investigations in the country, in effect limiting its ability to investigate new allegations of mass crimes committed by the rebel forces.

The Prosecutor called on Libya to surrender Saif al-Islam Qadhafi to the custody of the Court. Her Office was monitoring developments in the trial of Abdullah Al-Senussi in Libya. Ongoing violence and alleged threats to judges, prosecutors and lawyers did not bode well for a fair trial. The Prosecutor would assess whether to apply for a review of the judges' decision upholding Libya's request that the case be tried in Libya.

The Prosecutor remained concerned about the number of individuals in detention, some of whom reportedly lack access to due process and might be subject to torture and death in custody. It was incumbent upon the Government to ensure that detainees were either tried within a reasonable time and with full respect for their due-process rights, or released. The mass displacement of the Tawerghans also remained an issue of concern to the Prosecutor's Office and to the international community as a whole.

Communication. On 29 December [S/2014/953], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a 12 December letter from the ICC President informing the Council of the decision on the non-compliance by Libya with requests for cooperation by the Court and referring the matter to the Council. The decision had been issued by Pre-Trial Chamber I on

10 December, in the case of *The Prosecutor v. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi*. The Chamber found that Libya failed to comply with the request to surrender Mr. Qadhafi to the Court. It decided that the Presidency of the Court would transmit its decision to the Council.

Sanctions

By resolution 1970(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 267], the Security Council imposed on Libya an arms embargo, as well as a travel ban and asset freeze against individuals listed in two annexes. By its resolution 1973(2011) [ibid., p. 271], the Council strengthened the enforcement of the arms embargo and expanded the scope of the asset freeze to include the exercise of vigilance when doing business with Libyan entities, if States had grounds to believe that such business could contribute to violence and the use of force against civilians. The resolution listed additional individuals subject to the asset freeze and the travel ban, and established a Panel of Experts (see below). Resolution 2009(2011) [ibid., p. 280] introduced exceptions to the arms embargo and removed two listed entities subject to the asset freeze, while allowing the four remaining entities to be subjected to a partial assets freeze. In resolution 2040(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 253], the Council directed the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970(2011) to review the remaining measures with regard to two listed entities and decided that the Committee was to lift the designation of those two entities. In resolution 2095(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 273], the Council further eased the arms embargo in relation to Libya concerning non-lethal military equipment. By resolution 2146(2014) (see below), the Council imposed measures on vessels in relation to attempts to illicitly export crude oil from Libya. By resolution 2174(2014) (see p. 386), the Council required the Committee's prior approval for the supply, sale or transfer of arms and material to Libya intended for security or disarmament assistance, with the exception of non-lethal military equipment.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 19 March [meeting 7142], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2146(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/200] was submitted by the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1970(2011) of 26 February 2011, 1973(2011) of 17 March 2011, 2009(2011) of 16 September 2011, 2016(2011) of 27 October 2011, 2017(2011) of 31 October 2011, 2022(2011) of 2 December 2011, 2040(2012) of 12 March 2012, 2095(2013) of 14 March 2013 and 2144(2014) of 14 March 2014, as well as the statement by its President of 16 December 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya,

Recalling that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of

10 December 1982, sets out the legal framework applicable to activities in the ocean,

Underlining the primary responsibility of the Libyan authorities in taking appropriate action to prevent the illicit export of crude oil from Libya, and reaffirming the importance of international support for Libyan sovereignty over its territory and resources,

Noting the letter dated 10 March 2014 from the Government of Libya to the President of the Security Council, and expressing concern that the illicit export of crude oil from Libya undermines the Government and poses a threat to the peace, security and stability of Libya,

Expressing support for efforts by the Government of Libya to resolve peacefully the disruptions of Libya's energy exports, and reiterating that control of all facilities should be transferred back to the proper authorities, supporting the intention of the Government to address border security issues, including the implementation of the Tripoli action plan, and noting the importance of the European Union Border Assistance Mission in Libya to strengthen Libyan border management,

Determining that the situation in Libya continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Condemns* attempts to illicitly export crude oil from Libya;

2. *Calls upon* the Government of Libya, on the basis of any information regarding such exports or attempted exports, to expeditiously contact the flag State of the concerned vessel, in the first instance, to resolve the issue;

3. *Requests* the Government of Libya to appoint and notify the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970(2011) of a focal point responsible for communication with the Committee with respect to the measures in the present resolution, and requests that the Government focal point inform the Committee of any vessels transporting crude oil illicitly exported from Libya, along with available and relevant information, and of any efforts made in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4. *Directs* the Committee to immediately inform all relevant Member States about such notifications from the Government of Libya focal point;

5. *Authorizes* Member States to inspect on the high seas vessels designated by the Committee pursuant to paragraph 11 below, and authorizes Member States to use all measures commensurate to the specific circumstances, in full compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as may be applicable, to carry out such inspections and direct the vessel to take appropriate actions to return the crude oil to Libya, with the consent of and in coordination with the Government of Libya;

6. *Requests* that Member States, before taking the measures authorized in paragraph 5 above, first seek the consent of the vessel's flag State;

7. *Decides* that any Member State that undertakes an inspection pursuant to paragraph 5 above shall submit promptly a report to the Committee on the inspection containing relevant details, including efforts made to seek the consent of the flag State of the vessel;

8. *Affirms* that the authorization provided by paragraph 5 of the present resolution applies only with respect to inspections carried out by warships and ships owned

or operated by a State and used only on government non-commercial service;

9. *Also affirms* that the authorization provided by paragraph 5 of the present resolution applies only with respect to vessels that are the subject of a designation made by the Committee pursuant to paragraph 11 below and shall not affect the rights or obligations or responsibilities of Member States under international law, including rights or obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including the general principle of exclusive jurisdiction of a flag State over its vessels on the high seas, with respect to other vessels and in any other situation, and underscores in particular that the present resolution shall not be considered as establishing customary international law;

10. *Decides* to impose the following measures on vessels designated in accordance with paragraph 11 below:

(a) The flag State of a vessel designated by the Committee pursuant to paragraph 11 shall take the measures necessary to direct the vessel not to load, transport or discharge such crude oil from Libya aboard the vessel, absent direction from the Government of Libya focal point;

(b) All Member States shall take the measures necessary to prohibit vessels designated by the Committee pursuant to paragraph 11 from entering their ports, unless such entry is necessary for the purpose of an inspection, in the case of emergency or in the case of return to Libya;

(c) All Member States shall take the measures necessary to prohibit the provision by their nationals or from their territory of bunkering services, such as provision of fuel or supplies, or other servicing of vessels, to vessels designated by the Committee pursuant to paragraph 11, unless provision of such services is necessary for humanitarian purposes, or in the case of return to Libya, in which case the Member State shall notify the Committee;

(d) All Member States shall take the measures necessary to require their nationals and entities and individuals in their territory not to engage in any financial transactions with respect to such crude oil from Libya aboard vessels designated by the Committee pursuant to paragraph 11;

11. *Also decides* that the Committee may designate vessels for some or all of the measures in paragraph 10 above, on a case-by-case basis, for a period of 90 days, which may be renewed by the Committee;

12. *Further decides* that the Committee may decide to terminate the designation of a vessel at any time and may make exceptions to some or all of the measures in paragraph 10 above as may be necessary and appropriate;

13. *Recalls* the creation, pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1973(2011), of the Panel of Experts on Libya, under the direction of the Committee, to carry out the tasks provided for by that paragraph, decides that this mandate shall apply with respect to the measures imposed in the present resolution, and directs the Panel to monitor implementation of the measures imposed in the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, having due regard for the increased mandate of the Panel of Experts, to increase the Panel to six members and make the financial and security arrangements necessary to support the work of the Panel;

15. *Decides* that the authorizations provided by and the measures imposed by the present resolution shall terminate one year from the date of the adoption of the present resolution, unless the Council decides to extend them;

16. *Also decides* to remain seized of the matter.

On 27 August [meeting 7251], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2174(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/629] was submitted by Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda and the United Kingdom.

The Security Council,

Recalling all its resolutions on Libya since resolution 1970(2011) of 26 February 2011, as well as the statement by its President of 16 December 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya,

Deploing the increasing violence in Libya, in particular around Tripoli and Benghazi, condemning ongoing fighting by armed groups and incitement to violence, and expressing its deep concern at its impact on Libya's civilian population and institutions, as well as the threat it poses to Libya's stability and democratic transition,

Welcoming the calls of the Government of Libya and House of Representatives for an immediate ceasefire, underlining the need for all parties to engage in peaceful and inclusive political dialogue and to respect the democratic process, and encouraging the Arab League, the African Union and all those with influence on the parties, in particular neighbouring and regional countries, to support an immediate cessation of hostilities and constructive engagement with such a dialogue,

Recalling its decision in resolution 1970(2011) to refer the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, and reaffirming the importance of the Government of Libya's cooperation with the Court and the Prosecutor,

Reaffirming the importance of holding accountable those responsible for violations or abuses of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law, including those involved in attacks targeting civilians,

Expressing deep concern at the threat posed by unsecured arms and ammunition in Libya and their proliferation, which poses a risk to stability in Libya and the region, including through transfer to terrorist and violent extremist groups, and underlining the importance of coordinated international support to Libya and the region to address these issues,

Concerned at the growing presence of Al-Qaida-linked terrorists groups and individuals operating in Libya, reaffirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including applicable international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and recalling in this regard the obligations under resolution 2161(2014) of 17 June 2014,

Expressing its determination to use targeted sanctions in pursuit of stability in Libya, and against those individuals and entities that threaten its stability and obstruct or undermine its successful completion of the political transition,

Mindful of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. *Calls upon* all parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire and an end to fighting, and expresses its strong support for the efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya in this regard;

2. *Condemns* the use of violence against civilians and civilian institutions, and calls for those responsible to be held accountable;

3. *Calls upon* the House of Representatives and the Constitutional Drafting Assembly to carry out their tasks in a spirit of inclusiveness, and calls upon all parties to engage in an inclusive Libyan-led political dialogue in order to help restore stability and to forge consensus around the next steps in Libya's transition;

4. *Reaffirms* that the measures specified in paragraphs 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21 of resolution 1970(2011), as modified by paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 of resolution 2009(2011) of 16 September 2011, apply to individuals and entities designated under that resolution and under resolution 1973(2011) of 17 March 2011 and by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1970(2011), decides that they shall also apply to individuals and entities determined by the Committee to be engaging in or providing support for other acts that threaten the peace, stability or security of Libya, or obstruct or undermine the successful completion of its political transition, and decides that such acts may include but are not limited to:

(a) Planning, directing or committing acts that violate applicable international human rights law or international humanitarian law, or acts that constitute human rights abuses, in Libya;

(b) Attacks against any air, land or sea port in Libya, or against a Libyan State institution or installation, or against any foreign mission in Libya;

(c) Providing support for armed groups or criminal networks through the illicit exploitation of crude oil or any other natural resources in Libya;

(d) Acting for or on behalf of or at the direction of a listed individual or entity;

5. *Reiterates* that individuals and entities determined by the Committee to have violated provisions of resolution 1970(2011), including the arms embargo, or assisted others in doing so, are subject to designation, and notes that this includes those who assist in the violation of the assets freeze and travel ban in resolution 1970(2011);

6. *Requests* the Panel of Experts on Libya established pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1973(2011), in addition to its current mandate, to provide information on individuals and entities that meet the designation criteria specified in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the present resolution;

7. *Requests* that the Committee give due regard to requests for delisting of individuals and entities who no longer meet the designation criteria;

8. *Decides* that the supply, sale or transfer of arms and related materiel, including related ammunition and spare parts, to Libya in accordance with paragraph 13 (a) of resolution 2009(2011) as modified by paragraph 10 of resolution 2095(2013) of 14 March 2013 must be approved in advance by the Committee;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular States neighbouring Libya, to inspect in their territory, including seaports and airports, in accordance with their national authorities

and legislation and consistent with international law, in particular the law of the sea and relevant international civil aviation agreements, all cargo to and from Libya, if the State concerned has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe the cargo contains items the supply, sale, transfer or export of which is prohibited by paragraph 9 or 10 of resolution 1970(2011), as modified by paragraph 13 of resolution 2009(2011) and paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 2095(2013), for the purpose of ensuring strict implementation of those provisions;

10. *Reaffirms* its decision to authorize all Member States to, and that all Member States shall, upon discovery of items prohibited by paragraph 9 or 10 of resolution 1970, as modified by paragraph 13 of resolution 2009(2011) and paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 2095(2013), seize and dispose (such as through destruction, rendering inoperable, storage or transferring to a State other than the originating or destination States for disposal) of such items, and further reaffirms its decision that all Member States shall cooperate in such efforts;

11. *Requires* any Member State, when it undertakes an inspection pursuant to paragraph 9 of the present resolution, to submit promptly an initial written report to the Committee containing, in particular, explanation of the grounds for the inspections, the results of such inspections, and whether or not cooperation was provided, and, if prohibited items for transfer are found, further requires such Member States to submit to the Committee, at a later stage, a subsequent written report containing relevant details on the inspection, seizure and disposal, and relevant details of the transfer, including a description of the items, their origin and intended destination, if this information is not in the initial report;

12. *Affirms* its readiness to review the appropriateness of the measures contained in the present resolution, including the strengthening, modification, suspension or lifting of the measures, and its readiness to review the mandate of the Mission, as may be needed at any time in the light of developments in Libya;

13. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Communication. In a 17 September letter addressed to the Security Council [S/2014/676], the Sudan stated that, in line with its obligations under the Joint Military and Security Cooperation Protocol signed between the Sudan and Libya on 9 August 2012, the Sudan, on 4 September, deployed to Kufra Airport an Antonov-74 military aircraft loaded with logistical military supplies after obtaining approval and clearance from the commander of the joint forces from the Libyan part, Colonel Suliman Hamid Hassan.

Security Council Committee. On 17 December [S/2014/909], the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970(2011) concerning Libya transmitted to the Council the report on its activities in 2014. During the year, the Committee held five informal consultations, on 26 February, 29 May, 2 June, and 2 and 12 September. It received an implementation report by one Member State and two addenda to an implementation report previously submitted by another Member State.

Panel of Experts. On 15 February [S/2014/106], the Security Council President circulated to Council members the final report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Council resolution 1973(2011). The report analysed the implementation of the measures imposed by resolution 1970(2011), including the arms embargo and asset freeze, and the modifications contained in resolutions 1973(2011), 2009(2011), 2016(2011), 2040(2012), and 2095(2013), respectively. It outlined the Panel's findings and presented recommendations to the Council, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970(2011) and Member States, including Libya, to improve the implementation of those measures.

The proliferation of weapons to and from Libya remained a major challenge for the stability of the country and the region. Despite some positive developments in rebuilding the Libyan security sector, most weapons were still under the control of non-State armed actors and border control systems remained ineffective. Over the previous three years, Libya had become a primary source of illicit weapons. The Panel continued to investigate leads in relation to transfers of such weapons to 14 countries. Cases under investigation reflected a diversified range of trafficking dynamics, including State-sponsored transfers by air and sea. In accordance with resolution 2009(2011), several Member States notified the Committee of transfers of military materiel to Libyan authorities. The creation of the country's Military Procurement Department allowed for a more accountable procurement process, but questions remained concerning the lack of centralized oversight of military procurement, the absence of identified procurement focal points for ministries other than the Ministry of Defence, the lack of clarity regarding end users and the capacity of the various forces to manage and secure stockpiles. The Panel was concerned about transfers to Libya in violation of the arms embargo, including non-notified deliveries to the national forces and transfers to non-State end users.

Several updates to the travel ban list were necessary to reflect changed status and new information. Of the 20 individuals listed, 5 were deceased, 4 were in Libya, 7 were in other countries, and the whereabouts of 4 remained unknown. The Panel investigated media reports indicating that four persons subject to the travel ban—Aisha Qadhafi, Mohammed Qadhafi, Hannibal Qadhafi and Safia Farkash Al-Barassi—had left Algeria and travelled to Oman in October 2012. Both Oman and Algeria indicated that Aisha Qadhafi and Mohammed Qadhafi had departed Algeria and were present in Oman. In February 2014, Oman indicated that Hannibal Qadhafi and Safia Farkash Al-Barassi were not residing in Oman and that it had no additional information about their location. The Panel also investigated an alleged plot to smuggle Saadi Qadhafi, who was subject to both the asset freeze and travel ban sanctions, and his family to Mexico in 2011.

Concerning the implementation of the asset freeze, the Panel obtained details on the efforts made by Saadi Qadhafi and his associates to hide, move and use assets that should have been frozen. High-value assets allegedly belonging to listed entities and/or individuals were located. Enquiries revealed instances in some Member States of inadequate legislative capacity to implement asset freeze measures. In one instance, the issue resulted in the dissipation of almost \$2 million in funds that should have been frozen. The relevant Member States in those cases were aware of the situation and were attempting to address it.

Appointments. On 17 April [S/2014/288], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that he had appointed six experts to the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Council resolution 1973(2011) and extended by resolution 2144(2014) (see p. 378) and previous resolutions. The Council added a sixth expert to the Panel pursuant to resolution 2146(2014) (see p. 384).

On 17 September [S/2014/680], the Secretary-General informed the Council that he had appointed Mohammed Cherkaoui (United States) to serve as regional expert on the Panel of Experts, replacing Ali Ahmida (United States), who withdrew from the Panel on 27 June.

Children and armed conflict

In May [A/68/878-S/2014/339], the Secretary-General issued a report on children and armed conflict, which included information on grave violations committed against children during armed conflict in Libya in 2013. The situation for children in Libya remained precarious in 2013, with political tensions escalating into armed confrontations in al-Ajailat, al-Shagiga, Ghadamis, Tripoli, Benghazi and Sabha, sometimes involving the use of heavy weapons. The United Nations documented the killing of 14 children and the injury of 5 others in crossfire and improvised explosive device incidents or as a result of the use of heavy weaponry.

UNSMIL

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) was a special political mission established in September 2011 by Security Council resolution 2009(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 280] at the request of Libyan authorities, following six months of armed conflict. The Mission was mandated to support the country's new transitional authorities in their post-conflict efforts for an initial period of three months. The Council modified and extended the UNSMIL mandate in resolutions 2022(2011) [ibid., p. 286], 2040(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 253] and 2095(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 273]. By resolution 2144(2014) of 14 March (see p. 378), the Council mandated UNSMIL, for a further 12-month period, to support Libyan government efforts to ensure

the transition to democracy; promote the rule of law and monitor and protect human rights; control unsecured arms and related materiel in Libya and counter their proliferation; and build governance capacity.

Appointment. On 8 August [S/2014/583], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Bernardino León (Spain) as his new Special Representative and Head of UNSMIL. Mr. León would succeed Tarek Mitri (Lebanon). The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 12 August [S/2014/584].

Financing

In an April report [A/68/327/Add.12], the Secretary-General requested the General Assembly to approve proposed additional resources for 2014 for UNSMIL amounting to \$22,793,200 net (\$23,204,400 gross). He also requested the Assembly to approve a charge in the same amount against the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the 2014–2015 biennium. In May [A/68/7/Add.28], ACABQ recommended that the Assembly approve the additional resources for UNSMIL and the charge requested by the Secretary-General.

The Assembly, in **resolution 68/280** of 30 June (see p. 1629), approved the budgets of the special political missions authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council, including UNSMIL, as well as the charges against the provision appropriated for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the 2014–2015 programme budget.

Western Sahara

The ceasefire in Western Sahara between Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario) continued to hold, but there was no progress towards a resolution of the status of the disputed territory. Under a plan presented in 2007 by Frente Polisario [YUN 2007, p. 296], final status was to be decided in a referendum on self-determination that included independence as an option. Morocco, in turn, presented a plan for autonomy [ibid., p. 297]. The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara engaged in consultations with the parties and neighbouring States to gauge their flexibility in developing a compromise solution. His Special Representative initiated consultations to update military agreement No. 1, the basic legal instrument governing ceasefire monitoring. The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) also held several rounds of discussions separately with the Royal Moroccan Army and Frente Polisario to consider the parties' proposals for adjustments to military agreement No. 1. The Security Council extended the MINURSO mandate until 30 April 2015.

Political and security developments

Communication. On 28 March [S/2014/235], Morocco transmitted to the Security Council a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, Salahaddine Mezouar, addressed to the Secretary-General. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation stated that since the adoption of Council resolution 2099(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 281], Morocco had met all of its commitments, including those related to human rights, and had taken measures to go beyond the recommended commitments. He noted that there had been no follow-up to the call issued by the Council for registration of the populations of the Tindouf camps. Morocco advocated for decisive participation by all parties in a negotiation process, and its initiative for an autonomy statute indicated its resolve to proceed in accordance with the parameters set by the Council.

Report of Secretary-General (April). In response to Security Council resolution 2099(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 281], the Secretary-General submitted an April report [S/2014/258] on the situation in Western Sahara, covering developments since his 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 280]. The ceasefire in Western Sahara between Morocco and Frente Polisario continued to hold and the people could live without fear of a resumption of armed conflict in the medium term. The part of Western Sahara under control of Morocco, west of the berm marking the ceasefire line, witnessed considerable Moroccan investment in infrastructure and in the social and cultural sphere. Public life proceeded peacefully due, in part, to the extensive presence of security forces. An increased number of delegations from foreign legislatures and diplomatic missions, as well as governmental and non-governmental institutions and journalists, visited the western part of the Territory. Some underlying discontent, however, remained perceptible among the Saharan population, expressing itself in sporadic demonstrations aimed at drawing attention to human rights concerns, socioeconomic issues and political demands, including the right to self-determination. They were swiftly dispersed by Moroccan security forces. As a result of negotiations by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), family visits programme flights, which had been suspended since June 2013, were to resume on 17 April 2014.

The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara engaged in bilateral consultations with the parties and neighbouring States to gauge whether the parties were prepared to be flexible in developing the elements of a compromise solution. By April, he had undertaken three rounds of consultations with the parties and neighbouring States in the framework of the new approach and had begun visiting the capitals of the members of the Group of Friends of Western Sahara to confirm their support. The Personal Envoy visited the region from 18 to 30 January to clarify the

issues and the positions of the parties. He emphasized that options were running out for the negotiating process and that progress needed to be made in 2014. The Personal Envoy returned to the region from 27 February to 7 March to meet with the working groups formed by Morocco and Frente Polisario and to receive their responses to the questions put to them during the consultations held in January.

As at 6 March, the military component of MINURSO stood at 225 personnel out of an authorized strength of 231. MINURSO observed and recorded six general violations of military agreement No. 1—the basic legal instrument governing the ceasefire monitoring of Western Sahara—by the Royal Moroccan Army, a significant decrease from the previous reporting period, when 42 such violations were recorded. MINURSO recorded one general violation by Frente Polisario forces. The Mission's assessment was that both parties remained committed to and respectful of the ceasefire, and that their observed violations did not jeopardize it in the medium term. The lack of precise ceasefire terms and differing interpretations of the ceasefire agreement, however, represented a major challenge to MINURSO monitoring operations and eroded the Mission's authority. The Special Representative therefore initiated consultations with the parties to update military agreement No. 1, based on proposals forwarded by them.

In January, for the first time since its inception, MINURSO witnessed a violation of the status-of-forces agreement when a group of Royal Moroccan Army soldiers gained unauthorized entry to the Mahbas team site, in pursuit of five unarmed civilians attempting to stage a demonstration inside the site. The five Saharan activists were apprehended in the operation by the Moroccan soldiers. The Special Representative protested the violation to Morocco. He received assurances that Morocco remained committed to strict implementation of the agreement, including respect for the inviolability of UN premises.

Landmines and explosive remnants of war in Western Sahara continued to endanger the lives of the local, nomadic and refugee populations, as well as MINURSO personnel. Two civilians were injured in a mine accident east of the berm. Frente Polisario reported a significant loss of livestock to mines, especially in the buffer strip. The Royal Moroccan Army reported 12 accidents, in which 1 person was killed, 18 were injured and 1 was unharmed west of the berm.

The Secretary-General called on the parties to engage seriously on the two core issues in the Security Council's guidance: the content of a political solution and the form of self-determination. He asked the international community for support in that regard. The Secretary-General said that the presence of MINURSO remained relevant as an instrument of stability; as a mechanism to support the implementation of Council resolutions relating to the Mission's mandate;

and to provide independent information on the conditions on the ground to the United Nations and the international community. He therefore sought the Council's assistance in reasserting the mandated role of MINURSO, upholding peacekeeping standards and UN neutrality, and ensuring that the conditions for the successful operation of the Mission were met. He called on Morocco and Frente Polisario to cooperate fully with MINURSO in achieving those objectives. The Secretary-General recommended that the Council extend the Mission's mandate, with an increase of 15 military observers to the authorized strength, for a further 12 months, until 30 April 2015.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 April [meeting 7162], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2152(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/299] was submitted by France, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling and reaffirming all its previous resolutions on Western Sahara,

Reaffirming its strong support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to implement resolutions 1754(2007) of 30 April 2007, 1783(2007) of 31 October 2007, 1813(2008) of 30 April 2008, 1871(2009) of 30 April 2009, 1920(2010) of 30 April 2010, 1979(2011) of 27 April 2011, 2044(2012) of 24 April 2012 and 2099(2013) of 25 April 2013,

Reaffirming its commitment to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and noting the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect,

Reiterating its call upon the parties and the neighbouring States to cooperate more fully with the United Nations and with each other and to strengthen their involvement to end the current impasse and to achieve progress towards a political solution,

Recognizing that achieving a political solution to this long-standing dispute and enhanced cooperation between the States members of the Arab Maghreb Union would contribute to stability and security in the Sahel region,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations, including the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, under close review, and reiterating the need for the Security Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments, and effective management of resources,

Expressing concern about the violations of existing agreements, and calling upon the parties to respect their relevant obligations,

Taking note of the proposal presented by Morocco to the Secretary-General on 11 April 2007 and welcoming serious and credible Moroccan efforts to move the process forward towards resolution, and taking note also of the proposal presented by the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to the Secretary-General on 10 April 2007,

Encouraging, in this context, the parties to demonstrate further political will towards a solution, including by expanding upon their discussion of each other's proposals,

Taking note of the four rounds of negotiations held under the auspices of the Secretary-General, and welcoming the commitment of the parties to continue the negotiations process,

Encouraging the parties to continue to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in implementing the January 2012 updated plan of action on confidence-building measures,

Stressing the importance of improving the human rights situation in Western Sahara and the Tindouf refugee camps, and encouraging the parties to work with the international community to develop and implement independent and credible measures to ensure full respect for human rights, bearing in mind their relevant obligations under international law,

Encouraging the parties to continue in their respective efforts to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in Western Sahara and the Tindouf refugee camps, including the freedoms of expression and association,

Recognizing and welcoming, in this regard, the recent steps and initiatives taken by Morocco to strengthen the National Council on Human Rights regional commissions operating in Dakhla and Laayoune, and Morocco's ongoing interaction with special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council, including those planned for 2014, as well as the planned visit of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2014,

Welcoming the implementation of the enhanced refugee protection programme developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in co-ordination with the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro, which includes refugee and human rights training and awareness initiatives,

Reiterating its request for consideration of a refugee registration in the Tindouf refugee camps, and inviting efforts in this regard,

Welcoming the commitment of the parties to continue the process of negotiations through the United Nations-sponsored talks,

Recognizing that the consolidation of the status quo is not acceptable, and noting further that progress in the negotiations is essential in order to improve the quality of life of the people of Western Sahara in all its aspects,

Affirming its support for the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Christopher Ross, and his work in facilitating negotiations between the parties, and welcoming to that effect his recent initiatives and ongoing consultations with the parties and neighbouring States,

Affirming its support also for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Head of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 10 April 2014,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara until 30 April 2015;

2. *Reaffirms* the need for full respect of the military agreements reached with the Mission with regard to the ceasefire, and calls upon the parties to adhere fully to those agreements;

3. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of the Mission, including its free interaction with all interlocutors, and to take the steps necessary to ensure the security of, as well as unhindered movement and immediate access for, the United Nations and associated personnel in carrying out their mandate, in conformity with existing agreements;

4. *Welcomes* the commitment of the parties to continue the process of preparation for a fifth round of negotiations, and recalls its endorsement of the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General of 14 April 2008 that realism and a spirit of compromise by the parties are essential to achieve progress in negotiations;

5. *Calls upon* the parties to continue to show political will and to work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring the implementation of resolutions 1754(2007), 1783(2007), 1813(2008), 1871(2009), 1920(2010), 1979(2011), 2044(2012) and 2099(2013) and the success of negotiations;

6. *Affirms its strong support* for the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara towards a solution to the question of Western Sahara in this context, and calls for renewed meetings and strengthening of contacts;

7. *Calls upon* the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account the efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and notes the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect;

8. *Invites* Member States to lend appropriate assistance to these talks;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Security Council on a regular basis, and at least twice a year, on the status and progress of these negotiations under his auspices, the implementation of the present resolution, challenges to the operations of the Mission and steps taken to address them, expresses its intention to meet to receive and discuss his briefings, and in this regard further requests the Secretary-General to provide a report on the situation in Western Sahara well before the end of the mandate period;

10. *Welcomes* the commitment of the parties and the neighbouring States to hold periodic meetings with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to review and, where possible, expand confidence-building measures;

11. *Urges* Member States to provide voluntary contributions to fund confidence-building measures agreed upon between the parties, including those that allow for visits between separated family members;

12. *Notes* the request of the Secretary-General for an additional 15 United Nations military observers, and supports this request within existing resources;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the measures necessary to ensure full compliance in the Mission with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take ap-

propriate preventive action, including predeployment awareness training, and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General (August). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/91 [YUN 2013, p. 283], the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly an August report [A/69/344] summarizing his April report to the Security Council on the situation concerning Western Sahara (see p. 389) and covering the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. The Secretary-General stated that his Personal Envoy intended to pursue bilateral consultations in preparation for a resumption of face-to-face talks. The Personal Envoy informed the parties and the neighbouring States that he intended to return to the region every six weeks, beginning in May. While all interlocutors agreed in principle to that calendar, Morocco expressed reservations over parts of the Secretary-General's April report and stated its desire to clarify the objectives and framework of the negotiating process before agreeing to dates for the next trip to the region. In June, the Personal Envoy and UN senior officials held extensive consultations with Morocco in New York. The Personal Envoy also met with members of the Group of Friends, who stressed the need for a speedy resumption of mediation efforts. The Secretary-General reiterated his call to the parties to move towards a solution without further delay and urged them to engage in genuine negotiations with the support and facilitation of his Personal Envoy.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/246], the Secretary-General provided information on developments in Western Sahara since his April report. On the 6 November anniversary of Morocco's "Green March" into Western Sahara [YUN 1975, p. 175], King Mohammed VI stated that "the Sahara will remain part of Morocco until the end of time". He said that the autonomy initiative was the maximum Morocco could offer to achieve a final solution to the conflict and stressed that his country's sovereignty over its entire territory was "effective, inalienable and non-negotiable".

The Secretary-General stated that given the lack of progress towards a resolution of the dispute over the status of Western Sahara, the efforts of the United Nations through the work of his Personal Envoy and of MINURSO remained highly relevant. Growing frustrations among Western Saharans, coupled with the geographic expansion of criminal and extremist networks in the Sahel-Sahara zone, presented increased risks for the stability and security of the region and a settlement of the Western Sahara conflict would mitigate those potential risks. He welcomed the parties' discussion of military agreement No. 1 governing the ceasefire monitoring regime and called for continued and constructive cooperation with the Mission to move forward on the issues involved.

MINURSO continued to advocate that discrepancies vis-à-vis the determination of ceasefire monitoring violations and potential security concerns be addressed within the framework of military agreement No. 1. The Mission revived dedicated working group discussions with the parties that were initiated in November 2013 to clarify understandings of the agreement, reconcile variations in approach, address concerns put forward by each party with regard to application of the agreement and strengthen the MINURSO monitoring regime. In March, April and June, three rounds of discussions were held with representatives of the Royal Moroccan Army. In March, May, June and September, four rounds were held with representatives of the Frente Polisario forces. MINURSO considered the parties' initial proposals for potential adjustments to military agreement No. 1 and identified areas of concern.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/69/462], adopted **resolution 69/101** without vote [agenda item 59].

Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514(XV) and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/91 of 11 December 2013,

Recalling also all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658(1990) of 27 June 1990, 690(1991) of 29 April 1991, 1359(2001) of 29 June 2001, 1429(2002) of 30 July 2002, 1495(2003) of 31 July 2003, 1541(2004) of 29 April 2004, 1570(2004) of 28 October 2004, 1598(2005) of 28 April 2005, 1634(2005) of 28 October 2005, 1675(2006) of 28 April 2006 and 1720(2006) of 31 October 2006,

Underlining the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1754(2007) on 30 April 2007, 1783(2007) on 31 October 2007, 1813(2008) on 30 April 2008, 1871(2009) on 30 April 2009, 1920(2010) on 30 April 2010, 1979(2011) on 27 April 2011, 2044(2012) on 24 April 2012, 2099(2013) on 25 April 2013 and 2152(2014) on 29 April 2014,

Expressing its satisfaction that the parties met on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 under the auspices of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and in the presence of the neighbouring countries and that they have agreed to continue the negotiations,

Also expressing its satisfaction at the holding of nine informal meetings convened by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General on 9 and 10 August 2009 in Dürnstein, Austria, on 10 and 11 February 2010 in Westchester County, New York, United States of America, from 7 to 10 November 2010, from 16 to 18 December 2010 and from 21 to 23 January 2011, all on Long Island, New York, from 7 to 9 March 2011 in Mellieha, Malta, from 5 to 7 June 2011 and from 19 to 21 July 2011, both on Long Island, and from 11 to 13 March 2012 in Manhasset, New York, to prepare for the fifth round of negotiations,

Calling upon all the parties and the States of the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy and with each other,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara,

Welcoming, in this regard, the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in search of a mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,

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

2. *Supports* the process of negotiations initiated by Security Council resolution 1754(2007) and further sustained by Council resolutions 1783(2007), 1813(2008), 1871(2009), 1920(2010), 1979(2011), 2044(2012), 2099(2013) and 2152(2014), with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and commends the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara in this respect;

3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue, in order to enter into a more intensive phase of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions, noting efforts and developments since 2006, thus ensuring the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1754(2007), 1783(2007), 1813(2008), 1871(2009), 1920(2010), 1979(2011), 2044(2012), 2099(2013) and 2152(2014) and the success of negotiations;

4. *Also welcomes* the ongoing negotiations between the parties held on 18 and 19 June 2007, on 10 and 11 August 2007, from 7 to 9 January 2008 and from 16 to 18 March 2008 in the presence of the neighbouring countries and under the auspices of the United Nations;

5. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and calls upon them to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

MINURSO

The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was established by Security Council resolution 690(1991) [YUN 1991, p. 794] in accordance with settlement proposals accepted on 30 August 1988 by Morocco and Frente Polisario. The settlement plan, as approved by the Council, provided for a transitional period for the preparation of a referendum in which the people of Western Sahara would choose between independence and integration with Morocco. MINURSO continued to monitor compliance with the formal ceasefire between Frente Polisario and Morocco. Military agreement No. 1, which MINURSO had signed separately with the parties, remained the basic legal instrument governing the ceasefire monitoring of the disputed territory. The Mission's military observers carried out monitoring through a combination of ground and air patrols and observation posts, and through inspections of larger-than-company-size military units. Bilateral military agreements Nos. 2 and 3 [YUN 1999, pp. 179–180], committing both parties to cooperating with MINURSO in the exchange of mine-related information, the marking of mined areas and the destruction of mines and unexploded ordnance, remained in force. The Mission also provided support to assistance programmes to address the plight of displaced and separated Saharawi families.

Appointment. On 6 May [S/2014/322], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Kim Bolduc (Canada) as his Special Representative for Western Sahara and Head of MINURSO. She replaced Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber (Germany), who would complete his assignment on 31 July. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 8 May [S/2014/323].

Financing

The Secretary-General's performance report on the MINURSO budget for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/608] showed an expenditure of \$56,481,400 gross (\$54,207,600 net) against an apportionment of \$58,253,000 gross (\$55,972,400 net).

In January [A/68/699], the Secretary-General submitted the MINURSO budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2014 in the amount of \$54,019,300 gross (\$51,728,800 net), exclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind in the amount of \$2,071,700. The budget provided for the deployment of 203 military observers, 27 military contingent personnel, 12 UN police officers, 91 international staff, 171 national staff, 16 United Nations Volunteers and 10 Government-provided personnel.

In April [A/68/782/Add.3], ACABQ recommended that the unencumbered balance of \$1,771,600 for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, as well as other income/adjustments in the amount of \$1,014,100 for the period ended 30 June 2012, be

credited to Member States. Regarding the 2013–2014 budget, the Committee recommended that the overall requirement proposed by the Secretary-General be reduced by \$139,700 and, accordingly, that the General Assembly appropriate an amount of \$53,879,600 for the maintenance of the Mission for that period.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/930], adopted **resolution 68/296** without vote [agenda item 163].

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 690(1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2152(2014) of 29 April 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 April 2015,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/283 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 42.3 million United States dollars, representing some 4 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 99 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort

to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 28 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to consider the question of the authority to move staff within the area of an individual mission during the second part of its resumed sixty-ninth session, while maintaining existing arrangements;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

13. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 58,126,500 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 53,918,400 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 3,488,900 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 719,200 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

14. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 48,438,750 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 April 2015, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

15. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,138,800 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,900,700 dol-

lars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 184,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 53,600 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

16. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 9,687,750 dollars for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of 4,843,875 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2015 as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

17. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 427,700 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 380,100 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 36,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 10,700 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 2,785,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

19. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 2,785,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 18 above;

20. *Decides* that the decrease of 6,800 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be set off against the credits in the amount of 2,785,700 dollars referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above;

21. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

23. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".

The General Assembly, by **decision 69/554** of 29 December, decided that the agenda item on MINURSO financing would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Americas

In 2014, the United Nations continued to advance the cause of lasting peace, human rights, good governance and the rule of law in the Americas.

In Haiti, political stalemate between the executive and legislative branches of Government continued to impede the stabilization process. Long-delayed legislative, municipal and local elections that had been scheduled for 26 October were postponed following an inconclusive national dialogue on democratic governance, elections and constitutional amendments. The security environment remained relatively stable. An increase in cholera cases, the continued presence of internally displaced persons and food insecurity remained areas of focus. While 2014 saw a 53 per cent decrease in the number of suspected cholera cases from the previous year, the number rose during the last quarter. A total sanitation campaign was launched aimed at stemming the spread of cholera. Haiti continued to make progress in relocating persons displaced by the earthquake of 2010. The original number of 1.5 million displaced persons had been reduced by 94 per cent. An estimated 3 million people were food-insecure. Funding for the Haiti humanitarian action plan stood at 51 per cent as at 30 December, with the cholera response underfunded.

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) continued its efforts in implementing key mandated tasks such as ensuring a secure and stable environment, supporting the electoral process and rule of law, strengthening State institutions, providing humanitarian and development assistance, and protecting and promoting human rights. The Security Council extended the mandate of MINUSTAH until October 2015 and decided to reduce the Mission's military component.

In March, the representatives of El Salvador and Honduras outlined their official positions on the territorial dispute over the Gulf of Fonseca.

In October, the General Assembly again called for the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

Central America

In 2014, the people of Central America furthered their efforts to consolidate peace and built democratic and equitable societies on the foundation established by years of successful UN peacemaking. The United

Nations continued to assist the region through development programmes and other means.

Communication. In a 1 October [A/69/419] letter to the Secretary-General, Honduras detailed the General Principles of the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle adopted by the Northern Triangle countries: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Gulf of Fonseca Zone of Peace

In a 25 March [A/68/817] letter from El Salvador to the Secretary-General sent in response to a 4 March request from Honduras for the dispatch of a high-level United Nations representative to ascertain in situ the situation in the Gulf of Fonseca, El Salvador stated that a UN representative was not necessary because the situation in the Gulf was governed by the framework established by the Heads of State and Government of the coastal States of the Gulf in their declarations dated 4 October 2007, 30 March 2012, 4 December 2012 and 8 May 2013. El Salvador also condemned steps by Honduras to open a heliport and other infrastructure projects on Conejo Island, in perceived violation of El Salvador's sovereignty claim over the island. El Salvador requested that the Secretary-General continue to promote dialogue through the framework established by the Managua Declaration of 4 October 2007 and in direct consultation with the three coastal States of the Gulf; and that agenda item 41 of the General Assembly, entitled "The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development", be used as the basis for addressing issues related to the Gulf of Fonseca, within the multilateral framework of the United Nations.

On 28 March [A/68/822-S/2014/234], Honduras transmitted identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council on the situation in the Gulf of Fonseca. The letters focused on the claim of sovereignty by El Salvador over all the islands in the Gulf of Fonseca with the exception of the Island of Zacate Grande. Honduras expressed particular concern over a publicly announced military buildup by El Salvador, which Honduras perceived as designed to disrupt the regional balance of power. Honduras reiterated its political will to engage in constructive bilateral and trilateral dialogue on the comprehensive development of the Gulf of Fonseca and on its delimitation, by agreement and on the basis of international law.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Haiti

In 2014, political stalemate between the executive and legislative branches of Government continued to impede the stabilization process in Haiti. Long-delayed legislative, municipal and local elections that had been scheduled for 26 October were postponed following inconclusive national dialogue. An increase in cholera cases, the continued presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and food insecurity remained areas of focus. While 2014 saw a 53 per cent decrease in the number of suspected cholera cases from the previous year, the number rose during the last quarter. Haiti continued to make progress in re-locating persons displaced by the earthquake of 2010. An estimated 3 million people were food-insecure. Funding for the Haiti humanitarian action plan stood at 51 per cent as at 30 December, with the cholera response underfunded.

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) continued to ensure a secure and stable environment, supporting the electoral process and rule of law, strengthening State institutions, providing humanitarian and development assistance, and protecting and promoting human rights. The Security Council extended the mandate of MINUSTAH until October 2015 and decided to reduce the Mission's military component.

Political and security developments

Report of Secretary-General (March). In March [S/2014/162], pursuant to Security Council resolution 2119(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 290], the Secretary-General submitted a report on MINUSTAH, reviewing developments since his August 2013 report [YUN 2013 p. 289].

The reporting period was characterized by political stalemate between the executive branch and parliament. There was an initial increase in civil unrest and demonstrations, many of which were attributable to socioeconomic grievances and a growing sense of impatience with regard to continued delays in holding elections. In an effort to address the stalemate, the Government promulgated a new electoral law on 16 January focusing on the formation, functioning and financing of political parties, a precondition set by the opposition. That was followed by the 24 January launch of a national dialogue on democratic governance, elections and constitutional amendments

mediated by the Episcopal Conference between the executive branch, parliament and political parties. On 3 February, the executive branch, parliament and some political parties reached a preliminary consensus on the holding of combined elections during the year for two thirds of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, municipal administrations and local councils; however, on 12 February, a number of opposition parties abandoned the dialogue, and on 15 February the formalization of the agreement was postponed.

Meanwhile, the security situation remained relatively stable. Crime statistics collected by the national police and MINUSTAH showed 817 homicides reported in 2013, which was 21 per cent lower than in 2012 and a reversal of a five-year trend. Violence and gang activity continued to be concentrated in major urban centres, with approximately 77 per cent of homicides in 2013 taking place in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. The average monthly number of reported rapes showed a slight increase to 33.8, compared with 30.5 during the previous reporting period.

On human rights, systemic deficiencies remained, notwithstanding progress in terms of Haiti's signing of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment [YUN 1984, p. 813] on 16 August 2013 and its accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights [YUN 1966, p. 419] on 8 October 2013. The 2014 humanitarian action plan identified a need for \$169 million to provide basic services for the remaining IDPs living in camps and to address critical needs related to the cholera epidemic, food insecurity, nutrition, protection and disaster preparedness; as at March, only \$6 million of the funds had been received.

The Secretary-General also highlighted accomplishments in key priority areas of the MINUSTAH consolidation plan, such as the professionalization of the Haitian National Police, electoral capacity-building and the rule of law and human rights; however, he warned that slow progress in other equally important areas risked jeopardizing some of those achievements. In particular, progress in justice and accountability had lagged behind the development of the national police, creating an imbalance in the delivery of the rule of law. The political impasse was also impeding the ability of national institutions to assume full responsibility over the electoral process.

Ad Hoc Advisory Group. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, mandated by Economic and Social Council decision 2004/322 [YUN 2004, p. 939] to follow and advise on the long-term development of the country, submitted an October report [E/2014/95] based on the findings of its visit to Haiti from 12 to 15 May (see p. 1098).

On 18 November, in **resolution 2014/37** (see p. 1099), the Economic and Social Council extended the Advisory Group's mandate until the conclusion

of the Council's 2015 session, with the purpose of providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy in order to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability.

Report of Secretary-General (August). In August [S/2014/617], the Secretary-General submitted a report on MINUSTAH reviewing developments since his prior report in March (see above). The reporting period saw, at the onset, the signing of the El Rancho Accord following the dialogue process mediated by the Episcopal Conference. The remainder of the period, however, was marked by protracted negotiations between the executive and the legislature on the implementation of the Accord, most notably on the establishment of an electoral council and the adoption of an amended electoral law, both prerequisites for organizing long-overdue local and legislative elections. A number of opposition politicians, including a group of six senators, rejected the Accord, arguing that their position on the installation of a balanced and credible Electoral Council had not been taken into consideration. Lingering opposition discontent about the composition of the Electoral Council continued to motivate resistance to a Senate vote on an electoral law, creating uncertainty over the fulfilment of remaining prerequisites for the holding of elections. On 10 June, the President issued an order in which he called for elections and set 26 October as the date for the first round. Following those developments, on 11 August, the Electoral Council addressed a letter to the President informing him that it was technically impossible to organize the first round of elections by 26 October owing to the lack of an amended electoral law. In response, the President initiated consultations with the leaders of both houses of parliament, the Electoral Council and some political parties on the steps required to ensure the holding of elections by the end of 2014.

The security environment remained relatively stable, including in the five departments vacated by the MINUSTAH military component: Grand-Anse, Nippes, South, South-East and North-West. Crime statistics demonstrated a solid downward trend in kidnappings, with a decrease of 74 per cent compared with the same period in 2013. There were 416 reported homicides, an increase of 24 per cent over the corresponding period in 2013, largely attributed to territorial gang disputes in security-sensitive neighbourhoods of the greater Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, where 76 per cent of the homicides were recorded. There were also 154 reported rapes, slightly higher than the 147 reported during the same period in 2013; and 194 public demonstrations triggered by socioeconomic grievances, representing an increase of 31 per cent compared with the same period in 2013.

The Secretary-General reported progress in the humanitarian and recovery situation. Since the 2010 earthquake [YUN 2010, p. 320], the number of IDPs in

Haiti had fallen by 90 per cent. Between March and June 71 IDP sites were closed. One closure, affecting 145 households, was a result of a forced eviction by a landowner, and the rest as part of relocation programmes supported by humanitarian partners. As at 30 June, the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area contained 172 sites inhabited by 103,565 IDPs. The decrease in forced evictions notwithstanding, no durable solutions had been identified for some 70,000 of those remaining IDPs, while site conditions remained poor, with uneven access to water and functional toilets, and global acute malnutrition rates reaching 12.5 per cent.

As for the cholera situation, the epidemic had caused the deaths of 8,570 persons and infected 705,084, as at 20 July. Between January and June, there were 45 fatalities and 6,406 suspected cases, representing a decrease of 82 per cent compared with the same period in 2013. As at 13 August, funding for the humanitarian action plan stood at 39 per cent, representing \$66 million of the required \$168 million.

During the reporting period, MINUSTAH completed 56 quick-impact projects, including on strengthening the rule of law and good governance and cholera mitigation initiatives. The military component of MINUSTAH continued to reduce its personnel, as mandated by the Security Council in resolution 2119(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 290]. On 30 June, MINUSTAH achieved its mandated troop strength of 5,021 soldiers, marking a reduction of approximately 15 per cent in the number of uniformed personnel. As at 1 July, the military component consisted of 21 infantry companies and two composite engineering companies, with no maritime capability remaining.

On 14 and 15 July, the Secretary-General undertook his fifth visit to Haiti and met the President, the Prime Minister, parliamentarians, judges, police officers and representatives of civil society, as well as travelled to the countryside, and launched, alongside the Prime Minister, a total sanitation campaign aimed at stemming the spread of cholera. The Secretary-General observed that over the preceding 10 years, the security situation in Haiti had improved, key institutions had continued to be strengthened, more IDPs had been able to leave the earthquake victims camps, and progress had been made in quelling the cholera epidemic. Nevertheless, serious challenges remained that rendered that progress fragile and liable to setbacks.

He recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of MINUSTAH for an additional year, until 15 October 2015, and that the mandate reflect the improved—if still fragile—stability of the country and allow for a conditions-based deepening of the consolidation process, whereby the engagement of MINUSTAH would progressively diminish and its responsibilities transferred to the national authorities, with the support of international and bilateral partners.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 14 October [meeting 7277], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2180(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/732] was submitted by Brazil, Canada, France, the United States and Uruguay.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on Haiti, in particular resolutions 1542(2004) of 30 April 2004, 1576(2004) of 29 November 2004, 1608(2005) of 22 June 2005, 1658(2006) of 14 February 2006, 1702(2006) of 15 August 2006, 1743(2007) of 15 February 2007, 1780(2007) of 15 October 2007, 1840(2008) of 14 October 2008, 1892(2009) of 13 October 2009, 1908(2010) of 19 January 2010, 1927(2010) of 4 June 2010, 1944(2010) of 14 October 2010, 2012(2011) of 14 October 2011, 2070(2012) of 12 October 2012 and 2119(2013) of 10 October 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Haiti,

Recognizing that, over the past year, Haiti has taken steps towards stabilization, including the signing of the El Rancho Accord, which called for the conversion of the Transitional College of the Permanent Electoral Council into a new Provisional Electoral Council and provided for a period within which the 2013 electoral law would have been amended to allow for legislative, partial senatorial, municipal and local elections in 2014,

Noting with great concern that some elections have been postponed for three years and that Haiti still does not have an amended electoral law and that as a result the Provisional Electoral Council has concluded that it will not be possible to organize elections on 26 October 2014 as called for by the Government of Haiti,

Recognizing that the overall security situation remained relatively stable with some improvement since the adoption of resolution 2119(2013), which allowed the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to continue to draw down and to adapt its configuration without undermining the security and stability of Haiti, and recognizing the importance of conditions-based security-related decisions about the future of the Mission,

Recognizing also the critical role of the Mission in ensuring stability and security in Haiti, commending the Mission for continuing to assist the Government of Haiti to ensure a secure and stable environment, expressing its gratitude to the personnel of the Mission and to their countries and paying tribute to those injured or killed in the line of duty, and commending also the wide range of reconstruction efforts in Haiti and the successful work achieved by the military engineering units of the Mission,

Underlining the need to further strengthen Haitian judicial and corrections systems in order to support a more integrated and cohesive Haitian security sector, noting the commitment by the Government of Haiti to strengthen the rule of law and to make further progress in security sector reform, and encouraging Haitian authorities to continue to pursue efforts in that regard,

Recognizing the interconnected nature of the challenges in Haiti, reaffirming that sustainable progress on security, the rule of law and institutional reform, national reconciliation and development, including the combat against unemployment and poverty, are mutually reinforcing, and welcoming the continuing efforts of the Government of

Haiti and the international community to address these challenges, in line with the Government's priorities,

Reiterating the critical role of the Haitian National Police for the security and stability of Haiti, stressing the importance of the ongoing strengthening, professionalization and reform of the National Police in order to enable it to assume full responsibility for the security of Haiti, noting the progress made in the implementation of the five-year 2012–2016 Haitian National Police development plan, and reiterating the importance of maintaining support for it, especially in the area of recruitment and retention,

Underscoring the importance of adequately funding the Haitian National Police to enhance its logistic, administrative and operational capacities, encouraging the Government of Haiti to take advantage of the support being provided by the international community to guarantee the provision of adequate security for the Haitian people, and calling upon all international partners to strengthen their coordination in this regard,

Recognizing the steps taken by the Superior Council of the Judiciary, including the adoption of its internal rules of procedure in June 2014, to carry out its mandate and promote the strengthening of judicial independence, and expressing the need to further address human rights concerns that still remain in the corrections system, such as prolonged pretrial detentions, prison overcrowding and sanitary conditions,

Acknowledging that, while important progress has been made in 2014, Haiti continues to face significant humanitarian challenges, with approximately 85,432 internally displaced persons, whose living conditions in the remaining camps, which are characterized by malnutrition and uneven access to water and sanitation, affecting especially women and children, must be further addressed,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts of the Government of Haiti to control and eliminate the cholera epidemic and the progress made in reducing the incidence of cholera in Haiti, urging the United Nations country team, in coordination with other actors, to continue to support the Government in addressing the structural weaknesses, in particular in the water and sanitation systems, underscoring the importance of strengthening the Haitian national health institutions, and recognizing United Nations efforts to combat cholera, including through the initiative of the Secretary-General to support the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti, stressing the importance of adequate and sustainable support with particular attention to rapid and targeted medical responses to outbreaks designed to reduce the threat, welcoming the visit that the Secretary-General undertook in July 2014 to Haiti, and taking note that he, among other things, launched jointly with the Prime Minister of Haiti, Mr. Laurent Lamothe, the "Total Sanitation Campaign" as a key initiative against cholera, and of the creation of the High-level Committee for the Elimination of Cholera,

Emphasizing that progress in the reconstruction of Haiti, as well as in the social and economic development of Haiti, including through effective, coordinated, commendable international development assistance and increased Haitian institutional capacity to benefit from this assistance, are crucial to achieving lasting and sustainable stability, and reiterating the need for security to be accompanied by social and economic development, including efforts in risk reduction and preparedness that address the country's ex-

treme vulnerability to natural disasters, efforts in which the Government of Haiti plays a leading role,

Welcoming the continued development of the Government of Haiti's External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti as its preferred donor coordination mechanism and venue for supporting the development priorities of the Government, welcoming also the increased joint programming of the United Nations country team in Haiti in alignment and coordination with the government-endorsed Integrated Strategic Framework, and welcoming further the commitment to foster greater alignment of international assistance with national priorities, increase transparency and strengthen mutual accountability, as well as the need for stronger coordination,

Urging donors to complete the pledges made at the conference held in New York on 31 March 2010 in order, inter alia, to help to promote access to services and jobs for the most vulnerable, and underlining the responsibility of the Government of Haiti to provide clear guidance to donors on its priorities and to facilitate delivery of assistance to those most in need,

Emphasizing the role of regional organizations in the ongoing process of stabilization and reconstruction of Haiti, and calling upon the Mission to continue to work closely with international financial institutions, regional and sub-regional organizations and other stakeholders, in particular the Organization of American States, the Union of South American Nations and the Caribbean Community,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the Haitian National Police to patrol and enhance its presence and direct engagement with the population, recognizing the continued community policing efforts of the Mission, in close coordination with camp committees, in camps for internally displaced persons, and welcoming their engagement with the population,

Expressing serious concern that sexual and gender-based violence, especially against women and children, remains a substantial problem, particularly in marginalized districts of Port-au-Prince, in remaining camps for internally displaced persons and in remote areas of the country,

Recognizing that strengthening national human rights institutions as well as respect for human rights, including of children, and due process, combating criminality and sexual and gender-based violence, and putting an end to impunity and ensuring accountability are essential to ensuring the rule of law and security in Haiti, including access to justice,

Reaffirming the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti in the coordination and conduct of all activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Haiti, and reaffirming also its support for the role of the Special Representative in ensuring optimal coordination and collaboration between the Mission and the United Nations country team in connection with the aspects of their respective mandates that are correlated, particularly as part of the Mission's conditions-based consolidation plan,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 29 August 2014,

Mindful of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, as described in section I of paragraph 7 of resolution 1542(2004),

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti as contained in resolutions 1542(2004), 1608(2005), 1702(2006), 1743(2007), 1780(2007), 1840(2008), 1892(2009), 1908(2010), 1927(2010), 1944(2010), 2012(2011), 2070(2012), and 2119(2013) until 15 October 2015, with the intention of further renewal;

2. *Also decides* that the overall force levels of the Mission will consist of up to 2,370 troops and of a police component composed of up to 2,601 personnel, the force levels recommended by the Secretary-General, and calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure that a force level close to the current level would remain in the country until his next report to the Security Council, and to alert the Council in that report of any major changes in the situation;

3. *Affirms* that adjustments to the force configuration should be based on the situation on the ground, compatible with the capacity of the Mission to maintain security in the context of impending parliamentary and local elections as well as presidential elections in 2015, taking into account the importance of maintaining a secure and stable environment and the impact of social and political realities on the stability and security of Haiti; the increasing development of Haitian State capabilities, in particular the ongoing strengthening of the Haitian National Police; and the national authorities' increasing exercise of the Haitian State's responsibility for the maintenance of stability and security in the country; and calls upon the Mission to maintain capacity, including appropriate air assets, to deploy troops rapidly throughout the country;

4. *Affirms its commitment* to act at any time to adapt the mandate and force levels of the Mission, if compelled by a change of conditions in Haiti, and if necessary to preserve the progress Haiti has made towards durable security and stability;

5. *Takes note* of the implementation of the conditions-based consolidation plan of the Mission, which focused the activities of the Mission on a core set of mandated tasks as agreed with the Government of Haiti;

6. *Recognizes* the ownership and primary responsibility of the Government and the people of Haiti over all aspects of the country's stabilization; and encourages the Mission to intensify its efforts to provide logistical and technical expertise, within available means and consistent with its mandate, and coordinating as appropriate with the United Nations country team and others active in stabilization efforts, to assist, as requested by the Government of Haiti, in continuing to implement decentralization efforts and build the capacity of its institutions at the national and local levels, with a view to enhancing further the ability of the Government to extend State authority throughout Haiti and promote good governance and rule of law at all levels;

7. *Strongly urges* Haiti's political actors to work cooperatively and without further delays to ensure the urgent holding of free, fair, inclusive and transparent legislative, partial senatorial, municipal and local elections, including those which are long overdue, in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti in order to ensure the continued functioning of the National Assembly and other elected bodies;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti to support the political process under way in Haiti, reaffirms its call upon the Mission to continue to support this process, and calls upon the Mission to deliver and coordinate, as appropri-

ate, international electoral assistance to the Government of Haiti in cooperation with international stakeholders, including the Organization of American States, the Union of South American Nations and the Caribbean Community, as appropriate;

9. *Reaffirms* that Haiti is at an important juncture in the consolidation of stability and democracy, and the engagement of its political leaders and stakeholders in dialogue and compromise is vital to securing the gains made in recent years, in order to set Haiti firmly on a path towards lasting stability and economic development and to enable Haitians to assume even greater responsibility in that regard;

10. *Recalls* its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013, and encourages the Government of Haiti, with the support of relevant stakeholders, to promote increased political participation of women in Haiti, in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti;

11. *Reaffirms* that, in the framework of the improvement of the rule of law in Haiti, strengthening the capacity of the Haitian National Police is paramount for the Government of Haiti to take timely and full responsibility for the country's security needs, which is central to the overall stability and future development of Haiti;

12. *Reiterates* that the capacity-building of the Haitian National Police remains a most critical task for the Mission, requests the Mission to continue its efforts to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of the National Police, in particular by renewed efforts to mentor and train police and corrections personnel, including at intermediate rank levels, and calls upon the Mission to align skills of United Nations police personnel to support these objectives and provide skilled trainers and technical advisers;

13. *Underlines* the need to ensure effective support from the Government of Haiti and its international and regional partners for the 2012–2016 Haitian National Police development plan, in order to achieve the goals of a minimum of 15,000 fully operational serving police officers by 2016, adequate logistic and administrative capacity, accountability and respect for human rights and the rule of law, a robust vetting process, enhanced recruitment procedures and training, strengthened land and maritime border control and improved deterrence of transnational organized crime;

14. *Stresses* the need for close coordination among the Mission, donors and the Government of Haiti to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of Haitian National Police capacity-building efforts, and requests the Mission to facilitate this coordination and to continue to provide technical guidance to donor-funded projects, as requested, for the rehabilitation and construction of police and corrections facilities as well as for other projects aiming to support the institutional capacity of the National Police, as appropriate;

15. *Encourages* the Mission, in cooperation with the appropriate international actors, to assist the Government of Haiti in effectively tackling gang violence, organized crime, illegal arms trafficking, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, especially children, as well as ensuring proper border management;

16. *Encourages* the Haitian authorities to continue to implement justice reform by taking the necessary steps, including through ongoing support to the Superior Council of the Judiciary, to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the judicial institutions, and to continue to address the issue of prolonged pretrial detentions and prison condi-

tions and overcrowding, with special regard to women and children held in detention;

17. *Calls upon* all donors and partners, including international and non-governmental organizations as well as the United Nations country team, to better coordinate their efforts and work closely with the Government of Haiti through its External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti, which is intended to help the Government to ensure increased transparency, national ownership and coordination of foreign assistance and to strengthen the capacity of the Government to manage external assistance;

18. *Requests* the United Nations country team, and calls upon all actors, to complement security and development operations undertaken by the Government of Haiti with the support of the Mission with activities aimed at effectively improving the living conditions of the concerned populations, in particular women and children;

19. *Requests* the Mission, working in coordination with the United Nations country team, to continue to implement quick-impact projects that contribute to building a secure and stable environment and enhance national ownership and the trust of the Haitian population in the Mission, particularly in the priority areas identified by the Mission's leadership and consistent with the priorities of the Government of Haiti, as appropriate;

20. *Strongly condemns* the grave violations against children affected particularly by criminal gang violence, as well as widespread rape and other sexual abuse of women and girls, calls upon the Government of Haiti, with the support of the Mission and the United Nations country team, to continue to promote and protect the rights of women and children as set out in Security Council resolutions 1325(2000), 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 2106(2013) and 2122(2013), encourages all actors in the Government, the international community and civil society to renew their efforts to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence in Haiti, as well as to improve response to rape complaints and access to justice for the victims of rape and other sexual crimes, and encourages national authorities to promote national legislation in this regard;

21. *Requests* the Mission to continue to pursue its community violence reduction approach, in close collaboration with the Government of Haiti, with a particular focus on at-risk youth, women, the displaced and those living in violence-affected neighbourhoods, and to ensure that this activity is coordinated with, and supports the work of, the United Nations country team to build local capacity in this area by taking into account Haitian priorities;

22. *Encourages* the Mission to continue to assist the Government of Haiti in providing adequate protection to the civilian population, with particular attention to the needs of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, especially women and children, including through joint community policing in the camps, in line with Council resolution 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the measures necessary to ensure full compliance of all Mission personnel with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and to continue to keep the Council informed, and urges troop- and police-

contributing countries to redouble efforts in preventing cases of misconduct and to ensure that acts involving their personnel are properly investigated and punished;

24. *Reaffirms* the human rights mandate of the Mission as an essential component of the Mission, and recognizes that respect for human rights is an essential element for the stability of Haiti, in particular attention to individual accountability for grave violations under past governments, urges the Government of Haiti to ensure with the support of the international community, as appropriate, the respect and protection of human rights by the Haitian National Police and the judiciary, and calls upon the Mission to provide monitoring and support in this regard;

25. *Encourages* the Mission, within its mandate, to continue to use existing means and capabilities, including its engineers, with a view to enhancing stability in Haiti while fostering greater Haitian ownership in the context of its conditions-based consolidation plan;

26. *Requests* the Mission to continue to support the Haitian authorities in their efforts to control the flow of small arms, the development of a weapons registry, the revision of current laws on the importation and possession of arms, reform of the weapons permit system and the development and implementation of a national community policing doctrine;

27. *Underscores* the importance of planning documents for the military and police components of the Mission, such as the concept of operations and rules of engagement, being regularly updated, as appropriate, and in line with the provisions of all its relevant resolutions, and requests the Secretary-General to fully report on them in a timely manner to the Council and troop- and police-contributing countries;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed and to report to the Council on the implementation of the mandate of the Mission, semi-annually and not later than 45 days prior to its expiration;

29. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports a comprehensive assessment of the situation in Haiti, to propose, as appropriate, options regarding the reconfiguration of the Mission based on conditions on the ground, and to continue to present a progress report on the consolidation plan as an annex to his next report;

30. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Further developments. In a later report [S/2015/157], the Secretary-General highlighted developments between his August report (see p. 397) and 31 December that saw a failure to hold the long-delayed legislative, municipal and local elections. Some key opposition leaders had refused to participate in a series of consultations held between the President, leaders of both houses of parliament, the provisional Electoral Council and some political parties to seek consensus on the steps required to ensure the holding of elections, which led the Office of the President on 26 October to postpone the elections that had been

scheduled for that day. On 1 December, the President established an 11-member presidential advisory commission with an eight-day mandate to advise on a solution to the crisis. The commission issued a report recommending a broad range of measures aimed at re-establishing trust in the political process and allowing for the holding of elections in 2015, while preserving the integrity of State institutions. The Government and the opposition were, however, unable to agree on implementation of the recommended measures.

The security environment during the reporting period remained generally stable, although an uptick in certain crimes, gang-related violence and public unrest was registered. On the humanitarian front, the last four months of the year saw an increase in the number of suspected cholera cases, especially in West, North, Artibonite and Centre departments. Heavy rainfall and illegal tapping of public water systems in urban areas were partly responsible for that increase. The Port-au-Prince metropolitan area was the worst hit, with nearly 9,000 cases. Nationwide, the cholera response effort faced a number of operational challenges due to lack of funding, which led to a reduction in the number of cholera treatment facilities from 250 in 2011 to 159 in 2014. Setbacks notwithstanding, the overall cholera reduction rate for 2014 in Haiti stood at 53 per cent. The situation of IDPs continued to improve; as at 30 December, according to the International Organization for Migration, there were 79,397 IDPs in 105 camps. Those figures represented a reduction of 94 per cent from the original 1.5 million IDPs and 93 per cent from the original number of IDP camps established after the 2010 earthquake [YUN 2010, p. 320]. Of the 105 camps, 49 camps hosting more than 62,600 IDPs were not targeted by any return or relocation initiatives. Efforts to close the remaining camps continued by providing relocation rental subsidies or by integrating camps into neighborhoods as part of a participatory urban planning process.

On food security, the Secretary-General reported that the situation remained fragile and had the potential to rapidly deteriorate in the event of a major natural disaster. An estimated 3 million people were food-insecure, more than 600,000 of them severely, while some 100,000 children under the age of 5 were affected by moderate acute malnutrition. As at 30 December, funding for the Haiti humanitarian action plan stood at 51 per cent. With the cholera response remaining underfunded, the Secretary-General stated that a 2015–2016 transitional appeal would replace the humanitarian action plan.

As at 31 December, the overall disbursement rate of UN projects funded by the Haiti Reconstruction Fund was 93 per cent. Only three programmes covered by the Fund were under way, namely, a \$10 million “Earthquake prevention in the north” programme; a \$30 million “Support to housing reconstruction” programme targeting Artibonite, North, West,

South and South-East departments; and a \$2 million “Development of the dairy sector” programme.

MINUSTAH

In 2014, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), established by Security Council resolution 1542(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 294], continued to implement its mandate which included ensuring a secure and stable environment, supporting the electoral process and reform of rule of law structures, strengthening State institutions, providing humanitarian and development assistance and protecting and promoting human rights. MINUSTAH was based in Port-au-Prince and led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of MINUSTAH, Sandra Honoré (Trinidad and Tobago). By resolution 2180(2014) (see p. 398), the Council extended the mandate of MINUSTAH until 15 October 2015.

Appointment. On 7 March [S/2014/175], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Lieutenant General José Luiz Jaborandy Jr. (Brazil) as Force Commander of MINUSTAH, succeeding Lieutenant General Edson Leal Pujol (Brazil), who would complete his assignment on 15 March. The Council took note of the letter on 11 March [S/2014/176].

Activities

The Secretary-General reported to the Council on MINUSTAH activities for the periods from 20 August 2013 to 7 March 2014 [S/2014/162] (see p. 396) and from 7 March to 29 August 2014 [S/2014/617] (see p. 397). A later report [S/2015/157] covered activities for the remainder of the year (see p. 401). In addition to political and security aspects, the reports summarized MINUSTAH activities in areas including electoral support; protection of vulnerable groups; community violence reduction; rule of law; human rights; gender; child protection; HIV/AIDS; quick-impact projects; the conduct and discipline of UN personnel; and public information and outreach.

Financing

The Secretary-General’s performance report on the MINUSTAH budget for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/626] showed expenditures of \$629,247,000 against an appropriation of \$648,394,000, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$19,147,000 and other income and adjustments in the amount of \$17,325,900. In February [A/68/737], the Secretary-General submitted a report on the proposed budget for MINUSTAH in the amount of \$512,041,400 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. The budget provided for the deployment of 5,021 military personnel; 951 UN police officers; 1,600 formed

police personnel; 50 Government-provided personnel; 402 international staff, including 5 temporary positions; 1,240 national staff; and 153 UN Volunteers.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in May [A/68/782/Add.10], recommended that for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, the unencumbered balance of \$19,147,000, as well as other income and adjustments in the amount of \$17,325,900, for the period ended 30 June 2013 be credited to Member States. It also recommended that the General Assembly appropriate an amount of \$511,012,300 for the maintenance of MINUSTAH for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and that the amount of \$149,045,254 be assessed on Member States for the period from 1 July to 15 October 2014. ACABQ further recommended that the Assembly assess an amount of \$361,967,046 for the period from 16 October 2014 to 30 June 2015 at a monthly rate of \$42,584,358, should the Security Council decide to extend the Mission’s mandate.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/925], adopted **resolution 68/289** without vote [agenda item 155].

Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1529(2004) of 29 February 2004, by which the Council declared its readiness to establish a United Nations stabilization force to support continuation of a peaceful and constitutional political process and the maintenance of a secure and stable environment in Haiti,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1542(2004) of 30 April 2004, by which the Council established the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for an initial period of six months, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2119(2013) of 10 October 2013, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 15 October 2014 and decided that the overall force levels of the Mission would consist of up to 5,021 troops and a police component of up to 2,601 personnel,

Recalling further its resolution 58/315 of 1 July 2004,

Recalling its resolution 58/311 of 18 June 2004 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/275 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 46.9 million United States dollars, representing some 0.7 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 75 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti the amount of 539,109,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June

2015, inclusive of 500,080,500 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 32,358,700 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 6,670,200 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 157,240,240 dollars for the period from 1 July to 15 October 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 4,355,195 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 3,582,370 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 599,025 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 173,800 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

15. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 381,869,160 dollars for the period from 16 October 2014 to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of 44,925,783 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

16. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 10,576,905 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 8,700,030 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 1,454,775 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 422,100 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 36,472,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

18. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 36,472,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. *Decides* that the increase in the estimated staff assessment income of 1,426,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 36,472,900 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

22. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti”.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of MINUSTAH would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Other Issues

Cuba–United States

Report of Secretary-General. In June [A/69/98], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/8 [YUN 2013, p. 297], the Secretary-General submitted a report on information received as at 7 July from 154 governments and 27 UN bodies and specialized agencies on the implementation of the resolution. The resolution called on States to refrain from the unilateral application of economic and trade measures against other States, and urged them to repeal or invalidate such measures.

Communications. In a 7 January letter [S/2014/15] to the Security Council President, Cuba requested that three letters, from 11 July 1960 [S/4378]; from 31 December 1960 [S/4605]; from 2 February 1990 letter [S/21120]; and a complaint from Cuba [S/10933] remain on the list of matters of which the Security Council was seized. In a 7 November letter [A/69/570] to the Secretary-General, the Russian Federation transmitted an appeal to the General Assembly, UN Member States and international parliamentary organizations from the State Duma of its Federal Assembly on the necessity of ending the commercial, economic and financial embargo against Cuba. In a 24 April letter [A/68/855] to the Secretary-General, Venezuela transmitted a special communiqué adopted on 19 April by the countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America—Peoples’ Trade Treaty rejecting the illegal actions of the United States in establishing a “Cuban Twitter”, designed to provoke instability in Cuba, under the coordination, funding and implementation of the United States Agency for International Development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 28 October [meeting 30], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/5** [draft: A/69/L.4] by recorded vote (188-2-3) [agenda item 40].

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The General Assembly,

Determined to encourage strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments,

Recalling the statements of the Heads of State or Government at the Ibero-American Summits concerning the need to eliminate the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade,

Concerned about the continued promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as “the Helms-Burton Act”, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation,

Taking note of declarations and resolutions of different intergovernmental forums, bodies and Governments that express the rejection by the international community and public opinion of the promulgation and application of measures of the kind referred to above,

Recalling its resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994, 50/10 of 2 November 1995, 51/17 of 12 November 1996, 52/10 of 5 November 1997, 53/4 of 14 October 1998, 54/21 of 9 November 1999, 55/20 of 9 November 2000, 56/9 of 27 November 2001, 57/11 of 12 November 2002, 58/7 of 4 November 2003, 59/11 of 28 October 2004, 60/12 of 8 November 2005, 61/11 of 8 November 2006, 62/3 of 30 October 2007, 63/7 of 29 October 2008, 64/6 of 28 October 2009, 65/6 of 26 October 2010, 66/6 of 25 October 2011, 67/4 of 13 November 2012 and 68/8 of 29 October 2013,

Concerned that, since the adoption of its resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6, 66/6, 67/4 and 68/8, further measures of that nature aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continue to be promulgated and applied, and concerned also about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 68/8;

2. *Reiterates its call upon* all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation;

3. *Once again urges* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the steps necessary to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to submit it to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/5:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt,

El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States.

Abstaining: Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau.

Asia and the Pacific

The United Nations continued its efforts in 2014 to address political and security challenges in Asia and the Pacific with the restoration and establishment of peace and stability especially in Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. The non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as well as Iran's nuclear programme were two major crises also faced by the United Nations.

In Afghanistan, the inauguration of President Ashraf Ghani and the agreement to establish a national unity Government with Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah brought an end to the electoral impasse and marked the first peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan between elected leaders. The fourth Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference, held in Beijing, concluded with the adoption of the Declaration on Deepening Cooperation for Sustainable Security and Prosperity of the "Heart of Asia" Region reiterating support of the Afghan-owned and Afghan-led reconciliation process. The security situation in Afghanistan, however, remained volatile during the year, with 22,051 recorded incidents, the second highest number after 2011. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) continued to support Afghanistan's full assumption of leadership and ownership in the security, governance and development areas, as defined by the Kabul Process. The Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMA until 17 March 2015. On 31 December, the security transition to Afghan forces formally concluded as the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force, led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), came to an end. In December, the Security Council welcomed the agreement between NATO and Afghanistan to establish the post-2014 non-combat Resolute Support Mission, which would train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces. The sanctions regime against the Taliban and Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities remained in effect. The Security Council strengthened and refined those measures during the year.

In Iraq, the threat posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continued to undermine the stability and political dynamics of the country. Despite the rapidly deteriorating security situation, Iraq held its Council of Representatives elections. The formation of the new Government and the adoption of its ministerial programme, along with its demonstrated commitment to resolving long-standing issues through an inclusive political process, was a significant step towards

promoting stability in Iraq. During the year, regional and international partners increased their support for Iraq in its fight against ISIL. ISIL and associated armed groups, however, continued to control large parts of the west and north of the country, where they continued to inflict civilian casualties, cause massive displacement and perpetrate systematic human rights violations. The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) continued to carry out its mandate, which was extended by the Security Council until 31 July 2015.

During the year, bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait were marked by positive developments. Kuwait supported the request made by Iraq that the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission to defer the requirement that Iraq deposit 5 per cent of oil proceeds into the Compensation Fund.

The Security Council Committees established to oversee the implementation of sanctions measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to address Iran's nuclear programme continued their work, supported by their Panel of Experts. In March and in June, respectively, the Security Council extended the mandates of the Panel of Experts until April and July 2015.

The International Atomic Energy Agency continued to undertake monitoring and verification in relation to the nuclear-related measures set out in the Joint Plan of Action signed with Iran, which took effect on 20 January.

In Yemen, the Security Council continued its support for the political transition in accordance with the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism and the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference. In February, the Council imposed an assets freeze and a travel ban on individuals and entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen. It established a committee to designate such individuals and entities and to oversee the implementation of the sanctions measures, and a panel of experts to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate.

Afghanistan

In 2014, the international community continued to assist the Government of Afghanistan to lay the foundation for peace and stability and the restora-

tion of economic and social development in view of the approaching political and security transitions of 2014 through the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), under the direction of the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of Mission, and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

During the year, the presidential and provincial council elections dominated the political, security and economic environment of Afghanistan. Following the presidential election on 5 April, a second-round run-off was held on 14 June between the two leading candidates. Political tensions over allegations of fraud led to a political impasse, which prompted a comprehensive audit by the Independent Election Commission. The inauguration of the President of Afghanistan on 29 September and the Agreement of 21 September to establish a national unity government brought an end to the electoral stalemate and marked the first peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan between elected leaders. The fourth Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference (Beijing, 31 October), whereby participant countries expressed readiness to work with the new Government and strengthen cooperation across the region. While the security situation throughout the year remained volatile in terms of civilian casualties and population displacements, increased emphasis on regional dialogue resulted in a series of developments in the areas of trade and security cooperation. The security transition to Afghan forces formally concluded on 31 December as NATO-led ISAF operations ended.

The Security Council adopted two presidential statements, on the elections in Afghanistan, S/PRST/2014/11 (see p. 417), and on Afghan illicit drug production and drug trafficking, S/PRST/2014/12 (see p. 418). The Council, by resolution 2145(2014) (see p. 408), extended the mandate of UNAMA until 17 March 2015. The Council also, by resolution 2189(2014) (see p. 432), welcomed the agreement between NATO and Afghanistan to establish the post-2014 non-combat Resolute Support Mission.

Political and security developments

Report of Secretary-General (March). In his March report on the situation in Afghanistan [A/68/789-S/2014/163], the Secretary-General informed that on 17 January, four United Nations staff and 17 other Afghan and international civilians were killed in an attack on a restaurant in Kabul for which the Taliban had claimed responsibility. The reporting period saw unprecedented numbers of security incidents that had a negative impact on both the Afghan population and the ability of the United Nations to carry out mandated tasks and activities. The 17 January attack was the deadliest attack on foreign civilians since 2001.

Preparations for the 5 April elections remained on track. The formal campaign period for the presidential elections began on 2 February and on 4 March for provincial councils. On 5 January, President Hamid Karzai convened a meeting of the 11 presidential candidates at which he stressed the need for transparent elections and emphasized his commitment to non-interference by the Government. Election-related violence included an assassination attempt on vice-presidential candidate Ismail Khan on 24 January; and the fatal shooting of two members of the campaign team of presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah in Herat on 1 February, with a third killed in Sari Pul on 7 February. Technical preparations for the elections remained further advanced than those for previous polls held in Afghanistan. Progress towards the establishment of a formal peace process with the armed opposition remained limited. UNAMA continued to facilitate local dialogue to mitigate inter-ethnic and intertribal tensions and to build confidence among communities.

Afghanistan continued to actively engage its neighbours and to promote regional cooperation, including its lead role in the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, the pursuit of strengthened political dialogue and progress on confidence-building measures. On 17 January, India hosted a senior officials' meeting in New Delhi, during which "Heart of Asia" member States and supporting countries and organizations focused on issues of security, including the movement of extremist elements and the importance of regional energy cooperation for economic development and stability, as well as on reviewing progress on the six agreed confidence-building measures and funding modalities for the Process. Between 26 and 27 February, Afghanistan hosted a terrorism financing seminar as part of the counter-terrorism confidence-building measure. There were also ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between Afghanistan and other countries in the region. During the reporting period, senior officials from Afghanistan met with officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, China, and Pakistan. On 13 February, President Karzai travelled to Ankara for the eighth Trilateral Summit with the President of Turkey and the Prime Minister of Pakistan; a joint statement welcomed the "positive momentum" in bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, including strengthened trade and economic relations. On 22 February, the Minister of Finance of Pakistan led a high-level delegation to Kabul for the ninth session of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission. Also on 22 February, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of China visited Kabul and met with President Karzai and other senior officials.

The Secretary-General affirmed that the United Nations, in line with its mandate and at the request of Afghan authorities, would continue to provide

technical assistance to and facilitate coherence in international support for the process. He encouraged all eligible Afghan citizens to participate in the 5 April elections, particularly women—not only as voters, but also as candidates, electoral workers and observers. The Secretary-General highlighted the importance of economic sustainability of Afghanistan, noting that the special meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board held on 29 January reinforced the importance of continuity in progress on mutual commitments made in Tokyo, including addressing the reform, good governance and human rights agenda, and the growing fiscal gap between government revenue and expenditure. He further observed that humanitarian needs were foreseen to rise, including through civilian casualties and the displacement of conflict-affected populations. The coordination of humanitarian assistance would, therefore, continue to be a core component of the UN work in Afghanistan. The Secretary-General requested the Security Council to extend the mandate of UNAMA, due to expire on 19 March, for a further 12 months, thus reiterating the commitment of the United Nations to a sustained partnership with Afghanistan. By resolution 2145(2014) (see below), the Council extended the mandate of UNAMA until 17 March 2015.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 March [meeting 7139], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2145(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/184] was submitted by Australia.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions on Afghanistan, in particular resolution 2096(2013) of 19 March 2013, in which it extended until 19 March 2014 the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan as established by resolution 1662(2006) of 23 March 2006,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan,

Reiterating its support for the transition (Inteqal) process which will entail the assumption of full responsibility by Afghanistan's institutions in the security sector, consistent with the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences and the Lisbon and Chicago summits, recognizing that transition is not only a security process but also entails the full assumption of Afghan leadership and ownership in governance and development, and affirming that the United Nations support in Afghanistan takes full account of the transition process in Afghanistan,

Emphasizing the Kabul Process towards the primary objective of accelerated Afghan leadership and ownership, strengthened international partnership and regional cooperation, improved Afghan governance, enhanced capabilities of Afghan security forces, economic growth and better protection for the rights of all Afghan citizens, including women and girls, and welcoming specifically the commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, economic, governance and

development challenges in Afghanistan, which are of an interconnected nature, and recognizing that there is no purely military solution to ensure the stability of Afghanistan,

Reaffirming its continued support for the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild their country and strengthen the foundations of sustainable peace and constitutional democracy,

Welcoming the International Afghanistan Conference on Afghanistan and the International Community: From Transition to the Transformation Decade, held in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2011 and its conference conclusions, as well as the declaration in Bonn that the process of transition, to be completed by the end of 2014, should be followed by a decade of transformation (2015–2024),

Welcoming also the process by which Afghanistan and its regional and international partners are entering into long-term strategic partnership and other agreements, aimed at achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan,

Welcoming further the strategic consensus between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community on a renewed and enduring partnership for this transformation decade based on firm mutual commitments, welcoming progress made towards meeting the mutual commitments set out in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework to support the sustainable economic growth and development of Afghanistan, and reaffirming the importance of continued efforts by the Government and the international community towards meeting their mutual commitments,

Reaffirming that sustainable progress on security, governance, human rights, including the rights of women and girls, the rule of law and development as well as the cross-cutting issues of counter-narcotics, anti-corruption and accountability are mutually reinforcing and that governance and development programmes prioritized for implementation in transition should be consistent with the goals set forth in the Tokyo Declaration: Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan—From Transition to Transformation and the national priority programmes, and welcoming the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to address these challenges through a comprehensive approach,

Reaffirming specifically in this context its support for the implementation, under the leadership and ownership of the Afghan people, of the commitments set out in the communiqués of the London Conference on Afghanistan, held on 28 January 2010 and the Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan, held on 20 July 2010, of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and of the National Drug Control Strategy, as part of the comprehensive implementation strategy to be taken forward by the Government of Afghanistan with the support of the region and the international community and with a central and impartial coordinating role for the United Nations, consistent with the Kabul Process and in line with the national priority programmes,

Stressing the crucial importance of advancing regional cooperation as an effective means to promote security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan, recalling the importance of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002, welcoming in this regard the continued commitment of the international community to support stability and development in

Afghanistan, and noting international and regional initiatives such as the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan of 2 November 2011, the quadrilateral summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation, the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey and the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as initiatives by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan process,

Commending the outcome of the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, which convened in Kabul on 14 June 2012, in which Afghanistan and its regional partners reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen regional security and cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan, including through enhanced regional dialogue and confidence-building measures, welcoming the confidence-building measures on counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics and trade, commerce and investment opportunity and those on education, disaster management and regional infrastructure, welcoming also the Fourth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, to be held in Tianjin, China, in 2014, and noting that the Istanbul Process is intended to complement and cooperate with, and not substitute for, existing efforts of regional organizations, particularly where they relate to Afghanistan,

Welcoming the outcome of the International Conference on the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries, held in Geneva on 2 and 3 May 2012, and looking forward to the further implementation of the joint communiqué of the Conference aimed at increased sustainability of returns and continued support for host countries, through sustained support and directed efforts of the international community,

Stressing the central and impartial role that the United Nations will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan by leading the efforts of the international community, including, jointly with the Government of Afghanistan, the coordination and monitoring of efforts in implementing the Kabul Process through the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in support of the priorities set up by the Government and affirmed at the Tokyo Conference, and expressing its appreciation and strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative for Afghanistan and, in particular, the women and men of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan who are serving in difficult conditions to help the people of Afghanistan,

Reaffirming that, consistent with the transition process, the role of international actors will evolve further from direct service delivery to support and capacity-building for Afghan institutions, enabling the Government of Afghanistan to exercise its sovereign authority in all its functions, including the phasing out of all provincial reconstruction teams, as well as the dissolution of any structures duplicating the functions and authority of the Government at the national and subnational levels,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process

in Afghanistan to support reconciliation for all those who are prepared to reconcile as laid down in the Kabul Conference communiqué on dialogue for all those who renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the Constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women, and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan, and as further elaborated in the Bonn Conference conclusions, supported by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, with full respect for the implementation of measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999, 1988(2011) of 17 June 2011 and 2082(2012) of 17 December 2012,

Recalling the commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan at the Kabul and Tokyo Conferences to strengthen and improve Afghanistan's electoral process, including long-term electoral reform, in order to ensure that future elections will be transparent, credible, inclusive and democratic, welcoming the presidential decree of 26 July 2012 and Afghan preparations for the 2014 presidential and provincial council elections, and looking forward to preparations for the 2015 parliamentary elections,

Reaffirming that Afghanistan's peaceful future lies in building a stable, secure, economically sustainable State, free of terrorism and narcotics and based on the rule of law, strengthened democratic institutions, respect for the separation of powers, reinforced constitutional checks and balances and the guarantee and enforcement of citizens' rights and obligations, and welcoming the contribution of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan to the United Nations efforts in coordinating and broadening international support for Afghanistan,

Emphasizing once again the agreements reached at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summits held in Lisbon on 19 and 20 November 2010 and Chicago, United States of America, on 20 and 21 May 2012 between the Government of Afghanistan and countries contributing to the International Security Assistance Force to gradually transfer full security responsibility in Afghanistan to the Afghan National Security Forces countrywide by the end of 2014, taking note of the Enduring Partnership Declaration, signed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Government of Afghanistan in Lisbon on 20 November 2010, acknowledging the joint efforts under the transition (Inteqal) process, and welcoming progress towards the completion of the security transition, notably the milestone reached on 18 June 2013 when all areas of Afghanistan entered the transition,

Underlining the importance of operationally capable, professional, inclusive and sustainable Afghan National Security Forces for meeting Afghanistan's security needs, with a view to lasting peace, security and stability, stressing the long-term commitment, beyond 2014, and into the transformation decade (2015–2024), of the international community to support the further development, including training, and professionalization of the Afghan National Security Forces, and the recruitment and retention of women to the Afghan National Security Forces,

Welcoming the joint Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan, which stresses the long-term commitment, beyond 2014, to lasting peace, security and stability in Afghanistan, noting the decision of the Government of Afghanistan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

for the Organization to work towards continuing to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces after 2014, noting that any new mission should have a sound legal basis, as stated in paragraph 14 of the Chicago Summit Declaration, in this regard emphasizing the importance of discussions on Afghanistan at the next summit of the Organization, to be held in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in September 2014, noting the responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan to sustain sufficient and capable Afghan National Security Forces supported by the international community, as decided at the International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn on 5 December 2011, through the training, equipping, financing and capability development of the Afghan National Security Forces beyond the end of the transition period, and welcoming, as reaffirmed in the Chicago Summit Declaration, the financial sustenance of the Afghan National Security Forces with a clear view to the assumption, no later than 2024, of full financial responsibility for its own security forces by the Government of Afghanistan,

Recognizing that security gains must be supported by progress in Afghan governance and development capacity, noting in this context the objectives of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and of the International Security Assistance Force, as also noted in resolution 2120(2013) of 10 October 2013, and stressing the need for coordination and mutual support, where appropriate, taking due account of their respective designated responsibilities,

Reiterating the need for all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, through the country team mechanism and a "One United Nations" approach under the guidance of the Special Representative, to increase efforts, in full consultation and cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, to achieve greater coherence, coordination, efficiency and full alignment with the national priority programmes identified by the Government,

Welcoming the efforts of countries that are sustaining their civilian efforts to assist the Government and the people of Afghanistan, and encouraging the international community to further enhance its contributions in a coordinated manner with the Afghan authorities and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, with a view to strengthening Afghan leadership and ownership, as reaffirmed at the Tokyo Conference in July 2012,

Stressing the need to further improve the efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, including through enhanced coordination among the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes under the authority of the Special Representative and between the United Nations and other donors, especially where it is most needed, welcoming the establishment of the Common Humanitarian Fund, and supporting the Government of Afghanistan to increasingly take the lead in coordinating humanitarian assistance to its citizens,

Emphasizing the need for all, within the framework of humanitarian assistance, of upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence,

Reiterating its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production of, trafficking in or trade in illicit drugs, and the strong links between terror-

ism activities and illicit drugs, resulting in threats to the local population, including women and children, national security forces and international military and civilian personnel, including humanitarian and development workers,

Recognizing the continuously alarming threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats, and expressing its serious concern over the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups on the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to guarantee the rule of law, to provide security and basic services to the Afghan people and to ensure the improvement and protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling its resolutions 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, expressing its serious concern about the high number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan, in particular women and children, the increasingly large majority of which are caused by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, condemning the targeted killing of women and girls, in particular high-level female officials, reaffirming that all parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians, especially women, children and displaced persons, including from sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence, and that perpetrators of such violence must be held accountable, calling for all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians, and recognizing the importance of the ongoing monitoring of and reporting to the Security Council, including by the International Security Assistance Force, on the situation of civilians and in particular civilian casualties, taking note of the progress made by Afghan and international forces in minimizing civilian casualties, and noting the report of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan of 8 February 2014 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

Expressing concern about the serious threat that anti-personnel mines, remnants of war and improvised explosive devices pose to the civilian population, and stressing the need to refrain from the use of weapons and devices prohibited by international law,

Encouraging the international community and regional partners to further effectively support Afghan-led sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking, notably through the working group on counter-narcotics of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, as well as regional initiatives, and recognizing the threat posed by the production of, trade in and trafficking in illicit drugs to international peace and stability in different regions of the world and the important role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this regard,

Expressing concern at the increase in poppy production, as noted in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013, noting the serious harm that opium cultivation, production and trafficking and consumption continue to cause to the stability, security, social and economic development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally, and stressing the

important role of the United Nations to continue to monitor the drug situation in Afghanistan,

Stressing the need for coordinated regional efforts to combat the drug problem, and in this regard welcoming the holding of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Counter-Narcotics, in Islamabad on 12 and 13 November 2012, aimed at enhancing regional cooperation to counter narcotics,

Welcoming the ongoing work of the Paris Pact initiative as one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan, taking note of the Vienna Declaration, and emphasizing the aim of the Paris Pact to establish a broad international coalition to combat traffic in illicit opiates, as part of a comprehensive approach to peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, the region and beyond,

Recalling the declaration addressed to the International Narcotics Control Board by the Government of Afghanistan that there is no legal use for acetic anhydride in Afghanistan for the time being and that producing and exporting countries should abstain from authorizing the export of this substance to Afghanistan without a request from the Government, encouraging, pursuant to resolution 1817(2008) of 11 June 2008, Member States to increase their cooperation with the Board, notably by complying fully with the provisions of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, of 1988, and encouraging further international and regional cooperation with a view to preventing the diversion of and trafficking in chemical precursors into Afghanistan,

Supporting the continued ban by the Government of Afghanistan of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, urging prompt action to implement regulations for the control of all explosive materials and precursor chemicals, thereby reducing the ability of insurgents to use them for improvised explosive devices, and calling upon the international community to support the efforts of the Government in this regard,

Recalling its resolutions 1265(1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296(2000) of 19 April 2000, 1674(2006), 1738(2006) and 1894(2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict and its resolution 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013 on small arms and light weapons, and taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict and on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, as well as the conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of 7 March 2014;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the United Nations long-term commitment, including beyond 2014 and into the transformation decade, to support the Government and the people of Afghanistan, reiterates its full support for the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission

in Afghanistan and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, and stresses the need to ensure continued adequate resourcing for the Mission to fulfil its mandate;

3. *Decides* to extend until 17 March 2015 the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, as defined in its resolutions 1662(2006), 1746(2007) of 23 March 2007, 1806(2008) of 20 March 2008, 1868(2009) of 23 March 2009, 1917(2010) of 22 March 2010, 1974(2011) of 22 March 2011, 2041(2012) of 22 March 2012 and 2096(2013), and in paragraphs 4 to 7 below;

4. *Recognizes* that the renewed mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan takes full account of the transition process and is in support of the full assumption by Afghanistan of leadership and ownership in the security, governance and development areas, consistent with the understandings reached between Afghanistan and the international community at the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences and the Lisbon and Chicago summits;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations, with the support of the international community, to support the Government of Afghanistan's national priority programmes covering the issues of security, governance, justice and economic and social development and to support the full implementation of mutual commitments made on these issues at international conferences, as well as on continuing implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, and requests that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, in an increasingly enabling function, assist the Government on its way towards ensuring full Afghan leadership and ownership, as defined by the Kabul Process;

6. *Decides* that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Special Representative, within their mandate and guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership, shall continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts, in accordance with the London, Kabul and Tokyo Conference communiqués and the Bonn Conference conclusions, with a particular focus on the priorities laid down below:

(a) Promote, as co-chair of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, more coherent support by the international community to the development and governance priorities of the Government of Afghanistan, including through supporting the ongoing development and sequencing of the national priority programmes, mobilization of resources, coordination of international donors and organizations and direction of the contributions of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular for counter-narcotics, reconstruction and development activities; at the same time, coordinate international partners for follow-up, in particular through information-sharing, support efforts to increase the proportion of development aid delivered through the Government, in line with the commitments made at the Kabul and Tokyo Conferences, and support efforts to increase the transparency and effectiveness of the use of such resources by the Government;

(b) Support, at the request of the Afghan authorities, the organization of future Afghan elections, including the 2014 presidential and provincial council elections and the 2015 parliamentary elections, as well as strengthen, in support of the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan, the sustainability, integrity and inclusiveness of the elec-

toral process, as agreed at the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences and the Chicago summit, and provide capacity-building and technical assistance to the Afghan institutions involved in this process;

(c) Provide outreach as well as good offices to support, if requested by the Government of Afghanistan, the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of peace and reconciliation, including through the implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme and proposing and supporting confidence-building measures within the framework of the Afghan Constitution and with full respect for the implementation of measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267(1999), 1988(2011), 1989(2011) of 17 June 2011 and 2082(2012) and 2083(2012) of 17 December 2012 as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council;

(d) Support regional cooperation, with a view to assisting Afghanistan to utilize its role at the heart of Asia to promote regional cooperation, and work towards a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, building on the achievements made;

(e) Continue, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to cooperate with and strengthen the capacity of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, to cooperate also with the Government of Afghanistan and relevant international and local non-governmental organizations to monitor the situation of civilians, to coordinate efforts to ensure their protection, to promote accountability and to assist in the full implementation of the fundamental freedoms and human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution and international treaties to which Afghanistan is a State party, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(f) Continue the cooperation with the International Security Assistance Force and the Senior Civilian Representative of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at all levels and throughout the country in support of the ongoing transition to full Afghan leadership and ownership agreed to at the Kabul and London Conferences and the Lisbon and Chicago summits, in a sustainable manner to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of all Afghans, in accordance with their existing mandates, in order to optimize civil-military coordination, to facilitate the timely exchange of information and to ensure coherence between the activities of national and international security forces and of civilian actors in support of an Afghan-led development and stabilization process, including through engagement with provincial reconstruction teams and engagement with non-governmental organizations, in particular through its participation in the Joint Afghan-North Atlantic Treaty Organization Inteqal Board as an observer;

7. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Special Representative will increase efforts to achieve greater coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Afghanistan to maximize their collective effectiveness in full alignment with the national priority programmes identified by the Government of Afghanistan and continue to lead international civilian efforts with an emphasis on enabling and strengthening the role of Afghan institutions to perform their responsibilities in the following priority areas:

(a) Promote through an appropriate presence of the Mission, to be determined in full consultation and cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, and in support of the Government's efforts, implementation of the Kabul Process throughout the country, including through enhanced cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and facilitate inclusion in and understanding of the Government's policies;

(b) Support the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan, in fulfilling its commitments as stated at the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences, to improve governance and the rule of law, including transitional justice, budget execution and the fight against corruption, throughout the country in accordance with the Kabul Process and the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, with a view to helping to bring the benefits of peace and the delivery of services in a timely and sustainable manner;

(c) Coordinate and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including in support of the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with humanitarian principles, with a view to building the capacity of the Government so that it can assume the central and coordinating role in the future, including by providing effective support to national and local authorities in assisting and protecting internally displaced persons and to creating conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees from neighbouring and other countries and internally displaced persons;

8. *Calls upon* all Afghan and international parties to coordinate with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in the implementation of its mandate and in efforts to promote the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel throughout the country;

9. *Reiterates* the need to ensure the security of United Nations staff and its support for the measures already taken by the Secretary-General in this regard;

10. *Stresses* the critical importance of a continued presence of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the provinces, consistent with the transition process, in support of and in cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, in response to needs and with a view to security and including the objective of overall United Nations effectiveness, and strongly supports the authority of the Special Representative in the coordination of all activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Afghanistan based on a "One United Nations" approach;

11. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his current efforts to take the measures necessary to address the security issues associated with the United Nations presence and, during the current process of transition and beyond, particularly encourages careful coordination with the Afghan National Security Forces, supported by the International Security Assistance Force, as appropriate;

12. *Underscores* the importance of a sustainable democratic development in Afghanistan with all Afghan institutions acting within their clearly defined areas of competence, in accordance with the relevant laws and the Afghan Constitution, welcomes in this regard the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan at the Kabul Conference, reaffirmed at the Bonn and Tokyo Conferences, to deliver further improvements to the electoral pro-

cess, including addressing the sustainability of the electoral process, and, taking into account the commitments made by the international community and the Government at the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences, reaffirms the supporting role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, upon the request of the Government, in the realization of these commitments, and requests that, upon the request of the Government, the Mission provide assistance to the relevant Afghan institutions to support the integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process, including measures to enable the full and safe participation of women, welcomes the participation of women in the electoral process as candidates, registered voters and campaigners, and further calls upon members of the international community to provide assistance as appropriate;

13. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to advance the peace and reconciliation process, including by the High Peace Council and the implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, to promote an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned dialogue on reconciliation and political participation as laid down in the Kabul Conference communiqué on dialogue for all those who renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the Constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women, and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan, and as further elaborated in the principles and outcomes of the Bonn Conference conclusions, and encourages the Government to make use of the good offices of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to support this process as appropriate, in full respect of the implementation of measures and procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267(1999), 1988(2011) and 2082(2012), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council;

14. *Also welcomes* the measures taken by the Government of Afghanistan, and encourages it to continue to increase the participation of women as well as minorities and civil society in outreach, consultation and decision-making processes, recalls that women play a vital role in the peace process, as recognized in Council resolution 1325(2000) and related resolutions, therefore reiterates the need for the full, equal and effective participation of women at all stages of peace processes, and urges their involvement in the development and implementation of post-conflict strategies in order to take account of their perspectives and needs as affirmed by the Bonn and Tokyo Conferences;

15. *Notes* the establishment of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 1988(2011), its methods and procedures, including new procedures to facilitate and expedite requests for travel ban exemptions in support of the peace and reconciliation process, introduced in resolution 2082(2012), welcomes in this context the cooperation of the Government of Afghanistan, the High Peace Council and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan with the Committee, including by providing relevant information for updating the 1988 List, and by identifying individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan, in accordance with the designation criteria set out in resolution 2082(2012), and notes that means of financing or supporting these individuals, groups, undertakings and entities includes but is not

limited to proceeds derived from the illicit cultivation of, production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs originating in and transiting through Afghanistan, and trafficking in precursors into Afghanistan, and encourages the continuation of such cooperation;

16. *Stresses* the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in supporting, if requested by the Government of Afghanistan, an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of peace and reconciliation, including the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, while continuing to assess, including in collaboration with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, its human rights and gender implications, including the promotion and protection of human rights, and encourages the international community to assist the efforts of the Government in this regard, including through continued support to the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund;

17. *Reaffirms* support to the ongoing Afghan-led regional effort within the framework of the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan of 2 November 2011, looks forward to the next ministerial conference, to be held in Tianjin, China, in 2014, calls upon Afghanistan and its regional partners to keep up the momentum and continue their efforts to enhance regional dialogue and confidence through the Istanbul Process, and notes that the Istanbul Process is intended to complement and cooperate with, and not substitute for, existing efforts of regional organizations, particularly where they relate to Afghanistan;

18. *Welcomes* ongoing efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, its neighbouring and regional partners and international organizations, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to foster trust and cooperation with each other, as well as recent cooperation initiatives developed by the countries concerned and regional organizations, including trilateral, quadrilateral, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summits;

19. *Calls for* the strengthening of the process of regional cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional trade and transit, including through regional and bilateral transit trade agreements, expanded consular visa cooperation and facilitation of business travel, to expand trade, to increase foreign investments and to develop infrastructure, including infrastructural connectivity, energy supply, transport and integrated border management, with a view to strengthening Afghanistan's role in regional economic cooperation and promoting sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs in Afghanistan;

20. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the importance of strengthening local and regional networks of transportation that will facilitate connectivity for economic development, stability and self-sustainability, particularly the completion and maintenance of local railroad and land routes, the development of regional projects to foster further connectivity and the enhancement of international civil aviation capabilities;

21. *Reaffirms* the central role played by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in coordinating, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the national priority programmes, and calls upon all relevant actors to enhance their cooperation with the Board in this regard, with a view to further improving its efficiency;

22. *Calls upon* international donors and organizations and the Government of Afghanistan to adhere to their commitments made at the Tokyo Conference and previous international conferences, and reiterates the importance of further efforts in improving aid coordination and effectiveness, including by ensuring transparency, combating corruption and enhancing the capacity of the Government to coordinate aid;

23. *Calls upon* the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, including the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, in accordance with their respective designated responsibilities as they evolve, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production of, trafficking in or trade in illicit drugs;

24. *Reiterates* the importance of increasing, in a comprehensive framework, the functionality, professionalism and accountability of the Afghan security sector through appropriate vetting procedures, training, including on child rights, mentoring, equipping and empowerment efforts, for both women and men, in order to accelerate progress towards the goal of self-sufficient, ethnically balanced and women-inclusive Afghan security forces providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country, and stresses the importance of the long-term commitment by the international community, beyond 2014, to ensure capable, professional and sustainable Afghan National Security Forces;

25. *Welcomes*, in this context, the continued progress in the development of the Afghan National Army and its improved ability to plan and undertake operations, and encourages sustained training efforts, including through the contribution of trainers, resources and advisory teams through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Training Mission-Afghanistan, and advice in developing a sustainable defence planning process as well as assistance in defence reform initiatives;

26. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts of the Afghan authorities to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan National Police, calls for further efforts towards that goal, and stresses the importance, in this context, of international assistance through financial support and the provision of trainers and mentors, including the contribution of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Training Mission-Afghanistan, the European Gendarmerie Force contribution to this mission and the European Union through the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan, as well as the German Police Project Team, noting the importance of a sufficient and capable police force for Afghanistan's long-term security, welcomes the 10-year vision for the Ministry of the Interior and the Afghan National Police, including the commitment to develop an effective strategy for coordinating increased recruitment, retention, training and capacity development for women in the Afghan National Police, as well as furthering the implementation of their gender integration strategy, and welcomes the continued support of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for women police associations;

27. *Welcomes* the progress in the implementation by the Government of Afghanistan of the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups and its integration with

the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, and calls for accelerated and harmonized efforts for further progress, with support from the international community;

28. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations and abductions, targeting civilians and Afghan and international forces and their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan, and condemns further the use by the Taliban and other extremist groups of civilians as human shields;

29. *Notes with concern* the continued high incidence of attacks against humanitarian and development workers, including attacks on health-care workers and medical transports and facilities, condemns these attacks in the strongest terms, emphasizing that the attacks impede efforts to aid the people of Afghanistan, and calls upon all parties to ensure full, safe and unhindered access of all humanitarian actors, including United Nations staff and associated personnel, and to comply fully with applicable international humanitarian law, and to respect the United Nations guiding principles of emergency humanitarian assistance;

30. *Welcomes* the achievements to date in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and all the relevant actors, to continue its efforts towards the removal and destruction of anti-personnel landmines, anti-tank landmines and explosive remnants of war in order to reduce the threats posed to human life and peace and security in the country, and expresses the need to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and economic and social reintegration of victims, including persons with disabilities;

31. *Recognizes* the progress made by the International Security Assistance Force and other international forces in minimizing the risk of civilian casualties, notes the report of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan of 8 February 2014 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and calls upon them to continue to take robust efforts in this regard, notably by the continuous review of tactics and procedures and the conduct of after-action reviews and investigations in cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan in cases where civilian casualties have occurred and when the Government finds these joint investigations appropriate;

32. *Expresses its strong concern* about the recruitment and use of children by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups in Afghanistan, as well as the killing and maiming of children as a result of the conflict, reiterates its strong condemnation of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and all other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in particular those involving attacks against schools and education and health-care facilities, including the burning and forced closure of schools and the intimidation, abduction and killing of education personnel, particularly those attacks targeting girls' education by illegal armed groups, including the Taliban, and noting in this context the listing of the Taliban in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, and the use of children in suicide attacks, and calls for those responsible to be brought to justice;

33. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of implementing Council resolution 1612(2005) on children and armed conflict and subsequent resolutions, supports the

decree of 6 July 2011 by the Minister of the Interior reaffirming the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to preventing violations of the rights of the child, welcomes the progress made on the implementation of the action plan, and the annex thereto, on children associated with the Afghan National Security Forces, signed in January 2011, in particular the establishment of the Afghan Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Children and Armed Conflict, the appointment of a focal point on child protection and the endorsement by the Government of a road map to accelerate compliance with the action plan, calls for the full implementation of the provisions of the action plan, in close cooperation with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to the child protection activities and capacity of the Mission and continue to include in his future reports the matter of children and armed conflict in the country in line with the relevant Council resolutions;

34. *Remains concerned* at the serious harm that opium cultivation, production and trafficking and consumption continue to cause to the security, development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally, takes note of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013 released in November 2013, calls upon the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, to accelerate the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, including through alternative livelihood programmes, and to mainstream counter-narcotics throughout national programmes, encourages additional international support for the four priorities identified in the Strategy, and commends the support provided by the Office to the Triangular Initiative and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative and the Rainbow Strategy and the regional programme of the Office for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, as well as the contribution of the Domodedovo police academy of the Russian Federation;

35. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in empowering the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics-led implementation of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy, including through the Counter-Narcotics Monitoring Mechanism of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board;

36. *Calls upon* States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the production of, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan, with a view to its progressive elimination, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, including through strengthening the law enforcement capacity and cooperation against the trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals and money-laundering and corruption linked to such trafficking, and calls for full implementation of its resolution 1817(2008);

37. *Appreciates* the work of the Paris Pact initiative and its "Paris-Moscow" process in countering the production of, trafficking in and consumption of opium and heroin from Afghanistan and the elimination of poppy crops and drug laboratories and stores, as well as the interception of drug convoys, underlines the importance of border management cooperation, and welcomes the intensified cooperation of the relevant United Nations institutions with the

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Collective Security Treaty Organization in this regard;

38. *Reiterates* the importance of completing the National Priority Programme on Law and Justice for All, by all the relevant Afghan institutions and other actors, in view of accelerating the establishment of a fair and transparent justice system, eliminating impunity and contributing to the affirmation of the rule of law throughout the country;

39. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of further progress in the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in Afghanistan, in order to improve the respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, emphasizes the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations, as applicable, to all prisons and places of detention in Afghanistan, calls for full respect for relevant international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, and notes the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan of 20 January 2013 and the appointment by the Government of Afghanistan of a commission to inquire into the findings of the report;

40. *Notes with strong concern* the effects of corruption on security, good governance, counter-narcotics efforts and economic development, welcomes the anti-corruption commitments made by the Government of Afghanistan at the Tokyo Conference, as reinforced in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, welcomes the efforts of the Government in this regard, including the issuance of the presidential decree in July 2012, calls for continued action by the Government to fulfil those commitments in order to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at the national, provincial and local levels of government, and also welcomes continued international support for Afghanistan's governance objectives;

41. *Encourages* all Afghan institutions, including the executive and legislative branches, to work in a spirit of cooperation, recognizes the continued efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in pursuing legislative and public administration reform in order to tackle corruption and to ensure good governance, as agreed at the Bonn Conference, with full representation of all Afghan women and men and accountability at both the national and sub-national levels, welcoming the issuance of the presidential decree in July 2012, and stresses the need for further international efforts to provide technical assistance in this area, recognizes efforts by the Government in this regard, and reiterates the importance of the full, sequenced, timely and coordinated implementation of the National Priority Programme on National Transparency and Accountability;

42. *Calls for* full respect for and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those of human rights defenders, and international humanitarian law throughout Afghanistan, welcomes the growth in Afghan free media, but notes with concern the continued restrictions on freedom of the media and attacks against journalists by terrorist as well as extremist and criminal groups, commends the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission for its courageous efforts to monitor respect for human rights in Afghanistan as well as to foster and protect those rights and to promote the emergence of a pluralistic civil society, stresses the importance of full cooperation with the Commission by all relevant actors and of promoting their independence, as well as of ensuring their safety, and supports broad engagement

across government agencies and civil society for the realization of the mutual commitments made, including the commitment to provide sufficient government financing for the Commission, reiterates the important role of the Commission, and supports the efforts of the Commission to strengthen its institutional capacity and independence within the framework of the Afghan Constitution;

43. *Recognizes* that, despite progress achieved on gender equality, enhanced efforts, including on measurable and action-oriented objectives, are necessary to secure the rights and full participation of women and girls and to ensure that all women and girls in Afghanistan are protected from violence and abuse, that perpetrators of such violence and abuse are held accountable, and that women and girls enjoy equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, emphasizes the importance of maintaining adequate legislative protections for women, strongly condemns discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular violence aimed at preventing girls from attending school, and stresses the importance of implementing resolutions 1325(2000), 1820(2008), 1888(2009), 1889(2009), 1960(2010), 2106(2013) and 2122(2013), and notes the mainstreaming commitments introduced therein, and of ensuring that women fleeing domestic violence are able to find safe and secure refuge;

44. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen the participation of women in all Afghan governance institutions, including elected and appointed bodies and the civil service, notes the progress in this regard, welcomes its continued efforts to protect and promote the full participation of women in the electoral process, supports efforts to accelerate full implementation of the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan, to integrate its benchmarks into the national priority programmes and to develop a strategy to implement fully the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women, including services to victims and access to justice, recalls that the promotion and protection of women's rights are an integral part of peace, reintegration and reconciliation, recalls that women play a vital role in the peace process, welcomes the commitment by the Government to developing, implementing and monitoring the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security and identifying further opportunities to support the participation of women in the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process, notes the report of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan on the implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan, and the importance of its full implementation, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports to the Council relevant information on the process of integration of women into the political, economic and social life of Afghanistan;

45. *Recognizes* the importance of the voluntary, safe, orderly return and sustainable reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees for the stability of the country and the region, and calls for continued and enhanced international assistance in this regard;

46. *Affirms* the importance of the voluntary, safe, orderly return and sustainable reintegration of internally displaced persons, and welcomes the inclusion of Afghanistan as a pilot country for the Secretary-General's initiative on durable solutions and the progress made on the development of an internally displaced persons policy for Afghanistan;

47. *Notes* the need to continue to strengthen, with the support of the international community, Afghanistan's absorption capacity for the full rehabilitation and reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons;

48. *Requests* that the Secretary-General report to the Council every three months on developments in Afghanistan and include in his reports an evaluation of progress made against the benchmarks for measuring and tracking progress in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, including at the subnational level, and priorities as set out in the present resolution;

49. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Security Council press statement. In a 5 April press statement [SC/11347], the Security Council welcomed the holding of the presidential and provincial council elections that day. The members of the Council reiterated the importance of those historic elections to Afghanistan's transition and democratic development.

Communication. By a 9 April letter [A/68/834-S/2014/256], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of the declaration by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the forthcoming elections in Afghanistan, adopted in Moscow on 3 April.

Security Council press statement. In a 15 May press statement [SC/11399], the Security Council welcomed the announcement by the Afghan Independent Election Commission on 15 May of the certified final results of the first round of the Afghan presidential election. The members of the Council reiterated the commitment of the international community to Afghanistan's transition and welcomed the ongoing support role of UNAMA.

Report of Secretary-General (June). In his June report on the situation in Afghanistan [A/68/910-S/2014/420], the Secretary-General stated that the presidential and provincial council elections had dominated the political, security and economic environment of Afghanistan during the reporting period. He indicated that the contest thus far had been respectful of the legal framework and mandated authorities of electoral institutions. Addressing the National Assembly at its opening session for the last time, President Hamid Karzai emphasized that government authorities and security institutions would do everything possible to ensure that the upcoming presidential and provincial council elections would be credible and free of official interference. The President viewed the formal commencement of a peace process as a precondition to signing a bilateral security agreement between Afghanistan and the United States, and called on political leaders to preserve national unity, freedom of expression and women's rights. Technical preparations for the elections were completed on schedule and, on 28 March, the Independent Election Com-

mission's voter registration top-up exercise was concluded, with 3,746,755 new voter cards issued, of which 35 per cent to women. During the final days of the campaign, three of the 11 presidential candidates withdrew. The final number of aspirants in the provincial council elections was 2,591, of whom 296 were women. Afghan security institutions oversaw the planning and implementation of election security, with the Ministry of the Interior in the lead training 581 women police officers and 2,245 civilians and recruiting 13,690 "female searchers" (women who search for women voters) for polling day, in order to better secure women's participation. On 5 April, voting took place in 6,082 polling centres, as 15 per cent of the 7,173 polling centres that had been planned originally were closed owing to security concerns or logistical issues, including 341 that were unable to open on election day. The final results were released by the Commission on 15 May as follows: Abdullah Abdullah (45 per cent); Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai (31.6 per cent); Zalmay Rassul (11.4 per cent); Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf (7.3 per cent); Qutbuddin Hilal (2.8 per cent); Agha Sherzai (1.6 per cent); Daud Sultanzy (0.5 per cent); and Hedayat Amin Arsala (0.2 per cent). As no candidate gained more than 50 per cent of the vote, a second round of polling between the two front-runners was required under the Constitution. The Commission released the preliminary results for the 458 seats on the 34 provincial councils on 20 May—97 of the preliminary winners were women. Preparations for a second round of voting remained on track, and UNAMA continued to encourage a respectful campaign in the interests of national unity.

Between 1 March and 31 May, the United Nations recorded 5,864 security-related incidents relevant to the work, mobility and safety of civilian actors in Afghanistan, of which 23 involved United Nations personnel, mostly national staff. The high number of security incidents was mainly attributed to the electoral period, given operations by Afghan security forces and attempts by the Taliban to disrupt the electoral process. On 27 May, the United States set forth plans for a future drawdown of troop levels in Afghanistan, which planned for a normal embassy presence by the end of 2016. The following day, President Karzai released a statement welcoming the decision, however, a number of members of the National Assembly and civil society expressed concern about the readiness of Afghan security forces and the impact on the broader international commitment to Afghanistan. On 4 June, a meeting of defence ministers at NATO headquarters reviewed the progress made by ISAF, the mandate of which would end on 31 December. A follow-up training, advice and assistance mission was planned.

During the reporting period, Afghanistan continued to actively engage with its neighbours and promote regional cooperation. China, India, Iran and Pakistan welcomed the conduct of the first round of

polling and to recognize the importance of a smooth political transition in Afghanistan for regional stability. The International Contact Group on Afghanistan and Pakistan held a meeting in Tokyo on 15 May, focusing on the status of the 2014 elections, arrangements for the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework ministerial review meeting, to be held in London later in the year, and continuing international support for Afghan security forces. Preparations continued for the fourth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, to be held in China in August.

The Secretary-General observed that the political engagement demonstrated by the candidates and the electorate, together with the efforts of electoral and security bodies, had been impressive, reinforcing national and international confidence in the future of Afghanistan. He urged the two presidential candidates to disavow fraud by their supporters, respect the authorities of the electoral management bodies and, along with their supporters, accept the outcome once electoral complaints had been adjudicated. Furthermore, with civilians increasingly caught in the crossfire between Afghan forces and anti-government elements, the Secretary-General reiterated the obligations of the parties to distinguish between civilians and combatants. The Secretary-General emphasized to Member States that even as the physical presence of their troops decreased, obligations to provide security and development assistance remained.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 June [meeting 7208], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/11** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the holding of the second round of the Afghan presidential election on 14 June 2014 and reiterates the importance of these historic elections to Afghanistan's transition and democratic development. It commends the participation and courage of the Afghan people to cast their ballot despite the threat and intimidation by the Taliban and other violent extremist and terrorist groups. It further commends the participation of Afghan women in the electoral process, and underlines the key role that they play in Afghan-led peace, democracy and stability.

The Council notes positively the efforts of the Afghan people to prepare for and hold these elections, including security arrangements, and reiterates the important role of the Afghan electoral institutions, including the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission. It calls upon Afghan electoral institutions to uphold the highest standards of integrity throughout this important and historic process, and emphasizes that all efforts must be made to ensure the integrity, neutrality and transparency of the electoral process, including the detection and prevention of fraud.

The Council calls upon all stakeholders to engage with the electoral institutions and processes with pa-

tience and respect, to refrain from any acts that incite imminent violence, civil disorder or lead to instability and to channel complaints through the established institutional mechanisms in line with the electoral laws and Constitution of Afghanistan.

The Council looks forward to the conclusion of the electoral process in accordance with the relevant laws and mandates of the electoral institutions and the orderly transition to a new administration and welcomes the ongoing support role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

The Council calls upon all political entities to work together in accordance with the Afghan Constitution, with the aim of strengthening the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan in order to achieve a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan.

The Council condemns the actions of those who attempted to disrupt the elections, such as terrorist attacks against civilians, including election personnel and candidates, as well as attacks against election infrastructure. It condemns violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups aimed at destabilizing the situation in the country.

The Council recognizes the sacrifices of the Afghan people and the Afghan National Security Forces during the election period, and reiterates that no terrorist act can reverse the path towards Afghan-led peace, democracy and stability.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 June [meeting 7208], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/12** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan.

The Council recognizes the threat posed by the production of, trade in and trafficking in illicit drugs to international peace and stability in different regions of the world and the important role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this regard.

The Council expresses concern at the increase in poppy production, as noted in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013, noting the serious harm that opium cultivation, production and trafficking and consumption continue to cause to the stability, security, social and economic development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally, and stresses the important role of the United Nations to continue to monitor the drug situation in Afghanistan. The Council encourages the International Security Assistance Force to further effectively support, within its designated responsibilities, Afghan-led sustained efforts, including efforts by the Afghan National Security Forces, to address drug production and trafficking, in cooperation with relevant international and regional actors.

The Council notes that according to the *World Drug Report 2013* Afghanistan remains one of the foremost source countries for opiates and cannabis resin.

The Council reaffirms that Afghanistan's peaceful future lies in building a stable, secure, economically sustainable State, free of terrorism and narcotics and based on the rule of law, strengthened democratic institutions, respect for the separation of powers, reinforced constitutional checks and balances and the guarantee and enforcement of citizens' rights and obligations. The Council renews its commitment to assisting Afghanistan on its path towards peace, democracy and reconstruction.

The Council welcomes the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in fighting drug production in Afghanistan.

The Council stresses the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, which are of an interconnected nature, and recognizes that there is no purely military solution to ensure the stability of Afghanistan.

The Council calls upon the United Nations, with the support of the international community, to support the Government of Afghanistan's national priority programmes covering the issues of security, governance, justice and economic and social development and to support the full implementation of mutual commitments made on these issues at international conferences, as well as on continuing implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, and requests that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, in an increasingly enabling function, assist the Government on its way towards ensuring full Afghan leadership and ownership, as defined by the Kabul Process.

The Council reiterates its support for the transition (Inteqal) process which will entail the assumption of full responsibility by Afghanistan's institutions in the security sector, consistent with the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Lisbon and Chicago summits.

The Council stresses the central and impartial role that the United Nations will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan by leading the efforts of the international community.

The Council reiterates its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production of, trafficking in or trade in illicit drugs, and the strong links between terrorism activities and illicit drugs, resulting in threats to the local population, including women and children, national security forces and international military and civilian personnel, including humanitarian and development workers.

The Council notes with concern the existing links between international security, terrorism and transnational organized crime, money-laundering, and trafficking in illicit drugs and illegal arms, and in this regard emphasizes the need to enhance coordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and in particular to close connections between international terrorism and illicit drugs. The Council welcomes the recent efforts carried out under the Russian presidency of the Financial Action Task Force on identification of the illicit financial flows linked to Afghan drug production and trafficking.

The Council emphasizes the need to enhance existing interregional and international cooperation and coordination mechanisms in order to develop an integrated, comprehensive and balanced response to the drug problem, including as part of a long-term security, development and institution-building agenda.

The Council encourages an enhanced collaboration between all relevant entities, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, including the Police Division, and the United Nations Development Programme in order to have an effective and detailed coordination mechanism to prioritize activities, to support the National Drug Control Strategy and to ensure coordinated implementation of a United Nations comprehensive approach. It encourages the inclusion of combating drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the work of all relevant United Nations entities involved in Afghanistan, in accordance with their respective mandates and actively maximizing synergies.

The Council reaffirms specifically in this context its support for the implementation, under the leadership and ownership of the Afghan people, of the commitments set out in the London and Kabul Conference communiqués, and of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the National Drug Control Strategy as part of the comprehensive implementation strategy to be taken forward by the Government of Afghanistan with the support of the region and the international community and with a central and impartial coordinating role for the United Nations, consistent with the Kabul Process and in line with the national priority programmes.

The Council, stressing the crucial importance of advancing regional and interregional cooperation, welcomes in this regard the continued commitment of the international community to support stability and development in Afghanistan, and calls upon the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, to accelerate the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, including through alternative livelihood programmes, encourages additional international support for the four priorities identified in the Strategy, and commends the support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the Triangular Initiative and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative and the Rainbow Strategy, the regional programme of the Office for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, relevant efforts by the Istanbul Process on Regional Peace and Security for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, the European Union, through the European Union Border Management Programme in Central Asia and Border Management in Northern Afghanistan, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan process, and the continued engagement of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe with Afghanistan, based on the 2011 Vilnius ministerial declaration, by

means of implementation of the Organization's project at its Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, inter alia, the training of Afghan law enforcement officers on combating illicit drugs at the Domodedovo police academy of the Russian Federation and their continued training in the Drug Enforcement Administration Training Academy of the United States of America and the Siberian Law Institute and the North-Western Advanced Training Institute of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation.

The Council calls upon States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the production of, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan, with a view to its progressive elimination, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, including through strengthening the law enforcement capacity and cooperation against the trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals and money-laundering and corruption linked to such trafficking. The Council also encourages Member States to undertake further action, as well as to consider, on the basis of concrete proposals by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, possible new international initiatives aimed at strengthening the combat against illicit trafficking in chemicals.

The Council notes the ongoing importance of the counter-narcotics issue for the engagement of the United Nations in Afghanistan. It reiterates the need for the Council to be kept informed, including by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, of the threats of drug trafficking and related transnational crime on situations on the agenda of the Council, notably when examining the mandates of peacekeeping operations and political missions.

The Council reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to consider the threats resulting from drug trafficking and related illegal activities as a factor in conflict prevention strategies, conflict analysis, integrated missions assessments, planning and peacebuilding support and to consider including in his reports an analysis of the role played by these threats in situations on the agenda of the Council.

The Council welcomes further briefings on the situation of drug trafficking in Afghanistan, as necessary, by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Report of Secretary-General (September). In his September report on the situation in Afghanistan [A/69/540-S/2014/656], the Secretary-General reported that the second-round run-off in the presidential election was held on 14 June between Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, without significant disruption from the insurgency. In the weeks after the vote, however, political tensions over allegations of massive fraud and the related activities of the electoral commissions led to a political impasse with destabilizing consequences for the political, security, economic and social environment of the country. At the request of the

two candidates and the President of Afghanistan, the United Nations assumed an enhanced role in supporting the electoral process in order to help reach a broadly accepted result in the presidential election. On the basis of lessons learned from the first round and recommendations from the candidates, electoral observers and the international community, the Independent Election Commission made a number of amendments to the process, including improved pre-positioning of contingency materials to better respond to ballot shortages and taking steps to improve voter accessibility. On 18 June, Mr. Abdullah announced his disengagement from the electoral process, alleging institutional bias and claiming that the reported high turnout was based on massive fraud. On 1 July, the Commission began an audit of about 2,000 polling stations in an effort to address fraud concerns and diffuse growing political tensions. Mr. Abdullah, however, rejected the audit as insufficient and demanded an expansion of the audit. Beginning 4 July, representatives for both candidates engaged in bilateral discussions in an attempt to agree on a framework for a more expansive and robust audit, seeking the good offices and technical advice of the United Nations. Preliminary run-off results were released by the Commission on 7 July, against the advice of the United Nations, indicating a reversal of the position of the candidates from the first round, with Mr. Ghani receiving 56.4 per cent and Mr. Abdullah 43.6 per cent of the 7,947,527 valid votes. In response to the political impasse, United States Secretary of State, John Kerry visited Kabul on 11 July and commenced an intensive period of shuttle diplomacy. On 12 July, in a joint press conference Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Ghani confirmed their agreement on the technical and political frameworks developed in consultation with Secretary Kerry. The key technical elements of the agreement were based upon proposals developed by the United Nations. Both candidates agreed to participate in, and accede to the outcome of, the audit and that the next president would form a “government of national unity”, including the establishment of the position of government chief executive officer. The United Nations presented to the Commission a proposed set of recount and invalidation criteria, which were formally adopted on 30 July after consultations with the campaign teams. Protests took place in Kandahar City on 17 August, in reaction to the agreement for a government of national unity with some protesters threatening to support the Taliban movement if a coalition government were “imposed” on Afghanistan and demanding that if there were to be a government of national unity, it should include the Taliban and Hizb-e Islami; and on 19 August, clashes between campaign agents and temporary election workers took place at the Kabul audit site, which resulted in several injuries.

Insurgent groups, international terrorists and associated networks took advantage of the protracted

political and electoral crisis and uncertainty to mount major assaults in Hilmand Province in the south, Faryab and Ghor provinces in the west, Logar Province in the centre, Nangarhar and Nuristan provinces in the east and Kunduz Province in the north-east. Attempts were made not only to capture but also to hold territory, resulting in casualties among civilians, security personnel and insurgents. Nevertheless, the Afghan security forces countered the majority of insurgent offensives and recovered control of district centres and security installations. Between 1 June and 15 August, the United Nations recorded 5,456 security-related incidents across the country, an increase 10.7 per cent over the same period in 2013 and an increase of 18.7 per cent over the same period in 2012. On 9 July, UNAMA released its mid-year report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, covering the period from 1 January to 30 June. In the report, UNAMA documented 1,564 civilian deaths and 3,289 civilian injuries, an increase of 24 per cent over the same period in 2013.

Afghanistan continued to engage with Pakistan on security issues, however, tensions remained along the frontier between Pakistan and Afghanistan, with reciprocal allegations of support and sanctuary for insurgent groups linked to attacks on each other's territory. Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Turkmenistan signed the operational plan for the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline on 8 July and later that month Afghanistan and China discussed increased economic engagement and the latter's potential role in the peace process.

The Secretary-General observed that larger-scale engagements by anti-Government forces throughout the year had tested Afghan security forces and that continuous and substantial international assistance would be required for several years to support Afghan institutions in ensuring the capacity and capability to counter ongoing threats. He urged that international commitments to the sustainment of Afghan forces made at the NATO summits in Lisbon, Portugal (2010), and Chicago, United States (2012), be met. He also welcomed the joint statement of the two candidates addressed to the NATO summit, in which they committed to an “inclusive political vision” and a government of national unity, as well as to concluding the bilateral security agreement with the United States and a status of forces agreement with NATO. The Secretary-General affirmed that a transfer of power through the electoral process, and the candidates' acceptance of the results, was the only means to provide a new leader and government with the mandate required to tackle the many challenges.

Security Council consideration. On 18 September [S/PV.7267], the Security Council discussed the situation in Afghanistan and was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMA, Ján Kubiš, on the situation fol-

lowing the presidential and provincial elections. He stated that despite recent discussions between the teams of the two candidates, vital issues remained to be bridged. The protracted deadlock had deepened a crisis that had already taken a heavy political, security and economic toll on Afghanistan. He further added that swift agreement on, and the establishment of, a Government of national unity was required to address the country's growing challenges.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 November [meeting 57], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/18** [draft: A/69/L.20 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 37].

The situation in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/11 of 20 November 2013 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resolutions 2120(2013) of 10 October 2013 and 2145(2014) of 17 March 2014,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Recalling the long-term commitment of the international community to Afghanistan with the aim of strengthening national ownership and leadership consistent with the Kabul process, and taking into account the evolving nature of the presence of the international community,

Welcoming the conclusions of the International Afghanistan Conference on Afghanistan and the International Community: From Transition to the Transformation Decade, held in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2011, in which it was declared that the process of transition, to be completed by the end of 2014, should be followed by a transformation decade (2015–2024) in which Afghanistan consolidates its sovereignty through strengthening a fully functioning, sustainable State in the service of its people,

Welcoming also the Tokyo Declaration: Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan—From Transition to Transformation adopted at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, held on 8 July 2012, including the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, which reaffirms the partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community based on their mutual commitments, and looking forward to the London Conference on Afghanistan,

Recognizing once again the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, reaffirming that sustainable progress on security, governance, human rights, the rule of law and development, as well as on the cross-cutting issues of counter-narcotics, anti-corruption and accountability, are mutually reinforcing and that governance and development programmes prioritized for implementation in transition should be consistent with the goals set forth in the Tokyo Declaration and the national priority programmes, and underlining the importance of the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to address these challenges,

Welcoming and supporting the outcome of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 2 November 2011, which launched the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan and the follow-up Heart of Asia Ministerial Conferences, held in Kabul on 14 June 2012, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 26 April 2013 and the recent fourth Ministerial Conference held in Beijing on 31 October 2014, and the Beijing Declaration, which furthered the Process whereby Afghanistan and its regional partners, with the support of the international community, affirmed their commitment to strengthen regional security and cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan, including through enhanced regional dialogue and confidence-building measures, and looking forward to the fifth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, to be held in Pakistan in 2015,

Stressing the crucial importance of advancing regional cooperation as an effective means of promoting security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan, recognizing in this regard the importance of the contribution of neighbouring and regional partners, as well as regional organizations, recalling the importance of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002, welcoming in this regard the continued commitment of the international community to support stability and development in Afghanistan, and noting international and regional initiatives, such as those of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan process, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Welcoming the process by which Afghanistan and its regional and international partners are entering into long-term strategic partnerships and other agreements aimed at achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan,

Underlining the significance of the agreement reached between the Government of Afghanistan and countries contributing to the International Security Assistance Force at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit, held in Lisbon on 19 and 20 November 2010, to gradually transfer full security responsibility in Afghanistan to the Government countrywide by the end of 2014, and looking forward to the completion of this process by the end of 2014,

Recalling the decision of the international community, taken at the Bonn Conference, to support the training, equipping, financing and development of the capacity of the Afghan National Security Forces beyond the end of the transition period, taking note of the Wales Summit Declaration on Afghanistan, which highlighted the role of the International Security Assistance Force and outlined the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and contributing partners in supporting lasting peace, security and stability in Afghanistan beyond 2014, including through the short-term Resolute Support Mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces, the medium-term contribution to the financial sustainment of the Forces and the commitment to strengthening the long-term enduring partnership with Afghanistan, noting the signing of the security and defence cooperation agreement between the United States of America and Afghanistan (bilateral security agreement) and the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization-Afghanistan status-of-forces agreement,

noting also that the bilateral agreement between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Afghanistan and the invitation of the Government of Afghanistan to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to establish the Resolute Support Mission provide a sound legal basis for the Mission, and acknowledging that the Mission should, ideally and in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan, be supported by a Security Council resolution,

Reiterating the urgent need to tackle the challenges in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing violent criminal and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminals, including those involved in the narcotics trade, and the development of Government of Afghanistan institutions, including at the subnational level, the strengthening of the rule of law and democratic processes, the fight against corruption, the acceleration of justice sector reform, the promotion of national reconciliation, without prejudice to the fulfilment of the measures introduced by the Security Council in resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999, 1988(2011) and 1989(2011) of 17 June 2011, 2082(2012) and 2083(2012) of 17 December 2012, and 2160(2014) and 2161(2014) of 17 June 2014 and other relevant resolutions, an Afghan-led transitional justice process, the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons in an orderly and dignified manner, the promotion and protection of human rights and the advancement of economic and social development,

Deeply concerned about the high level of violence in Afghanistan, especially the number of civilian casualties, condemning in the strongest terms all violent attacks, recalling that the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups are responsible for the significant majority of the civilian casualties in Afghanistan, expressing particular serious concern about increased targeted killing of women and girls, and calling for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law and for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians,

Noting the importance of the national Government being inclusive and representative of the ethnic diversity of the country and ensuring also the full and equal participation of women,

Recognizing that the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of peace and reconciliation, supported by the international community, is essential for achieving long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan,

Emphasizing the central and impartial role of the United Nations in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, expressing its appreciation and strong support for all efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Afghanistan in this regard, expressing its appreciation also for the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in accordance with Security Council resolution 2145(2014), and stressing the leading and coordinating role of the Assistance Mission in seeking to further improve the coherence and coordination of international civilian efforts, guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan ownership and leadership,

Welcoming the reports of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained therein,

1. *Pledges its continued support* to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild a stable, secure,

economically self-sufficient State, free of terrorism and narcotics, and strengthen the foundations of a constitutional democracy as a responsible member of the international community;

2. *Encourages* all partners to support constructively the Kabul process, building upon a deep and broad international partnership towards further increased Afghan responsibility and ownership in security, governance and development, aiming at a secure, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan, focusing on strengthening the constitutional checks and balances that guarantee citizens' rights and obligations and implementing structural reform to enable an accountable and effective Government to deliver concrete progress to its people;

3. *Supports* the continuing and growing ownership of reconstruction and development efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, emphasizes the crucial need to achieve ownership and accountability in all fields of governance and to improve institutional capabilities, including at the subnational level, in order to use aid more effectively, and underscores in this regard the importance of the commitments of the international community, as reiterated in the Tokyo Declaration: Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan—From Transition to Transformation;

Security and transition

4. *Reiterates once again its serious concern* about the security situation in Afghanistan, stresses the need to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan caused by the ongoing violent and terrorist activity by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and other illegal armed groups and criminals, including those involved in the narcotics trade, and reiterates in this regard its call for the full implementation of measures and the application of procedures introduced in relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 1267(1999), 1988(2011), 1989(2011), 2082(2012), 2083(2012), 2160(2014) and 2161(2014);

5. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all unlawful acts of violence, intimidation and attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations, including of public figures, abductions, indiscriminate attacks against civilians, attacks against individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in the promotion and protection of universally recognized human rights, attacks against humanitarian workers and the targeting of Afghan and international forces, which have a deleterious effect on stabilization and development efforts in Afghanistan, and also condemns the use, by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, of civilians as human shields;

6. *Stresses* the need for the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to continue to work closely together in countering these acts, which are threatening peace and stability in Afghanistan and the democratic process, the achievements and continued implementation of the Afghanistan development process as well as humanitarian aid measures, and calls upon all Member States to deny those groups any form of sanctuary or financial, material and political support;

7. *Expresses deep regret* at the resulting loss of life and physical harm inflicted upon Afghan civilians and civilians of other nationalities, including the personnel of Afghan

and international agencies and all other humanitarian workers and the diplomatic corps, the United Nations Assistance Mission, as well as upon the personnel of the Afghan National Security Forces, the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, and pays homage to all those who have lost their lives;

8. *Stresses* the importance of providing the Afghan people with security, notes that the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout the country resides with the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international community, and underlines the importance of further strengthening the operational capabilities of Afghan security forces in all provinces of Afghanistan;

9. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the completion at the end of 2014 of the transition process and the assumption of full security responsibility by the Afghan National Security Forces, calls upon the international community to provide the support necessary to increase security, including public order, law enforcement, the security of Afghanistan's borders and the preservation of the constitutional rights of Afghan citizens, as well as to provide continued support by training, equipping and contributing to the financing of the Security Forces to take on the task of securing their country, with a clear view to the assumption, no later than 2024, of full financial responsibility for its own security forces by the Government of Afghanistan, underscores the importance of the joint Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan and other relevant agreements with regional and international partners, and takes note in this regard of the Wales Summit Declaration on Afghanistan;

10. *Also welcomes*, in this regard, the presence of the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition until the end of 2014, expresses its appreciation to Member States for having contributed personnel, equipment and other resources to the Assistance Force and for the support they have provided to the Afghan National Army, as well as for the assistance provided to the Afghan National Police by all international partners, in particular by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization through its training mission in Afghanistan, as well as other bilateral training programmes, and encourages further co-ordination where appropriate;

11. *Further welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan, with a view to ensuring stability and providing conditions for the effective rule of law, to continue the implementation of the Afghan National Police Strategy and the National Police Plan underpinning it, as well as the 10-year vision presented by the Ministry of the Interior, focusing, inter alia, on community-based policing (*Police-e Mardumi*) to increase police accountability and responsiveness, strengthening crime detection and prevention, safeguarding human rights and combating violence against women and children to build a strong, professional police force evolving towards sustainable, credible and accountable civilian law enforcement that will be capable of providing policing services to the Afghan population as part of the broader rule of law system, with a focus on the ongoing institutional and administrative reforms of the Ministry of the Interior, including the implementation of its anti-corruption action plan, and leadership development, as well as to progressively enhance the quality of the Afghan National Police, with the necessary continued financial and technical support of the international community, recog-

nizes the significant contribution that has been made by international and regional partners, including the International Police Coordination Board, to achieve that aim, and also recognizes in this context the significant contribution of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan;

12. *Notes*, in the context of the comprehensive approach, the continued need to maintain, strengthen and review civil-military relations among international actors, as appropriate, at all levels in order to ensure complementarity of action based on the different mandates and comparative advantages of the humanitarian, development, law enforcement and military actors present in Afghanistan;

13. *Urges* the Afghan authorities, with the support of the international community, to take all possible steps to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations, development and humanitarian personnel and their full, safe and unhindered access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of development or humanitarian organizations, and notes the efforts made in regulating private security contractors operating in Afghanistan;

14. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Afghan authorities, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/101 of 13 December 2013 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, to bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks, and calls upon the Afghan authorities to continue its efforts in this regard;

15. *Remains deeply concerned* about the persistent problem of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, which constitute a great danger to the population and a major obstacle to the resumption of social and economic activities and to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, early recovery and reconstruction efforts, welcomes the achievements to date in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, underscores the importance of sustained international assistance for the implementation of the 10-year operational workplan of the Mine Action Programme, aimed at declaring Afghanistan mine-free by 2023, encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and all relevant actors, to continue its efforts to meet its responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, to eliminate all known or new stocks of anti-personal landmines, and to cooperate fully with the Mine Action Programme, and to continue removal of anti-personnel landmines, anti-vehicle landmines and explosive remnants of war, and expresses the need to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation, and economic and social reintegration of victims, including persons with disabilities;

Peace, reconciliation and reintegration

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to advance peace and reconciliation, including by the High Peace Council, and the implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme to promote an inclusive, Afghan-led dialogue on reconciliation and political participation, as set forth in the 20 July 2010 Kabul Conference communiqué on dialogue for all those who renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the Constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women, and are willing to join in building a

peaceful Afghanistan, and further elaborated in the Bonn Conference conclusions, supported by the Government and the international community, with full respect for the implementation of measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267(1999), 1988(2011), 2082(2012) and 2160(2014), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council, calls upon all relevant States, especially neighbouring countries, and international organizations to remain engaged in the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process, and recognizes the impact terrorist attacks have on the Afghan people and risk having on future prospects for a peace settlement;

17. *Reiterates its firm commitment* to support the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to advance the peace and reconciliation process, in line with the Kabul Conference communiqué and the Bonn Conference conclusions, and within the framework of the Afghan Constitution and the application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1988(2011), 2082(2012) and 2160(2014) as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council, and recalls that women play a vital role in the peace process, as recognized by the Council in its resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 and in related resolutions, including Council resolution 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013;

18. *Underlines* the fact that reconciliation and reintegration efforts should enjoy the support and participation of all Afghans, including civil society, in particular women's groups, and minorities, as reinforced most recently in the Bonn Conference conclusions and the Tokyo Declaration, welcomes the steps taken towards greater cooperation between the High Peace Council and civil society, and encourages further cooperation in the future;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress made by the Government of Afghanistan in the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme in reintegrating former combatants throughout the country and under Afghan ownership, while ensuring coordination and coherence with other relevant efforts, welcomes the continued commitment and efforts of the Government to work actively at the national, provincial and local levels to advance this commitment, and calls for continued international support for these efforts;

20. *Calls upon* the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme is implemented in an inclusive manner, regardless of gender or social status and consistent with the Afghan Constitution and the international legal obligations of Afghanistan, while upholding the human rights of all Afghans and countering impunity;

21. *Recalls* the importance of the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund and the respective commitments made at the London and Kabul Conferences, and encourages the international community to assist the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, including through continued support and contributions to the Trust Fund;

22. *Recognizes* the increased number of reintegreees who have joined the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, encourages further efforts to address remaining operational challenges, including through an appropriate vetting mechanism and by ensuring that this work is linked to wider efforts to address conflict and grievance resolution at the local level, and also encourages the international community to support this Afghan-led effort;

Governance, rule of law and human rights

23. *Emphasizes* that good governance, the rule of law and human rights form the foundation for the achievement of a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, and notes the importance of building the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to promote and protect human rights, the rule of law and good governance in an accountable and effective manner;

A. Democracy

24. *Welcomes* the conclusion of Afghanistan's presidential elections and the inauguration on 29 September 2014 of the new President of Afghanistan, which marked the first democratic transition of power in the country's history, also welcomes the agreement reached to establish a government of national unity, emphasizes the importance of all parties in Afghanistan working together in order to achieve a unified, peaceful, democratic and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan, recalls the courage and determination of the Afghan people, who participated in the electoral process in large numbers despite threats and intimidation by the Taliban and other violent, extremist and terrorist groups, commends the Afghan National Security Forces for providing security throughout the country during both rounds of the elections, recognizes the role of the Afghan electoral institutions in conducting the comprehensive audit of the presidential vote, commends the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, United Nations agencies and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan for the effective and critical support provided to Afghan institutions throughout the electoral process, and acknowledges the valuable role of national and international observers;

25. *Recalls* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan, reiterated at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan, to strengthen and improve Afghanistan's electoral process through long-term electoral reform, including by considering lessons learned in the light of previous elections, and to promote the participation of women in order to ensure that future elections will be transparent, credible, inclusive and democratic, and reaffirms that Afghanistan's peaceful future lies in strengthened and transparent democratic institutions, respect for the separation of powers, reinforced constitutional checks and balances and the guarantee and enforcement of citizens' rights and obligations;

B. Justice

26. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Government of Afghanistan on justice sector reform and the commitment to improve access to the delivery of justice throughout Afghanistan made by the Government at the Kabul Conference, urges the Government to implement the National Priority Programme, adopted in 2013, in a timely manner, in coordination with the relevant organizations and government departments, and urges the international community to continue to support the efforts of the Government in this regard;

27. *Acknowledges* the progress made by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community in devoting adequate resources to the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in order to improve respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, while reducing physical and mental health risks to inmates;

28. *Welcomes and encourages* further efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the Assistance Mission, the international community and other partners, including the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, to protect and promote the human rights of all detainees and prevent violations thereof in all Afghan prisons and detention facilities, consistent with the Afghan Constitution, Afghan laws and international obligations, welcomes the cooperation of the Government, as well as the efforts of the international community to provide support in this regard, takes note of the recommendations contained in the reports of the Assistance Mission of 10 October 2011 and 20 January 2013, notes the progress made in this regard, including the establishment by the Government of a commission to investigate Afghan detention facilities, encourages further progress on addressing allegations of human rights abuses of detainees, and reiterates the importance of respecting the rule of law and established legal processes and procedures;

29. *Welcomes* the commitment by the Government of Afghanistan to provide unimpeded access for relevant organizations to all prisons in Afghanistan, emphasizes the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations, and calls for full respect for relevant international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, where applicable, including with regard to minors, if detained;

C. Public administration

30. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to continue to effectively reform the public administration sector in order to implement the rule of law and to ensure good governance and accountability, in accordance with the Kabul process and the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, at both the national and subnational levels, with the support of the international community, welcomes the efforts of the Government and commitments made, most recently at the Tokyo Conference, in this regard stresses the importance of transparent appointment and promotion procedures for civil servants, and continues to encourage the Government to make active use of the Senior Appointments Panel;

31. *Encourages* the international community, including all donor nations as well as international institutions and organizations, governmental and non-governmental, to assist the Government of Afghanistan in making capacity-building and human resources development a cross-cutting priority and to align, in a coordinated manner, with efforts by the Government, including the work of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, to build administrative capacity at the national and subnational levels;

32. *Reiterates* the importance of institution-building in complementing and contributing to the development of an economy characterized by sound macroeconomic policies, the development of a financial sector that provides services, inter alia, to microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises and households, transparent business regulations and accountability, and emphasizes the connection between generating economic growth, including through infrastructural projects, and the creation of job opportunities in Afghanistan;

33. *Recalls* the ratification by Afghanistan of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, reiterates its appreciation for the anti-corruption commitments made by

the Government of Afghanistan at the Tokyo Conference, calls for decisive action by the Government to fulfil those commitments in order to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at the national, provincial and local levels of government, welcomes the efforts of the Government and the firm commitment of the new leadership of Afghanistan to fight corruption, including the decision to reopen the Kabul Bank case, calls upon the international community to support the efforts of the Government in this regard, and welcomes continued international support for Afghanistan's governance objectives, while noting with deep concern the effects of corruption with regard to security, good governance, the combating of the narcotics industry and economic development;

34. *Welcomes* the Subnational Governance Policy, underscores the importance of more visible, accountable and capable subnational institutions and actors in reducing the political space for insurgents, emphasizes the importance of the Kabul process being accompanied by the implementation of national programmes at the subnational level, encourages the capacity-building and empowerment of local institutions in a phased and fiscally sustainable manner, and calls for the predictable and regular allocation of more resources to provincial authorities, including continued vital support from the Assistance Mission and the international community;

35. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to address, with the assistance of the international community, the question of claims for land property through a comprehensive land-titling programme, including formal registration of all property and improved security of property rights, including for women, and welcomes the steps already taken by the Government in this regard;

D. Human rights

36. *Recalls* the constitutional guarantee of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans as a significant political achievement, calls for full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, and stresses the need to fully implement the human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution, in accordance with obligations under applicable international law, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women and children of their human rights;

37. *Acknowledges and encourages* the efforts made by the Government of Afghanistan in promoting respect for human rights, expresses its concern at the destructive consequences of violent and terrorist activities, including against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and other illegal armed groups and criminals for the enjoyment of human rights and for the capacity of the Government to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans, notes with concern reports of incidents in which violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law have occurred, including violations committed against women and children, in particular girls, stresses the need to further promote tolerance and religious freedom and to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of thought, conscience or belief as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, emphasizes the necessity of investigating allegations of current and past violations, stresses the importance of facilitating the provision of efficient and effective remedies

to the victims and of bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with national and international law, calls for full implementation of the mass media law, while noting with concern and condemning the continuing intimidation and violence targeting Afghan journalists, such as cases of abduction and even killing of journalists by terrorist as well as extremist and criminal groups, and urges that harassment and attacks on journalists be investigated by Afghan authorities and that those responsible be brought to justice;

38. *Commends* the Government of Afghanistan for its active participation in the universal periodic review process, calls for continued active participation of Afghan civil society in this process, and encourages the timely implementation of the recommendations addressed in the relevant report;

39. *Reiterates* the important role of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, stresses the need to guarantee its constitutional status and implement its mandate, focusing on communities across Afghanistan, so as to foster a more informed public and increase Government accountability, notes the initial concerns of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with respect to the new appointments to the Commission, emphasizes the importance of the Government of Afghanistan's reaffirmation of its commitment to maintaining the standards regarding Human Rights Commissioners in accordance with article 11 of the law on the Commission and the Paris Principles to retaining the Commission's "A" status, welcomes the decision of the Government to take full responsibility for the core funding of the Commission, urges the Government to implement this decision, urges the Commission to cooperate closely with Afghan civil society, and calls upon the international community for continued support in this regard;

40. *Recalls* Security Council resolutions 1674(2006) of 28 April 2006, 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006 and 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 and the midyear report of July 2014 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, prepared by the Assistance Mission, expresses its serious concern at the continued high number of civilian casualties, including women and children, and their impact on local communities, notes that the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups remain responsible for the significant majority of civilian casualties, reiterates its call for all feasible steps to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians, notes the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to ensure the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and calls for additional appropriate steps in this regard and for full compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law;

41. *Recognizes* the further progress made by the International Security Assistance Force, authorized by the Security Council, and other international forces to ensure the protection of the civilian population and to minimize civilian casualties, and calls upon them to continue to make enhanced efforts in this regard, notably through the continuous review of tactics and procedures and the conduct of after-action reviews and investigations in cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan in cases where civilian casualties have occurred and when the Government finds these joint investigations appropriate;

42. *Reiterates* the importance of upholding international obligations for the advancement of women's rights,

as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, in this context also reiterates the importance of implementing Security Council resolution 1325(2000), welcomes the adoption by the Government of Afghanistan in October 2014 of the Afghanistan national action plan on women, peace and security, supports efforts towards its implementation, and recalls Council resolutions 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) on women and peace and security;

43. *Emphasizes* its steadfast and unwavering commitment and that of the Government of Afghanistan to achieving the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of Afghan life, the need for absolute equality of women before the law, equal access to education and employment and the participation and empowerment of women in Afghan politics, public life, government administration and security sector at all levels, especially in leadership positions;

44. *Commends* the achievements and efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to counter discrimination and to mainstream gender issues, including into the national priority programmes, and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men as guaranteed, inter alia, by its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and by the Afghan Constitution as well as the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan and the law on the elimination of violence against women, notes the progress reported by the Assistance Mission in the implementation of the law, stresses the importance of its full implementation, a key commitment under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, and underlines the need for continued progress on gender issues in accordance with the obligations of Afghanistan under international law;

45. *Strongly condemns* all incidents of discrimination and violence against women and girls and other forms of gender-based and sexual violence, including "honour killings", underscores the importance of countering impunity for these incidents, especially against women activists and women prominent in public life, takes note of the important progress made by the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, and reiterates its appreciation for all measures taken to address targeted violence against women, including the contribution of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);

46. *Stresses* the need to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children in Afghanistan, and recalls the need for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict by all States parties, as well as of Security Council resolution 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, and all other subsequent resolutions on children and armed conflict, and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan and the conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict on Afghanistan;

47. *Expresses its strong concern*, in this regard, about the ongoing recruitment and use of children by illegal armed and terrorist groups in Afghanistan, as well as the killing and maiming of children as a result of the conflict, stresses

in this regard the importance of ending the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and all other violations and abuses committed against children, expresses appreciation for the progress made by and the firm commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to the protection of children, including its strong condemnation of any exploitation of children, as indicated by the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Children, the appointment of a focal point on child protection, the signing by the Government, in January 2011, of an action plan, including the annexes thereto, on children associated with national security forces in Afghanistan and the endorsement by the Government of a road map in August 2014 to accelerate compliance with the action plan, welcomes progress made in the implementation of the action plan, and reiterates the calls for the full implementation of its provisions, in close cooperation with the Assistance Mission;

48. *Recognizes* the special needs of girls, strongly condemns continued terrorist attacks as well as threats of attacks on educational facilities, especially on those for Afghan girls, and/or hospitals and protected persons in relation to them in Afghanistan, in contravention of applicable international law, and expresses deep concern about the high number of school closures as a result of terrorist attacks or threats of attacks;

49. *Reiterates* the importance of the Afghan National Plan of Action on Combating Child Trafficking, also reiterates its calls for the comprehensive implementation of the Plan of Action, and welcomes the accession of Afghanistan to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

Social and economic development

50. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the ideas outlined by the Government of Afghanistan in its strategy document entitled “Towards self-reliance: strategic vision for the transformation decade”, as well as of the national priority programmes contained therein, with their focus on economic growth, revenue generation, job creation, governance and human development;

51. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations, including the international and regional financial institutions, to continue to provide, in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with the National Development Strategy and the strategy document entitled “Towards self-reliance: strategic vision for the transformation decade”, as well as the national priority programmes contained therein, all possible and necessary humanitarian, recovery, reconstruction, development, financial, educational, technical and material assistance for Afghanistan, underlines the crucial importance of continued and sequenced implementation of the national priority programmes and the development and governance goals of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, and recalls in this regard the leading role of the Assistance Mission in seeking to further improve the coherence and coordination of international efforts;

52. *Recognizes* the substantial development and the notable progress made by Afghanistan with the stead-

fast support of the international community in the past years, expresses its support for the decision taken at the Bonn Conference to implement a transformation decade (2015–2024), in which Afghanistan will consolidate its sovereignty through strengthening a fully functioning, sustainable State in the service of its people, and urges the Government of Afghanistan to involve all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction programmes;

53. *Also recognizes* the challenges that lie ahead for Afghanistan, and welcomes the generous pledges totalling over 16 billion United States dollars made by the international community during the Tokyo Conference through 2015 and the commitment of the international community to sustain support through 2017 at or near levels of the past decade, thereby renewing its commitment to long-term support for the economic development of Afghanistan on the basis of mutual accountability, welcomes the continued resolve of the Government of Afghanistan to fulfil the commitments made by the Government under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, and stresses that sustained international support in the years ahead requires resolute action by both the international community and the Government;

54. *Welcomes* the continued progress in implementing the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework and the monitoring mechanism included therein, in which the Government of Afghanistan reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen governance, grounded in human rights, the rule of law and adherence to the Afghan Constitution, and held it as integral to sustained growth and economic development, and in which the international community committed to enhance efficiency of development aid by aligning assistance with the Afghan national priority programmes and by channelling assistance through the national budget of the Government, as outlined in the Tokyo Declaration;

55. *Also welcomes* the outcome of the meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, held in Kabul on 29 January 2014, and the Co-Chairs’ statement thereon, which acknowledged both the achievements of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community in the implementation of their respective commitments under the Framework and the need for more rapid progress within a realistic but accelerated time frame, and looks forward to the next ministerial meeting in 2014, to be co-chaired by the Governments of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

56. *Further welcomes* the significant progress made by the Government of Afghanistan towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the considerable progress in enabling boys and girls to enrol in school and in enabling women and men to access basic health services, and acknowledges that quality improvements across basic service delivery will require attention and adequate national budget allocations;

57. *Expresses its appreciation* for the humanitarian and development assistance work of the international community in the stabilization and development of Afghanistan and to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations whose international and local staff continue to respond positively to the humanitarian, transition and

development needs of Afghanistan, despite security concerns and difficulty of access in certain areas;

58. *Recognizes* the necessity for further improvement in the living conditions of the Afghan people, and emphasizes the need to strengthen and support the development of the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver basic social services at the national, provincial and local levels, in particular education and public health services, and to promote development;

59. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to enhance efforts to reform key service delivery sectors, such as energy and drinking water supply, as preconditions for progress in social and economic development;

60. *Commends* the Government of Afghanistan for improving budgetary transparency and for its efforts to date to reach fiscal sustainability, notes the challenges ahead, and urges that continued efforts be made to meet revenue targets, as agreed with the International Monetary Fund;

61. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the provincial reconstruction teams as they worked within the provincial context to support national priorities to build the capacities of local institutions;

62. *Encourages* the international community and the corporate sector to support the Afghan economy as a measure for long-term stability and to explore possibilities for increased trade and investments and enhanced local procurement, and further encourages the Government of Afghanistan to continue to promote an economic environment and legal framework favourable for private sector investments at both the national and subnational levels;

63. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the importance of strengthening local and regional networks of transportation that will facilitate connectivity for economic development, stability and self-sustainability, particularly the completion and maintenance of local railroad and land routes, the development of regional projects to foster further connectivity and the enhancement of international civil aviation capabilities;

64. *Urgently encourages* all States as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to expand agricultural cooperation with Afghanistan, within the National Agricultural Development Framework and in line with the National Development Strategy and the relevant national priority programme, respectively, with a view to helping to eradicate poverty and ensure social and economic development, including in rural communities;

65. *Reiterates* the necessity of providing Afghan children, especially Afghan girls, with educational and health facilities in all parts of the country, welcomes the progress achieved in the sector of public education, recalls the National Education Strategic Plan as a promising basis for further achievements, encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, to expand those facilities, train professional staff and promote full and equal access to them by all members of Afghan society, including in remote areas, and reiterates further the need to provide vocational training for adolescents;

66. *Commends* the relief efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and donors, but continues to express its concern at the overall humanitarian situation, stresses the continued need for food assistance, ensuring that the basic needs of internally displaced persons are met, and calls for continued international support in this regard, as well

as for the early fulfilment, before the approaching winter, of the urgent humanitarian needs in the 2014 Common Humanitarian Action Plan for Afghanistan;

67. *Recognizes* that underdevelopment and lack of capacity increase the vulnerability of Afghanistan to natural disasters and to harsh climate conditions, and in this regard urges the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the international community, to increase its efforts aimed at strengthening disaster risk reduction at the national and subnational levels and at modernizing the agricultural sector and strengthening its agricultural production, thereby reducing the vulnerability of Afghanistan to adverse external conditions such as drought, flooding and other natural disasters;

68. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, in particular Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, acknowledging the huge burden they have so far shouldered in this regard, and asks for continued generous support by the international community, with a view to facilitating their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return, rehabilitation and reintegration;

69. *Welcomes* the outcome of the International Conference on the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries, held in Geneva on 2 and 3 May 2012, and looks forward to the further implementation of the joint communiqué of the Conference, aimed at increased sustainability of returns and continued support for host countries, through the sustained support and the directed efforts of the international community;

70. *Reiterates* to host countries and the international community the obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees, the principle of voluntary return and the right to seek asylum and to ensure full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian relief agencies in order to provide protection and assistance to the refugees, and calls upon countries to continue to accept an appropriate number of Afghan refugees for resettlement, as a manifestation of their shared responsibility and solidarity;

71. *Welcomes* the continued return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons, in a voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable manner, while noting with concern that conditions in parts of Afghanistan are not yet conducive to a safe and sustainable return to some places of origin;

72. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, acting with the support of the international community, to continue to strengthen its efforts to create the conditions for sustainable return by continuing to strengthen its absorption capacity for the full rehabilitation and reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons;

73. *Notes*, in this regard, the continued constructive work between the countries of the region, as well as the tripartite and quadripartite agreements between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government of Afghanistan and the Governments of countries hosting refugees from Afghanistan, in particular Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Regional cooperation

74. *Stresses* the crucial importance of advancing constructive regional cooperation as an effective means to promote peace, security, stability and economic and social

development in Afghanistan, encourages further improved relations and enhanced engagement between Afghanistan and its neighbours, and calls for further efforts in this regard, including by regional organizations;

75. *Commends* the continuing efforts of the signatories to the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations to implement their commitments under the Declaration, calls upon all other States to respect and support the implementation of those provisions, and welcomes the reaffirmation, in the Kabul Conference communiqué, of the principles set out in the Declaration;

76. *Welcomes and encourages* further efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and its neighbouring partners to foster trust and cooperation with each other, and looks forward, where appropriate, to increasing cooperation between Afghanistan, all its neighbouring and regional partners and regional organizations against the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups and illegal armed groups and in promoting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan, in the region and beyond;

77. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan, its neighbouring and regional partners and international organizations, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to foster trust and cooperation with each other, as well as recent cooperation initiatives developed by the countries concerned and by regional organizations, including the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey, the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and the trilateral summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United Kingdom;

78. *Reaffirms* support to the ongoing Afghan-led regional effort within the framework of the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, welcomes the outcomes of the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conferences held in Kabul in 2012, in Almaty in 2013 and most recently in Beijing in 2014, as follow-up to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia, held in Istanbul in 2011, and the Istanbul Process Senior Officials Meeting held in New York on 23 September 2013, welcomes the adoption of the implementation plans of all six confidence-building measures in the areas of disaster management, counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, regional infrastructure, and trade, commerce and investment opportunities as well as education, prioritized for implementation, commends the progress of the Istanbul Process since its inception, looks forward to the fifth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, to be held in Pakistan in 2015, notes with appreciation efforts to enhance regional dialogue and confidence through the Istanbul Process, and recalls that the Istanbul Process is intended to complement and cooperate with, and not substitute for, existing efforts of regional organizations, particularly where they relate to Afghanistan;

79. *Expresses its appreciation* for all efforts to increase regional economic cooperation aimed at promoting economic cooperation between Afghanistan, regional neighbours, international partners and financial institutions, and recognizes, inter alia, the important role of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan and its recommendations for promoting foreign investment and private sector development and partnerships of Afghanistan, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Programme and the

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in promoting the development of Afghanistan;

80. *Welcomes* the decision of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to grant Afghanistan observer status in the Organization;

81. *Welcomes and urges* further efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional trade and transit, including through regional and bilateral transit trade agreements, expanded consular visa cooperation and facilitation of business travel, to expand trade, to increase foreign investments and to develop infrastructure, including infrastructural connectivity, energy supply, transport and integrated border management, with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs in Afghanistan, noting the historical role of Afghanistan as a land bridge in Asia, and welcomes in this regard the signing of an agreement by Afghanistan and Pakistan on electricity transit fees as an important step towards regional electricity trade between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan;

Counter-narcotics

82. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in fighting drug production in Afghanistan, takes note of the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled “Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013”, released in November 2013, reiterates its deep concern about the increase in the cultivation and production of illicit narcotic drugs in Afghanistan, mainly concentrated in areas where the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminals are particularly active, as well as the ongoing drug trafficking, and, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, stresses the need for strengthened joint, more coordinated and resolute efforts by the Government, supported by international and regional actors, within their designated responsibilities, to fight this menace;

83. *Stresses* the importance of a comprehensive and balanced approach in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, which, to be effective, must be integrated into the wider context of efforts carried out in the areas of security, governance, the rule of law and human rights, and economic and social development;

84. *Also stresses*, in this regard, that the development of alternative livelihood programmes is of key importance in the success of the counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan and that sustainable strategies require international cooperation, and urges the Government of Afghanistan, assisted by the international community, to promote the development of sustainable livelihoods in the formal production sector, as well as in other sectors, and to improve access to reasonable and sustainable credit and financing in rural areas, thus improving substantially the lives, health and security of the people, particularly in rural areas;

85. *Notes with great concern* the strong nexus between the drug trade and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and criminal groups, which pose a serious threat to security, the rule of law and development in Afghanistan, and stresses the importance of the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions in this regard, including resolutions 1735(2006) of 22 December 2006 and 1822(2008) of 30 June 2008;

86. *Calls upon* all Member States, in this regard, to further intensify their efforts to reduce the demand for drugs in their respective countries and globally in order to contribute to the sustainability of the elimination of illicit cultivation in Afghanistan;

87. *Stresses* the need to prevent trafficking in and diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacturing of drugs in Afghanistan, and calls for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1817(2008) of 11 June 2008 in this regard;

88. *Supports* the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs from and precursors to Afghanistan and neighbouring States and countries along trafficking routes, including increased cooperation among them in strengthening anti-narcotic controls and the monitoring of the international trade in chemical precursors, and underlines the importance of technical assistance and support to the most affected transit States to support their capacities in this regard;

89. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international community, to work to mainstream counter-narcotics throughout all the national programmes and to ensure that counter-narcotics is a fundamental part of the comprehensive approach, as well as to increase its efforts against opium cultivation and drug trafficking in accordance with the balanced plan of the updated Afghan National Drug Control Strategy;

90. *Commends* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, as well as the efforts to update and carry out the National Drug Control Strategy, including the Prioritized Implementation Plan and benchmarks, urges the Government and the international community to take decisive action, in particular to stop the processing of and trade in drugs, by pursuing the concrete steps set out in the Strategy and through initiatives such as the Good Performers Initiative established to provide incentives for governors to reduce cultivation in their provinces, and encourages the Afghan authorities to work at the provincial level on elaborating counter-narcotics implementation plans;

91. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to assist the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy, aimed at eliminating the cultivation, production, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs, including through increased support for Afghan law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, agricultural and rural development for the creation of alternative livelihoods for farmers, demand reduction, the elimination of illicit crops, increased public awareness and the building of the capacity of drug control institutions and care and treatment centres for drug addicts, and reiterates its call upon the international community to channel counter-narcotics funding through the Government, to the extent possible;

92. *Recalls* the need to strengthen international and regional cooperation with Afghanistan in its sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking, recognizes the threat posed by the production, trade and trafficking in illicit drugs to international peace and stability in the region and beyond, also recognizes the progress achieved by relevant initiatives within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, stresses the importance of further progress in the implementation of these initiatives, welcomes the results of the ministerial meeting of the Paris Pact initiative, held in Vienna on 16 February 2012, in continuation of

the “Paris-Moscow” process, as one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates, underscores the importance of the effective implementation of the Vienna Declaration by its partner countries, working in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, encourages further sustained efforts of the Government in this regard, as well as the intent of the Government to strengthen international and regional cooperation in this regard, and welcomes the progress made in the Heart of Asia process in this regard;

93. *Welcomes* initiatives to enhance border management cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours in ensuring comprehensive measures for drug control, including the financial dimension, emphasizes the importance of pursuing such cooperation, especially through bilateral arrangements and those launched by the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Anti-Drug Quartet and others, and welcomes the intention of the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen international and regional cooperation with relevant partners in the field of border control;

94. *Stresses* the importance of further, effective cooperative support by relevant international and regional actors, including the United Nations, within its designated responsibilities, to Afghan-led sustained efforts to address the threat posed by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, welcomes in this regard the regional programme on Afghanistan and neighbouring countries of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and encourages the respective countries to continue to participate;

95. *Welcomes and supports* the joint regional activities carried out by Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan within the framework of their triangular initiative to counter narcotics;

96. *Stresses* the need for coordinated regional efforts to combat the drug problem, and in this regard welcomes the holding of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Counter-Narcotics in Islamabad on 12 and 13 November 2012, aimed at enhancing regional cooperation to counter narcotics;

97. *Pays homage* to all those who have innocently lost their lives in the fight against drug traffickers, in particular members of the security forces of Afghanistan and its neighbours;

Coordination

98. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Assistance Mission, as mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 2145(2014), and stresses the continued importance of the central and impartial coordinating role of the United Nations in promoting a more coherent international engagement;

99. *Welcomes* the evolving presence of the Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, which ensures that the United Nations can fulfil its essential coordinating and support role, as requested by the Government of Afghanistan, security conditions permitting;

100. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the Assistance Mission is adequately resourced and protected by the Afghan authorities, with international support, as appropriate, to fulfil its mandate;

101. *Acknowledges* the central role played by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, stresses that the role of the Board is to support Afghanistan by, inter alia, monitoring and supporting the Kabul process and coordinating international assistance and development programmes, and welcomes further efforts to provide appropriate guidance and promote a more coherent international engagement;

102. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every three months on developments in Afghanistan, as well as on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

103. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan".

Beijing ministerial conference. The Secretary-General reported [A/69/647-S/2014/876] that the fourth Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference was held in Beijing, on 31 October, and concluded with the adoption of the Declaration on Deepening Cooperation for Sustainable Security and Prosperity of the "Heart of Asia" Region. The outcome document of the Conference reinforced the political aspects of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process and reiterated previous commitments to inclusive reconciliation and support for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process. Elements centred on economic cooperation were also strengthened, notably for progress on confidence-building measures.

Report of Secretary-General (December). In his December report [A/69/647-S/2014/876] on the situation in Afghanistan, the Secretary-General informed that the inauguration of the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, on 29 September and the Agreement of 21 September to establish a national unity Government with Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah had brought an end to the electoral impasse and marked the first peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan between elected leaders, which was welcomed in Afghanistan and by the international community. The Agreement followed the conclusion by the Independent Election Commission of the comprehensive audit of the presidential elections on 14 September. Unprecedented in scale and scope, the audit involved the individual opening and examination of more than 22,000 ballot boxes by the national electoral authorities, in the presence of the candidate agents, observers, media and the United Nations. President Ghani announced a robust agenda, encompassing governance, rule of law and the fight against corruption, with reconciliation as a top priority and plans for regional engagement. On 30 September, Afghanistan signed the Bilateral Security Agreement with the United States and the status-of-forces agreement with NATO, thereby providing the legal framework for continued international military assistance after 2014. The agreements facilitated the establishment of the NATO Resolute Support Mission that would provide training,

advice and assistance to the Afghan security forces. On 22 September, the Taliban rejected the formation of the National Unity Government and called for a continuation of the conflict until "the end of foreign occupation". The Taliban also issued a statement on 30 September denouncing the security agreements with the United States and NATO. At the fourth Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference, held in Beijing on 31 October, President Ghani outlined the reform agenda of the new Government and underlined the priority of an effective Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. The London Conference on Afghanistan on 4 December provided a basis for the renewal of political and financial support to the new Government and agreement around the main elements of the Government's reform agenda.

During the reporting period, multiple attacks took place on district administrative centres, security force checkpoints and major roads, without success in permanently capturing intended targets. The post-elections political impasse and the delayed signing of the security agreements with the United States and NATO had created an environment of uncertainty, seemingly emboldening anti-Government elements in their actions across the country to undermine public confidence in the Government and its security forces. Insurgents embarked on attacks against the Government in most parts of the country, significantly in Hilmand and Kandahar provinces in the south; Ghazni, Paktya and Paktika provinces in the south-east; Nangarhar Province in the east; Kunduz Province in the north-east; Faryab Province in the north; and Herat, Farah and Ghor provinces in the west. The Afghan security forces were able to counter the insurgency with relative effectiveness, although reportedly with significant casualties. The overall number of 19,469 security incidents documented across the country since the beginning of 2014 through 15 November constituted a 10.3 per cent increase over the same period in 2013 with 17,645 incidents. At the NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government in the United Kingdom on 4 and 5 September, NATO allies and partners pledged their continued support to the Afghan security forces until the end of 2017 and continued dialogue under the NATO-Afghanistan Enduring Partnership.

Since taking office, President Ghani had emphasized regional cooperation as a pivotal factor for the stability and prosperity of Afghanistan. He undertook visits to Saudi Arabia, China, Pakistan, Nepal and the United Kingdom. He also received the visit of the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and a ministerial delegation on 18 October in Kabul, during which they signed the Afghanistan-Turkey Strategic Partnership and Friendship Agreement that committed both countries to further cooperation on security, reconstruction, investment and trade. The Agreement of Border Connection Point among Afghanistan, China and Tajikistan was concluded on

5 November defining the border between the three countries, which pledged to respect mutual sovereignty and territorial integrity. With regard to Afghanistan and Pakistan, tensions persisted along the frontier between the countries; however, allegations of cross-border shelling and militant incursions had reduced. Engagement between Afghanistan and Pakistan increased during the reporting period.

The Secretary-General commended the two presidential candidates for working together and finding solutions and welcomed the reform agenda set forth by President Ghani. He observed that the timely appointment and confirmation of senior government officials was required to accelerate efforts to address Afghanistan's political, economic and security challenges. Noting that the year had been one of the more violent since 2001, the Secretary-General asserted that the underlying requirement for sustained and durable progress in Afghanistan was peace. President Karzai was commended for his leadership and achievement with regards to the democratic transfer of power. The Secretary-General welcomed his new Special Representative, Nicholas Haysom, who assumed the post in November.

Security Council consideration. On 18 December [S/PV.7347], the Security Council held discussions on the situation in Afghanistan. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMA, Nicholas Haysom, briefed the Council noting that while the electoral process was prolonged and challenging, the result was a leadership that was legitimate and broadly supported. He further remarked that UNAMA remained convinced that there was no better way forward than a National Unity Government, adding that the solution to the conflict in Afghanistan was political rather than military. The Council was also briefed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov, who reported that the transition had impacted drug control efforts in Afghanistan. He stated that while the new leadership and the international community faced challenges posed by illicit drugs, the transition also presented an opportunity to assess counter-narcotics strategies and to ensure strong and effective responses.

Communication. By an 11 December letter [S/2014/887], Afghanistan transmitted to the Council the Status of Forces Agreement that had been signed between Afghanistan and NATO in September 2014 and ratified by the country's Parliament in November 2014. The agreement provided the basis for the continued partnership of Afghanistan with NATO as at January 2015.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 7338], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2189(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/883] was submitted by Australia.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan,

Recognizing Afghanistan's gains since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, in particular on democracy, governance, institution-building, economic development and human rights,

Condemning the ongoing violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production of, trafficking in or trade in illicit drugs,

Reaffirming the importance of sustainable progress on security, development, human rights, in particular for women and children, democracy, governance, the fight against corruption, and economic development, taking all appropriate measures to ensure the protection of civilians, and of addressing the cross-cutting issue of counter-narcotics,

Underscoring the importance of continued international support for Afghanistan, and in this regard welcoming and emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation on Afghanistan, as well as the process by which Afghanistan and its regional and international partners are entering into long-term strategic partnership and other agreements, aimed at achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan,

Emphasizing the important role that the United Nations continues to play in support of Afghanistan's full assumption of leadership and ownership in the areas of security, governance and development, welcoming in this regard the continued role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and noting that the Secretary-General reports to the Security Council every three months on developments in Afghanistan,

Acknowledging the contribution of Afghanistan's partners to peace and security in Afghanistan,

Welcoming the increased capacities and capabilities of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, looking forward to the completion of security transition at the end of 2014, after which Afghan authorities will assume full responsibility for security, noting the conclusion of the International Security Assistance Force at the end of 2014, and underscoring the importance of sustained international support to continue building the capacities and capabilities of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces,

Taking note of the letter dated 28 November 2014 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council transmitting the final report on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan,

Underlining the significance of the Lisbon, Bonn and Chicago declarations on Afghanistan, which stressed the long-term commitment, beyond 2014, to lasting peace, security and stability in Afghanistan,

Underlining also the significance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Wales Summit Declaration on Afghanistan of 5 September 2014 which outlined the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and contributing partners in supporting lasting peace, security and stability in Afghanistan beyond 2014, including through the non-combat Resolute Support Mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, the contribution to the financial sustainment of the Afghan

National Defence and Security Forces and the long-term North Atlantic Treaty Organization-Afghanistan Enduring Partnership.

Noting the signing of the security and defence cooperation agreement between the United States of America and Afghanistan (bilateral security agreement) on 30 September 2014, and welcoming the signing of the status-of-forces agreement between Afghanistan and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on 30 September 2014 and as ratified by the Parliament of Afghanistan on 27 November 2014,

Noting also that the bilateral agreement between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Afghanistan and the invitation of the Government of Afghanistan to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to establish the Resolute Support Mission provide a sound legal basis for the Mission,

1. *Underscores* the importance of continued international support for the stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan and of further enhancing the capabilities and capacities of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces in order for them to maintain security and stability throughout the country, and in this regard welcomes the agreement between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Afghanistan to establish the post-2014 non-combat Resolute Support Mission which will train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces at the invitation of Afghanistan;

2. *Looks forward* to the leadership of the Resolute Support Mission working with the Government of Afghanistan and in close coordination and cooperation, where relevant, with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan;

3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the international community to continue to provide substantial support to the Government and the people of Afghanistan, and notes in this regard the long-term North Atlantic Treaty Organization-Afghanistan Enduring Partnership, Afghanistan's bilateral strategic partnership agreements and other bilateral agreements with other countries;

4. *Affirms its readiness* to revisit the present resolution in the context of the consideration by the Security Council of the situation in Afghanistan.

Year-end developments. By a later report [A/69/801-S/2015/151], the Secretary-General informed that the security transition to Afghan forces had formally concluded on 31 December at the end of the mandate of the ISAF led by NATO. At the close of 2014, the overall Kabul process of transition covering political, security and socioeconomic dimensions was completed, as outlined in major international conferences on Afghanistan in Kabul [YUN 2010, p. 347; Bonn, Germany [YUN 2011, p. 330]; and Tokyo [YUN 2012, p. 289].

In 2014, there were 22,051 recorded security incidents, which surpassed those of 2013 by 10 per cent. In terms of incidents recorded over the past 13 years, 2014 was the second highest, after 2011. Of those incidents, 68 per cent were recorded in southern, south-eastern and eastern regions, with Nangarhar Province being the most volatile. Armed clashes and improvised

explosive devices accounted for 76 per cent of total incidents. The use of suicide attacks accounted for fewer than 1 per cent of all incidents recorded, though the 158 recorded attacks in 2014 represented a 47 per cent increase compared with 2013.

The joint secretariat of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme reported that a total of 1,716 individuals had joined the Programme in 2014. Regarding regional cooperation, on 15 December in Tehran, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the commander of the Iranian Border Guards and his Afghan counterpart to enhance cooperation in countering terrorism and drug trafficking. Afghanistan and Pakistan continued to intensify efforts to improve security cooperation in December.

UNAMA

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) was established by Security Council resolution 1401(2002) [YUN 2002, p. 264] to promote, inter alia, national reconciliation and the responsibilities entrusted to the United Nations under the 2001 Bonn Agreement [YUN 2001, p. 263]. It comprised the Office of the Special Representative, two substantive pillars—one political and one on relief, recovery and reconstruction—and an administrative component. UNAMA was headquartered in Kabul and maintained a number of permanent field presences throughout the country. During the reporting period, UNAMA continued to pursue co-location options with UN agencies, funds and programmes to achieve financial efficiency and expanded existing co-location initiatives in Jalalabad, Bamyan, Kunduz and Farah. By resolution 2145(2014) (see p. 408), the Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMA until 17 March 2015.

Appointment of Special Representative. On 15 September [S/2014/674], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Nicholas Haysom (South Africa) as his Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, effective 1 November, to replace Ján Kubiš (Slovakia), who would complete his assignment on 31 October. On 17 September [S/2014/675], the Council took note of the intention.

Financing

In October [A/69/363/Add.4], the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly the proposed interim resource requirements for UNAMA for 2015, totalling \$94,968,000 (net of staff assessment), representing a technical roll-over of 50 per cent of the level of projected expenditures during 2014. A detailed budget proposal for 2015 was to be prepared and submitted for consideration during the second part of the resumed sixty-ninth session of the Assembly.

In December [A/69/628], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) noted that the Secretary-General's submission contained insufficient budgetary information and recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a full budget proposal for 2015 at the earliest opportunity.

On 29 December, the Assembly, in section IV of **resolution 69/262** (see p. 1632), endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of ACABQ.

International Security Assistance Force

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a multinational force established by Security Council resolution 1386(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 267], was mandated, *inter alia*, to assist the Afghan Government in the maintenance of security in Kabul and its surrounding areas. By Council resolution 1510(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 310], the ISAF mandate was expanded to include the maintenance of security outside Kabul and its environs. ISAF concluded its mission at the end of 2014.

During 2014, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Council, in accordance with resolutions 1386(2001) and 2120(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 321], reports from NATO on ISAF activities for the periods from 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014 [S/2014/179], 1 February to 30 April [S/2014/421] and 1 May to 31 July [S/2014/678]. In November, NATO submitted the final report on ISAF [S/2014/856].

During the reporting period, the ISAF campaign focused on preparing the Afghan National Security Forces to assume full responsibility for the security of Afghanistan by the end 2014. By November, the Afghan forces were leading 99 per cent of all operations and carrying out over 90 per cent of their own training. The only unilateral operations that ISAF continued to conduct were ISAF force protection, route clearance and redeployment. The increased capability of the Afghan forces enabled the progressive reduction of the ISAF Force. By the final month of its mission, December 2014, ISAF would have reduced from a high of over 130,000 personnel in 2011 to fewer than 15,000.

The achievements of ISAF had enabled fundamental changes to take place in Afghanistan. ISAF and the Afghan National Security Forces, together, had reduced the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. The Afghan forces had made progress from an effective strength of virtually zero in 2001 to becoming a professional and capable force providing security across Afghanistan. The country had continued to make steady progress in developing the institutional capability necessary to direct and sustain the Afghan forces at the operational and strategic level. The Afghan forces were assessed as ready to assume full

responsibility for security when ISAF conclude its mission at the end of 2014.

While the core objectives of ISAF had been achieved, more remained to be done. The Afghan forces had capability gaps and development shortfalls, especially in the Air Force, and equipment procurement, financial management and accountability procedures needed to improve. Endemic corruption persisted and further progress was required in the participation of women in security institutions and forces, in securing women's rights, and in the protection of children in armed conflict, especially in eliminating the recruitment of child soldiers.

There would be three strands to future NATO support. The first strand would be the Resolute Support Mission, a non-combat training, advisory and assistance mission focused at the institutional level in Kabul. The second strand would focus over the medium term on the financial sustainment of the Afghan forces through the adapted NATO-Afghan National Army Trust Fund. The third strand was the NATO-Afghanistan Enduring Partnership, which would strengthen the relationship of NATO with Afghanistan and provide capacity-building and practical cooperation in support of Afghan security institutions over the long term.

Sanctions

UN sanctions-related activities concerning Afghanistan were guided by the measures adopted by Security Council resolutions 2160(2014) (see p. 435) and 2161(2014) (see p. 441) and previous resolutions against Al-Qaida, the Taliban, their associates and associated entities, which further refined the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo imposed on those persons identified in the Al-Qaida Sanctions List created pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 265], 1333(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 273] and 1989(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 341] and the List established pursuant to resolution 1988(2011) [*ibid.*, p. 337].

The initial Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, established by resolution 1267(1999), was split in two by the Security Council through resolutions 1988(2011) and 1989(2011). The subsequently re-named "Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities" (Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee) was mandated to oversee implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida. The "Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988(2011)" was mandated to oversee implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan.

On 17 June, the Security Council, by resolution 2161(2014), decided to extend the mandate of the Office the Ombudsperson established by resolution 1904(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 355] for 30 months.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 June [meeting 7198], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2160(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/409] was submitted by Australia, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions on international terrorism and the threat it poses to Afghanistan, in particular its resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999, 1333(2000) of 19 December 2000, 1363(2001) of 30 July 2001, 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, 1390(2002) of 16 January 2002, 1452(2002) of 20 December 2002, 1455(2003) of 17 January 2003, 1526(2004) of 30 January 2004, 1566(2004) of 8 October 2004, 1617(2005) of 29 July 2005, 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005, 1699(2006) of 8 August 2006, 1730(2006) of 19 December 2006, 1735(2006) of 22 December 2006, 1822(2008) of 30 June 2008, 1904(2009) of 17 December 2009, 1988(2011) and 1989(2011) of 17 June 2011, 2082(2012) and 2083(2012) of 17 December 2012 and 2133(2014) of 27 January 2014, and the relevant statements by its President,

Recalling also its previous resolutions, in which it extended until 17 March 2015 the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan as defined in resolution 2145(2014) of 17 March 2014,

Recalling further its resolutions on the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, and expressing its strong concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the narcotics trade, and the strong links between terrorism and insurgency activities and illicit drugs, resulting in threats to the local population, including children, national security forces and international military and civilian personnel,

Welcoming the process by which Afghanistan and its regional and international partners are entering into long-term strategic partnership and other agreements aimed at achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive political process in Afghanistan to support reconciliation among all Afghans,

Recognizing that the security situation in Afghanistan has evolved and that some members of the Taliban have reconciled with the Government of Afghanistan, have rejected the terrorist ideology of Al-Qaida and its followers and support a peaceful resolution to the continuing conflict in Afghanistan,

Recognizing also that, notwithstanding the evolution of the situation in Afghanistan and progress in reconciliation, the situation in Afghanistan remains a threat to international peace and security, and reaffirming the need

to combat this threat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including applicable human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, stressing in this regard the important role that the United Nations plays in this effort,

Reiterating its firm commitment to support the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to advance the peace and reconciliation process, including by the High Peace Council and the implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, in line with the Kabul Conference communiqué of 20 July 2010 and the Bonn Conference conclusions, and within the framework of the Afghan Constitution and the application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in resolutions 1988(2011) and 2082(2012) as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council,

Welcoming the decision taken by some members of the Taliban to reconcile with the Government of Afghanistan, to have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, to respect the Constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women, and to support a peaceful resolution to the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, and urging all those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan to accept the Government's offer of reconciliation,

Reiterating its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in terrorism and illicit brokering in arms and related materiel and arms trafficking and the production of or trafficking or trade in illicit drugs, and the strong links between terrorism and insurgency activities and illicit drugs, resulting in threats to the local population, including women, children, national security forces and international military and civilian personnel, including humanitarian and development workers,

Underscoring the importance of humanitarian aid operations, and condemning all acts or threats of violence against United Nations staff and humanitarian actors and any politicization of humanitarian assistance by the Taliban and associated groups or individuals,

Reiterating the need to ensure that the present sanctions regime contributes effectively to ongoing efforts to combat the insurgency and support the work of the Government of Afghanistan to advance reconciliation in order to bring about peace, stability and security in Afghanistan,

Taking note of the request of the Government of Afghanistan that the Security Council support reconciliation, including by removing names from the United Nations sanctions lists for those who reconcile and have ceased to engage in or support activities that threaten the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan,

Expressing its intention to give due regard to lifting sanctions on those who reconcile,

Welcoming the briefings by the Chairman of the High Peace Council to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) in December 2012 and 2013 as a sign of close, ongoing cooperation between the Security Council and those Afghans working for peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan,

Stressing the central and impartial role that the United Nations continues to play in promoting peace, stability and security in Afghanistan, and expressing its appreciation and strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Afghanistan to assist the peace and reconciliation efforts of the High Peace Council,

Reiterating its support for the fight against illicit production of and trafficking in drugs from, and chemical precursors to, Afghanistan, in neighbouring countries, countries on trafficking routes, drug destination countries and precursor-producing countries,

Recalling its resolution 2133(2014) and the publication by the Global Counterterrorism Forum of the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists, strongly condemning incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, expressing its determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to secure the safe release of hostages without ransom payments or political concessions, in accordance with applicable international law, calling upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, and reaffirming the need for all Member States to cooperate closely during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups,

Expressing concern at the increased use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters of new information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet, to facilitate terrorist acts, as well as their use to incite, recruit, fund or plan terrorist acts,

Recognizing the importance of making the Afghanistan/Taliban sanctions list available in Dari and Pashto,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

Measures

1. *Decides* that all States shall take the following measures with respect to individuals and entities designated prior to the date of adoption of resolution 1988(2011) as the Taliban, as well as other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan as designated by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to paragraph 30 of resolution 1988(2011) (the Committee) (hereinafter known as "the List"):

(a) Freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, including funds derived from property owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by them or by persons acting on their behalf or at their direction, and ensure that neither these nor any other funds, financial assets or economic resources are made available, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of such persons, by their nationals or by persons within their territory;

(b) Prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of those individuals, provided that nothing in the present paragraph shall oblige any State to deny entry into or require the departure from its territories of its own nationals and that the present paragraph shall not apply where entry or transit is necessary for the fulfilment of a

judicial process, or the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis only that entry or transit is justified, including where this directly relates to supporting efforts by the Government of Afghanistan to promote reconciliation;

(c) Prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities;

2. *Also decides* that the acts or activities indicating that an individual, group, undertaking or entity is eligible for listing under paragraph 1 above include:

(a) Participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of or in support of;

(b) Supplying, selling or transferring arms and related materiel to;

(c) Recruiting for; or

(d) Otherwise supporting acts or activities of those designated and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan;

3. *Confirms* that any individual or any group, undertaking or entity owned or controlled directly or indirectly by, or otherwise supporting, such an individual, group, undertaking or entity on the List, shall be eligible for listing;

4. *Notes* that such means of financing or support include but are not limited to the use of proceeds derived from crimes, including the illicit cultivation and production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs originating in and transiting through Afghanistan, and trafficking of precursors into Afghanistan, and underscores the need to prevent those associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan from benefiting, directly or indirectly, from entities engaging in activities prohibited by the present resolution, as well as the illegal exploitation of natural resources in Afghanistan;

5. *Confirms* that the requirements in paragraph 1 (a) above apply to all proposed uses of funds or other financial assets or economic resources in connection with the travel of a listed individual, including costs incurred with respect to transportation and lodging, and that such travel-related funds or other financial assets or economic resources may only be provided in accordance with the exemption procedures set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452(2002), as amended by resolution 1735(2006), and in paragraph 12 below;

6. *Also confirms* that the requirements in paragraph 1 (a) above apply to financial and economic resources of every kind, including but not limited to those used for the provision of Internet hosting or related services, used for the support of those on the List, as well as other individuals, groups, undertakings or entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan;

7. *Further confirms* that the requirements in paragraph 1 (a) above shall also apply to the direct or indirect payment of ransoms to or for the benefit of individuals,

groups, undertakings or entities on the List, regardless of how or by whom the ransom is paid;

8. *Decides* that Member States may permit the addition to accounts frozen pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 above of any payment in favour of listed individuals, groups, undertakings or entities, provided that any such payments continue to be subject to the provisions in paragraph 1 above and are frozen;

9. *Also decides* that States, in order to prevent those associated with the Taliban and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities from obtaining, handling, storing, using or seeking access to all types of explosives, whether military, civilian or improvised explosives, as well as to raw materials and components that can be used to manufacture improvised explosive devices or unconventional weapons, including but not limited to chemical components, detonating cord or poisons, shall undertake appropriate measures to promote the exercise of vigilance by their nationals, persons subject to their jurisdiction and firms incorporated in their territory or subject to their jurisdiction that are involved in the production, sale, supply, purchase, transfer and storage of such materials, including through the issuance of good practices, and further encourages Member States to share information, establish partnerships and develop national strategies and capabilities to counter improvised explosive devices;

10. *Encourages* Member States to consult the List when considering travel visa applications;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to exchange information expeditiously with other Member States, in particular the Government of Afghanistan, when they detect the travel of individuals on the List;

Exemptions

12. *Recalls* its decision that all Member States may make use of the provisions set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452(2002), as amended by resolution 1735(2006), regarding available exemptions with regard to the measures in paragraph 1 (a) above, and encourages their use by Member States;

13. *Underlines* the importance of a comprehensive political process in Afghanistan to support peace and reconciliation among all Afghans, invites the Government of Afghanistan, in close coordination with the High Peace Council, to submit for the consideration of the Committee the names of listed individuals for whom it confirms that travel to such specified location or locations is necessary to participate in meetings in support of peace and reconciliation, and requires such submissions to include, to the extent possible, the following information:

(a) The passport number or travel document number of the listed individual;

(b) The specific location or locations to which each listed individual is expected to travel and their anticipated transit points, if any;

(c) The period of time, not to exceed nine months, during which listed individuals are expected to travel;

14. *Decides* that the travel ban imposed by paragraph 1 (b) above shall not apply to individuals identified pursuant to paragraph 13 above, where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis only that such entry or transit is justified, further decides that any such exemption approved by the Committee shall only be granted for

the requested period for any travel to the specified location or locations, directs the Committee to decide on all such exemption requests, as well as on requests to amend or renew previously granted exemptions, or on a request by any Member State to revoke previously granted exemptions, within 10 days of receiving them, and affirms that, notwithstanding any exemption from the travel ban, listed individuals remain subject to the other measures outlined in paragraph 1 of the present resolution;

15. *Requests* the Government of Afghanistan, through the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, to provide to the Committee, for its consideration and review, a report on each individual's travel under a granted exemption, promptly upon the expiration of the exemption, and encourages relevant Member States to provide information to the Committee, as appropriate, on any instances of non-compliance;

Listing

16. *Encourages* all Member States, in particular the Government of Afghanistan, to submit to the Committee for inclusion on the List names of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities participating, by any means, in the financing or support of acts or activities described in paragraph 2 above;

17. *Reaffirms* that, when proposing names to the Committee for inclusion on the List, Member States shall use the standard form for listing and provide a statement of case, which should include detailed reasons on the proposed basis for the listing, and as much relevant information as possible on the proposed name, in particular sufficient identifying information to allow for the accurate and positive identification of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and, to the extent possible, the information required by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to issue an INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notice, and decides further that the statement of case shall be releasable, upon request, except for the parts that a Member State identifies as being confidential to the Committee, and may be used to develop the narrative summary of reasons for listing described in paragraph 20 below;

18. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their national legislation, to submit to INTERPOL, where available, photographs and other biometric data of individuals for inclusion in the INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, and directs the Monitoring Team to report to the Committee on further steps that could be taken to improve the quality of the List, including by improving identifying information, as well as steps to ensure that Special Notices exist for all listed individuals, groups, undertakings and entities;

19. *Directs* the Committee to update, as necessary, the standard form for listing in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

20. *Also directs* the Committee, with the assistance of the Monitoring Team and in coordination with the relevant designating States, to make accessible on the Committee website, at the same time that a name is added to the List, a narrative summary of reasons for listing for the corresponding entry;

21. *Calls upon* all members of the Committee and the Monitoring Team to share with the Committee any appropriate information they may have available regarding a list-

ing request from a Member State so that this information may help to inform the decision of the Committee on listing and provide additional material for the narrative summary of reasons for listing described in paragraph 20 above;

22. *Requests* the Secretariat to publish on the Committee website all relevant publicly releasable information, including the narrative summary of reasons for listing, immediately after a name is added to the List, and requests the Secretary-General to make all list entries and narrative summaries of reasons for listing available in all official languages of the United Nations in a timely and accurate manner, and notes the unique circumstances of this request, which is for the purpose of harmonizing the Committee's translation procedures for issuing lists and narrative summaries with those of other Security Council sanctions committees;

23. *Strongly urges* Member States, when considering the proposal of a new listing, to consult with the Government of Afghanistan on the listing prior to submission to the Committee to ensure coordination with the Government's peace and reconciliation efforts, and encourages all Member States considering the proposal of a new listing to seek advice from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, where appropriate;

24. *Decides* that the Committee shall, after publication but within three working days after a name is added to the List, notify the Government of Afghanistan, the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations and the permanent mission of the State(s) where the individual or entity is believed to be located and, in the case of non-Afghan individuals or entities, the State(s) of which the person is believed to be a national; and further decides that the relevant Member State(s) shall take all possible measures, in accordance with their domestic laws and practices, to notify or inform in a timely manner the listed individual or entity of the listing and to include with this notification the narrative summary of reasons for listing, a description of the effects of listing, as provided in the relevant resolutions, the procedures of the Committee for considering delisting requests and the provisions of resolution 1452(2002), as amended by resolution 1735(2006), regarding available exemptions;

Delisting

25. *Directs* the Committee to remove expeditiously on a case-by-case basis individuals and entities that no longer meet the listing criteria outlined in paragraph 2 above, and requests that the Committee give due regard to requests for removal of individuals who have reconciled, in accordance with the Kabul Conference communiqué of 20 July 2010 on dialogue for all those who renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the Constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women, and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan, and as further elaborated in the principles and outcomes of the 5 December 2011 Bonn Conference conclusions supported by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community;

26. *Strongly urges* Member States to consult with the Government of Afghanistan on their delisting requests prior to submission to the Committee, to ensure coordination with the Government's peace and reconciliation efforts;

27. *Recalls* its decision that individuals and entities seeking removal from the List without the sponsorship of a Member State are eligible to submit such requests to the Focal Point mechanism established in resolution 1730(2006);

28. *Encourages* the Mission to support and facilitate cooperation between the Government of Afghanistan and the Committee to ensure that the Committee has sufficient information to consider delisting requests, and directs the Committee to consider delisting requests in accordance with the following principles, where relevant:

(a) Delisting requests concerning reconciled individuals should, if possible, include a communication from the High Peace Council through the Government of Afghanistan confirming the reconciled status of the individual according to the reconciliation guidelines, or, in the case of individuals reconciled under the Strengthening Peace Programme, documentation attesting to their reconciliation under the previous programme, as well as current address and contact information;

(b) Delisting requests concerning individuals who formerly held positions in the Taliban regime prior to 2002 who no longer meet the listing criteria outlined in paragraph 2 of the present resolution should, if possible, include a communication from the Government of Afghanistan confirming that the individual is not an active supporter of, or participant in, acts that threaten the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan, as well as current address and contact information;

(c) Delisting requests for reportedly deceased individuals should include an official statement of death from the State of nationality, residence or other relevant State;

29. *Urges* the Committee, where appropriate, to invite a representative of the Government of Afghanistan to appear before the Committee to discuss the merits of listing or delisting certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, including when a request by the Government has been put on hold or rejected by the Committee;

30. *Requests* all Member States, but particularly the Government of Afghanistan, to inform the Committee if they become aware of any information indicating that an individual, group, undertaking or entity that has been delisted should be considered for listing under paragraph 1 of the present resolution, and further requests that the Government provide to the Committee an annual report on the status of reportedly reconciled individuals who have been delisted by the Committee in the previous year;

31. *Directs* the Committee to consider expeditiously any information indicating that a delisted individual has returned to activities set forth in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, including by engaging in acts inconsistent with paragraph 25 of the present resolution, and requests the Government of Afghanistan or other Member States, where appropriate, to submit a request to add that individual's name back on the List;

32. *Confirms* that the Secretariat shall, as soon as possible after the Committee has made a decision to remove a name from the List, transmit the decision to the Government of Afghanistan and the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan for notification, and the Secretariat should also, as soon as possible, notify the permanent mission of the State(s) in which the individual or entity is believed to be located and, in the case of non-Afghan individuals or entities, the State(s) of nationality, and recalls its decision that

States receiving such notification should take measures, in accordance with domestic laws and practices, to notify or inform the concerned individual or entity of the delisting in a timely manner;

Review and maintenance of the List

33. *Recognizes* that the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, and the urgency that the Government of Afghanistan and the international community attach to a peaceful political solution to the conflict, requires timely and expeditious modifications to the List, including the addition and removal of individuals and entities, urges the Committee to decide on listing and delisting requests in a timely manner, requests the Committee to review each entry on the List on a regular basis, including, as appropriate, by means of reviews of individuals considered to be reconciled, individuals whose entries lack identifiers, individuals reportedly deceased and entities reported or confirmed to have ceased to exist, directs the Committee to review and amend its guidelines for such reviews, as appropriate, and requests the Monitoring Team to circulate to the Committee every 12 months a list compiled in consultation with the respective designating States and States of residence, in particular the Government of Afghanistan, as well as States of nationality, location or incorporation, where known, of:

(a) Individuals on the List whom the Government of Afghanistan considers to be reconciled along with relevant documentation as outlined in paragraph 28 (a) above;

(b) Individuals and entities on the List whose entries lack identifiers necessary to ensure effective implementation of the measures imposed upon them;

(c) Individuals on the List who are reportedly deceased, along with an assessment of relevant information outlined in paragraph 28 (c) above and, to the extent possible, the status and location of frozen assets and the names of any individuals or entities who would be in a position to receive any unfrozen assets;

34. *Directs* the Committee to review whether these listings remain appropriate, and further directs the Committee to remove listings if it decides that they are no longer appropriate;

35. *Requests* the Monitoring Team to provide an overview of the current status of the information included in the INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices on a periodic basis, as appropriate;

36. *Decides* that, with the exception of decisions made pursuant to paragraph 14 of the present resolution, no matter shall be left pending before the Committee for a period longer than six months, urges Committee members to respond within three months, and directs the Committee to update its guidelines as appropriate;

37. *Urges* the Committee to ensure that there are fair and clear procedures for the conduct of its work, and directs the Committee to review its guidelines as soon as possible, in particular with respect to paragraphs 18, 22 and 33 to 36 of the present resolution;

38. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international organizations to send representatives to meet with the Committee to share information and discuss any relevant issues;

39. *Encourages* all Member States, in particular designating States and States of residence, nationality, location or incorporation, to submit to the Committee additional identi-

fying and other information, including, where available, and in accordance with their national legislation, photographs and other biometric data of individuals along with supporting documentation, on listed individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, including updates on the operating status of listed entities, groups and undertakings, the movement, incarceration or death of listed individuals and other significant events, as such information becomes available;

Cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan

40. *Welcomes* periodic briefings from the Government of Afghanistan on the content of the List, as well as on the impact of targeted sanctions on deterring threats to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan and supporting Afghan-led reconciliation;

41. *Encourages* continued cooperation between the Committee, the Government of Afghanistan and the Mission, including by identifying and providing detailed information regarding individuals and entities participating in the financing or support of acts or activities set forth in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, and by inviting representatives of the Mission to address the Committee;

42. *Welcomes* the Government of Afghanistan's desire to assist the Committee in the coordination of listing and delisting requests and in the submission of all relevant information to the Committee;

Monitoring Team

43. *Decides*, in order to assist the Committee in fulfilling its mandate, that the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011), established pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1526(2004), shall also support the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988(2011) for a period of 30 months from the date of expiration of the current mandate in June 2015, with the mandate set forth in the annex to the present resolution, and further requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the Monitoring Team receives the necessary administrative and substantive support to fulfil its mandate effectively, safely and in a timely manner, including with regard to duty of care in high-risk environments, under the direction of the Committee, a subsidiary organ of the Council;

44. *Directs* the Monitoring Team to gather information on instances of non-compliance with the measures imposed in the present resolution and to keep the Committee informed of such instances, as well as to facilitate, upon request by Member States, assistance on capacity-building, encourages Committee members to address issues of non-compliance and bring them to the attention of the Monitoring Team or the Committee, and further directs the Monitoring Team to provide recommendations to the Committee on actions taken to respond to non-compliance;

Coordination and outreach

45. *Recognizes* the need to maintain contact with relevant Security Council Committees, international organizations and expert groups, including the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011), the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Committee established pursuant to reso-

lution 1540(2004) and the Financial Action Task Force, particularly given the continuing presence and negative influence on the Afghan conflict of Al-Qaida and any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof;

46. *Encourages* the Mission to provide assistance to the High Peace Council, at its request, to encourage listed individuals to reconcile;

Reviews

47. *Decides* to review the implementation of the measures outlined in the present resolution in 18 months and make adjustments, as necessary, to support peace and stability in Afghanistan;

48. *Also decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

ANNEX

In accordance with paragraph 43 of this resolution, the Monitoring Team shall operate under the direction of the Committee and shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) To submit, in writing, two comprehensive, independent reports to the Committee, the first by 1 November 2014 and the second by 1 June 2015, on implementation by Member States of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution, including specific recommendations for improved implementation of the measures and possible new measures;

(b) To assist the Committee in regularly reviewing names on the List, including by undertaking travel on behalf of the Committee as a subsidiary organ of the Security Council and contact with Member States, with a view to developing the Committee's record of the facts and circumstances relating to a listing;

(c) To assist the Committee in following up on requests to Member States for information, including with respect to implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution;

(d) To submit a comprehensive programme of work to the Committee for its review and approval, as necessary, in which the Monitoring Team should detail the activities envisaged in order to fulfil its responsibilities, including proposed travel on behalf of the Committee;

(e) To gather information on behalf of the Committee on instances of reported non-compliance with the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution, including by, but not limited to, collating information from Member States and engaging with related parties, and pursuing case studies, both on its own initiative and upon the request of the Committee, and to provide recommendations to the Committee on such cases of non-compliance for its review;

(f) To present to the Committee recommendations, which could be used by Member States to assist them with the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution and in preparing proposed additions to the List;

(g) To assist the Committee in its consideration of proposals for listing, including by compiling and circulating to the Committee information relevant to the proposed listing and preparing a draft narrative summary, referred to in paragraph 20 of this resolution;

(h) To bring to the attention of the Committee new or noteworthy circumstances that may warrant a delisting, such as publicly reported information on a deceased individual;

(i) To consult with Member States in advance of travel to selected Member States, based on its programme of work as approved by the Committee;

(j) To encourage Member States to submit names and additional identifying information for inclusion on the List, as instructed by the Committee;

(k) To consult with the Committee, the Government of Afghanistan or any relevant Member States, as appropriate, when identifying individuals or entities that could be added to, or removed from, the List;

(l) To present to the Committee additional identifying and other information to assist the Committee in its efforts to keep the List as updated and accurate as possible;

(m) To collate, assess, monitor and report on and make recommendations regarding implementation of the measures, to pursue case studies, as appropriate, and to explore in depth any other relevant issues as directed by the Committee;

(n) To consult with Member States and other relevant organizations and bodies, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and other United Nations agencies, and engage in regular dialogue with representatives in New York and in capitals, taking into account their comments, especially regarding any issues that might be reflected in the reports of the Monitoring Team referred to in paragraph (a) of this annex;

(o) To cooperate closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and engage in a regular dialogue with Member States on the nexus between narcotics trafficking and those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities eligible for listing under paragraph 1 of this resolution, and report as requested by the Committee;

(p) To submit to the Committee on 1 December 2014 a special written report, in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations sanctions expert panels, as appropriate, on specific cases of cooperation between organized crime syndicates, notably groups undertaking hostage-taking for ransom, narcotics producers and traders, as well as those illegally exploiting natural resources in Afghanistan, including precious and semi-precious stones, and those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities eligible for listing under paragraph 1 of this resolution;

(q) To consult with Member States' intelligence and security services, including through regional forums, in order to facilitate the sharing of information and to strengthen enforcement of the measures;

(r) To consult with relevant representatives of the private sector, including financial institutions, to learn about the practical implementation of the assets freeze and to develop recommendations for the strengthening of that measure;

(s) To cooperate closely with the Al-Qaida sanctions committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) and other relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies in providing information on the measures taken by Member States on kidnapping and hostage-taking for ransom and on relevant trends and developments in this area;

(t) To consult with the Government of Afghanistan, Member States, relevant representatives of the private sector, including financial institutions and relevant non-financial businesses and professions, and with relevant international

organizations, including the Financial Action Task Force and its regional bodies to raise awareness of and learn about the practical implementation of the assets freeze and to develop recommendations for the strengthening of the implementation of that measure in accordance with Task Force Recommendation 6 on asset freezing and its related guidance;

(u) To consult with the Government of Afghanistan, Member States, relevant representatives of the private sector and other international organizations, including the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the World Customs Organization, to raise awareness of and learn about the practical implementation of the travel ban and assets freeze and to develop recommendations for the strengthening of the implementation of these measures;

(v) To consult with the Government of Afghanistan, Member States, international and regional organizations and relevant representatives of the private sector on the threat posed by improvised explosive devices to peace, security and stability in Afghanistan, to raise awareness of the threat and to develop recommendations for appropriate measures to counter this threat;

(w) To work with relevant international and regional organizations in order to promote awareness of, and compliance with, the measures;

(x) To cooperate with INTERPOL and Member States to obtain photographs, physical descriptions and, in accordance with their national legislation, other biometric and biographic data of listed individuals when available for inclusion in INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices and to exchange information on emerging threats;

(y) To assist other subsidiary bodies of the Council and their expert panels, upon request, with enhancing their cooperation with INTERPOL, referred to in resolution 1699(2006);

(z) To assist the Committee in facilitating assistance in capacity-building for enhancing implementation of the measures, upon request by Member States;

(aa) To report to the Committee, on a regular basis or when the Committee so requests, through oral and/or written briefings on the work of the Monitoring Team, including its visits to Member States and its activities;

(bb) To study and report to the Committee on the current nature of the threat of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan and the best measures to confront it, including by developing a dialogue with relevant scholars, academic bodies and experts according to the priorities identified by the Committee;

(cc) To gather information, including from the Government of Afghanistan and relevant Member States, on travel that takes place under a granted exemption, pursuant to paragraphs 13 and 14 of this resolution, and to report to the Committee, as appropriate; and

(dd) Any other responsibility identified by the Committee.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 June [meeting 7198], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2161(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/408] was submitted by Australia, France,

Lithuania, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999, 1333(2000) of 19 December 2000, 1363(2001) of 30 July 2001, 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, 1390(2002) of 16 January 2002, 1452(2002) of 20 December 2002, 1455(2003) of 17 January 2003, 1526(2004) of 30 January 2004, 1566(2004) of 8 October 2004, 1617(2005) of 29 July 2005, 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005, 1699(2006) of 8 August 2006, 1730(2006) of 19 December 2006, 1735(2006) of 22 December 2006, 1822(2008) of 30 June 2008, 1904(2009) of 17 December 2009, 1988(2011) and 1989(2011) of 17 June 2011, 2083(2012) of 17 December 2012, and 2133(2014) of 27 January 2014 and the relevant statements by its President,

Reaffirming that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and reiterating its unequivocal condemnation of Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it, for ongoing and multiple criminal terrorist acts aimed at causing the deaths of innocent civilians and other victims and the destruction of property and greatly undermining stability,

Reaffirming also that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization,

Recalling the statement by the President of the Security Council of 15 January 2013 on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts and the statement of 13 May 2013 on peace and security in Africa,

Reaffirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including applicable international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, stressing in this regard the important role the United Nations plays in leading and coordinating this effort,

Recalling its resolution 2133(2014) and the publication by the Global Counterterrorism Forum of the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists, strongly condemning incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, expressing its determination to prevent kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups and to secure the safe release of hostages without ransom payments or political concessions, in accordance with applicable international law, calling upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, and reaffirming the need for all Member States to cooperate closely during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups,

Stressing that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States and international and regional organizations to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate the terrorist threat,

Emphasizing that sanctions are an important tool under the Charter in the maintenance and restoration of inter-

national peace and security, and stressing in this regard the need for robust implementation of the measures in paragraph 1 of the present resolution as a significant tool in combating terrorist activity,

Reminding all States that they have an obligation to take the measures described in paragraph 1 of the present resolution with respect to all individuals, groups, undertakings and entities included on the list created pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999), 1333(2000) and 1989(2011) (the Al-Qaida Sanctions List), regardless of the nationality or residence of such individuals, groups, undertakings or entities,

Urging all Member States to participate actively in maintaining and updating the Al-Qaida Sanctions List by contributing additional information pertinent to current listings, by submitting delisting requests when appropriate, and by identifying and nominating for listing additional individuals, groups, undertakings and entities which should be subject to the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of the present resolution,

Reminding the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) (the Committee) to remove expeditiously and on a case-by-case basis individuals, groups, undertakings and entities that no longer meet the criteria for listing outlined in the present resolution,

Recognizing the challenges, both legal and otherwise, to the measures implemented by Member States under paragraph 1 of the present resolution, welcoming improvements to the procedures of the Committee and the quality of the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, and expressing its intention to continue efforts to ensure that procedures are fair and clear,

Welcoming the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson pursuant to resolution 1904(2009) and the enhancement of the mandate of the Ombudsperson in resolutions 1989(2011) and 2083(2012), noting the significant contribution of the Office in providing additional fairness and transparency, and recalling the firm commitment of the Council to ensuring that the Office is able to continue to carry out its role effectively, in accordance with its mandate,

Welcoming also the biannual reports of the Ombudsperson to the Council, including the reports submitted on 21 January and 21 July 2011, 20 January and 30 July 2012, 31 January and 31 July 2013 and 31 January 2014,

Welcoming further the fourth review in June 2014 by the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 8 September 2006 and the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system and the report of the Secretary-General of 14 April 2014 on activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation between the Committee and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular on technical assistance and capacity-building, and all other United Nations bodies, and encouraging further engagement with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system,

Recognizing the need to take measures to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism and terrorist organizations, including from the proceeds of organized

crime, inter alia, the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs and their chemical precursors, and the importance of continued international cooperation with that aim,

Recognizing also the need for Member States to prevent the abuse of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations by and for terrorists, and calling upon non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations to prevent and oppose, as appropriate, attempts by terrorists to abuse their status, while recalling the importance of fully respecting the rights to freedom of expression and association of individuals in civil society and freedom of religion or belief, and noting the relevant recommendation and guidance documents of the Financial Action Task Force,

Recalling its decision that States shall eliminate the supply of weapons, including small arms and light weapons, to terrorists, as well as its calls for States to find ways of intensifying and accelerating the exchange of operational information regarding traffic in arms, and to enhance co-ordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels,

Expressing concern at the increased use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters of new information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet, to facilitate terrorist acts, as well as their use to incite, recruit, fund or plan terrorist acts,

Expressing concern also at the flow of international recruits to Al-Qaida and those groups associated with it, and the scale of this phenomenon, and reiterating further the obligation of Member States to prevent the movement of terrorist groups, in accordance with applicable international law, by, inter alia, effective border controls, and in this context to exchange information expeditiously and improve cooperation among competent authorities to prevent the movement of terrorists and terrorist groups to and from their territories, the supply of weapons for terrorists and financing that would support terrorists,

Noting with concern the continued threat to international peace and security posed by Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it, and reaffirming its resolve to address all aspects of that threat,

Noting that, in some instances, certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities that meet the criteria for listing set forth in paragraph 2 of resolution 2082(2012) of 17 December 2012 or other relevant sanctions resolutions may also meet the criteria for listing set forth in paragraph 2 of the present resolution,

Noting also the efforts of the Secretariat to standardize the format of all United Nations sanctions lists to facilitate implementation by national authorities, and encouraging the Secretariat, with the assistance of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, as appropriate, to continue its work to implement the data model approved by the Al-Qaida sanctions committee,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

Measures

1. *Decides* that all States shall take the following measures as previously imposed by paragraph 8 (c) of resolution 1333(2000), paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1390(2002) and paragraphs 1 and 4 of resolution 1989(2011), with respect to Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it:

Asset freeze

(a) Freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, including funds derived from property owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by them or by persons acting on their behalf or at their direction, and ensure that neither these nor any other funds, financial assets or economic resources are made available, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of such persons, by their nationals or by persons within their territory;

Travel ban

(b) Prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of those individuals, provided that nothing in the present paragraph shall oblige any State to deny entry into or require the departure from its territories of its own nationals and that the present paragraph shall not apply where entry or transit is necessary for the fulfilment of a judicial process, or the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis only that entry or transit is justified;

Arms embargo

(c) Prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale, or transfer to those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities;

Listing criteria

2. *Reaffirms* that acts or activities indicating that an individual, group, undertaking or entity is associated with Al-Qaida and eligible for inclusion in the Al-Qaida Sanctions List include:

(a) Participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of or in support of;

(b) Supplying, selling or transferring arms and related materiel to;

(c) Recruiting for; or otherwise supporting acts or activities of Al-Qaida or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof;

3. *Notes* that such means of financing or support include but are not limited to the use of proceeds derived from crime, including the illicit cultivation and production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and their precursors;

4. *Confirms* that any individual, group, undertaking or entity either owned or controlled directly or indirectly by, or otherwise supporting, any individual, group, undertaking or entity associated with Al-Qaida, including on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, shall be eligible for listing;

5. *Also confirms* that the requirements in paragraph 1 (a) above apply to financial and economic resources of every kind, including but not limited to those used for the provision of Internet hosting or related services, used for the support of Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings or entities included on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

6. *Further confirms* that the requirements in paragraph 1 (a) above apply to funds, financial assets or economic resources that may be made available, directly or indirectly, to or for the benefit of listed individuals in

connection with their travel, including costs incurred with respect to transportation and lodging, and that such travel-related funds, other financial assets or economic resources may only be provided in accordance with the exemption procedures set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452(2002), as amended by resolution 1735(2006), and in paragraphs 9 and 61 below;

7. *Confirms* that the requirements in paragraph 1 (a) above shall also apply to the payment of ransoms to individuals, groups, undertakings or entities on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, regardless of how or by whom the ransom is paid;

8. *Reaffirms* that Member States may permit the addition to accounts frozen pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 above of any payment in favour of listed individuals, groups, undertakings or entities, provided that any such payments continue to be subject to the provisions in paragraph 1 above and are frozen;

9. *Encourages* Member States to make use of the provisions regarding available exemptions to the measures in paragraph 1 (a) above, set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452(2002), as amended by resolution 1735(2006), confirms that exemptions to the travel ban must be submitted by Member States, individuals or the Ombudsperson, as appropriate, including when listed individuals travel for the purpose of fulfilling religious obligations, and notes that the Focal Point mechanism established in resolution 1730(2006) may receive exemption requests submitted by, or on behalf of, an individual, group, undertaking or entity on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, or by the legal representative or estate of such individual, group, undertaking or entity, for Committee consideration, as described in paragraph 62 below;

Measures—implementation

10. *Reiterates* the importance of all States identifying, and if necessary introducing, adequate procedures to implement fully all aspects of the measures described in paragraph 1 above, and strongly urges all Member States to implement the comprehensive international standards embodied in the Financial Action Task Force revised Forty Recommendations on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation, particularly Recommendation 6 on targeted financial sanctions related to terrorism and terrorist financing;

11. *Strongly urges* Member States to apply the elements in the Financial Action Task Force Interpretive Note to Recommendation 6, and to take note of, inter alia, related best practices for effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions related to terrorism and terrorist financing, and takes note of the need to have appropriate legal authorities and procedures to apply and enforce targeted financial sanctions that are not conditional upon the existence of criminal proceedings, and to apply an evidentiary standard of proof of “reasonable grounds” or “reasonable basis”, as well as the ability to collect or solicit as much information as possible from all relevant sources;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to move vigorously and decisively to cut the flows of funds and other financial assets and economic resources to individuals and entities on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, as required by paragraph 1 (a) above, and taking into account relevant Financial Action Task Force Recommendations and international standards designed to prevent the abuse of non-profit organizations, informal/alternative remittance systems and the physical trans-

border movement of currency, while working to mitigate the impact on legitimate activities through these mediums;

13. *Urges* Member States to promote awareness of the Al-Qaida Sanctions List as widely as possible, including to relevant domestic agencies, the private sector and the general public, to ensure effective implementation of the measures in paragraph 1 above, and encourages Member States to urge that their respective company, property and other relevant public and private registries regularly screen their available databases, including but not limited to those with legal and/or beneficial ownership information, against the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

14. *Decides* that Member States, in order to prevent Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it from obtaining, handling, storing, using or seeking access to all types of explosives, whether military, civilian or improvised explosives, as well as to raw materials and components that can be used to manufacture improvised explosive devices or unconventional weapons, including but not limited to chemical components, detonating cord or poisons, shall undertake appropriate measures to promote the exercise of vigilance by their nationals, persons subject to their jurisdiction and firms incorporated in their territory or subject to their jurisdiction that are involved in the production, sale, supply, purchase, transfer and storage of such materials, including through the issuance of good practices, and further encourages Member States to share information, establish partnerships and develop national strategies and capabilities to counter improvised explosive devices;

15. *Encourages* Member States, including through their permanent missions, and relevant international organizations to meet with the Committee for in-depth discussion on any relevant issues;

16. *Urges* all Member States, in their implementation of the measures set out in paragraph 1 above, to ensure that fraudulent, counterfeit, stolen and lost passports and other travel documents are invalidated and removed from circulation, in accordance with domestic laws and practices, as soon as possible, and to share information on those documents with other Member States through the INTERPOL database;

17. *Encourages* Member States to share with the private sector, in accordance with their domestic laws and practices, information in their national databases related to fraudulent, counterfeit, stolen and lost identity or travel documents pertaining to their own jurisdictions and, if a listed party is found to be using a false identity, including to secure credit or fraudulent travel documents, to provide the Committee with information in this regard;

18. *Encourages* Member States that issue travel documents to listed individuals to note, as appropriate, that the bearer is subject to the travel ban and corresponding exemption procedures;

19. *Encourages* Member States to consult the Al-Qaida Sanctions List when considering whether to grant travel visa applications, for the purpose of effectively implementing the travel ban;

20. *Also encourages* Member States to exchange information expeditiously with other Member States, in particular states of origin, destination and transit, when they detect the travel of individuals on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

21. *Encourages* designating States to inform the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team whether a national court or other legal authority has reviewed a listed party's case and whether any judicial proceedings have begun, and to include any other relevant information when it submits its standard form for listing;

22. *Encourages* all Member States to designate national focal points in charge of liaising with the Committee and the Monitoring Team on issues related to the implementation of the measures described in paragraph 1 above and the assessment of the threat from Al-Qaida and individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it;

23. *Also encourages* all Member States to report to the Committee on obstacles to the implementation of the measures described in paragraph 1 above, with a view to facilitating technical assistance;

The Committee

24. *Directs* the Committee to continue to ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List and for removing them, as well as for granting exemptions in accordance with resolution 1452(2002), and directs the Committee to keep its guidelines under active review in support of these objectives;

25. *Also directs* the Committee, as a matter of priority, to review its guidelines with respect to the provisions of the present resolution, in particular paragraphs 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 34, 39, 44, 46, 51, 63, 64, 66 and 67;

26. *Requests* the Committee to report to the Security Council on its findings regarding implementation efforts by Member States, and to identify and recommend steps necessary to improve implementation;

27. *Directs* the Committee to identify possible cases of non-compliance with the measures pursuant to paragraph 1 above and to determine the appropriate course of action on each case, and requests the Chair of the Committee, in periodic reports to the Council pursuant to paragraph 72 below, to provide progress reports on the work of the Committee on this issue;

28. *Confirms* that no matter should be left pending before the Committee for a period longer than six months, unless the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that extraordinary circumstances require additional time for consideration, in accordance with the Committee guidelines;

29. *Requests* the Committee to facilitate, through the Monitoring Team or specialized United Nations agencies, assistance on capacity-building for enhancing implementation of the measures, upon request by Member States;

Listing

30. *Encourages* all Member States to submit to the Committee for inclusion on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List names of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities participating, by any means, in the financing or support of acts or activities of Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it;

31. *Reiterates* that the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of the present resolution are preventative in nature and are not reliant upon criminal standards set out under national law;

32. *Reaffirms* that, when proposing names to the Committee for inclusion on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, Member States shall use the standard form for listing, provide a statement of case, which should include detailed reasons on the proposed basis for the listing, and as much relevant information as possible on the proposed name, in particular sufficient identifying information to allow for the accurate and positive identification of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and, to the extent possible, the information required by INTERPOL to issue an INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notice, and decides further that the statement of case shall be releasable, upon request, except for the parts that a Member State identifies as being confidential to the Committee, and may be used to develop the narrative summary of reasons for listing described in paragraph 36 below;

33. *Also reaffirms* that Member States proposing a new listing, as well as Member States that have proposed names for inclusion on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List before the adoption of the present resolution, shall specify if the Committee or the Ombudsperson may not make known the status of the Member State as a designating State;

34. *Encourages* Member States to submit, where available and in accordance with their national legislation, photographs and other biometric data of individuals for inclusion in INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices;

35. *Directs* the Committee to update, as necessary, the standard form for listing in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution; and further directs the Monitoring Team to report to the Committee on further steps that could be taken to improve the quality of the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, including by improving identifying information, as well as steps to ensure that INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices exist for all listed individuals, groups, undertakings and entities;

36. *Also directs* the Committee, with the assistance of the Monitoring Team and in coordination with the relevant designating States, to make accessible on the Committee website, at the same time a name is added to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, a narrative summary of reasons for listing the corresponding entry;

37. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international organizations and bodies to inform the Committee of any relevant court decisions and proceedings so that the Committee can consider them when it reviews a corresponding listing or updates a narrative summary of reasons for listing;

38. *Calls upon* all members of the Committee and the Monitoring Team to share with the Committee any information they may have available regarding a listing request from a Member State so that this information may help to inform the decision of the Committee on listing and provide additional material for the narrative summary of reasons for listing described in paragraph 36 above;

39. *Reaffirms* that the Secretariat shall, after publication but within three working days after a name is added to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, notify the permanent mission of the State or States where the individual or entity is believed to be located and, in the case of individuals, the State of which the person is a national (to the extent this information is known), requests the Secretariat to publish on the Committee website all relevant publicly releasable

information, including the narrative summary of reasons for listing, immediately after a name is added to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, and requests the Secretary-General to make all list entries and narrative summaries of reasons for listing available in all official languages of the United Nations in a timely and accurate manner, and notes the unique circumstances of this request, which is for the purpose of harmonizing the Committee's translation procedures for issuing lists and narrative summaries with those of other Security Council sanctions committees;

40. *Also reaffirms* the requirement that Member States take all possible measures, in accordance with their domestic laws and practices, to notify or inform in a timely manner the listed individual or entity of the listing and to include with this notification the narrative summary of reasons for listing, a description of the effects of listing, as provided in the relevant resolutions, the procedures of the Committee for considering delisting requests, including the possibility of submitting such a request to the Ombudsperson in accordance with paragraph 43 of resolution 2083(2012) and annex II to the present resolution, and the provisions of resolution 1452(2002) regarding available exemptions, including the possibility of submitting such requests through the Focal Point mechanism in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 62 of the present resolution;

Review of delisting requests—Ombudsperson/Member States

41. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsperson, established by resolution 1904(2009), as reflected in the procedures outlined in annex II to the present resolution, for a period of 30 months from the date of expiration of the current mandate of the Office in June 2015, affirms that the Ombudsperson shall continue to receive requests from individuals, groups, undertakings or entities seeking to be removed from the Al-Qaida Sanctions List in an independent and impartial manner and shall neither seek nor receive instructions from any Government, and affirms that the Ombudsperson shall continue to present to the Committee observations and a recommendation on the delisting of those individuals, groups, undertakings or entities that have requested removal from the Al-Qaida Sanctions List through the Office, either a recommendation to retain the listing or a recommendation that the Committee consider delisting;

42. *Recalls* its decision that the requirement for States to take the measures described in paragraph 1 of the present resolution shall remain in place with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity where the Ombudsperson recommends retaining the listing in the comprehensive report of the Ombudsperson on a delisting request pursuant to annex II to the present resolution;

43. *Also recalls* its decision that the requirement for States to take the measures described in paragraph 1 of the present resolution shall terminate with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity 60 days after the Committee completes consideration of a comprehensive report of the Ombudsperson, in accordance with annex II to the present resolution, including paragraph 7 (b) thereof, where the Ombudsperson recommends that the Committee consider delisting, unless the Committee decides by consensus before the end of that 60-day period that the requirement shall remain in place with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity; provided that, in

cases where consensus does not exist, the Chair shall, on the request of a Committee member, submit the question of whether to delist that individual, group, undertaking or entity to the Security Council for a decision within a period of 60 days; and provided further that, in the event of such a request, the requirement for States to take the measures described in paragraph 1 of the present resolution shall remain in force for that period with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity until the question is decided by the Council;

44. *Decides* that the Committee may, by consensus, shorten the 60-day period referred to in paragraph 43 above on a case-by-case basis;

45. *Reiterates* that the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of the present resolution are preventative in nature and are not reliant upon criminal standards set out under national law;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsperson by providing necessary resources, including for translation services, as appropriate, to ensure its continued ability to carry out its mandate in an independent, effective and timely manner;

47. *Strongly urges* Member States to provide all relevant information to the Ombudsperson, including any relevant confidential information, where appropriate, encourages Member States to provide relevant information in a timely manner, welcomes those national arrangements entered into by Member States with the Office of the Ombudsperson to facilitate the sharing of confidential information, encourages further cooperation by Member States in this regard, including by concluding arrangements with the Office for the sharing of such information, and confirms that the Ombudsperson must comply with any confidentiality restrictions that are placed on such information by Member States providing it;

48. *Requests* that Member States and relevant international organizations and bodies encourage individuals and entities that are considering challenging or are already in the process of challenging their listing through national and regional courts to seek removal from the Al-Qaida Sanctions List by submitting delisting petitions to the Office of the Ombudsperson;

49. *Notes* the Financial Action Task Force international standards and, inter alia, best practices relating to targeted financial sanctions, as referenced in paragraph 12 of the present resolution;

50. *Recalls* its decision that, when the designating State submits a delisting request, the requirement for States to take the measures described in paragraph 1 of the present resolution shall terminate with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity after 60 days unless the Committee decides by consensus before the end of that 60-day period that the measures shall remain in place with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity; provided that, in cases where consensus does not exist, the Chair shall, on the request of a Committee member, submit the question of whether to delist that individual, group, undertaking or entity to the Security Council for a decision within a period of 60 days; and provided further that, in the event of such a request, the requirement for States to take the measures described in paragraph 1 of the present resolution shall remain in force for that period with respect

to that individual, group, undertaking or entity until the question is decided by the Council;

51. *Decides* that the Committee may, by consensus, shorten the 60-day period referred to in paragraph 50 above on a case-by-case basis;

52. *Recalls* its decision that, for purposes of submitting a delisting request in paragraph 50 above, consensus must exist between or among all designating States in cases where there are multiple designating States; and further recalls its decision that co-sponsors of listing requests shall not be considered designating States for purposes of paragraph 50;

53. *Strongly urges* designating States to allow the Ombudsperson to reveal their identities as designating States to those listed individuals and entities that have submitted delisting petitions to the Ombudsperson;

54. *Directs* the Committee to continue to work, in accordance with its guidelines, to consider delisting requests of Member States for the removal from the Al-Qaida Sanctions List of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities that are alleged to no longer meet the criteria established in the relevant resolutions, and set out in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, and strongly urges Member States to provide reasons for submitting their delisting requests;

55. *Encourages* States to submit delisting requests for individuals that are officially confirmed to be dead, particularly where no assets are identified, and for entities reported or confirmed to have ceased to exist, while at the same time taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the assets that had belonged to these individuals or entities have not been or will not be transferred or distributed to other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List or any other Security Council sanctions list;

56. *Encourages* Member States, when unfreezing the assets of a deceased individual or an entity that is reported or confirmed to have ceased to exist as a result of a delisting, to recall the obligations set forth in resolution 1373(2001) and, in particular, to prevent unfrozen assets from being used for terrorist purposes;

57. *Reaffirms* that, prior to the unfreezing of any assets that have been frozen as a result of the listing of Osama bin Laden, Member States shall submit to the Committee a request to unfreeze such assets and shall provide assurances to the Committee that the assets will not be transferred, directly or indirectly, to a listed individual, group, undertaking or entity, or otherwise used for terrorist purposes, in line with resolution 1373(2001), and decides further that such assets may only be unfrozen in the absence of an objection by a Committee member within 30 days of receiving the request, and stresses the exceptional nature of this provision, which shall not be considered as establishing a precedent;

58. *Calls upon* the Committee, when considering delisting requests, to give due consideration to the opinions of designating State(s), State(s) of residence, nationality, location or incorporation, and other relevant States as determined by the Committee, directs Committee members to provide their reasons for objecting to delisting requests at the time the request is objected to, and calls upon the Committee to provide reasons to relevant Member States and national and regional courts and bodies, upon request and where appropriate;

59. *Encourages* all Member States, including designating States and States of residence, nationality, location or incorporation, to provide all information to the Committee

relevant to the review by the Committee of delisting petitions and to meet with the Committee, if requested, to convey their views on delisting requests, and further encourages the Committee, where appropriate, to meet with representatives of national or regional organizations and bodies that have relevant information on delisting petitions;

60. *Confirms* that the Secretariat shall, within three days after a name is removed from the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, notify the permanent mission of the State(s) of residence, nationality, location or incorporation (to the extent this information is known), and decides that States receiving such notification shall take measures, in accordance with their domestic laws and practices, to notify or inform the concerned individual, group, undertaking or entity of the delisting in a timely manner;

61. *Reaffirms* that, in cases in which the Ombudsperson is unable to interview a petitioner in his or her State of residence, the Ombudsperson may request, with the agreement of the petitioner, that the Committee consider granting exemptions to the restrictions on assets and travel in paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) of the present resolution for the sole purpose of allowing the petitioner to meet travel expenses and travel to another State to be interviewed by the Ombudsperson for a period no longer than necessary to participate in this interview, provided that all States of transit and destination do not object to such travel, and further directs the Committee to notify the Ombudsperson of the decision of the Committee;

Exemptions/Focal Point

62. *Decides* that the Focal Point mechanism established in resolution 1730(2006) may:

(a) Receive requests from listed individuals, groups, undertakings and entities for exemptions to the measures outlined in paragraph 1 (a) of the present resolution, as defined in resolution 1452(2002), provided that the request has first been submitted for the consideration of the State of residence, and decides further that the Focal Point shall transmit such requests to the Committee for a decision, directs the Committee to consider such requests, including in consultation with the State of residence and any other relevant States, and further directs the Committee, through the Focal Point, to notify such individuals, groups, undertakings or entities of the decision of the Committee;

(b) Receive requests from listed individuals for exemptions to the measures outlined in paragraph 1 (b) of the present resolution and transmit these to the Committee to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether entry or transit is justified, directs the Committee to consider such requests in consultation with States of transit and destination and any other relevant States, and decides further that the Committee shall only agree to exemptions to the measures in paragraph 1 (b) of the present resolution with the agreement of the States of transit and destination, and further directs the Committee, through the Focal Point, to notify such individuals of the decision of the Committee;

63. *Also decides* that the Focal Point may receive, and transmit to the Committee for its consideration, communications from:

(a) Individuals who have been removed from the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

(b) Individuals claiming to have been subjected to the measures outlined in paragraph 1 above as a result of false

or mistaken identification or confusion with individuals included on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

64. *Directs* the Committee, with the assistance of the Monitoring Team and in consultation with relevant States, to respond, through the Focal Point, to communications referred to in paragraph 63 (b) above, as may be appropriate, within 60 days;

Review and maintenance of the Al-Qaida Sanctions List

65. *Encourages* all Member States, in particular designating States and States of residence, nationality, location or incorporation, to submit to the Committee additional identifying and other information, including, where possible and in accordance with their national legislation, photographs and other biometric data of individuals along with supporting documentation, on listed individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, including updates on the operating status of listed entities, groups and undertakings, the movement, incarceration or death of listed individuals and other significant events, as such information becomes available;

66. *Requests* the Monitoring Team to circulate to the Committee every 12 months a list compiled in consultation with the respective designating States and States of residence, nationality, location or incorporation, where known, of:

(a) Individuals and entities on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List whose entries lack identifiers necessary to ensure effective implementation of the measures imposed upon them;

(b) Individuals on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List who are reportedly deceased, along with an assessment of relevant information such as the certification of death, and, to the extent possible, the status and location of frozen assets and the names of any individuals or entities who would be in a position to receive any unfrozen assets;

(c) Entities on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List that are reported or confirmed to have ceased to exist, along with an assessment of any relevant information;

(d) Any other names on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List that have not been reviewed in three or more years (the triennial review);

67. *Directs* the Committee to review whether these listings remain appropriate, and further directs the Committee to remove listings if it decides that they are no longer appropriate;

Coordination and outreach

68. *Directs* the Committee to continue to cooperate with other relevant Security Council sanctions committees, in particular that established pursuant to resolution 1988(2011);

69. *Reiterates* the need to enhance ongoing cooperation between the Committee, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004), as well as their respective groups of experts, including through, as appropriate, enhanced information-sharing, and coordination on visits to countries within their respective mandates, on facilitating and monitoring technical assistance, on relations with international and regional organizations and agencies and on other issues of relevance to all three Committees, expresses its intention to provide guidance to the Committees

on areas of common interest in order better to coordinate their efforts and facilitate such cooperation, and requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the groups to be co-located as soon as possible;

70. *Encourages* the Monitoring Team and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue their joint activities, in cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004), to assist Member States in their efforts to comply with their obligations under the relevant resolutions, including through organizing regional and subregional workshops;

71. *Requests* the Committee to consider, where and when appropriate, visits to selected countries by the Chair and/or members of the Committee to enhance the full and effective implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 above, with a view to encouraging States to comply fully with the present resolution and resolutions 1267(1999), 1333(2000), 1390(2002), 1455(2003), 1526(2004), 1617(2005), 1735(2006), 1822(2008), 1904(2009), 1989(2011), 2082(2012), 2083(2012) and 2133(2014);

72. *Also requests* the Committee to report orally, through its Chair, at least once a year, to the Council on the state of the overall work of the Committee and the Monitoring Team, and, as appropriate, in conjunction with the reports by the Chairs of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004), expresses its intention to hold informal consultations at least once a year on the work of the Committee, on the basis of reports by the Chair to the Council, and further requests the Chair to hold periodic briefings for all interested Member States;

Monitoring Team

73. *Decides*, in order to assist the Committee in fulfilling its mandate, as well as to support the Ombudsperson, to extend the mandate of the current New York-based Monitoring Team and its members, established pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1526(2004), for a further period of 30 months from the date of expiration of its current mandate in June 2015, under the direction of the Committee, with the responsibilities outlined in annex I to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to this effect, and highlights the importance of ensuring that the Monitoring Team receives the necessary administrative support to effectively, safely and in a timely manner fulfil its mandate, including with regard to duty of care in high-risk environments, under the direction of the Committee, a subsidiary organ of the Council;

74. *Directs* the Monitoring Team to identify, gather information on, and keep the Committee informed of instances and common patterns of non-compliance with the measures imposed in the present resolution, as well as to facilitate, upon request by Member States, assistance on capacity-building, requests the Monitoring Team to work closely with State(s) of residence, nationality, location or incorporation, designating States, other relevant States and relevant United Nations missions, and further directs the Monitoring Team to provide recommendations to the Committee on actions taken to respond to non-compliance;

75. *Directs* the Committee, with the assistance of its Monitoring Team, to hold special meetings on important

thematic or regional topics and Member States' capacity challenges, in consultation, as appropriate, with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and with the Financial Action Task Force, to identify and prioritize areas for the provision of technical assistance to enable more effective implementation by Member States;

Reviews

76. *Decides* to review the measures described in paragraph 1 above with a view to their possible further strengthening in 18 months or sooner if necessary;

77. *Also decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

ANNEX I

In accordance with paragraph 73 of this resolution, the Monitoring Team shall operate under the direction of the Committee and shall have the following mandates and responsibilities:

(a) To submit, in writing, two comprehensive, independent reports to the Committee, the first by 30 September 2014 and the second by 31 March 2015, on implementation by Member States of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution, including specific recommendations for improved implementation of the measures and possible new measures;

(b) To assist the Ombudsperson in carrying out his or her mandate as specified in annex II to this resolution, including by providing updated information on those individuals, groups, undertakings or entities seeking their removal from the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

(c) To assist the Committee in regularly reviewing names on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, including by undertaking travel on behalf of the Committee, as a subsidiary organ of the Security Council, and contact with Member States, with a view to developing the Committee's record of the facts and circumstances relating to a listing;

(d) To assist the Committee in following up on requests to Member States for information, including with respect to implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution;

(e) To submit a comprehensive programme of work to the Committee for its review and approval, as necessary, in which the Monitoring Team should detail the activities envisaged in order to fulfil its responsibilities, including proposed travel, based on close coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the group of experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) to avoid duplication and reinforce synergies;

(f) To work closely and share information with the Executive Directorate and the group of experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) to identify areas of convergence and overlap and to help to facilitate concrete coordination, including in the area of reporting, among the three Committees;

(g) To participate actively in and support all relevant activities under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, established to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system, in particular through its relevant working groups;

(b) To gather information, on behalf of the Committee, on instances of reported non-compliance with the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution, including by collating information from all relevant sources, including Member States, and engaging with related parties, and pursuing case studies, both on its own initiative and upon the Committee's request, and to provide cases of non-compliance and recommendations to the Committee on actions to respond to such cases of non-compliance for its review;

(i) To present to the Committee recommendations, which could be used by Member States to assist them with the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution and in preparing proposed additions to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

(j) To assist the Committee in its consideration of proposals for listing, including by compiling and circulating to the Committee information relevant to the proposed listing and preparing a draft narrative summary referred to in paragraph 36 of this resolution;

(k) To consult with the Committee or any relevant Member States, as appropriate, when identifying that certain individuals or entities should be added to, or removed from, the Al-Qaida Sanctions List;

(l) To bring to the attention of the Committee new or noteworthy circumstances that may warrant a delisting, such as publicly reported information on a deceased individual;

(m) To consult with Member States in advance of travel to selected Member States, based on its programme of work as approved by the Committee;

(n) To coordinate and cooperate with the national counter-terrorism focal point or similar coordinating body in the State of visit, where appropriate;

(o) To cooperate closely with relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies in providing information on the measures taken by Member States on kidnapping and hostage-taking for ransom by Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it, and on relevant trends and developments in this area;

(p) To encourage Member States to submit names and additional identifying information for inclusion on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, as instructed by the Committee;

(q) To present to the Committee additional identifying and other information to assist the Committee in its efforts to keep the Al-Qaida Sanctions List as updated and accurate as possible;

(r) To encourage Member States to provide information to the Monitoring Team that is relevant to the fulfilment of its mandate, as appropriate;

(s) To study and report to the Committee on the changing nature of the threat of Al-Qaida and the best measures to confront it, including by developing, within existing resources, a dialogue with relevant scholars, academic bodies and experts through an annual workshop and/or other appropriate means, in consultation with the Committee;

(t) To collate, assess, monitor and report on and make recommendations regarding implementation of the measures, including implementation of the measure in paragraph 1 (a) of this resolution as it pertains to preventing the criminal misuse of the Internet by Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it; to pursue case studies, as appropriate; and to explore in depth any other relevant issues as directed by the Committee;

(u) To consult with Member States and other relevant organizations, including through regular dialogue with representatives in New York and in capitals, taking into account their comments, especially regarding any issues that might be reflected in the reports of the Monitoring Team referred to in paragraph (a) of this annex, such as gaps and challenges in implementation by States of the measures in this resolution;

(v) To consult, in confidence, with Member States' intelligence and security services, including through regional forums, in order to facilitate the sharing of information and to strengthen implementation of the measures;

(w) To consult with relevant representatives of the private sector, including financial institutions and relevant non-financial businesses and professions, to learn about the practical implementation of the assets freeze and to develop recommendations for the strengthening of the implementation of that measure;

(x) To consult with the relevant representatives of the private sector, in coordination with national authorities, as appropriate, to promote awareness of, and enhance compliance with, the travel ban and the arms embargo;

(y) To consult with relevant representatives of international organizations, including the International Air Transport Association, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Customs Organization, to promote awareness of, and enhance compliance with, the travel ban and the arms embargo;

(z) To work with relevant international and regional organizations in order to promote awareness of, and compliance with, the measures;

(aa) To assist the Committee in facilitating assistance on capacity-building for enhancing implementation of the measures, upon request by Member States;

(bb) To work with INTERPOL and Member States to obtain photographs and, in accordance with their national legislation, biometric information of listed individuals for possible inclusion in INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, and to work with INTERPOL to ensure that Special Notices exist for all listed individuals, groups, undertakings and entities;

(cc) To assist other subsidiary bodies of the Council, and their expert panels, upon request, with enhancing their cooperation with INTERPOL, referred to in resolution 1699(2006), and to work with the Secretariat to standardize the format of all United Nations sanctions lists so as to facilitate implementation by national authorities;

(dd) To report to the Committee, on a regular basis or when the Committee so requests, through oral and/or written briefings on the work of the Monitoring Team, including its visits to Member States and its activities;

(ee) To report periodically, as appropriate, to the Committee on linkages between Al-Qaida and those individuals, groups, undertakings or entities eligible for listing under paragraph 1 of resolution 2082(2012) or any other relevant sanctions resolutions; and

(ff) Any other responsibility identified by the Committee.

ANNEX II

In accordance with paragraph 41 of this resolution, the Office of the Ombudsperson shall be authorized to carry out the following tasks upon receipt of a delisting request

submitted by, or on behalf of, an individual, group, undertaking or entity on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List or by the legal representative or estate of such individual, group, undertaking or entity (the petitioner).

The Security Council recalls that Member States are not permitted to submit delisting petitions on behalf of an individual, group, undertaking or entity to the Office of the Ombudsperson.

Information gathering (four months)

1. Upon receipt of a delisting request, the Ombudsperson shall:

(a) Acknowledge to the petitioner the receipt of the delisting request;

(b) Inform the petitioner of the general procedure for processing delisting requests;

(c) Answer specific questions from the petitioner about Committee procedures;

(d) Inform the petitioner in case the petition fails to properly address the original listing criteria, as set forth in paragraph 2 of this resolution, and return it to the petitioner for his or her consideration; and

(e) Verify if the request is a new request or a repeated request and, if it is a repeated request to the Ombudsperson and it does not contain relevant additional information, return it to the petitioner, with an appropriate explanation, for his or her consideration.

2. For delisting petitions not returned to the petitioner, the Ombudsperson shall immediately forward the delisting request to the members of the Committee, designating State(s), State(s) of residence and nationality or incorporation, relevant United Nations bodies and any other States deemed relevant by the Ombudsperson. The Ombudsperson shall ask these States or relevant United Nations bodies to provide, within four months, any appropriate additional information relevant to the delisting request. The Ombudsperson may engage in dialogue with these States to determine:

(a) The opinions of these States on whether the delisting request should be granted; and

(b) Information, questions or requests for clarifications that these States would like to be communicated to the petitioner regarding the delisting request, including any information or steps that might be taken by a petitioner to clarify the delisting request.

3. Where all designating States consulted by the Ombudsperson do not object to the petitioner's delisting, the Ombudsperson may shorten the information-gathering period, as appropriate.

4. The Ombudsperson shall also immediately forward the delisting request to the Monitoring Team, which shall provide to the Ombudsperson, within four months:

(a) All information available to the Monitoring Team that is relevant to the delisting request, including court decisions and proceedings, news reports and information that States or relevant international organizations have previously shared with the Committee or the Monitoring Team;

(b) Fact-based assessments of the information provided by the petitioner that is relevant to the delisting request; and

(c) Questions or requests for clarifications that the Monitoring Team would like asked of the petitioner regarding the delisting request.

5. At the end of this four-month period of information-gathering, the Ombudsperson shall present a written update to the Committee on progress to date, including details regarding which States have supplied information, and any significant challenges encountered therein. The Ombudsperson may extend this period once for up to two months if he or she assesses that more time is required for information-gathering, giving due consideration to requests by Member States for additional time to provide information.

Dialogue (two months)

6. Upon completion of the information-gathering period, the Ombudsperson shall facilitate a two-month period of engagement, which may include dialogue with the petitioner. Giving due consideration to requests for additional time, the Ombudsperson may extend this period once for up to two months if he or she assesses that more time is required for engagement and the drafting of the comprehensive report described in paragraph 8 below. The Ombudsperson may shorten this time period if he or she assesses that less time is required.

7. During this period of engagement, the Ombudsperson:

(a) May submit questions, either orally or in writing, to the petitioner, or request additional information or clarifications that may help the Committee's consideration of the request, including any questions or information requests received from relevant States, the Committee and the Monitoring Team;

(b) Should request from the petitioner a signed statement in which the petitioner declares that they have no ongoing association with Al-Qaida, or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof, and undertakes not to associate with Al-Qaida in the future;

(c) Should meet with the petitioner, to the extent possible;

(d) Shall forward replies from the petitioner back to relevant States, the Committee and the Monitoring Team and follow up with the petitioner in connection with incomplete responses by the petitioner;

(e) Shall coordinate with States, the Committee and the Monitoring Team regarding any further inquiries of, or response to, the petitioner;

(f) During the information-gathering or dialogue phase, the Ombudsperson may share with relevant States information provided by a State, including that State's position on the delisting request, if the State which provided the information consents;

(g) In the course of the information-gathering and dialogue phases and in the preparation of the report, the Ombudsperson shall not disclose any information shared by a State on a confidential basis, without the express written consent of that State; and

(h) During the dialogue phase, the Ombudsperson shall give serious consideration to the opinions of designating States, as well as other Member States that come forward with relevant information, in particular those Member States most affected by acts or associations that led to the original listing.

8. Upon completion of the period of engagement described above, the Ombudsperson, with the help of the Monitoring Team, as appropriate, shall draft and circulate to the Committee a comprehensive report that will exclusively:

(a) Summarize and, as appropriate, specify the sources of, all information available to the Ombudsperson that is relevant to the delisting request. The report shall respect confidential elements of Member States' communications with the Ombudsperson;

(b) Describe the activities of the Ombudsperson with respect to this delisting request, including dialogue with the petitioner; and

(c) Based on an analysis of all the information available to the Ombudsperson and the recommendation of the Ombudsperson, lay out for the Committee the principal arguments concerning the delisting request. The recommendation should state the views of the Ombudsperson with respect to the listing as of the time of the examination of the delisting request.

Committee discussion

9. After the Committee has had 15 days to review the comprehensive report in all official languages of the United Nations, the Chair of the Committee shall place the delisting request on the agenda of the Committee for consideration.

10. When the Committee considers the delisting request, the Ombudsperson shall present the comprehensive report in person and answer Committee members' questions regarding the request.

11. Committee consideration of the comprehensive report shall be completed no later than 30 days from the date the comprehensive report is submitted to the Committee for its review.

12. After the Committee has completed its consideration of the comprehensive report, the Ombudsperson may notify all relevant States of the recommendation.

13. Upon the request of a designating State or State of nationality, residence or incorporation, and with the approval of the Committee, the Ombudsperson may provide a copy of the comprehensive report, with any redactions deemed necessary by the Committee, to such States, along with a notification to such States confirming that:

(a) All decisions to release information from the comprehensive reports of the Ombudsperson, including the scope of information, are made by the Committee at its discretion and on a case-by-case basis;

(b) The comprehensive report reflects the basis for the recommendation of the Ombudsperson and is not attributable to any individual Committee member; and

(c) The comprehensive report, and any information contained therein, should be treated as strictly confidential and not shared with the petitioner or any other Member State without the approval of the Committee.

14. In cases where the Ombudsperson recommends retaining the listing, the requirement for States to take the measures in paragraph 1 of this resolution shall remain in place with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity, unless a Committee member submits a delisting request, which the Committee shall consider under its normal consensus procedures.

15. In cases where the Ombudsperson recommends that the Committee consider delisting, the requirement for States to take the measures described in paragraph 1 of this resolution shall terminate with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity 60 days after the Committee completes consideration of a comprehensive report of the

Ombudsperson, in accordance with this annex, including paragraph 7 (h), unless the Committee decides by consensus before the end of that 60-day period that the requirement shall remain in place with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity; provided that, in cases where consensus does not exist, the Chair shall, on the request of a Committee member, submit the question of whether to delist that individual, group, undertaking or entity to the Security Council for a decision within a period of 60 days; and provided further that, in the event of such a request, the requirement for States to take the measures described in paragraph 1 of this resolution shall remain in force for that period with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity until the question is decided by the Council.

16. Following the conclusion of the process described in paragraphs 42 and 43 of this resolution, the Committee shall convey to the Ombudsperson, within 60 days, whether the measures described in paragraph 1 of this resolution are to be retained or terminated, setting out reasons and including any further relevant information, and an updated narrative summary of reasons for listing, where appropriate, for the Ombudsperson to transmit to the petitioner. The 60-day deadline applies to outstanding matters before the Ombudsperson or the Committee and will take effect from the adoption of this resolution.

17. After the Ombudsperson receives the communication from the Committee under paragraph 16 above, if the measures in paragraph 1 of this resolution are to be retained, the Ombudsperson shall send to the petitioner, with an advance copy sent to the Committee, a letter that:

(a) Communicates the outcome of the petition;

(b) Describes, to the extent possible and drawing upon the comprehensive report of the Ombudsperson, the process and the publicly releasable factual information gathered by the Ombudsperson; and

(c) Forwards from the Committee all information about the decision provided to the Ombudsperson pursuant to paragraph 16 above.

18. In all communications with the petitioner, the Ombudsperson shall respect the confidentiality of Committee deliberations and confidential communications between the Ombudsperson and Member States.

19. The Ombudsperson may notify the petitioner, as well as those States relevant to a case but which are not members of the Committee, of the stage the process has reached.

Other tasks of the Office of the Ombudsperson

20. In addition to the tasks specified above, the Ombudsperson shall:

(a) Distribute publicly releasable information about Committee procedures, including Committee guidelines, fact sheets and other documents prepared by the Committee;

(b) Where address is known, notify individuals or entities about the status of their listing, after the Secretariat has officially notified the permanent mission of the State or States, pursuant to paragraph 39 of this resolution; and

(c) Submit biannual reports summarizing the activities of the Ombudsperson to the Council.

On 28 July, the Council adopted a presidential statement **S/PRST/2014/14** (see p. 131), in which it expressed grave concern over the reports of the access to and seizure of oilfields and pipelines in the Syrian

Arab Republic and Iraq by terrorist groups listed by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 265] and 1989(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 341], namely Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Jabhat al-Nusra, and condemned any engagement in direct or indirect trade of oil from Syria and Iraq involving terrorist groups.

On 15 August, by **resolution 2170(2014)** (see p. 131), the Council imposed the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo on individuals associated with Al-Qaida, ISIL and Al-Nusrah Front (ANF). The Monitoring Team was also directed to report to the Committee within ninety days on the threat posed by ISIL and ANF.

On 24 September, by **resolution 2178(2014)** (see p. 135), the Council decided that with regard to foreign terrorist fighters, Member States should prevent and suppress recruiting, organizing, transporting or equipping; prevent and suppress financing; and prevent travel. The Monitoring Team was also requested to report to the Committee on the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters recruited by or joining ISIL, ANF and all groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida.

On 19 November, the Council adopted a presidential statement **S/PRST/2014/23** (see p. 139) setting out steps for the implementation of **resolutions 2170(2014)** and **2178(2014)**. The Council also expressed its determination to consider listing pursuant to resolution 2161(2014) individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida who were financing, arming, planning, or recruiting for them, or otherwise supporting their acts or activities.

Activities of Sanctions Committees

Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee

In December [S/2014/923], the Security Council Committee, pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities (Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee), reported on its 2014 activities. The Committee met 12 times in informal consultations throughout the year. Its work included reviewing and updating the sanctions list; considering exemptions from the sanctions measures; considering the reports of the Monitoring Team and Ombudsperson; briefings by the Chair of the Committee to the Security Council; participating in an open briefing during the General Assembly review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as in joint consultations on Yemen; and transmitting communications to Member States and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) regarding the implementation of the sanctions measures.

Reports of Ombudsperson. On 31 January [S/2014/73], the Ombudsperson submitted her seventh

report pursuant to Council resolution 2083(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 314], in which she reviewed the activities carried out by the Office from 1 August 2013 to 31 January 2014. During that period, two new delisting cases were submitted to the Office, both of which were accepted. One of the requests was made by an individual, while the other was made on behalf of an entity. Eleven reports were submitted to the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee during that period and the Ombudsperson appeared before it on five occasions to present eight cases. Since the issuance of the sixth report [YUN 2013, p. 326], six individuals and three entities had been delisted through the Ombudsperson process. In one additional case, a separate Committee decision resulted in the delisting of an individual during an active Ombudsperson case.

In her eighth report [S/2014/553], submitted on 31 July, the Ombudsperson reviewed the Office's activities from 1 February to 31 July 2014. Four new cases, presented by individuals, were submitted to the Office, all of which were accepted. This brought the total number of delisting petitions submitted since the establishment of the Office to 55 as at 31 July. Four reports were submitted to the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee during that period and the Ombudsperson appeared before it on four occasions to present five cases. Since the issuance of seventh report (see above), two individuals had been delisted through the Ombudsperson process and three requests had been denied.

In a later report [S/2015/80] covering the period 1 August 2014 to 31 January 2015, the Ombudsperson provided an update on the delisting cases.

Communication. By a 17 April letter [S/2014/286], Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland transmitted to the Security Council a paper entitled "Improving fair and clear procedures for a more effective United Nations sanctions system", concerning the implementation of the Council's sanctions regimes, particularly sanctions on Al-Qaida.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988(2011)

In December, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 337] submitted a report [S/2014/924] on its activities in 2014. The Committee met five times in informal consultations during the year. Its work included reviewing and updating the sanctions list; considering exemptions from the sanctions measures; considering the reports of the Monitoring Team; and transmitting communications to Member States and INTERPOL regarding the implementation of the sanctions measures. At the end of the reporting period, there were 134 individuals and 94 entities listed under the Taliban

sanctions regime. During the reporting period, the Committee delisted an individual and listed four individuals under the Taliban sanctions regime.

Monitoring Team

The Security Council, in resolutions 1988(2011) and 1989(2011), decided that the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team would support both the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988(2011) and the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) (the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee).

In addition to the periodic reports, the Monitoring Team was requested to submit specialized reports on the threat posed by ISIL and ANF, by **resolution 2170(2014)** (see p. 131), and foreign terrorist fighters, by **resolution 2178(2014)** (see p. 135).

Reports to Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee

On 22 January, the Chair of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee transmitted to the Council the fifteenth report [S/2014/41] of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. The report identified three specific approaches to enhance sanctions implementation: deterring ransom payments to Al-Qaida and its affiliates to advance the assets freeze; using biometrics and changes to national inadmissible passenger criteria to advance the travel ban against listed individuals; and improving analysis of and measures to limit component availability for improvised explosive devices used by Al-Qaida and its affiliates. The report made recommendations for consideration by the Committee. The Monitoring Team focused on implementing the recommendations of the June 2013 report, most of which had been endorsed by the Committee. On 21 August, the Chair of the Committee transmitted to the Council its position on the recommendations contained in the Monitoring Team's fifteenth report [S/2014/620].

On 27 October, the Chair of the Committee submitted to the Council the Monitoring Team's sixteenth report [S/2014/770], which noted the increasing challenges of tackling foreign terrorist fighters and boosting efforts to counter violent extremism. The report provided an assessment of how the threat from Al-Qaida and its associates had evolved; charted the evolution of the sanctions regime; and outlined current work by the Team, including initial findings on foreign terrorist fighters and a case study on kidnap-for-ransom. The Team made recommendations to the Committee with regards to sanctions measures concerning assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

Reports to Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988(2011)

On 11 April, the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 1988(2011) trans-

mitted its position on the recommendations contained in the Monitoring Team's third report [S/2014/283].

On 9 June, the Chair of the Committee transmitted to the Council the fourth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team [S/2014/402]. The Monitoring Team recommended steps to disrupt Taliban income from illegal mining; informal translations of the sanctions list into Dari and Pashto to improve national implementation; and intensified work with INTERPOL and other international organizations to improve implementation of the sanctions measures.

On 11 December, the Chair of the Committee submitted to the Council the Monitoring Team's fifth report [S/2014/888]. The Monitoring Team informed that it had continued to receive a steady—albeit officially unconfirmed—flow of media reports indicating that some listed individuals had become increasingly adept at circumventing the sanctions measures, the travel ban in particular.

Reports to Committee established pursuant to resolution 2170(2014)

On 13 November, the Chair of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee transmitted to the Council the report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team on the threat posed by ISIL and ANF for the People of the Levant [S/2014/815], submitted in accordance with **resolution 2170(2014)**. The Monitoring Team made 10 recommendations for consideration by the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, which included proposals for three enhanced sanctions measures to address the threat. The Monitoring Team indicated that sanctions alone were insufficient to fully respond to the threat posed by ISIL and ANF, rather, a comprehensive approach was required, which would integrate multilateral strategies with national action by Member States.

Iraq

In 2014, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq continued to support the country in its transition to democratic governance and in promoting reconstruction and reconciliation.

During the year, Iraq witnessed a significant deterioration in the security situation, owing to the increased activity of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Despite this, the Council of Representatives elections were held on 30 April. The formation of the new Government and the adoption of its ministerial programme in September was a significant step towards promoting stability in Iraq, and was universally welcomed by the international community. During the year, regional and international partners increased their support for Iraq in its fight against ISIL.

ISIL and associated armed groups, however, continued to control large parts of the west and north of the country, where they inflicted civilian casualties, caused massive displacement and perpetrated systematic human rights violations that might amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity. Relations between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government faced challenges, arising from the period prior to the transfer of power. The year's end, however, witnessed a new era of political compromise and strengthened partnership between Baghdad and Erbil, particularly after the conclusion of a landmark agreement on energy exports and revenue-sharing marking a key achievement towards national reconciliation.

On 10 January, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement S/PRST/2014/1 (see below), in which it condemned the attacks perpetrated by the Al-Qaida affiliate, ISIL, against the people of Iraq in an attempt to destabilize the country and region. On 19 September, the Council adopted S/PRST/2014/20 (see p. 459), in which it welcomed the newly formed Government of Iraq and called on the international community to support its efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, maintain security and combat terrorism. On 30 July, the Council, by resolution 2169(2014) (see p. 457), extended the mandate of UNAMI until 31 July 2015.

Political and security developments

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 10 January [meeting 7093], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/1** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council deplores in the strongest terms the recent events in the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah in Anbar province in Iraq. The Council condemns the attacks that are being perpetrated by Al-Qaida affiliate, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, against the people of Iraq in an attempt to destabilize the country and region. The Council recognizes that Iraqi security forces, local police and tribes in Anbar province are showing great courage as they fight to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant in their cities.

The Council urges the people of Iraq, including Iraqi tribes, local leaders and Iraqi security forces in Anbar province, to continue, expand and strengthen their cooperation against violence and terror and it stresses the critical importance of continued national dialogue and unity. The Council welcomes comments from Grand Ayatollah Sistani welcoming internally displaced residents of Anbar to Najaf and Karbala, as well as the commitment of a number of communities—Sunni, Shia and Kurd—to meet the needs of the displaced.

The Council expresses its strong support for the continued efforts of the Government of Iraq to help to meet the security needs of the entire population of Iraq.

In this regard, the Council acknowledges the efforts of the Iraqi security forces and Iraqi local police, whose members are also being targeted and killed in ongoing attacks by terrorists. The Council welcomes the commitment of the Government in the protection of the civilian population in Fallujah and elsewhere and to the provision of humanitarian relief, and encourages the Government to continue to work with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and humanitarian agencies to ensure the delivery of humanitarian relief. The Council expresses concern about the impact of the violence on civilians, and encourages the safe passage of civilians trapped in conflict areas, as well as the safe return of internally displaced persons as conditions allow.

The Council stresses the critical importance of continued national dialogue and unity, an inclusive political process, the holding of free and fair elections in April 2014 and the right to peaceful protest as guaranteed under the Iraqi Constitution. The Council believes that this is vital to underpin a unified national stance against terrorism and to ensure the long-term security of Iraq.

The Council reaffirms the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with Iraqi authorities in this regard.

The Council reaffirms that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (QE.J.115.04) is subject to the arms embargo and assets freeze imposed by Council resolutions 1267(1999) and 2083(2012) and underlines the importance of prompt and effective implementation of these measures.

The Council reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. The Council reminds States that they must ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

The Council reaffirms its support for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. The Council reiterates that no terrorist act can reverse the path towards peace, democracy and reconstruction in Iraq, which is supported by the people and the Government of Iraq and the international community.

Report of Secretary-General (March). In his second report [S/2014/190], submitted pursuant to Council resolution 2110(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 328], the Secretary-General indicated that Iraq had witnessed a significant deterioration in the security situation, especially in Anbar and adjacent governorates, owing to the increased activity of ISIL, which prompted the Government of Iraq to intensify operations against terrorists and militant groups in Anbar. Following Prime Minister al-Maliki's visit to Anbar on 15 February, the Council of Ministers adopted a plan that included providing funds for reconstruction and compensation for damaged property, integrating tribes-

men who had fought alongside the Government into the local police and resettling displaced families. Terrorist attacks had also occurred in the outskirts of Baghdad International Airport; on 31 January, four rockets landed on the airport terminal, damaging two Iraqi Airways aircraft and causing injuries to two civilians. Five waves of coordinated attacks occurred in Baghdad as well, including two suicide attacks near the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 February and two indirect fire attacks targeted the international zone on 4 February.

The Secretary-General conducted visits to Bagdad and Erbil on 13 and 14 January, respectively, at which he urged senior Iraqi leaders to unite in tackling the security challenges and reiterated the importance of addressing the root causes of violence and unrest, including long-standing grievances and the unachieved political reconciliation. Despite the deteriorating security situation, preparations for the Council of Representatives elections scheduled for 30 April were on track. On 2 January, the Independent High Electoral Commission concluded its accreditation of political entities and coalitions for the elections with 718 candidates, including 224 women, running for 81 seats. In consultation with the Commission, UNAMI was expanding its electoral assistance capacity in Erbil and could cover Kirkuk if necessary, and continued to facilitate communication and the sharing of information with interested actors to encourage and strengthen observation for the electoral process by national entities. On 6 February, the Government of Iraq launched a national action plan to implement Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113] on women, peace and security, the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa.

The ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic had an adverse impact on the security, humanitarian and political situation in Iraq. The expanding campaign of ISIL prompted the Government of Iraq to call upon the international community to support the country's counter-terrorism efforts. On 15 January, the Prime Minister appealed to countries in the region to impede the financial transactions of ISIL. At the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference on Syria, held in Kuwait on 15 January, Iraq pledged a contribution of \$13 million to assist Syrian refugees and internally displaced Syrians.

On 5 January, the Secretary-General appointed Jane Hall Lute as Special Adviser for the Relocation of Camp Hurriya Residents Outside of Iraq. On 28 January, the Government of Iraq approved a contribution of \$500,000 to the United Nations trust fund for the relocation of camp residents outside Iraq.

The Secretary-General stressed the gravity of the political and security challenges in Iraq, which could have devastating and lasting implications for the country's long-term stability. He maintained that it was vital that democratic processes in Iraq prevail

despite the security challenges, and encouraged the political leadership to remain committed to holding the parliamentary elections throughout Iraq on 30 April. He also urged the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to intensify their efforts to negotiate an agreement on all outstanding issues, including oil exports and a budget, and to formalize draft laws on hydrocarbons and revenue-sharing. The humanitarian situation in Anbar was of serious concern, as residents were caught up in the fighting and more than 360,000 people had been displaced. Furthermore, the Secretary-General urged the Government of Iraq, in collaboration with local authorities, to facilitate the formation of safe-access corridors to enable the provision of humanitarian assistance to residents. The Secretary-General expressed support for Iraq's fight against terrorism and appealed to national and local institutions and actors to forge an effective partnership in restoring law and order in Anbar and to stem the spread of violence to other parts of the country. The Government of Iraq was encouraged to exercise restraint in carrying out military operations and federal and local actors were urged to do everything possible to protect civilians in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law. Members of the international community were called on to support the efforts of Iraq to stem the spread of terrorism, in compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Secretary-General was disappointed about the continued absence of a status-of-mission agreement and reiterated his call for the support of the Government of Iraq in ensuring the finalization, signing and entry into force of the status-of-mission agreement for UNAMI without further delay.

Security Council consideration. On 27 March [S/PV.7149], the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNAMI, Nickolay Mladenov, who stated that as divisions continued to plague Iraqi politics, the ongoing conflict in Syria had added a regional dimension to sectarian tensions and was affording terrorist networks the occasion to forge links across the border and expand their support base. He further stressed that, while the United Nations would continue to support Iraq, the challenges ahead could not be resolved without dialogue and concessions.

Communications. By a 25 June letter [S/2014/440], Iraq wrote to the Secretary-General on military operations by ISIL in Mosul, Anbar and other areas of Iraq and requested urgent assistance from the international community.

By a 30 June letter [S/2014/457], Iraq reported on the looting of some of the project equipment and appliances by armed terrorists on 11 June, and of the Muthanna project, where remnants of the former chemical weapons programme were kept.

By an 8 July letter [S/2014/481], Iraq provided information with regard to the events in June that took place in the Governorate of Ninewa, and, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article V of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, information that terrorist groups had seized control of nuclear material at the sites that came out of the control of the State and specifically at the University of Mosul.

Report of Secretary-General (July). In his third report [S/2014/485], submitted pursuant to Council resolution 2110(2013), the Secretary-General stated that the already precarious security situation in Iraq had worsened when ISIL and other armed elements took control of key cities and infrastructure in Iraq's north-western and north-central governorates, in particular in Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Anbar and Diyala provinces, causing significant civilian casualties and displacement and raising serious human rights concerns. Despite fragmentation in some of Iraq's main coalitions, a total of 9,043 registered candidates from 107 political entities and coalitions stood for the 328 seats in the Council of Representatives, compared with more than 6,000 candidates from 86 political entities and coalitions who stood for 325 seats in 2010. During the last week of electoral campaigning, covering the period from 1 to 29 April, there were intimidations and attacks on some candidates and campaign events, including an attack targeting a political rally in Baghdad on 25 April, which killed 35 and wounded 102. In accordance with the UNAMI mandate, the United Nations integrated electoral assistance team, continued to provide substantive advice and technical assistance to the Independent High Electoral Commission throughout the electoral process. Less than 1 per cent of polling stations failed to open for security reasons. Owing to the security situation, turnout rates were lowest in Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Diyala governorates, averaging 54.5 per cent. On the other hand special voting saw a turnout of 77 per cent of eligible voters and 62 per cent of eligible voters cast their vote in the Council of Representatives elections. The overall turnout for the Governorate Council elections in the Kurdistan Region was 76 per cent. The Supreme Federal Court certified the final results on 16 June. The State of Law Coalition emerged as the largest parliamentary bloc, winning 92 (28 per cent) of the 328 seats in the Council of Representatives while the Ahrar, Nukhab and National Partnership Coalitions secured 34 seats (10 per cent); the Mouwaten Coalition won 28 seats (8 per cent); the Sunni coalitions Moutahidoun and Wataniya each obtained 22 seats (7 per cent); al-Arabiya gained 10 seats (3 per cent); two major Kurdish parties, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, each won 19 seats (6 per cent); Gorran won 9 seats (3 per cent); and the remaining 73 seats (22 per cent) went to more than 20 other coalitions and parties,

including eight quota seats allocated to the Christian, Shabak and Turkmen minorities. On 1 July, the Council of Representatives held its inaugural session where 255 of the 328 newly elected Representatives attended. On 22 May, the Independent High Electoral Commission announced the provisional results for the Governorate Council elections in the Kurdistan Region. On 20 May, the Parliament re-elected Nechirvan Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party as Kurdistan Region Prime Minister and voted for Qubad Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan as Deputy Prime Minister. The new Kurdistan Region Council of Ministers was sworn in on 18 June.

The security situation in Iraq's west and north-western governorates, in particular Anbar and Ninewa, continued to pose a threat to the country's stability. The governorates worst affected by violence were Baghdad, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Diyala, Kirkuk, Babil and Wasit. On 1 July, UNAMI reported that in June alone, at least 2,417 people had been killed and 2,287 injured in Iraq. In Anbar, ISIL and other armed groups continued to engage in heavy fighting with Iraqi security forces in the Fallujah-Ramadi corridor. Although Iraqi security forces regained control of central Ramadi, Fallujah continued to remain largely in the hands of insurgents. In June, ISIL-led armed elements launched attacks in Samarra, Mosul, Baquba and Ramadi, which resulted in their taking control of several major cities, including Mosul, Tikrit and Haditha, as well as key infrastructure. More than half a million Iraqis had been internally displaced by the new wave of violence.

Iraq continued to face the challenge of the pending adoption of its national budget for 2014, more than six months into the financial year, owing to disagreements between the central Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government over provisions in the budget bill relating to oil export sales targets. On 22 May, the Kurdistan Regional Government announced that it had commenced oil exports through the Ceyhan pipeline into Turkey, independently of the Iraqi State Oil Marketing Organization.

The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to impact Iraq, with a flow of militants, weapons and supplies across the Iraqi-Syrian border. Cross-border activities by ISIL had led to at least one major attack by Iraqi security forces inside Syrian territory. The advances by ISIL following the takeover of Mosul on 9 June resulted in the capture by armed groups of the Al Qaim and Al Rabiya border crossings between Syria and Iraq.

During the reporting period, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran enhanced their cooperation on judicial and economic matters. The Iranian Minister of Justice visit to Baghdad on 8 April was followed by a visit to Iran by Iraq's Chief Justice, Medhat al-Mahmoud, on 17 April, whereby memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the last

of a series of judicial agreements between the two countries was signed. On 11 May, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Acting Minister of Finance held discussions with Iranian counterparts and signed several economic cooperation instruments, including a bilateral protocol for economic and investment cooperation.

Communities in Iraq continued to suffer from acts of violence and insecurity based on their ethnic and religious affiliations, particularly members of the Turkmen, Yazidi, Shabak and Christian communities. On 1 April, the Council of Ministers approved the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women (2014–2018), complementing the national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113], which was launched by the Government in February.

UNAMI continued to monitor the human rights and humanitarian situation of the residents of Camp Hurriya and to facilitate solutions to camp management issues between the Government of Iraq and the residents' representatives. On 23 April, the Government of Iraq completed the installation of 1,488 large "T-walls" around 15 assembly areas within Camp Hurriya to increase residents' security. A meeting was held in Geneva on 26 June, under the auspices of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Relocation of Camp Hurriya Residents Outside of Iraq, to discuss relocation opportunities for Camp Hurriya residents, with some 20 Member States and several international organizations in attendance.

The Secretary-General expressed concern regarding the rapidly deteriorating security situation, where ISIL-led armed elements had taken control of large swathes of territory and called upon Member States, including Iraq's neighbours, to come together and support Iraq in its fight against terrorism. He observed that terrorists' use of water as a weapon, which had led to deliberate flooding and consequent displacement of people and destruction of property, presented a dangerous trend. The Secretary-General commended the Independent High Electoral Commission for having conducted the Council of Representatives elections with professionalism. He also outlined that the next steps towards an immediate and long-term solution should include a broad-based national security plan with explicit guidelines for cooperation between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government; an action plan to address the threat posed by all armed groups, based on a comprehensive assessment of the armed groups that fought together with ISIL; a sustainable and inclusive political process with the speedy formation of a new government; and an equitable social policy to address the concerns of all communities.

Communication. By a 22 July letter [S/2014/523], Iraq transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter

from the Deputy Prime Minister and acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, conveying the wish of the Government of Iraq that the mandate of UNAMI be extended for a further period of one year.

Security Council consideration. On 23 July [S/PV.7224], the Security Council held a briefing, followed by consultations, on the situation in Iraq. In his briefing, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNAMI, Nickolay Mladenov, reported that ISIL was now in control of about one-third of the country, committing gross violations of human rights, including the persecution of ethnic and religious minorities. He further highlighted the importance of a political road map and a comprehensive vision for re-engaging all communities in the country's decision-making process, adding that the impasse between Baghdad and Erbil must be solved immediately.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 30 July [meeting 7230], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2169(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/540] was submitted by the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous relevant resolutions on Iraq, in particular resolutions 1500(2003) of 14 August 2003, 1546(2004) of 8 June 2004, 1557(2004) of 12 August 2004, 1619(2005) of 11 August 2005, 1700(2006) of 10 August 2006, 1770(2007) of 10 August 2007, 1830(2008) of 7 August 2008, 1883(2009) of 7 August 2009, 1936(2010) of 5 August 2010, 2001(2011) of 28 July 2011, 2061(2012) of 25 July 2012 and 2110(2013) of 24 July 2013, and resolution 2107(2013) of 27 June 2013 on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait,

Reaffirming the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq,

Emphasizing the importance of the stability and security of Iraq for the people of Iraq, the region and the international community,

Expressing grave concern at the current security situation in Iraq as a result of a large-scale offensive carried out by terrorist groups, in particular the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, and associated armed groups, involving a steep escalation of attacks, heavy human casualties, including children, the displacement of more than one million Iraqi civilians, and the threats against all religious and ethnic groups, condemning the attacks perpetrated by these terrorist groups and associated armed groups, in particular the events in Anbar province in January 2014 and the city of Mosul and other parts of the country in June 2014 by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant against the people of Iraq in an attempt to destabilize the country and region, and reiterating its commitment to the security and territorial integrity of Iraq,

Noting that the advance of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant on the sovereign territory of Iraq is a major threat to the future of Iraq, underscoring that the only way to address this threat is for all Iraqis to work together by addressing needs in the security as well as the political realm, stressing that the long-term solution to the instability will require the political leadership of Iraq to make decisions

that will unite the country, and emphasizing the importance of the international community supporting Iraq in this regard,

Calling upon all political entities to overcome divisions and work together in an inclusive and timely political process aimed at strengthening the national unity, sovereignty and independence of Iraq, and for Iraq's leaders to engage, as quickly as possible, to form a Government that represents the will and sovereignty of all segments of the Iraqi population and that would contribute to finding a viable and sustainable solution to the country's current challenges, and reaffirming its belief that through its democratic institutions, in cooperation with Iraqi society, Iraq can work to address the challenges facing the country for the benefit of all Iraqis,

Underscoring the need for all segments of the Iraqi population to participate in the political process, in an inclusive political dialogue and in the economic and social life of Iraq, to refrain from statements and actions which could aggravate tensions, to reach a comprehensive solution on the fair distribution of resources, and to ensure stability and develop a just and fair solution for the nation's disputed internal boundaries and work to strengthen national unity, and stressing the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive Iraqi-led political process to support dialogue for all those who renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, and respect the Constitution,

Reiterating its praise for the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq, the Iraqi security forces and the Iraqi people, candidates and coalitions for the successful holding of parliamentary elections despite the security challenges that Iraq faces,

Encouraging the Government of Iraq to continue strengthening democracy and the rule of law, improving security and public order, combating terrorism and sectarian violence and countering incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance across the country, and reiterating its support to the people and the Government of Iraq in their efforts to build a secure, stable, federal, united and democratic nation, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights,

Emphasizing the need to continue efforts to promote international and regional cooperation aimed at supporting Iraq and to prevent terrorist groups included on the sanctions list established by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1899(2011), in particular the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, from using the territories of Iraq and neighbouring States to carry out violence or other illicit acts to destabilize Iraq and the region, expressing its readiness to sanction further individuals, groups, undertakings and entities that are supporting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, expressing grave concern over reports of access to and seizure of oilfields and pipelines in Iraq by terrorist groups listed by the Committee, strongly condemning any engagement in direct or indirect trade in oil from Iraq involving these terrorist groups, and emphasizing that such engagement constitutes financial support for such terrorists and may lead to further sanctions listings by the Committee,

Reaffirming the importance of the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, in advising, supporting and assisting the Iraqi people, including civil society, and the Government of Iraq

to strengthen democratic institutions, advance inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation according to the Constitution, facilitate regional dialogue, develop processes acceptable to the Government to resolve disputed internal boundaries, aid youth and vulnerable groups, including refugees and internally displaced persons, promote the protection of human rights, gender equality, children and youth and vulnerable groups, and promote judicial and legal reform, and emphasizing the importance of the United Nations, in particular the Mission, prioritizing advice, support and assistance to the Iraqi people, including civil society, and the Government to achieve these goals,

Urging the Government of Iraq to continue to promote and protect human rights and also to consider additional steps to support the Independent High Commission for Human Rights in carrying out its mandate,

Recognizing the efforts of the Government of Iraq in the promotion and protection of the rights of women, and reaffirming its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013, and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, and reiterating the need for the full, equal and effective participation of women; calling upon all parties to protect the civilian population, in particular women and children, especially in the light of recent violence; expressing grave concern at the recruitment and use of children by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and other armed groups in violation of international law; and reaffirming the key role that women can play in re-establishing the fabric of society, and stressing the need for their full political participation, including in peace and political decision-making processes and the development of national strategies in order to take into account their perspectives, and looking forward to the full implementation of Iraq's national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325(2000),

Expressing grave concern for the more than one million individuals seeking refuge in other areas of Iraq, reiterating its gratitude to the host communities, emphasizing the importance of addressing humanitarian issues confronting the Iraqi people, stressing the need to continue to plan and implement a coordinated response and to provide adequate resources to address these issues, encouraging Member States to support the United Nations humanitarian response in Iraq, working with the Government of Iraq, to assist all Iraqi individuals affected by the ongoing conflict, and commending the efforts of Member States that have contributed to the humanitarian effort,

Underscoring the sovereignty of the Government of Iraq, reaffirming that all parties should continue to take all feasible steps and to develop modalities to ensure the protection of affected civilians, including children, women and members of religious and ethnic minority groups, and should create conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons or local integration of internally displaced persons, welcoming commitments and encouraging continued efforts of the Government for the relief of internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees, noting the important role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, based on its mandate, in providing continued advice and support to the Government, in coordination with the Mission, on these issues, and en-

couraging the Government to continue to work with the Mission and humanitarian agencies to ensure the delivery of humanitarian relief to those in need,

Urging all those concerned to comply fully with international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907, as applicable, and to allow full unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to all people in need of assistance and to make available, as far as possible, all facilities necessary for their operations, and to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and United Nations staff, associated personnel and their assets, and also to respect and protect health-care workers and medical transport and facilities,

Recognizing that the situation that now exists in Iraq is significantly different from that which existed at the time of the adoption of resolution 661(1990) on 6 August 1990, and further recognizing the importance of Iraq achieving international standing equal to that which it held prior to the adoption of resolution 661(1990),

Expressing deep gratitude to all the United Nations staff in Iraq for their courageous and tireless efforts, and commending the leadership and good offices role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq until 31 July 2015;

2. *Also decides* that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and the Mission, at the request of the Government of Iraq, and taking into account the letter dated 20 July 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq to the Secretary-General, shall continue to pursue their mandate as stipulated in resolution 2110(2013), and recalls the provisions of resolution 2107(2013);

3. *Recognizes* that security of United Nations personnel is essential for the Mission to carry out its work for the benefit of the people of Iraq, and calls upon the Government of Iraq to continue to provide security and logistical support to the United Nations presence in Iraq;

4. *Welcomes* the contributions of Member States in providing the Mission with the financial, logistical and security resources and support that it needs to fulfil its mission, and calls upon Member States to continue to provide the Mission with sufficient resources and support;

5. *Expresses its intention* to review the mandate of the Mission in 12 months or sooner, if requested by the Government of Iraq;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council every three months on the progress made towards the fulfilment of all the responsibilities of the Mission;

7. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 19 September [meeting 7271], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/20** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the newly formed Government of Iraq and calls upon the international community to support its efforts to strengthen further democratic institutions, to maintain security and

combat terrorism and to create a safe, stable and prosperous future for the people of Iraq. The Council reaffirms its support for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq and reaffirms further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council underscores the need for all segments of the Iraqi population to participate in the political process and engage in political dialogue. The Council is encouraged by the Government of Iraq's commitment to resolve longstanding issues through an inclusive political process and consistent with the Iraqi Constitution and looks forward to implementation of this commitment through its new national agenda. The Council encourages Iraq's leaders to accelerate implementation of this agenda and national reconciliation to address the needs of Iraq's diverse communities.

The Council also urges Member States to work closely with the Government of Iraq to identify how best the international community can aid implementation of the new Iraqi agenda. The Council reaffirms its full support for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq in advising and assisting the Iraqi people and the Government of Iraq in strengthening democratic institutions and advancing inclusive political dialogue.

The Council strongly condemns attacks by terrorist organizations, including the terrorist organization operating under the name "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" and associated armed groups, in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon and emphasizes that this large-scale offensive poses a major threat to the region. The Council expresses again its deep outrage about all Iraqis as well as nationals of other States who have been killed, kidnapped, raped or tortured by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, as well as its recruitment and use of children. The Council stresses the need that those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations or abuses of human rights in Iraq must be held accountable, noting that some of these acts may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Council stresses the need for those responsible for such violations of international humanitarian law or violations or abuses of human rights to be held to account, and calls upon the Government of Iraq and the international community to work towards ensuring that all perpetrators are brought to justice.

The Council welcomes the Government of Iraq's efforts, in association with local and regional authorities, to combat the terrorist threat facing all Iraqis, including members of its ethnic and religious minorities, notably Yezidis and Christians, and women from all communities who have been particularly targeted by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

The Council reaffirms that all parties, including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, associated armed groups and other militias, must respect the human rights of the Iraqi people and abide by all applicable obligations under international humanitarian law, including those protecting the civilian population, by which both official Iraqi forces and Member States that assist them must also abide.

The Council also recognizes the steps taken to address the urgent humanitarian needs of those displaced

by the current conflict. The Council calls for an intensification of these efforts by all parties and urges all Member States to continue to fund the United Nations humanitarian appeals.

The Council urges the international community, in accordance with international law, to further strengthen and expand support for the Government of Iraq as it fights Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated armed groups. The Council welcomes the International Conference on Peace and Security in Iraq that took place in Paris on 15 September 2014 and the summit-level meeting of the Council responding to the global threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters that is scheduled for 24 September 2014.

The Council stresses that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States, as well as international and regional organizations, to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate the terrorist threat.

The Council reiterates the urgent need to stop any direct or indirect trade in oil from Iraq involving Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant with the aim of putting an end to financing terrorism.

The Council supports Iraq's further economic, social, political and diplomatic integration into the region and the international community and calls upon regional States to engage more actively to facilitate this process. The Council recognizes that the situation that now exists in Iraq is significantly different from that which existed at the time of the adoption of resolution 661(1990), and further recognizes the importance of Iraq achieving international standing equal to that which it held prior to the adoption of resolution 661(1990).

The Council reiterates that no terrorist act can reverse the path toward peace, democracy and reconstruction in Iraq, which is supported by the people and the Government of Iraq and by the international community.

Communications. By a 20 September letter [S/2014/691], Iraq transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter from its Minister for Foreign Affairs reaffirming the substance of the letter dated 25 June, in which the international community was requested to support the effort to eradicate ISIL and restore stability to Iraq.

By a 23 September letter [S/2014/695] addressed to the Secretary-General, the United States referred to the letters from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq dated 25 June and 20 September concerning military attacks by ISIL coming out of safe havens in Syria against the Iraqi people; and informed that the United States had initiated military actions in the Syria to eliminate the ISIL threat in Iraq.

Report of Secretary-General (October). In his first report [S/2014/774], submitted pursuant to Council resolution 2169(2014) (see p. 457), the Secretary-General stated that the threat posed by ISIL had continued to undermine the stability and political dynamics of Iraq. The reporting period witnessed a new

stage of political compromise and enhanced national dialogue. Following the inaugural session of the new Council of Representatives on 1 July, Iraqi political blocs embarked on 10 weeks of intense negotiations over the distribution of sovereign and ministerial positions in the Government, which led to the appointment of a new cabinet and the adoption of its ministerial programme on 8 September. The Council of Representatives elected Fuad Masum as the new President of the Republic on 24 July. On 9 September the Council of Ministers established a reconstruction fund to rebuild areas damaged by the conflict and military operations, and further agreed to compensate and facilitate the return home of displaced persons and prepare a national action plan. On 13 September, Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi, announced the halting of shelling and airstrikes against civilian-populated areas and reiterated his commitment to the protection of civilians.

Relations between Baghdad and Erbil continued to face challenges. On 11 July, the Kurdistan Regional Government confirmed that Peshmerga forces had taken full control of oilfields in Kirkuk, which was subsequently condemned by the federal Ministry of Oil.

During the reporting period, ISIL continued to control large swathes of the Country. Between 2 and 7 August, ISIL launched a wave of attacks against Kurdish-controlled areas that resulted in the takeover of a number of towns and villages in the districts of Hamdaniya, Mosul, Sinjar, Shekhan, Tal Afar and Tal Kaif in Ninewa governorate, as well as, temporarily, of the town of Gwer in Makhmour district in Erbil governorate displacing approximately 200,000 people. Between 5 and 12 October, ISIL made further territorial gains in Anbar, and on 11 October, the Anbar Provincial Council requested the Government of Iraq to seek deployments of coalition ground forces to help in the fight against ISIL. The western governorates of Iraq remained largely under the control of ISIL and associated armed groups. At the request of the Government of Iraq, on 8 August the United States started launching targeted airstrikes against ISIL positions. In September and October, other coalition partners joined the air campaign against ISIL targets.

The Secretary-General visited Iraq on 24 July and met national political and religious leaders, including President Fuad Masum.

The armed conflict between the Iraqi security forces and ISIL continued to take a toll on the civilian population of Iraq. Between 11 July and 13 October, at least 3,677 civilians were killed and 5,816 wounded. UNAMI verified that systematic and widespread violations of international law had been perpetrated by ISIL and associated armed groups. Particularly affected were the Turkmen, Shabak, Christian, Yezidi, Sabaeen, Kaka'e, Faili Kurd and Shiite Arab communities. UNAMI had confirmed reports that up to 2,500 women and children had been abducted by ISIL.

Baghdad was rocked by attacks deliberately targeting civilians and public places, the deadliest of which occurred on 22 July, when a double suicide bombing in Baghdad killed at least 29 civilians and wounded 55. Iraq continued to execute persons sentenced to death; since the beginning of 2014, Iraq had carried out 60 executions, including of four men convicted on 16 July under the Anti-Terrorism Law.

As at 18 September, 3,160 residents of Camp Hurriya had been registered with UNHCR, and of those residents 2,733 continued to live in Camp Hurriya. As at 13 October, 395 individuals had been relocated outside Iraq. During the reporting period, the armed conflict continued to exacerbate the humanitarian situation, with over 1.8 million Iraqi citizens displaced since the beginning of 2014.

The Secretary-General urged the international community to extend its support to the new Government and welcomed the order given by the Prime Minister to suspend Iraqi airstrikes in civilian areas and urged the Iraqi authorities to uphold its commitment to the protection of civilians. He further welcomed the commitment of the Prime Minister to resolving the outstanding budgetary disputes between his Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Security Council consideration. On 18 November [S/PV.7314], the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNAMI briefed the Security Council stating that the crisis in Iraq had been further aggravated by the unresolved political, social and economic problems of the country's difficult transition to democracy; by the lack of agreement on the full implementation of the Constitution; by stalled reforms and sectarian differences; and by the country's exposure to the broader regional and global rifts. He added that the Iraqi Government's security strategy to counter ISIL was predicated upon organizing, supporting and integrating local communities into a national system that would allow them to keep their homes safe from terrorism; on restructuring and empowering the armed forces to fight ISIL; on strengthening cooperation with the Peshmerga; and on working with the international coalition and Iraq's allies and neighbours.

Communication. By identical letters dated 25 November [S/2014/851], addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, the United Kingdom stated that, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, the United Kingdom was taking measures in support of the collective self-defence of Iraq as part of international efforts led by the United States. Those measures were in response to request for assistance by Iraq contained in the letter dated 20 September and to enable Iraqi forces to regain control of the borders of Iraq by striking ISIL sites and military strongholds in Syria.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/82], the Secretary-General stated the Government of Iraq had continued to deploy popular mobilization force volunteers and steadily gained the support of tribal fighters to join military operations in areas under ISIL control in Anbar, Ninewa, Diyala, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates. On 6 November, the Government pledged to provide military and financial assistance to local leaders and tribal fighters to aid their fight against ISIL. Furthermore, as part of ongoing efforts to professionalize Iraq's military and security institutions, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi issued an executive order on 12 November retiring a number of senior army officers while transferring others to new posts. On 28 November, the Minister of the Interior announced that responsibility for security in Baghdad would be transferred from the army to the police. On 30 November, Prime Minister al-Abadi informed the Council of Representatives that some 50,000 non-serving Iraqi army soldiers would be removed from the payroll as part of ongoing efforts to counter corruption.

On 1 December, the Prime Minister issued an executive order prohibiting arbitrary arrest and detention in Iraq, mandating the electronic registration of detainees, accelerating the release of detainees already ordered by the courts and criminalizing unlawful imprisonment, abductions and attacks against civilians in line with the Constitution. On 2 December, an agreement was reached between Baghdad and Erbil, covering energy exports, revenue-sharing and the federal bankrolling of Peshmerga salaries—marking a key achievement towards national reconciliation.

During the reporting period, the security situation in Iraq remained volatile, with fighting continuing between ISIL and associated armed groups on the one hand and Iraqi security forces, Peshmerga and allied tribal and volunteer fighters on the other. On 20 November, the Iraqi security forces liberated Sa'adiya district, northeast of Diyala, while on 23 November, Peshmerga forces liberated Jalawla, along Iraq's border with Iran. On 27 December, the Iraqi security forces, aided by volunteer fighters, liberated the village of Yathrib and broke ISIL's siege on the town of Dhuliyah. On 17 December, Peshmerga forces, aided by popular mobilization force volunteers, reportedly regained territory from ISIL in the foothill areas of Sinjar Mountain. Baghdad continued to be afflicted by acts of terrorism; the deadliest incident occurred in Sadr City on 4 December, when 21 civilians were killed and 69 were wounded in two vehicle-borne improvised explosive attacks.

At the international level, the anti-ISIL coalition held a ministerial-level meeting in Brussels on 3 December, at which the representatives of some 60 countries outlined their current and prospective efforts to help Iraq to eliminate the threat of ISIL. Participants welcomed the participation of the Iraqi delegation, headed by the Prime Minister, and expressed

their commitment to implement Security Council **resolutions 2170(2014)** (see p. 131) and **2178(2014)** (see p. 135), as well as other relevant decisions.

On 18 December, the Secretary-General's Special Representative travelled to Erbil to urge the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government to build on the 2 December agreement and to work on resolving longstanding issues with Baghdad. For 2014, UNAMI recorded a total number of 35,408 civilian casualties (12,282 killed and 23,126 injured)—the worst experienced in Iraq since the violence of 2006–2007.

UNAMI

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), established by Security Council resolution 1500(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 346], continued to support the Secretary-General in fulfilling his mandate under Council resolution 1483(2003) [ibid., p. 338], as extended by resolution 1546(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 348] and as stipulated in resolution 2110(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 328]. The Special Representative to the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMI and his substantive, security and administrative support staff were based in Baghdad, with regional offices in Basra, Erbil and Kirkuk.

Financing

In an October report [A/69/363/Add.5], the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly the proposed resource requirements for UNAMI for 2015, totalling \$136,994,000 net, representing an overall increase of \$687,600 compared with the appropriation for 2014. Taking into account the estimated overrun of \$4,412,200 at the end of 2014, the additional amount being sought for the Mission amounted to \$141,406,200. In a December report [A/69/628], the ACABQ recommended that the Assembly approve the requested resources, subject to its observations and recommendations.

On 29 December, the Assembly, in section IV of **resolution 69/262** (see p. 1632), endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of ACABQ.

Post-Development Fund mechanism

The International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB) for Iraq, established by Security Council resolution 1483(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 338] to ensure that the Development Fund for Iraq was used in a transparent manner for the benefit of the Iraqi people and that Iraqi export sales of petroleum products were consistent with international market best practices, concluded its work on 30 June 2011, in accordance with the transition to a post-Development Fund for Iraq mechanism as outlined in Council resolution 1956(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 371]. The Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission

took up the task of monitoring the developments following the expiration of the IAMB mandate and the transfer of the oversight of the control, reporting and use of Iraqi oil export revenues to the Iraqi Committee of Financial Experts, established in 2006 by the Council of Ministers [YUN 2007, p. 353].

Reports of Secretary-General. In response to Council resolution 1956(2010), the Secretary-General submitted his sixth report [S/2014/422] on the United Nations Compensation Fund, evaluating compliance with paragraph 21 of resolution 1483(2003) on Iraqi oil exports. The Governing Council of the Compensation Fund held its seventy-seventh session on 29 and 30 April, during which the Iraqi delegation reaffirmed Iraq's commitment to meeting its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions. In its conclusion on the issue of arrangements for ensuring that payments were made to the Compensation Fund, the Governing Council expressed its continued satisfaction with the transfer of 5 per cent of Iraq's oil revenues and the equivalent 5 per cent of the value of non-monetary payments to the Compensation Fund. The average monthly income of the Compensation Fund for the year to date was approximately \$353 million. Noting that Iraq was nearing the conclusion of the fulfilment of its obligations, with outstanding compensation projected to be paid in full in 2015, the Governing Council encouraged the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to work together to ensure that Iraq continued to deposit 5 per cent of all export sales of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas from Iraq into the Compensation Fund, as required under paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1956(2010). The overall amount of compensation paid to date by the Commission was \$45.5 billion, leaving approximately \$6.9 billion outstanding to be paid to Kuwait to settle the last remaining claim.

In his seventh report [S/2014/940], the Secretary-General informed that the Governing Council had held its seventy-eighth session on 2 and 3 October, during which the Governing Council expressed satisfaction with the transfer of 5 per cent of Iraq's oil revenues and the equivalent of 5 per cent of the value of non-monetary payments to the Compensation Fund, and expressed its appreciation to Iraq for its continued commitment, especially given the difficult security circumstances in the country. Subsequently, the Governing Council held a special session on 18 December to consider a request from Iraq for a temporary postponement of the deposits of oil proceeds into the Compensation Fund. Noting the security circumstances in Iraq and the budgetary challenges associated with confronting that issue, and welcoming Kuwait's support for a temporary postponement, the Governing Council adopted decision 272(2014) [S/AC.26 (dec.272 (2014))], in which it postponed until 1 January 2016 the requirement that Iraq deposit into the Compensation

Fund 5 per cent of the proceeds from all export sales of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and 5 per cent of the value of any non-monetary payments of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas made to service providers into the Compensation Fund. The average monthly income accruing to the Compensation Fund for the year to date was approximately \$351.2 million, leaving approximately \$4.6 billion outstanding to be paid to Kuwait to settle the last remaining claim.

UN Iraq escrow account

Following the termination of all activities under the United Nations oil-for-food programme [YUN 2003, p. 362], the United Nations retained responsibility for the administration and execution of letters of credit issued under the programme by the bank holding the UN Iraq Account, Banque Nationale de Paris Paribas, for purchasing humanitarian supplies for the south/centre of Iraq, until such letters were executed or expired, in accordance with Council resolution 1483(2003) [ibid., p. 338]. By resolution 1958(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 376], the Council requested the Secretary-General to take actions to terminate all residual activities under the oil-for-food programme, including establishing an escrow account retaining \$20 million for the Organization's expenses terminating those activities and \$131 million for providing indemnification to the United Nations, its representatives, agents and independent contractors until 31 December 2016. Pursuant to that resolution, \$151 million was transferred from the old escrow accounts to the new escrow account in 2010. All residual activities under the programme were terminated and all remaining unencumbered funds were transferred to the Development Fund of Iraq.

Report of Secretary-General (March). Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1958(2010), the Secretary-General submitted his third report [S/2014/221] on the escrow account referenced in paragraphs 4 and 5 of that resolution. Expenditure in 2013 on administrative activities amounted to \$850,978, including \$594,849 for the activities related to the orderly termination of the residual activities of the "oil-for-food" programme; \$207,119 for the Organization's support to Member State investigations and Member State proceedings related to the programme; and \$49,010 for the office of the High-level Coordinator created pursuant to resolution 1284(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 230]. No expenditure was incurred in relation to the Iraqi Government's obligation to indemnify the United Nations, its representatives, agents and independent contractors, as differences remained between the Government of Iraq and the Secretariat as to whether such obligations should be limited to the amount held in the indemnification escrow account; and whether they should expire and lapse on 31 December 2016. The Secretary-General noted that, as

per resolution 1958(2010)—which called upon the Government of Iraq to provide direct payment to the beneficiaries or its representatives of the letters of credit as referred to in the note by the Secretary-General dated 8 December 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 375]—payments to certain beneficiaries remained outstanding. He urged the Government of Iraq to provide the payments without delay to those beneficiaries.

Report of Board of Auditors. In June, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council the report [S/2014/535] of the Board of Auditors on the audit of the UN escrow (Iraq) account. The Board audited the financial statements of the escrow account established under the provisions of Council resolution 1958(2010) for 2013. The total income of the account for the year amounted to \$1,107,000, while total expenditure amounted to \$851,000 resulting in an excess of income over expenditure of \$256,000. As at 31 December, total assets amounted to \$151,897,000, while liabilities amounted to \$115,000. Effective 1 July 2013, the UN Headquarters and the UN offices away from Headquarters cash pools were combined to form the main cash pool, with the escrow account participating. As at 31 December 2013, the main cash pool held total assets of \$9,548.7 million, of which \$151.7 million was due to the escrow account. The Board noted that it did not issue a long-form audit report for the period, as there were no material managerial issues to draw to the attention of the Security Council. It further noted that the two recommendations made for 2012 had been fully implemented.

Iraq-Kuwait

UN mediation of bilateral issues

In response to Security Council resolution 2107(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 334], the Secretary-General reported in 2014 on Iraq's compliance with its obligations concerning the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the repatriation of Kuwaiti property seized by Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait as at August 1990 [YUN 1990, p. 189]. During the reporting period, bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait were marked by steady progress.

Reports of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Council resolution 2107(2013), the Secretary-General submitted his second report [S/2014/191] on developments pertaining to the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including its national archives. The reporting period witnessed deepening ties between Iraq and Kuwait. The Secretary-General visited Iraq and Kuwait from 13 to 15 January. On 19 February, Iraq informed the Secretary-General that it had distributed approximately \$1.4 million to compensate eligible beneficiaries, pursuant to the agreement

between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations, signed in Baghdad on 26 May 2013, and pursuant to Council resolution 899(1994) [YUN 1994, p. 460]. The Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs at UNAMI attended in an observer capacity the meetings of the Iraqi interministerial committee for missing Kuwaiti nationals, under the auspices of the Ministry of Human Rights. The Technical Subcommittee and the Tripartite Commission met in Kuwait on 28 and 30 January, respectively. A specialized team from the Ministry of Human Rights dug trenches between Muthanna and al-Salman in January, as well as close to the location of former sites where remains were found in 2003 and 2004. Additionally, in February, Iraq undertook an exploratory mission to locate a fourth site in the al-Tamur area in Karbala Governorate and collect coordinates based on the information provided by a witness. The Kuwaiti National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoners of War Affairs used the genetic materials received from an excavation in Muthanna Governorate to verify DNA profiles in the missing persons database; however, no positive matches were yielded. With regard to the return of Kuwaiti property, on 13 January, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait responded to a request for assistance in ascertaining the authenticity and ownership of two paintings with the seal of Kuwait found in December 2013, stating that they had to be examined by the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture and Arts.

Observing that no Kuwaiti remains had been found since 2004, the Secretary-General urged Iraqi authorities to redouble their efforts and to explore all possible incentives to persuade witnesses and informants to come forward. He further noted that the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee had been helpful in addressing the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, and commended the steering role of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Secretary-General expressed disappointment that no tangible progress had been achieved, with respect to the Kuwaiti national archives, and urged the Government of Iraq to bring innovative methods to their search. He was pleased that the Iraqi interministerial committee had been convening to coordinate the search for missing Kuwaiti property, and called on both the Iraqi and Kuwaiti committees on property to work closely and meet together on a regular basis.

In his third report [S/2014/480], the Secretary-General stated the legal obstacles to Kuwait's repossession of its consular premises in Basra were expected to be resolved as the current occupant had agreed to move out, thereby allowing Kuwait to reopen its consulate. The reporting period also witnessed continuing enhancement of bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait. The Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs at UNAMI held

meetings in Baghdad with relevant Iraqi interlocutors throughout the reporting period, and carried out his quarterly visit to Kuwait on 9 June. The Secretary-General's Special Representative met with the Chairman and members of the National Committee for Missing Persons and Prisoners of War Affairs, on 17 March, whereby the Committee expressed its wish for Iraq to take full ownership of the humanitarian dossier, as well as its appreciation for the role of UNAMI. On 19 March, the Special Representative met Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and debriefed him on his visit to Kuwait, during which the Prime Minister underlined the missing persons issue as a humanitarian matter, and assured that Iraq would make all resources available in the search for missing Kuwaiti persons and property and the national archives. The Iraqi interministerial committee on missing Kuwaiti nationals convened on 25 March and 13 May, under the auspices of the Ministry of Human Rights. The Secretary-General further reported that on 2 June, his Deputy Special Representative facilitated a meeting between Arkan Saleh and Duncan Spinner, head of the Iraqi operations of the International Commission on Missing Persons, an organization with experience in finding human remains in post-conflict settings. At his meetings with both Iraqi and Kuwait interlocutors, the Deputy Special Representative stressed that the use of science and technology and other innovative but cost-effective methods could be helpful in the search for the missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals. In March and May, a specialized team of the Ministry of Human Rights dug trenches in the Ain al-Tamur area in the Karbala Governorate. Additionally, a specialized team of the Ministries of Human Rights and Defence and the Medico-Legal Institute conducted exploratory and excavation works in Muthanna Governorate in June. No human remains were found at any of the locations.

On 8 June, the Deputy Special Representative observed a meeting of the Iraq-Kuwait joint interministerial committee on missing Kuwaiti property—the second of its kind since 15 May 2013—at which both sides agreed to meet on a biannual basis. He also observed the official handover of Kuwaiti artefacts and co-signed the inventory of items. The Secretary-General noted that tens of thousands of Iraqis and more than 300 Kuwaitis and third-country nationals remained unaccounted for from the pre-2003 decades, and, therefore, urged Iraq to take advantage of any available cost-effective modern technology to address this humanitarian issue and strive for concrete results. The Secretary-General stated that UNAMI would continue to provide its full assistance to promote, support and facilitate Iraqi efforts and that the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee and the steering role of the International Committee of the Red Cross remained central in addressing the issue of missing Kuwaiti

and third-country nationals. He, however, remained disappointed that no evidence or information had emerged that would indicate the whereabouts of Kuwait's national archives, and thus urged the Iraqi interministerial committee coordinating the search for missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, to meet more frequently and to take advantage of the assistance of UNAMI.

In his fourth report [S/2014/776], the Secretary-General stated that the reporting period had witnessed steady progress in the enhancement of bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait. In July, Kuwait contributed \$10 million to the United Nations humanitarian response in Iraq. The formation of the new Government in Iraq in September was warmly welcomed by Kuwait. Also in September, Kuwait participated in a number of international and regional initiatives aimed at supporting Iraq in its efforts to counter the threat of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), including the meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia, held in Jeddah on 11 September, and the International Conference on Peace and Security in Iraq, jointly hosted by France and Iraq, held in Paris on 15 September.

On 25 September, the Prime Minister of Iraq met the Prime Minister of Kuwait, in New York, and reiterated the desire of Iraq to continue building positive relations with Kuwait. During the reporting period, the Government of Iraq showed that it was resolved to obtain progress on the dossier by continuing to search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, in spite of a rapid deterioration in the security situation across the country. The Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs continued to carry out his responsibilities under Council resolution 2107(2013). In Iraq, he met the Minister for Human Rights, the head of the interministerial committee on missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, the head of the Iraq programme of the International Commission on Missing Persons and the Kurdistan Regional Government authorities to assess progress and explore new avenues to advance the dossier; and, in September, he undertook his quarterly visit to Kuwait. On 22 October, the Tripartite Commission formally accepted the offer of UNAMI to serve as an observer to the tripartite mechanism. The Secretary-General further reported that, in August, the Iraqi interministerial committee on missing Kuwaiti nationals convened under the auspices of the Ministry of Human Rights to assess progress in the search for information on burial sites and in contacting witnesses and informants. Also in August, officials of the Ministry of Human Rights met with academics from Iraqi universities to discuss the geological scanning of grave sites and the possibility of using new technologies; and a specialized team of the Ministry of Human Rights carried out an exploratory and excavation operation in the Arabian Gulf Academy in Basra governorate, though no human remains were found. Furthermore, in Septem-

ber, an Iraqi witness travelled to Kuwait and identified the location where Kuwaiti military personnel had presumably been buried near the Kuwait naval base; the site was dug up, but nothing was found.

The Secretary-General hoped that the new Government of Iraq would continue to expand bilateral relations with Kuwait and enhance cooperation with relevant authorities in search of missing Kuwaiti persons and property. He urged Iraq to take advantage of assistance from Iraqi academics and to make use of new forensic and geological exploration techniques and infrastructure. He further urged the Iraqi interministerial committee on missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives, to consider the suggestions of UNAMI on running special information campaigns exclusively for the archives.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/70], the Secretary-General remarked that bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait were marked by significant positive developments. Goodwill between the countries was further evidenced when Kuwait supported the request made by Iraq that the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission agree to a deferral of the requirement that Iraq deposit 5 per cent of oil proceeds into the Compensation Fund pursuant to paragraph 21 of Council resolution 1483(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 338]. In December, the Governing Council adopted its decision 272 (2014), by which it postponed, until 1 January 2016, the payment of the remaining \$4.6 billion in reparation owed to Kuwait. On 21 December, the Prime Minister of Iraq visited Kuwait and met with Emir Sabah al-Sabah and Crown Prince Nawaf al-Sabah, as well as the Prime Minister of Kuwait, to discuss the common threat of terrorism. On 28 and 29 December, the fourth meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee was held in Baghdad, at which Iraq and Kuwait signed key agreements and memorandums of understanding, including on bilateral security cooperation, navigation and trade relations. Kuwait further announced the opening of consulates in Basra and Erbil and agreed to facilitate the entry of diplomatic passport holders and all other travellers from Iraq. The Secretary-General also reported on activities in November, including, the visit of his Special Representative for Iraq to Kuwait; the establishment of joint committees to work on identifying potential grave sites by the Minister for Human Rights of Iraq; the meeting of the Iraqi interministerial committee on missing Kuwaiti nationals to review progress and to discuss practicalities linked to witnesses; and the publishing, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, of quarter-page advertisements on missing Kuwaiti persons and property. Following the Tripartite Commission decision to grant UNAMI observer status, the Deputy Special Representative led an UNAMI delegation to Kuwait to attend the bimonthly meeting of the Commission's Technical Subcommittee, held on 19 November.

On 29 December, by **decision 69/554**, the General Assembly decided that the item on the “Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UN Compensation Commission and Fund

The United Nations Compensation Commission, established in 1991 [YUN 1991, p. 195] for the resolution and payment of claims against Iraq for losses and damages resulting from its 1990 invasion and occupation of Kuwait [YUN 1990, p. 189], continued in 2014 to expedite the settlement of claims through the United Nations Compensation Fund, which was established at the same time as the Commission. Under Security Council resolution 1483(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 338], and reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions, most recently resolution 1956(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 371], the Fund received 5 per cent of the proceeds generated by export sales of Iraqi petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas.

During 2014, the Commission paid out \$1.3 billion to Kuwait on 23 January; \$990 million on 24 April; \$1.19 billion on 24 July; and \$1.06 billion on 23 October, all in respect of the only remaining claim with an outstanding award balance. As at the end of October, the Commission had paid out \$47.8 billion, leaving approximately \$4.6 billion remaining to be paid to the only outstanding claim.

Governing Council. The Commission’s Governing Council held two sessions in Geneva in 2014—the seventy-seventh (29 and 30 April) [S/2014/344] and seventy-eighth (2 and 3 October) [S/2014/734]—at which it considered, among other matters, Iraq’s continued contributions to the Compensation Fund in connection with its oil revenues; the conclusion of the Follow-up Programme for Environmental Awards; ensuring the orderly wind-down of the Commission; Iraq’s request for a copy of the archives of the Compensation Commission; ongoing audit activities in relation to the Commission undertaken by both the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services; and the interim expenditure report for 2014 and approved budget for 2015. The Council reported that Jordan had been elected as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Governing Council, to replace Morocco, which held the vice-presidency for the period 2012–2013. It further reported that the Commission remained on track to pay the outstanding balance in full towards the end of 2015.

The Governing Council held a fourteenth special session on 18 December [S/2014/961] to consider the request made by Iraq for a temporary postponement of the requirement under Security Council resolution 1956(2010) that Iraq deposit 5 per cent of the proceeds from all export sales of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and 5 per cent of the value of any non-monetary payments of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas made to service providers,

into the Compensation Fund. The Council had been expecting the outstanding balance of \$4.6 billion owed to Kuwait to be paid in full by the end of 2015, thereby concluding the mandate of the Compensation Commission. In considering the request of Iraq, however, Governing Council members recognized that the country was facing a challenging and costly security crisis and expressed their solidarity with it. The Council adopted decision 272 (2014), whereby it postponed until 1 January 2016 the requirement that Iraq deposit 5 per cent of oil proceeds and 5 per cent of the value of any non-monetary payments to service providers into the Compensation Fund. Quarterly payments towards the outstanding awards would resume in 2016 in accordance with Governing Council decision 267 (2009) [YUN 2009, p. 376]. In response to a request from Iraq, the Council agreed that deposits made by Iraq into the Compensation Fund since 1 October 2014 be returned to the Government of Iraq.

Report of Board of Auditors. In July, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council the report [S/2014/538] of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of the United Nations Compensation Commission for the biennium ended 31 December 2013. During the biennium a total of \$9.1 billion was paid, compared with \$6.1 billion for the previous biennium. As at 31 December 2013, the outstanding balance was \$8.9 billion. The Commission had estimated that it should receive sufficient receipts from oil proceeds to discharge the remaining \$8.9 billion compensation award to Kuwait during 2015. During 2013, the Follow-up Programme for Environmental Awards was concluded and the withheld funds were released. During the Programme, Kuwait had received fifteen awards totalling \$3.03 billion. The Board concluded that with payment of the remaining outstanding award expected in 2015 and the conclusion of the Follow-up Programme for Environmental Awards, the Commission was approaching the completion of its mandate. The Board recommended, among other things, that the Compensation Commission continue to monitor the projected completion date for compensation payments to Kuwait and establish a formal liquidation plan for the orderly winding-up of its activities for approval by the Governing Council.

Timor-Leste

UNAMET

The United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) was established by Security Council resolution 1246(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 283] to conduct the 1999 popular consultation to ascertain the East Timorese people’s will on the future status of East Timor [ibid., p. 288]. Its mandate ended on 30 November 1999, in accordance with resolution 1262(1999) [ibid., p. 287].

On 15 September, by **decision 68/666**, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item on the financing of UNAMET and to include it in the draft agenda of its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

On 29 December, by **decision 69/554**, the Assembly decided that the item on the financing of UNAMET would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UNMIT

The United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) was established by Security Council resolution 1704(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 422] to support the Government in consolidating stability, enhancing a culture of democratic governance and facilitating political dialogue; ensure the maintenance of public security; assist the Government in reviewing the role and needs of the security sector; strengthen capacity for promoting human rights, justice and reconciliation; and assist in implementing the Secretary-General's recommendations on justice and reconciliation. UNMIT completed its mandate on 31 December 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 339]. On 1 January 2013, the Mission commenced its administrative liquidation.

Financing

In June, the Assembly had before it the report [A/68/607] of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of UNMIT for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. The total expenditures for the maintenance and liquidation of the Mission for 2012/13 amounted to \$101,603,400 gross, compared to \$101,604,900 gross appropriated under the terms of General Assembly resolution 67/245 B [YUN 2013, p. 337], representing an implementation rate of 100 per cent in terms of gross resource utilization. The Assembly also had before it the related report [A/68/782/Add.2] of the ACABQ, which made observations and recommended the approval of the Secretary-General's proposed actions. By resolution 68/288 (see below), the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the ACABQ report and decided to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth (2015) session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/919], adopted **resolution 68/288** without vote [agenda item 154].

Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

The General Assembly,
Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Integrated

Mission in Timor-Leste for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1704(2006) of 25 August 2006, by which the Council established a follow-on mission in Timor-Leste, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, for an initial period of six months, with the intention to renew it for further periods, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2037(2012) of 23 February 2012, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 31 December 2012,

Recalling also its resolutions 61/249 A of 22 December 2006 and 61/249 B of 2 April 2007 on the financing of the Mission, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/245 B of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 2.4 million United States dollars, representing some 0.2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 114 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to clearly provide, in the future reports on the budget performance of the Mission, detailed information, including the quantities and values, on non-expendable assets transferred to other offices, peacekeeping missions and reserve of the United Nations, as well as the list of offices to which those non-expendable assets were transferred;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report all remaining surpluses, including unencumbered balances, as well as other income, in the context of the final performance report of the Mission and to ensure that all balances are credited to the Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

7. *Also takes note* of the amount of 6,155,600 dollars comprising the unencumbered balance of 1,500 dollars in respect of the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June

2013, as well as the other income and adjustments in the amount of 6,154,100 dollars in respect of the same period, and decides to defer action thereon until it considers the final performance report of the Mission;

8. *Further takes note* of the amount of 1,800,400 dollars representing the increase in estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, and decides to defer action thereon until it considers the final performance report of the Mission;

9. *Takes note* of the amount of 5,826,300 dollars comprising the unencumbered balance of 3,757,300 dollars in respect of the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and other income and adjustments in the amount of 2,069,000 dollars in respect of the same period, and decides to defer action thereon until it considers the final performance report of the Mission;

10. *Also takes note* of the amount of 168,400 dollars representing the decrease in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, and decides to defer action thereon until it considers the final performance report of the Mission;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste".

Report of Secretary-General. In November, the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/69/589] on the financing of UNMIT. The report provided details on the final disposition of the assets of UNMIT, with a total inventory value of \$34,292,500, and a corresponding residual value of \$17,706,700, as at 30 June 2014. The General Assembly was requested to take note of the report.

On 29 December, by **decision 69/554**, the General Assembly decided that the item on the financing of UNMIT would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

In 2014, the United Nations continued to address the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and related issues. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 444], supported by the Panel of Experts, continued to carry out its mandate to oversee the implementation of the sanctions measures related to the DPRK. By resolution 2141(2014) (see below), the mandate of the Panel of Experts was extended until 5 April 2015.

Non-proliferation

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 5 March [meeting 7126], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2141(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/148] was submitted by the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, including resolutions 825(1993) of 11 May 1993, 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004, 1695(2006) of 15 July 2006, 1718(2006) of 14 October 2006, 1874(2009) of 12 June 2009, 1887(2009) of 24 September 2009, 1928(2010) of 7 June 2010, 1985(2011) of 10 June 2011, 2050(2012) of 12 June 2012, 2087(2013) of 22 January 2013 and 2094(2013) of 7 March 2013, as well as the statements by its President of 6 October 2006, 13 April 2009 and 16 April 2012,

Recalling also the creation, pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1874(2009), of the Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, under the direction of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718(2006), to carry out the tasks provided for in that paragraph,

Recalling further the interim report of the Panel of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1874(2009) and the final report of the Panel, of 3 March 2014,

Recalling the methodological standards for reports of sanctions monitoring mechanisms contained in the report of the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General Issues of Sanctions,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Secretariat to expand and improve the roster of experts for the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, bearing in mind the guidance provided in the note by the President of 22 December 2006,

Emphasizing, in that regard, the importance of credible, fact-based, independent assessments, analysis and recommendations, in accordance with the mandate of the Panel of Experts, as specified in paragraph 26 of resolution 1874(2009),

Determining that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend until 5 April 2015 the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as specified in paragraph 26 of resolution 1874(2009) and modified in paragraph 29 of resolution 2094(2013), expresses its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 5 March 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures to this effect;

2. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718(2006), no later than 5 August 2014, a midterm report on its work, and further requests that, after a discussion with the Committee, the Panel submit to the Council its midterm report by 5 September 2014, and also requests a final report to the Committee no later than 5 February 2015 with its findings and recommendations, and further requests that, after a discussion with the Committee, the Panel submit to the Council its final report no later than 5 March 2015;

3. *Also requests* the Panel of Experts to provide to the Committee a planned programme of work no later than 30 days after the reappointment of the Panel, encourages the Committee to engage in regular discussions about this programme of work and to engage regularly with the Panel

about its work, and further requests the Panel to provide to the Committee any updates to this programme of work;

4. *Expresses its intent* to continue to follow the work of the Panel of Experts;

5. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on the implementation of the measures imposed by resolutions 1718(2006), 1874(2009), 2087(2013) and 2094(2013);

6. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Communications. By a 7 March letter [S/2014/159], the DPRK transmitted to the Security Council a 5 March statement made by the spokesman for the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army of the DPRK with regard to statements made by the United States over rocket-launch drills conducted by the Strategic Force.

By a 31 March letter [S/2014/237], the DPRK transmitted to the Council a statement, dated 30 March, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK with regard to the Security Council's denouncement of DPRK rocket launch exercises.

By a 21 July letter [S/2014/512], the DPRK transmitted to the Council two statements dated 19 and 20 July, one released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the other made by a spokesperson for the Policy Department of the National Defence Commission, presenting the position of the DPRK on missile launches and self-defence measures.

IAEA report

In September, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General submitted to the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference a report on the application of safeguards in the DPRK [GOV/2014/42-GC(58)/21]. The Agency remained unable to carry out verification activities in the DPRK in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Consequently its knowledge of the nuclear programme of the DPRK remained limited. The Agency continued to monitor, mainly through satellite imagery, developments at the Yongbyon site, since the Director General's previous report, where it had observed on-going renovation and new construction activities at various locations within the site. Although the purpose of such activities could not be determined through satellite imagery alone, they appeared to be broadly consistent with the statements made by the DPRK that it was further developing its nuclear capabilities. External work on the building that in 2010 was stated to be a future 100 MW(th) light water reactor appeared to have been completed as at June 2013. The Agency had observed little further activity on the site, with no indication of the delivery or installation of major reactor components. Without access to the site, IAEA was unable to assess the reac-

tor's design features or likely date of completion. Since late August 2013, IAEA had observed, through analysis of satellite imagery, steam discharges and the outflow of cooling water at the 5 MW(e) reactor, signatures which were consistent with the reactor's operation; however, it could not confirm the reactor's operational status because the Agency had no access to the reactor since April 2009. During March 2013, the DPRK had begun the construction of an extension to the building housing the reported centrifuge enrichment facility within the Yongbyon Nuclear Fuel Rod Fabrication Plant. Throughout the period covered by the report, the Agency had observed through satellite imagery further renovations to the reported centrifuge enrichment facility, including the installation of support structures. Without access to the site, IAEA could not confirm the purpose of those activities and remained unable to determine its configuration or operational status.

Sanctions Committee

In 2014, the Security Council Committee established by resolution 1718(2006) on the DPRK carried out its mandate to oversee the implementation of the sanctions measures in that resolution, which included an arms embargo; a nuclear, ballistic missiles and other weapons of mass destruction programmes-related embargo; and a travel ban and/or an assets freeze on designated persons and entities. By resolution 1874(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 384], the Council imposed additional measures—including an expansion of the embargo on arms and related materiel and technology, as well as financial measures to include a ban on financial transactions, technical training, advice, services or assistance related to such arms and materiel—and established a Panel of Experts to carry out certain tasks under the Committee's direction. In response to the launch using ballistic missile technology in December 2012 and the nuclear test of February 2013, the Council, by resolutions 2087(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 338] and 2094(2013) [ibid., p. 340], strengthened the existing sanctions regime in several areas including extending the list of prohibited items; designating additional entities and individuals; broadening the designation criteria; broadening the financial sanctions; strengthening inspection, seizure and disposal of cargo originating from, destined for or brokered by the DPRK; calling upon States to deny take-off, landing or overflight requests to any aircraft they had reason to believe was carrying prohibited items; and establishing a baseline definition of luxury goods.

By resolution 2141(2014) (see p. 468), the Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 5 April 2015. The Panel consisted of eight experts appointed by the Secretary-General on 4 April [S/2014/248]. In August [S/2014/569] and September [S/2014/643 & S/2014/710], the Secretary-General informed the

Council of the replacement of three experts. The Panel submitted its final report in accordance with resolution 2094(2013) on 3 March [S/2014/147].

Committee reports. On 8 April [S/2014/253], the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718(2006) transmitted to the Security Council the report of the Committee dated 2 April submitted in accordance with resolution 2094(2013) and presidential statement S/PRST/2012/13 [YUN 2012, p. 342]. The Council directed the Committee to update on an annual basis the consolidated list of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze and/or travel ban; and the items contained in the lists specified in paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 2087(2013) (nuclear-related items), as well as document S/2012/947 [YUN 2012, p. 342] (ballistic missile-related items). In line with the Security Council's directive, the Committee approved an update to the identifying information contained in the Committee's consolidated list of individuals and entities; and an update to the items contained in the lists specified in paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 2087(2013) and document S/2012/947.

On 17 December [S/2014/920], the Chair of the Committee transmitted to the Security Council the report covering the Committee's activities in 2014. The Committee held six informal consultations (24 January, 24 February, 10 April, 16 June, 3 September and 11 December). It also held an open briefing for Member States to share information about the work of the Committee and the Panel of Experts. Seven Member States reported to the Committee on the implementation of resolutions 1718(2006), 1874(2009), 2087(2013) and 2094(2013): Austria [S/AC.49/2014/2]; Denmark [S/AC.49/2014/6]; Jordan [S/AC.49/2014/3]; Mongolia [S/AC.49/2014/5]; Morocco [S/AC.49/2014/7]; the Philippines [S/AC.49/2014/4]; and the United Kingdom [S/AC.49/2014/1]. The Committee also received 29 reports of alleged violations concerning measures imposed by the Security Council. On 2 April, the Committee approved updates to the lists of items prohibited from export to and import from the DPRK. On 28 July, the Committee approved the addition of one entity to its sanctions list. On 2 April, 20 June and 30 July, the Committee approved updates, including on identifying information contained in the sanctions list. The Committee continued to be assisted by the Panel of Experts.

Report of Panel of Experts. On 3 March [S/2014/147], the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts transmitted to the Security Council its final report in accordance with resolution 2094(2013) and document S/2013/186. The Panel stated that during the period under review, there had been no signs that the DPRK intended to respond to the Council's calls to abandon its nuclear, ballistic missile and other weapons of mass destruction programmes. The DPRK persisted with its arms trade and other prohibited activities in defiance

of Security Council resolutions and continued activities related to its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. The Panel did not view new measures as necessary in order to further slow the prohibited programmes of the DPRK, to dissuade it from engaging in proliferation activities or to halt its trade in arms and related materiel. Rather, the Panel believed Member States already had adequate tools at their disposal. The Panel, however, stated that overall implementation of existing sanctions should be improved. The DPRK was experienced in evading sanctions and thus presented a challenge to Member States. From the incidents analysed in the period under review, the Panel had found that the DPRK made increasing use of multiple and tiered circumvention techniques, whilst other incidents showed that the DPRK remained dependent on foreign procurement for certain items. The Panel made several recommendations, including that Member States exercise due vigilance on export to the DPRK of pilger milling machines and their mandrels, dies and lubricants for zirconium alloy tubes production, as well as ultrasonic test equipment for inspection; that Member States supply to the Committee and the Panel information at their disposal regarding non-compliance with the resolutions; that Member States report promptly to the Committee on all instances of inspections of cargo to, from or brokered by the DPRK, even when no prohibited items had been found; and that the Committee, with the assistance of the Panel, issue an Implementation Assistance Notice to remind Member States that the embargo on all arms and related materiel encompassed services or assistance related to the provision, manufacture, maintenance or use of arms or materiel.

Communication. By a 20 May letter [S/2014/360], Azerbaijan transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter dated 7 May to the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Council resolution 1874(2009) which stated that all measures had been taken by Azerbaijan to enforce the respective provisions of Council resolutions 1718(2006), 1874(2009), 2087(2013) and 2094(2013).

Other issues

Communications. By a 20 January letter [S/2014/37], the DPRK transmitted to the Security Council principled proposals to the South Korean authorities made by the National Defence Commission of the DPRK with regard to inter-Korean relations, as well as defending peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

By a 26 January letter [S/2014/53], the DPRK transmitted to the Council a 23 January letter by its National Defence Commission to the authorities, various political parties, social organizations and people of various circles of the Republic of Korea.

By a 7 February letter [S/2014/84], the DPRK transmitted to the Council a statement by the spokesman for the Policy Department of the National Defence

Commission of the DPRK, on 6 February, concerning the situation in South Korea.

By a 7 November letter [A/69/574-S/2014/797], the DPRK transmitted to the Secretary-General a statement, dated 1 November, by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea and a white paper, dated 24 October, by the National Reunification Institute of the DPRK concerning leaflet-scattering operations conducted in South Korea.

DPRK-United States relations

Communications. By a 15 March letter [S/2014/194], the DPRK transmitted to the Security Council a statement released by the National Defence Commission of the DPRK, on 14 March, concerning foreign relations between the country and the United States.

By a 27 June letter [A/68/934-S/2014/451], the DPRK transmitted to the Secretary-General a statement, dated 25 June, released by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK concerning a film made in the United States about the leadership of the DPRK.

By an 18 August letter [S/2014/604], the DPRK transmitted to the Council statements issued on 18 August by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK and on 17 August by the General Staff of the Korean's People's Army concerning joint military exercises being conducted by the United States and the Republic of Korea.

Iran

In 2014, the United Nations continued to address Iran's nuclear programme and the sanctions imposed by the Security Council in resolution 1737(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 436] and reinforced in further resolutions. The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737(2006) worked to oversee the implementation of the sanctions regime, and was assisted by the Panel of Experts established in 2010 by Council resolution 1929(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 396]. In June, by resolution 2159(2014) (see p. 473), the Council extended the Panel's mandate until 9 July 2015.

Throughout the year, pursuant to Council resolution 1929(2010), the IAEA reported on the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions in Iran.

Non-proliferation

IAEA reports

The Security Council had before it four reports by the IAEA Director General, submitted pursuant to Council resolution 1929(2010) regarding Iran's

implementation of the 1974 NPT Safeguards Agreement between Iran and IAEA and relevant Council resolutions. In all four reports (see below), the Agency informed that it continued to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material at the nuclear facilities and locations outside facilities declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement; however, the Agency was not in a position to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran. The Agency also continued to undertake monitoring and verification in relation to the nuclear-related measures set out in the Joint Plan of Action (JPA), which took effect on 20 January. The Agency concluded that, contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Board of Governors and the Security Council, Iran had not suspended all of its enrichment related activities or its work on all heavy water related projects. Since 20 January, however, Iran had not produced UF₆ enriched above 5 per cent U-235 and all of its stock of UF₆ enriched up to 20 per cent U-235 had been further processed through downblending or conversion. Additionally, Iran had neither installed any major components at the IR-40 Reactor nor produced nuclear fuel assemblies for the IR-40 Reactor at the Fuel Manufacturing Plant (FMP), since the JPA took effect. The Agency remained concerned about the possible existence in Iran of undisclosed nuclear related activities involving military-related organizations, including activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile. Iran had continued to provide the Agency with managed access to centrifuge assembly workshops, centrifuge rotor production workshops and storage facilities.

In March [S/2014/116 & GOV/2014/10], the IAEA Director General reported on developments since his November 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 347]. In response to the request by the E3+3 and Iran, the Agency began undertaking monitoring and verification in relation to the nuclear-related measures set out in the JPA, which took effect on 20 January. Pursuant to the Framework for Cooperation, technical meetings were held in Vienna (11 December 2013) and in Tehran (8 and 9 February 2014), at which Agency and Iranian officials reviewed progress on the implementation of the six initial practical measures and agreed on seven practical measures to be implemented by Iran during the next step of the JPA. The Agency confirmed that Iran had implemented the six initial practical measures within the specified three-month period. With regard to reprocessing activities, Iran had stated on 18 January that it would not engage in stages of reprocessing activities, or construction of a facility capable of reprocessing during the first step time-bound (six months). The Agency carried out inspection and design information verifications (DIVs) at the Tehran Research Reactor (TRR) and at the Molybdenum Iodine and Xenon Radioisotope Production (MIX) Facility on 9 and 10 February, respectively, and con-

firmed that there were no ongoing reprocessing related activities with respect to TRR, the MIX Facility and the other facilities to which the Agency had access in Iran. Regarding heavy water related projects, on 12 February, the Agency carried out a DIV at the IR-40 Reactor and observed that, since the Director General's previous report, none of the reactor's remaining major components had been installed. Iran had continued production of heavy water at the Heavy Water Production Plant. Although not under Agency safeguards, the plant was subject to managed access by the Agency on 8 December 2013. Regarding uranium conversion and fuel fabrication, on 10 and 12 February 2014, the Agency conducted a DIV and an inspection at FMP at Esfahan and verified that Iran had ceased the production of nuclear fuel assemblies using natural UO_2 for the IR-40 Reactor and that all of the fuel assemblies that had been produced previously remained at FMP. On 15 and 16 February, the Agency conducted a DIV and an inspection at the Fuel Plate Fabrication Plant (FPFP) during which it confirmed that the conversion of UF_6 enriched up to 20 per cent U-235 into U_3O_8 was ongoing and that there was no process line at the plant for the reconversion of oxides into UF_6 .

A June report [S/2014/391 & GOV/2014/28] stated that Iran had implemented the seven practical measures agreed with the Agency on 9 February. During technical meetings in Tehran (26 April and 12 May), the Agency put forward suggestions for practical measures to be implemented by Iran in relation to the Framework for Cooperation. At a technical meeting in Tehran on 20 May, the Agency and Iran agreed on five additional practical measures to be implemented by Iran during the next step by 25 August. Regarding reprocessing activities, the Agency carried out an inspection and a DIV at the MIX Facility and a DIV at TRR on 12 and 14 May, respectively, and confirmed that there were no ongoing reprocessing related activities at the facilities to which the Agency had access. The Agency also carried out a DIV at the IR-40 Reactor on 11 May and observed that none of the reactor's remaining major components had been installed. On uranium conversion and fuel fabrication, the Agency conducted a DIV and an inspection at FMP, on 10 and 11 May, and verified that Iran had continued its cessation of production of nuclear fuel assemblies using natural UO_2 for the IR-40 Reactor and that all of the fuel assemblies that had been produced previously remained at FMP. On 12 and 14 May, the Agency conducted a DIV and an inspection at FPFP, during which it confirmed that the conversion of UF_6 enriched up to 20 per cent U-235 into U_3O_8 was ongoing and that there was no process line at the plant for the reconversion of uranium oxides into UF_6 . Between 17 and 21 May, the Agency conducted a physical inventory verification (PIV) at the Uranium Conversion Facility, the results of which were being

evaluated. On uranium conversion and fuel fabrication, the Agency conducted an inspection and a DIV at FMP, on 16 and 17 August, and verified that Iran had continued its cessation of production of nuclear fuel assemblies using natural UO_2 for the IR-40 Reactor and that all of the fuel assemblies that had been produced previously remained at FMP. On 18 and 19 August, the Agency conducted an inspection and a DIV at FPFP, during which it confirmed that there was no process line at the plant for the reconversion of uranium oxide into UF_6 .

A September report [S/2014/681 & GOV/2014/43] noted that during technical meetings in Tehran (16 and 17 August), Iranian and Agency officials discussed how to move ahead with the existing practical measures, including the five practical measures in the third step of the Framework for Cooperation agreed in May. The Agency confirmed that Iran had implemented three of the agreed five practical measures in the third step of the Framework for Cooperation, two of which were implemented after the agreed deadline of 25 August. Iran had begun discussions with the Agency on the other two practical measures at a technical meeting held in Tehran on 31 August. With regard to reprocessing activities, the Agency carried out a PIV and a DIV at TRR on 12 August, and a DIV at the MIX Facility on 13 August and confirmed that there were no ongoing reprocessing related activities with respect to TRR, the MIX Facility and the other facilities to which the Agency had access. Regarding heavy water related projects, the Agency carried out a DIV at the IR-40 Reactor on 11 August and observed that none of the reactor's remaining major components had been installed. Pursuant to one of the practical measures agreed in relation to the Framework for Cooperation, Iran concluded with the Agency a safeguards approach for the IR-40 Reactor on 31 August.

A November report [S/2014/837 & GOV/2014/58 & Corr.1] stated that during technical meetings in Tehran (7 October and 2 November), Iranian and Agency officials held discussions in relation to the implementation of the two practical measures agreed in May in the third step of the Framework for Cooperation that remained to be implemented, namely, those relating to the initiation of high explosives and to neutron transport calculations. At a 2 November meeting, Iran provided some explanation of related open source scientific publications; however, Iran had not provided any explanations that enabled the Agency to clarify outstanding practical measures, nor had it proposed any new practical measures in the next step of the Framework for Cooperation. On reprocessing activities, the agency carried out an inspection and a DIV at TRR on 6 October, and a DIV at the MIX Facility on 7 October, and confirmed that there were no ongoing reprocessing related activities with respect to TRR and the MIX Facility and at the other facilities to which the Agency had access. Regarding heavy

water related projects, the Agency carried out a DIV at the IR-40 Reactor on 16 October and observed that none of the reactor's remaining major components had been installed. On uranium conversion and fuel fabrication, the Agency carried out a PIV and a DIV at FMP on 31 August and 1 September, the results of which were being evaluated. The Agency also conducted an inspection and a DIV at FMP on 14 October, and verified that Iran had continued its cessation of production of nuclear fuel assemblies using natural UO₂ for the IR-40 Reactor and that all of the fuel assemblies that had been produced previously remained at FMP. On 18 and 19 October, the Agency conducted an inspection and a DIV at FMP, during which it confirmed that there was no process line at the plant for the reconversion of uranium oxide into UF₆.

A later report [S/2015/159 & GOV/2015/15] noted that on 24 November the JPA, previously extended on 24 July until 24 November, had been further extended until 30 June 2015. The Agency would continue to undertake monitoring and verification in relation to the nuclear related measures set out in the Agreement.

Sanctions Committee

In 2014, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 436] monitored the implementation of the embargo relating to Iran on proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities and the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems; the ban on the export and procurement of any arms and related materiel from Iran; financial and business restrictions; and an assets freeze and travel ban on designated individuals and entities. Those sanctions were renewed by resolutions 1747(2007) [YUN 2007, p. 374], 1803(2008) [YUN 2008, p. 409] and 1929(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 396].

The Committee was assisted by the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1929(2010) to carry out tasks under the direction of the Committee. By resolution 2159(2014) (see p. 473), the Council extended the Panel's mandate until 9 July 2015. The Panel's eight experts were appointed by the Secretary-General on 2 July [S/2014/464]. The Panel submitted its final report pursuant to resolution 2105(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 348] in June, and its midterm report pursuant to resolution 2159(2014) on 9 November 2013.

Committee report. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737(2006) transmitted to the Council the Committee's report [S/2014/932] covering its activities during 2014. During the year, the Committee met six times in informal consultations (20 January, 17 March, 2 and 23 June, 20 October and 8 December). The Committee approved a course of action for the six recommendations contained in the final report of the Panel of Experts for 2013 and authorized one exemption to the travel ban for a listed individual, allowing

his participation in the IAEA General Conference. On 17 December, the Committee approved updates to its sanctions list. The Committee received one report [S/AC.50/2014/1] from Monaco on the implementation of resolutions 1803(2008) and 1929(2010).

Report of Panel of Experts. On 5 June [S/2014/394], pursuant to Security Council resolution 2105(2013), the Panel of Experts submitted the final report of its work over the period from 9 June 2013 to 8 June 2014, during which it held consultations with 32 Member States and undertook five inspection visits concerning reported incidents. The Joint Plan of Action (JPA) had established a six-month period ending 20 July in which Iran promised to take "voluntary measures" to begin to restore confidence in the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. Although Council sanctions remained fully in place, during that period certain unilateral and multilateral sanctions were suspended, and some assets had been released; as at mid-April, Iran had received four instalments of \$4.2 billion previously frozen abroad. The IAEA had reported that, to date, Iran had fulfilled its "voluntary measures" agreed to under the JPA. Nonetheless, some States had indicated to the Panel a degree of uncertainty, one source of which concerned the status of obligations regarding procurement related to uranium enrichment by Iran, should such activities be continued under a comprehensive solution. The Panel investigated more than two dozen cases involving alleged violations of resolution 1929(2010) and prior resolutions. The majority of incidents concerned the attempted procurement of dual-use items. The Panel reported that Iran had continued to engage in ballistic missile activities and had conducted a number of ballistic missile test launches over the past year in violation of resolution 1929(2010). Iran was also developing its launch capabilities: a new launch site near the city of Shahrud was identified. The Panel recommended that the Committee address a number of issues identified by the Panel as challenges to the effective implementation of sanctions including that, in the event of a comprehensive solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, States would require guidance regarding the status of Security Council sanctions contained in resolution 1929(2010) and previous resolutions, in particular with respect to nuclear-related procurement.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 9 June [meeting 7193], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2159(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/395] was submitted by the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, including resolutions 1696(2006) of 31 July 2006, 1737(2006) of 23 December 2006, 1747(2007) of 24 March 2007, 1803(2008) of 3 March 2008, 1835(2008) of 27 September 2008, 1887(2009) of 24 September 2009, 1929(2010) of 9 June 2010, 1984(2011) of 9 June 2011, 2049(2012) of 7 June 2012

and 2105(2013) of 5 June 2013, as well as the statement by its President of 29 March 2006, and reaffirming their provisions,

Recalling also the creation, pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929(2010), of the Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the direction of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737(2006), to carry out the tasks provided for in that paragraph,

Recalling further the interim report of 9 November 2013 of the Panel of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929(2010) and the final report of the Panel, of 5 June 2014,

Recalling the methodological standards for reports of sanctions monitoring mechanisms contained in the report of the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General Issues of Sanctions,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Secretariat to expand and improve the roster of experts for the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, bearing in mind the guidance provided in the note by the President of 22 December 2006,

Emphasizing, in that regard, the importance of credible, fact-based, independent assessments, analysis and recommendations, in accordance with the mandate of the Panel of Experts, as specified in paragraph 29 of resolution 1929(2010),

Determining that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend until 9 July 2015 the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran, as specified in paragraph 29 of resolution 1929(2010), expresses its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 9 June 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures to this effect;

2. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737(2006), no later than 9 November 2014, a midterm report on its work, and further requests that, after a discussion with the Committee, the Panel submit to the Council its midterm report by 9 December 2014, and also requests a final report to the Committee by 9 May 2015 with its findings and recommendations, and further requests that, after a discussion with the Committee, the Panel submit to the Council its final report by 9 June 2015;

3. *Also requests* the Panel of Experts to provide to the Committee a planned programme of work no later than 30 days after the reappointment of the Panel, encourages the Committee to engage in regular discussions about this programme of work and to engage regularly with the Panel about its work, and further requests the Panel to provide to the Committee any updates to this programme of work;

4. *Expresses its intent* to continue to follow the work of the Panel of Experts;

5. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties to cooperate fully with the Committee and with the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on the implementation of the measures imposed by resolutions 1737(2006), 1747(2007), 1803(2008) and 1929(2010);

6. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Communication. By a 31 October letter [S/2014/783], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a communication, dated 29 October, from the Executive Secretary-General of the European External Action Service, pertaining to the negotiations between China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States with Iran on the nuclear issue.

Yemen

Political and security developments

In 2014, the United Nations continued to support Yemen in its process of political transition. On 26 February, the Security Council adopted resolution 2140(2014) (see below), in which it welcomed the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and expressed strong support for completing the next steps of the transition. By the resolution, the Council established a sanctions regime of measures against individuals and entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen. A Committee was therefore established to monitor the implementation of the freeze of financial assets and the travel ban on individuals or entities designated by the Committee. Despite the progress in Yemen's political transition, the country faced a deteriorating security situation in light of actions taken by the Houthis, and those who supported them, to undermine the political transition and the security of Yemen and the growing number of attacks carried out or sponsored by Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. The economic, security and social challenges confronting Yemen continued to leave many Yemenis in acute need of humanitarian assistance.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 February [meeting 7119], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2140(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/125] was submitted by Australia, France, Jordan, Lithuania, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2014(2011) of 21 October 2011 and 2051(2012) of 12 June 2012 and the statement by its President of 15 February 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen,

Commending the engagement of the Gulf Cooperation Council in assisting the political transition in Yemen,

Welcoming the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, signed by all political parties, and whose decisions provide a road map for a continued Yemeni-led democratic transition underpinned by a commitment to democracy, good governance, the rule of law,

national reconciliation and respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all the people of Yemen,

Commending those who have facilitated the outcome of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference through their constructive participation, in particular the leadership of the President of Yemen, Mr. Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi,

Expressing concern at the ongoing political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges in Yemen, including the ongoing violence,

Recalling the listing of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and associated individuals on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List established by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011), and stressing in this regard the need for robust implementation of the measures in paragraph 1 of resolution 2083(2012) of 17 December 2012 as a significant tool in combating terrorist activity in Yemen,

Condemning all terrorist activities, and attacks against civilians, against oil, gas and electricity infrastructure and against the legitimate authorities, including those aimed at undermining the political process in Yemen,

Condemning also attacks against military and security facilities, in particular the attack on the Ministry of Defence on 5 December 2013 and the attack on the Ministry of Interior prison on 13 February 2014, and stressing the need for the Government of Yemen to efficiently continue reforms of the armed forces and in the security sector,

Reaffirming its resolution 2133(2014) of 27 January 2014, and calling upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting directly or indirectly from ransom payments or from political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages,

Noting the formidable economic, security and social challenges confronting Yemen, which have left many Yemenis in acute need of humanitarian assistance, reaffirming its support to the Government of Yemen to safeguard security, promote social and economic development and put forward political, economic and security reforms, and welcoming the work of the Mutual Accountability Framework Executive Bureau, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in their support to the Government on economic reform,

Stressing that the best solution to the situation in Yemen is through a peaceful, inclusive, orderly and Yemeni-led political transition process that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people for peaceful change and meaningful political, economic and social reform, as set out in the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism and the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, and welcoming Yemen's efforts to strengthen women's participation in political and public life, including through measures to ensure at least 30 per cent women candidates for national legislative elections and elected councils,

Recalling its resolutions 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011 and 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 on children and armed conflict and its resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security,

Recognizing that the transition process requires turning the page from the presidency of Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh, and welcoming the involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders in Yemen, including groups that were not party to the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementation mechanism,

Reiterating the need for comprehensive, independent and impartial investigations consistent with international standards into alleged human rights violations and abuses in line with the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and the implementation mechanism, to ensure full accountability,

Recognizing the importance of governance reforms to the political transition in Yemen, and noting in this regard the proposals in the report of the National Dialogue Conference's Good Governance Working Group, including, among other things, prerequisites for candidates for Yemeni leadership positions and the disclosure of their financial assets,

Recalling its resolution 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013, and expressing grave concern at the threat to peace and security in Yemen arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Emphasizing the need for continued progress in the implementation of the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism to avoid further deterioration of the humanitarian and security situation in Yemen,

Noting with appreciation the work of the United Nations country team and agencies in Yemen,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Secretariat to expand and improve the roster of experts for the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, bearing in mind the guidance provided by the note by the President of the Council of 22 December 2006,

Determining that the situation in Yemen constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for the full and timely implementation of the political transition following the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism, and in accordance with resolutions 2014(2011) and 2051(2012) and with regard to the expectations of the Yemeni people;

Implementation of political transition

2. *Welcomes* the recent progress made in the political transition of Yemen, and expresses strong support for completing the next steps of the transition, in line with the implementation mechanism, including:

- (a) Drafting a new constitution in Yemen;
- (b) Electoral reform, including the drafting and adoption of a new electoral law consistent with the new Constitution;
- (c) The holding of a referendum on the draft Constitution, including suitable outreach;
- (d) State structure reform to prepare Yemen for the transition from a unitary to a federal State; and
- (e) Timely general elections, after which the current term of President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi would end,

following the inauguration of the President elected under the new Constitution;

3. *Encourages* all constituencies in the country, including the youth movements and women's groups, in all regions in Yemen, to continue their active and constructive engagement in the political transition and to continue the spirit of consensus to implement the subsequent steps in the transition process and the recommendations of the National Dialogue Conference, and calls upon the Hiraak Southern movement, the Houthi movement and others to constructively partake and to reject the use of violence to achieve political aims;

4. *Welcomes* the plan of the Government of Yemen to introduce an asset recovery law, and supports international cooperation on this, including through the Deauville initiative;

5. *Expresses concern* over use of the media to incite violence and frustrate the legitimate aspirations for peaceful change of the people of Yemen;

6. *Looks forward* to steps by the Government of Yemen, towards the implementation of Republican Decree No. 140 of 2012, which establishes a committee to investigate allegations of violations of human rights in 2011 and which states that investigations shall be transparent and independent and adhere to international standards, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 19/29 of 23 March 2012, and invites the Government to provide soon a time frame for the early appointment of members of that committee;

7. *Expresses its concern* that children continue to be recruited and used in violation of applicable international law by armed groups and the forces of the Government of Yemen, and calls for continued national efforts to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, including through the signing and implementation by the Government of the action plan to halt and prevent the recruitment and use of children in the government forces of Yemen, in line with Security Council resolutions 1612(2005), 1882(2009) and 1998(2011), and urges armed groups to allow United Nations personnel safe and unhindered access to territories under their control for monitoring and reporting purposes;

8. *Looks forward* to the early adoption of a law on transitional justice and national reconciliation that, while taking into account the recommendations of the National Dialogue Conference, is in accordance with the international obligations and commitments of Yemen, and follows best practices as appropriate;

9. *Calls upon* all parties to comply with their obligations under international law, including applicable international humanitarian law and human rights law;

Further measures

10. *Emphasizes* that the transition agreed upon by the parties to the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism agreement has not yet been fully achieved, and calls upon all Yemenis to fully respect the implementation of the political transition and adhere to the values of the implementation mechanism agreement;

11. *Decides* that all Member States shall, for an initial period of one year from the date of the adoption of the present resolution, freeze without delay all funds, other financial assets and economic resources which are on their territories, which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the individuals or entities designated by the Committee estab-

lished pursuant to paragraph 19 below, or by individuals or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction, or by entities owned or controlled by them, and decides further that all Member States shall ensure that any funds, financial assets or economic resources are prevented from being made available by their nationals or by any individuals or entities within their territories, to or for the benefit of the individuals or entities designated by the Committee;

12. *Also decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 11 above do not apply to funds, other financial assets or economic resources that have been determined by relevant Member States:

(a) To be necessary for basic expenses, including payment for foodstuffs, rent or mortgage, medicines and medical treatment, taxes, insurance premiums and public utility charges or exclusively for payment of reasonable professional fees and reimbursement of incurred expenses associated with the provision of legal services in accordance with national laws, or fees or service charges, in accordance with national laws, for routine holding or maintenance of frozen funds, other financial assets and economic resources, after notification by the relevant State to the Committee of the intention to authorize, where appropriate, access to such funds, other financial assets or economic resources and in the absence of a negative decision by the Committee within five working days of such notification;

(b) To be necessary for extraordinary expenses, provided that such determination has been notified by the relevant State or Member States to the Committee and has been approved by the Committee;

(c) To be the subject of a judicial, administrative or arbitral lien or judgment, in which case the funds, other financial assets and economic resources may be used to satisfy that lien or judgment, provided that the lien or judgment was entered into prior to the date of the present resolution, is not for the benefit of a person or entity designated by the Committee and has been notified by the relevant State or Member States to the Committee;

13. *Further decides* that Member States may permit the addition to the accounts frozen pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 11 above of interest or other earnings due on those accounts or payments due under contracts, agreements or obligations that arose prior to the date on which those accounts became subject to the provisions of the present resolution, provided that any such interest, other earnings and payments continue to be subject to these provisions and are frozen;

14. *Decides* that the measures in paragraph 11 above shall not prevent a designated person or entity from making payment due under a contract entered into prior to the listing of such a person or entity, provided that the relevant States have determined that the payment is not directly or indirectly received by a person or entity designated pursuant to paragraph 11 above, and after notification by the relevant States to the Committee of the intention to make or receive such payments or to authorize, where appropriate, the unfreezing of funds, other financial assets or economic resources for this purpose, 10 working days prior to such authorization;

Travel ban

15. *Decides* that, for an initial period of one year from the date of the adoption of the present resolution, all Member States shall take the measures necessary to prevent

the entry into or transit through their territories of individuals designated by the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 19 below, provided that nothing in the present paragraph shall oblige a State to refuse its own nationals entry into its territory;

16. *Also decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 15 above shall not apply:

(a) Where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that such travel is justified on the grounds of humanitarian need, including religious obligation;

(b) Where entry or transit is necessary for the fulfilment of a judicial process;

(c) Where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that an exemption would further the objectives of peace and national reconciliation in Yemen; and

(d) Where a State determines on a case-by-case basis that such entry or transit is required to advance peace and stability in Yemen and the State subsequently notifies the Committee within 48 hours after making such a determination;

Designation criteria

17. *Decides* that the provisions of paragraphs 11 and 15 above shall apply to individuals or entities designated by the Committee as engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Yemen;

18. *Underscores* that such acts as described in paragraph 17 above may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Obstructing or undermining the successful completion of the political transition, as outlined in the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism agreement;

(b) Impeding the implementation of the outcomes of the final report of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference through violence, or attacks on essential infrastructure; or

(c) Planning, directing or committing acts that violate applicable international human rights law or international humanitarian law, or acts that constitute human rights abuses, in Yemen;

Sanctions committee

19. *Decides* to establish, in accordance with rule 28 of its provisional rules of procedure, a Committee of the Security Council consisting of all the members of the Council (herein "the Committee"), to undertake the following tasks:

(a) To monitor implementation of the measures imposed in paragraphs 11 and 15 above with a view to strengthening, facilitating and improving implementation of these measures by Member States;

(b) To seek and review information regarding those individuals and entities that may be engaging in the acts described in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

(c) To designate individuals and entities to be subject to the measures imposed in paragraphs 11 and 15 above;

(d) To establish such guidelines as may be necessary to facilitate the implementation of the measures imposed above;

(e) To report within 60 days to the Council on its work and thereafter to report as deemed necessary by the Committee;

(f) To encourage a dialogue between the Committee and interested Member States, in particular those in the

region, including by inviting representatives of such States to meet with the Committee to discuss implementation of the measures;

(g) To seek from all States whatever information it may consider useful regarding the actions taken by them to implement effectively the measures imposed;

(h) To examine and take appropriate action on information regarding alleged violations or non-compliance with the measures contained in paragraphs 11 and 15 above;

20. *Directs* the Committee to cooperate with other relevant Security Council sanctions committees, in particular the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities;

Reporting

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to create for an initial period of 13 months, in consultation with the Committee, and to make the financial and security arrangements necessary to support the work of the Panel of Experts on Yemen, a group of up to four experts (the Panel of Experts), under the direction of the Committee, to carry out the following tasks:

(a) To assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate as specified in the present resolution, including through providing the Committee at any time with information relevant to the potential designation at a later stage of individuals and entities that may be engaging in the activities described in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

(b) To gather, examine and analyse information from States, relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and other interested parties regarding the implementation of the measures decided in the present resolution, in particular incidents of undermining the political transition;

(c) To provide to the Council, after discussion with the Committee, an update no later than 25 June 2014, an interim report by 25 September 2014 and a final report no later than 25 February 2015; and

(d) To assist the Committee in refining and updating information on the list of individuals subject to measures imposed pursuant to paragraphs 11 and 15 of the present resolution, including through the provision of identifying information and additional information for the publicly available narrative summary of reasons for listing;

22. *Directs* the Panel of Experts to cooperate with other relevant expert groups established by the Council to support the work of its sanctions committees, in particular the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526(2004) of 30 January 2004;

23. *Urges* all parties and all Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations to ensure cooperation with the Panel of Experts, and further urges all Member States involved to ensure the safety of the members of the Panel and unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites in order for the Panel to execute its mandate;

Commitment to review

24. *Affirms* that it shall keep the situation in Yemen under continuous review and that it shall be prepared to review the appropriateness of the measures contained in the present resolution, including the strengthening, modi-

fication, suspension or lifting of the measures, as may be needed at any time in the light of developments;

Economic reform and development assistance to support the transition

25. *Calls upon* donors and regional organizations to fully disburse the pledges made at the Riyadh donor conference on 4 September 2012 to fund the priorities set out in the Mutual Accountability Framework agreed in Riyadh, and encourages donors with undisbursed pledges to work closely with the Executive Bureau to identify priority projects for support, taking into account the security conditions on the ground;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Government of National Unity taking action to implement the urgent policy reforms set out in the Mutual Accountability Framework, and encourages donors to provide technical assistance to help to drive forward these reforms, including through the Executive Bureau;

27. *Expresses its concern* over reported serious human rights abuses and violence against civilians in both the northern and southern governorates, including Al Dhale'e Governorate, urges all parties involved to end the conflicts and comply with their obligations under applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, and stresses the need for parties to take all required measures to avoid civilian casualties and respect and protect the civilian population;

28. *Encourages* the international community to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to Yemen, and calls for the full funding of the 2014 Strategic Response Plan for Yemen, and in this regard requests all parties in Yemen to facilitate safe and unhindered humanitarian access to ensure the delivery of assistance to all populations in need, and calls upon all parties to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and of the United Nations and its associated personnel and their assets;

29. *Condemns* the growing number of attacks carried out or sponsored by Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, and expresses its determination to address this threat in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including applicable human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, and in this regard, through the Al-Qaida sanctions regime administered by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011), and reiterates its readiness, under the above-mentioned regime, to sanction further individuals, groups, undertakings and entities that do not cut off all ties to Al-Qaida and associated groups;

30. *Calls for* continued national efforts to address the threat posed by all weapons, including explosive weapons and small arms and light weapons, to stability and security in Yemen, including through ensuring the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and explosive weapons, and the collection and/or destruction of explosive remnants of war and surplus, seized, unmarked or illicitly held weapons and ammunition, and further stresses the importance of incorporating such elements into security sector reform;

31. *Acknowledges* the serious economic, political and security obstacles facing refugees and internally displaced persons in Yemen who wish to return to their homes after years of conflict, and supports and encourages the efforts of the Government of Yemen and the international community to facilitate their return;

United Nations involvement

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his good offices role, notes with appreciation the work of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, Mr. Jamal Benomar, stresses the importance of their close coordination with international partners, including the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Group of Ambassadors and other actors, in order to contribute to the successful transition, and in this regard further requests the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate assistance from the international community in support of the transition;

33. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report on developments in Yemen, including on the implementation of the outcome of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference, every 60 days;

34. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 August [meeting 7255], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/18** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the recent progress in Yemen's political transition, in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism, including the recent meeting of the National Authority for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Dialogue Conference Outcomes held on 11 August 2014; and the economic reform agenda. The Security Council supports the President of Yemen, Mr. Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, in his efforts to address the concerns of all parties within the framework of the National Dialogue Conference outcomes, urging the Yemeni authorities to expedite the process of reforms, including army and security sector reform.

The Council urges all the parties in Yemen to adhere to resolving their differences through dialogue and consultation, reject acts of violence to achieve political goals, refrain from provocation and fully abide by resolutions 2014(2011), 2051(2012) and 2140(2014). Furthermore, the Council calls upon all Member States to refrain from external interference which seeks to foment conflict and instability and instead to support the political transition.

The members of the Council note with concern that the Houthis and others continue to stoke the conflict in the north in an attempt to obstruct the political transition. The Council recalls that resolution 2140(2014) introduced targeted sanctions measures against individuals or entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security or stability of Yemen. The Council supports the efforts of the Panel of Experts on Yemen in gathering and analysing information regarding the implementation of these measures, in particular incidents of undermining the political transition.

The Council expresses grave concern about the deterioration of the security situation in Yemen in the light of the action taken by the Houthis, led by Mr. Abdul Malik al-Houthi, and those who support them, to undermine the political transition and the security of Yemen. These actions include their escalating campaign to bring down the Government of Yemen; establishing camps in and around Sana'a; seeking to supplant the authority of

the State by installing checkpoints on strategic routes into Sana'a; as well as ongoing fighting in Al Jawf. The Council calls upon all armed groups to refrain from any action which might exacerbate this already fragile situation.

The Council condemns the actions of Houthi forces commanded by Mr. Abdullah Yahya Al Hakim (Abu Ali al Hakim), who overran Amran, including the Yemeni Army Brigade headquarters, on 8 July 2014.

The Council calls upon the Houthis:

(a) To withdraw their forces from Amran and return Amran to Government of Yemen control;

(b) To cease all armed hostilities against the Government of Yemen in Al Jawf; and

(c) To remove the camps and dismantle the checkpoints they have erected in and around Sana'a.

The Council condemns the growing number of attacks carried out or sponsored by Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, and expresses its determination to address this threat in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including applicable human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, and, in this regard, through the Al-Qaida sanctions regime administered by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) and 1989(2011), and reiterates its readiness, under the above-mentioned regime, to sanction further individuals, groups, undertakings and entities who do not cut off all ties to Al-Qaida and associated groups.

The Council stresses the need for an initial draft of the constitution to be passed to the National Authority review in a timely manner in order to conduct a referendum on the constitution without undue delay.

The Council reiterates its call for comprehensive, independent and impartial investigations, consistent with international standards, into alleged human rights violations and abuses in line with the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism. The Security Council recalls its reference in resolution 2140(2014) to the early adoption of a law on transitional justice and national reconciliation.

The Council notes the formidable economic, security and social challenges confronting Yemen, which continue to leave many Yemenis in acute need of humanitarian assistance. It reaffirms the need to expedite economic reforms, which are a necessary part of achieving macroeconomic stability, fighting poverty and addressing the chronic humanitarian consequences of the crisis in a sustainable manner. It encourages rapid implementation of Government of Yemen plans to improve social protection, as well as urging the international community to support the humanitarian response plan, which remains underfunded. The Council also urges all parties to facilitate safe and unhindered access for humanitarian actors to reach people in need of humanitarian assistance. It also reaffirms the need for all parties to ensure the safety of civilians, including those receiving assistance, as well as the need to ensure the security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel.

The Council remains closely engaged on the situation in Yemen and will continue to closely follow the next

steps towards a peaceful political transition. In this regard, it welcomes the continued and coordinated efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Group of Ten Ambassadors, the Secretary-General's good offices, including through his Special Adviser on Yemen, Mr. Jamal Benomar, the wider diplomatic community and the next meeting of the Friends of Yemen that will take place on 24 September 2014 in New York. The Council underscores the need for continued international support for Yemen's political transition, including through the fulfilment of commitments made by donors to support Yemen.

Communication. By a 1 September letter [S/2014/685], the League of Arab States (LAS) transmitted to the Security Council the texts of the resolutions adopted by the LAS Council (Cairo, Egypt, 7 September), including a resolution concerning developments in the situation in Yemen.

Security Council press statement. On 23 September [SC/11578], the Security Council welcomed the signature of the Peace and National Partnership Agreement in Yemen, which built on the National Dialogue Conference outcomes and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, and supported the efforts of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen in facilitating the signing and implementation of the agreement. The Council also called on all parties to implement all terms of the agreement in its entirety.

Communication. By a 27 October letter [S/2014/764], Kuwait transmitted to the Security Council, on behalf of the GCC, the position of the GCC States on Yemen.

Security Council press statement. On 8 November [SC/11638], the Council welcomed the formation of Yemen's new Government and urged all parties and political actors in Yemen to unite behind President Abdo Rabbo Mansour Hadi, Prime Minister Khaled Bahah and the new cabinet to keep the country on the path to stability and security.

Sanctions

The Committee established pursuant to Council resolution 2140(2014) (see p. 474) was mandated to oversee the implementation of the sanctions measures relating to Yemen, namely, an asset freeze and a travel ban. The measures applied to individuals or entities designated by the Committee as engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen. Such acts included, but were not limited to, obstructing or undermining the successful completion of the political transition, as outlined in the GCC initiative and implementation mechanism agreement; impeding the implementation of the outcomes of the final report of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference through violence, or attacks on essential infrastructure; or planning, directing or committing acts that violated applicable international

human rights law or international humanitarian law, or acts that constituted human rights abuses, in Yemen. The Committee was assisted by a Panel of Experts.

Panel of Experts. On 16 April [S/2014/282], pursuant to resolution 2140(2014), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to create for an initial period of 13 months, in consultation with the Committee established pursuant to the same resolution, a group of up to four experts ("Panel of Experts"). The Secretary-General provided to the Security Council the names of four experts appointed to serve on the panel.

Security Council considerations. On 14 May [S/PV.7175], the Council held a briefing followed by consultations on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140(2014). The Chair of the Committee, the Permanent Representative of Lithuania, updated the Council on the discussions and activities of the Committee since the adoption of resolution 2140(2014). The Committee adopted guidelines for the conduct of its work on 4 April. The Committee's first meeting was held on 30 April to initiate a dialogue among the Committee, Yemen and GCC member countries to discuss implementation of the measures imposed by resolution 2140(2014). On 5 May, the Committee met in informal consultations with the three members of the Panel of Experts. The Council was advised that the Panel's report would be submitted to the Council no later than 25 June.

At the Council meeting on 11 December [S/PV.7336], the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140(2014), the Permanent Representative of Lithuania, updated the Council on the discussions and activities of the Committee from 15 May. On 7 November the Committee designated three individuals—Abd Al-Khaliq Al-Huthi, Abdullah Yahya Al-Hakim and Ali Abdullah Saleh—as subject to the assets freeze and travel ban measures. During the reporting period, the Committee met five times in informal consultations and convened one formal meeting. The informal consultations were organized to hear presentations by the Panel of Experts on its update report, interim report and statements of case concerning individuals who, in the Panel's assessment, met the criteria for designation; to hold an interactive discussion with the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee on issues of mutual relevance in relation to Yemen; and to hear a briefing by the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Yemen. The focus of the formal meeting, which was convened after the designation of the three individuals, was on implementation-related aspects of the sanctions regime in Yemen and the region. On 25 November, the Committee approved a cooperation agreement with INTERPOL effective 4 December.

Panel of Experts. On 2 July [S/2014/465], the Secretary-General informed the Council that

Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou (Mauritania), appointed to serve as armed groups expert on the Panel of Experts on Yemen and designated as the Coordinator of the Panel, withdrew from the Panel on 2 May. Accordingly, Mohammad Sbaiti (Lebanon) was appointed to serve as armed groups expert and Alma Abdul-Hadi Jadallah (Jordan), regional expert on the Panel of Experts, was designated to serve as the Coordinator of the Panel.

Committee report. By a 17 December letter [S/2014/906], the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140(2014) transmitted to the Security Council the first annual report of the Committee, which covered the Committee's activities from 26 February to 31 December. During the reporting period, the Committee held six informal consultations and two formal meetings. As at the end of the reporting period, three individuals were on the sanctions list of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140(2014), having been designated on 7 November. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2140(2014), the Secretary-General appointed four individuals to the Panel of Experts with the following areas of expertise: armed groups, finance, international humanitarian law and regional issues. In July, the Panel submitted to the Committee a report on its first visit to Yemen. In October, the Panel submitted to the Committee statements of case on four individuals who, in the Panel's assessment, met the designation criteria outlined in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 2140(2014). The Panel conducted visits to Bahrain, Germany, Italy, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yemen.

Other issues

Cambodia

In 2014, the Secretary-General reported on progress made in implementing the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia concerning the Prosecution under Cambodian Law of Crimes Committed during the Period of Democratic Kampuchea. The 2003 Agreement, approved by the General Assembly in resolution 57/228 B [YUN 2003, p. 385] and entered into force on 29 April 2005, regulated cooperation between the United Nations and Cambodia in bringing to trial senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea and those who were most responsible for the crimes committed during the period from 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979. The Agreement provided, among other things, the legal basis and the principles and modalities of such cooperation.

Report of Secretary-General. In October [A/69/536], the Secretary-General reported on progress achieved by the Extraordinary Chambers in

the Courts of Cambodia since his last report in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 352]. The report described the completion plan and road map, which had been formulated on the basis of a rigorous forecast of the workload associated with the timely judicial completion of the three remaining cases; provided a projection regarding the anticipated use of the approved commitment authority for 2014; and addressed mechanisms for the future financing of the Chambers.

In regard to the Khmer Rouge trials, the charges in case 002 had been severed into two separate cases, styled as cases 002/01 and 002/02, each with a separate trial and judgement. In case 002/01, the Trial Chamber pronounced its judgement on 7 August, convicting two surviving senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, of crimes against humanity in connection, notably, with forced movements of population from Phnom Penh and later from the regions and sentencing them to life imprisonment. The Trial Chamber initiated the trial in case 002/02 which encompassed charges relating to genocide, forced marriage and rape, internal purges, treatment of Buddhists and targeting of former Khmer Republic officials, in addition to alleged crimes committed at four security centres (including S-21), three worksites and a number of adjacent work cooperatives. The evidentiary hearings began on 17 October. The investigations in cases 003 and 004 continued and were forecast to be concluded by the first and second quarters of 2015, respectively, with decisions on whether any of the cases would be sent for trial to follow by the third and fourth quarters of 2015, respectively.

Following the request of the General Assembly for a completion strategy with a clear road map for the Chambers, the Chambers prepared a completion plan in which major procedural milestones were defined and the timelines required for the judicial completion of the current caseload were projected. A judicial conclusion of case 002 was projected in 2019 and of the investigative phases in cases 003 and 004 in 2015.

The Secretary-General welcomed the approval by the Assembly of a commitment authority of up to \$15.54 million for the international component for 2014, which had not been utilized but had served to secure staff contracts up to December 2014. While the commitment authority had provided the means for the United Nations to cope with such sporadic funding in respect of the international component, the same means did not exist for the national component. Despite the intensive fundraising efforts of the Special Expert to advise on United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, the national component faced serious funding shortfalls, which threatened the judicial operations of the Chambers and could prolong the timelines.

The Secretary-General requested the approval of the Assembly for an appropriation in the amount of

\$6,974,900 for 2014 under section 29B, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015. In light of the shortfall in pledges for 2015, he further sought an appropriation of up to \$23,954,400 for the international component and \$5,028,800 for the national component, for a total of \$28,983,200, to supplement the financial resources of the Chambers and to enable the Chambers to efficiently carry out their mandate, without the continuous threat of insufficient resources adversely affecting programme delivery. Additionally, the Secretary-General sought approval of the Assembly to use its discretion to provide reimbursable loans to the Government of Cambodia from the subvention of up to \$5,028,800 in 2015 to ensure the welfare of the national staff and their families.

ACABQ report. In December [A/69/652], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended that the General Assembly approve an appropriation in the amount of up to \$6,974,900 to cover the shortfall for 2014 in the international component from the approved commitment authority section 29B, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, and reduce the amount accordingly in the event of additional voluntary contributions received after October 2014. ACABQ also recommended that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$12.1 million for the period covering 2015 as a bridging financing mechanism, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on the use of the commitment authority during the main part of its seventieth session in the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015.

Children and armed conflict

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2068(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 724], the Secretary-General, in May, submitted his annual report [A/68/878-S/2014/339] on the situation of children affected by armed conflict in 2013, which included the situation in Myanmar. The report stated that the recruitment and use of children by parties to conflict continued to be a concern in 2013. The United Nations received complaints of 37 children newly recruited into the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw), including a 12-year-old boy, and 196 others previously recruited. Children used by the Tatmadaw continued to be deployed to the front-line as combatants and in other roles, in particular in Kachin State. Armed groups also continued to recruit and use children, including the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the KNLA Peace Council. Several cases of children associated with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and KNLA were reported

and verified. At least seven children were killed and six others injured in sporadic fighting between the Tatmadaw and KIA in Kachin and northern Shan States, including air strikes by the Tatmadaw. During clashes between the Tatmadaw and KIA from October to November 2013, several schools were reportedly damaged in Kachin State and several others were closed. In Kachin and northern Shan State, mine fields laid by the Tatmadaw and KIA in close proximity to schools and hospitals remained a concern. Several reports of sexual violence against children by Tatmadaw soldiers were received in 2013, including the alleged gang-rape of a 14-year-old girl in northern Kachin State. In February 2014, a Tatmadaw soldier was sentenced to life imprisonment by a civilian court for the rape of a seven-year-old girl in northern Shan State. In 2013, 178 children, in one case as young as 12, were separated from the Tatmadaw, including 134 under the framework of the action plan between the Tatmadaw and the United Nations and 15 through the International Labour Organization forced labour complaint mechanism.

India–Pakistan

The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) continued in 2014 to monitor the ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir.

By a 28 January letter [S/2014/63], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to add Switzerland to the list of contributors to UNMOGIP. The Council took note of his intention on 29 January [S/2014/64].

In a 26 June letter [S/2014/458], the Secretary-General informed the Council of his intention to appoint Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi (Ghana) as Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission of UNMOGIP, to succeed Major General Young-Bum Choi (Republic of Korea), who completed his assignment on 16 June. The Council took note of his intention on 30 June [S/2014/459].

By a 11 October letter [S/2014/730], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Council a letter he received that day from Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on National Security and Foreign Affairs, regarding the deteriorating security situation along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Philippines

Children and armed conflict

Working Group. At its forty-first meeting, on 25 October 2013, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the third report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Philippines. At its forty-third meeting, on 14 February 2014, the Working Group adopted

its conclusions on children and armed conflict in the Philippines [S/AC.51/2014/1]. The Working Group welcomed the commitment of the Philippines to develop an operational strategy for its armed forces and encouraged it to keep the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting informed about its progress. It also welcomed the steps taken by the Philippines in cooperating with the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting. Actions of non-State armed groups remained a major obstacle to ending and preventing all violations and abuses committed against children in the situation of armed conflict in the Philippines. The Working Group called upon all parties to the conflict in the Philippines to immediately end and prevent all violations and abuses committed against children, and demanded that all parties further implement previous conclusions of the Working Group. It recommended that the Security Council President transmit a letter to the Secretary-General inviting him to ensure that the country task force on monitoring and reporting strengthened its activities regarding all violations and abuses committed against children in the armed conflict in the Philippines, including the full and expeditious implementation of the action plan between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the United Nations in the Philippines signed on 1 August 2009; and requesting him to encourage the country task to renew its efforts to reach out to the New People's Army (NPA) with a view to developing an action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and to address other violations and abuses against children committed by NPA in the Philippines.

On 4 March, the Security Council President forwarded to the Secretary-General a letter [S/2014/150] dated 27 February from the Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict based on the Working Group's conclusions.

United Arab Emirates–Iran

The Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa

In a 10 February letter [S/2014/90] to the Secretary-General, the United Arab Emirates requested the Security Council to retain on its agenda for 2014 the item "Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council" [YUN 1971, p. 209], concerning Iran's occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa—three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates—until such time as the dispute was resolved by peaceful means through direct negotiations or through the International Court of Justice.

By a 28 February letter [S/2014/143] to the Secretary-General, Iran, with reference to the 10 February letter from the United Arab Emirates to the Secretary-General (see above) and the letter dated 10 September 2013 from the League of Arab States (LAS) to the Security Council [YUN 2013, p. 354], rejected the claims regarding the three islands.

In a 21 April letter [S/2014/291] to the Secretary-General, the United Arab Emirates, in reference to the 28 February letter from Iran to the Secretary-General (see above), rejected and objected to the claims made by Iran on the sovereignty over the three islands.

By a 14 July letter [S/2014/496] to the Secretary-General, the United Arab Emirates reported that Iran had recently raised the Iranian flag over part of the island of Abu Musa and strongly protested against the action.

By a 25 July letter [S/2014/549] to the Secretary-General, Iran, with reference to the 14 July letter from the United Arab Emirates to the Secretary-

General (see above), rejected the claims regarding the three islands.

In a 16 September letter [S/2014/686] to the Secretary-General, Libya, as Chair of the Group of Arab States for the month of September, conveyed the resolution adopted by the LAS Council at its 142nd ordinary session (Cairo, Egypt, 7 September) concerning the occupation by Iran of the three islands and the importance of the issue remaining on the agenda of the Security Council until Iran ended its occupation and the United Arab Emirates regained full sovereignty over the three islands.

By a 23 October letter [S/2014/759] to the Secretary-General, the United Arab Emirates, in reference to the 25 July letter from Iran to the Secretary-General (see above), rejected the claims made regarding the sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb and also included a copy of the 1971 Memorandum of Understanding regarding Abu Musa.

Europe and the Mediterranean

In 2014, the crisis in Ukraine emerged as a major new concern of the Security Council. The conflict, which opposed President Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leaders, led to the President leaving the country for an unknown destination and requesting military assistance of the Russian Federation to restore law and order. Meanwhile, there was a build-up of Russian troops in the Ukrainian Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which declared its independence following a referendum on 18 March. The peninsula was subsequently incorporated into the Russian Federation. The Security Council was unable to pass a resolution affirming Ukraine's territorial integrity. The General Assembly, however, in resolution 68/262 of 27 March, affirmed its commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine and urged the parties to pursue a peaceful solution. At the same time, armed separatist groups operating in parts of eastern and southern Ukraine took over the administration of a number of towns and villages. The fighting between separatist groups and the Ukrainian army resulted in significant loss of life and suffering for the civilian population and caused massive refugee flows to other parts of Ukraine. During the conflict, a Malaysia Airlines commercial aircraft flying over Ukrainian airspace was brought down with a missile on 18 July, killing 298 passengers and crew. The Security Council, in resolution 2166(2014) of 21 July, deplored the downing of the aircraft and called for an independent investigation into the incident. That investigation was led by the Netherlands, which in its preliminary report noted that the plane was hit by a large number of "high-energy objects from outside the aircraft." In other developments, Petro Poroshenko was elected President of Ukraine and proposed a peace plan for settling the conflict, including a unilateral ceasefire. On 5 and 19 September, respectively, under the auspices of the Trilateral Contact Group, the Minsk protocol to halt the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the Minsk memorandum clarifying implementation of the ceasefire agreement were signed. The Secretary-General joined other leaders in welcoming those agreements and in urging their full implementation.

The downwards trajectory followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina over the previous eight years continued in 2014, with ongoing challenges to the fundamentals of the 1995 Peace Agreement. A major development was the holding of elections in October which led to the appointment of a new government. The newly elected Presidency assumed office on 17 November

and the House of Representatives was inaugurated on 9 December. Efforts were also initiated aimed at integrating Bosnia and Herzegovina into the European Union (EU). The Security Council renewed the authorization of the European Union Force-Althea for a further 12 months.

In Kosovo, the parties continued implementation of the 2013 Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations. The Kosovo Assembly was dissolved in May and new elections were held on 8 June. No party gained an outright majority, leading to six months of political stalemate that ended on 19 November, when agreement was reached to form a coalition government. Serbia welcomed the establishment of the new Kosovo authorities and affirmed its readiness to engage them in discussions at the earliest opportunity. A number of serious incidents, however, occurred throughout the year, particularly in northern Kosovo, threatening its fragile security situation.

International efforts continued to advance the Georgia-Abkhaz peace process. International discussions under the leadership of the EU, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to address security, stability and humanitarian issues in Georgia were held throughout the year. In June, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the status of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, that called on all participants in the international discussions to ensure respect for human rights, and create favourable security conditions to the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all IDPs and refugees.

No progress was made towards the settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

In Cyprus, efforts continued through the Secretary-General's good offices mission to reach a suitable peaceful settlement to the conflict opposing Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. On 11 February, the leaders of the two sides concluded a joint declaration officially relaunching high-level negotiations on a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) continued to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. The Security Council extended the mandate of UNFICYP through 31 January 2015.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2014, the international community continued to assist the two entities comprising the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina—the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (where mainly Bosnian Muslim–Bosniacs—and Bosnian Croats resided) and the Republika Srpska (where mostly Bosnian Serbs reside)—in implementing the 1995 General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (the “Peace Agreement”) [YUN 1995, p. 544]. Since the conclusion and withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) in December 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 359], those efforts had been led by the European Union (EU) and accomplished through the activities of the Office of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina (OHR), responsible for the Agreement’s civilian aspects [YUN 1996, p. 293]; the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, responsible for helping develop sustainable policing arrangements, which were launched on 1 January 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 409] to ensure follow-on to UNMIBH; and the European Union Force-Althea (EUFOR-Althea), responsible for the Agreement’s military aspects, which were transferred to it by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 401]. The Peace Implementation Council (PIC) and its Steering Board continued to monitor and facilitate the Agreement’s implementation.

The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on progress made in the implementation process and related political developments during the year (see below) in the context of his mission implementation plan, which set out a number of core tasks to be accomplished.

The downwards trajectory followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina over the previous eight years continued in 2014. The most significant developments were the flooding in mid-March that affected the country and the holding of the country’s seventh general elections on 12 October. The elections appeared to have generally been conducted in an orderly fashion, with an approximately 55 per cent overall voter turnout. The election results were certified on 10 November. The newly elected Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina assumed office on 17 November and the House of representatives was inaugurated on 9 December. On 5 November, the EU launched an initiative offering the country a real opportunity to make progress on integration with the Union. Limited progress was made towards meeting the outstanding requirements of the five objectives and two conditions necessary for the closure of OHR. Challenges to the basics of the Peace Agreement continued, including statements regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia

and Herzegovina, and walkouts and boycotts of the country’s legislative bodies. In particular, the leadership of the Republika Srpska continued to ignore its obligation to fully cooperate with international organizations and agencies, failing to provide them with all information necessary for their work. The Security Council, by resolution 2183(2014) renewed the authorization of EUFOR-Althea for a further 12 months (see p. 487).

Implementation of Peace Agreement

Civilian aspects

The civilian aspects of the 1995 Peace Agreement entailed a broad range of activities, including the provision of humanitarian aid and resources for infrastructure rehabilitation, the establishment of political and constitutional institutions, the promotion of respect for human rights, and the holding of free and fair elections. The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, who chaired the PIC Steering Board and other key implementation bodies, was the final authority with regard to implementing the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement.

Office of High Representative

Reports of High Representative. The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko (Austria), reported to the Security Council through the Secretary-General on the peace implementation process for the periods 21 October 2013 to 21 April 2014 [S/2014/314], 21 April to 21 October [S/2014/777] and 21 October 2014 to 21 April 2015 [S/2015/300]. The Council considered the reports of the High Representative on 11 November [S/PV.7308].

Political situation and other developments

The High Representative, briefing the Security Council on 15 May [S/PV.7176], presented the forty-fifth report [S/2014/314] covering the period from 21 October 2013 to 21 April 2014. According to the report, in response to the failure of the authorities to tackle their problems, and in support of a protest that began in Tuzla on 5 February, citizens in many cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina took to the streets on 7 February to call on the authorities to address many long-standing economic and social concerns. The demonstrations turned briefly violent, but resulted in no loss of life. Some political leaders and parties attempted to exploit the demonstrations for political gain in advance of the forthcoming elections. In the aftermath of the protests, a new form of civic organization, called “plenium”, emerged to allow for the exchange of views and agree on demands to be put before governments. One of the key demands of the “plenums” was the resignation of governments and this demand was met in four cantons (Tuzla, Sarajevo, Zenica and Bihac).

Also of major concern were statements and actions challenging the fundamentals of the General Framework Agreement. Unilateral actions by Republika Srpska towards adopting an entity-level residence law and the adoption by its government of a decree on residence verification, despite the fact that the matter was exclusively regulated at the state level, risked reversing measures taken to implement core provisions of the Agreement, including those related to freedom of movement.

The Central Election Commission was expected to announce that elections would be held in October, in accordance with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Election Law. On 15 April, the House of Representatives supported amendments to the Election Law, providing for limited technical improvement. The amendments, however, were sent for harmonization in the Collegium as they failed to receive the required support from Republika Srpska delegates. The Federation Parliament adopted, in April, amendments to the Law on Execution of the Budget of the Federation for 2014. Important progress was made in unblocking long-delayed appointments to the Federation Constitutional Court and its Vital National Interest Panel. On 11 April, the Federation Parliament adopted the Law on the Rights of Returnees to their Pre-war Place of Permanent Residence in Republika Srpska and the Brcko District.

Briefing the Security Council on 11 November [S/PV.7308], the High Representative, presented the forty-sixth report [S/2014/777] covering the period from 21 April to 21 October. The most significant developments during the period were the flooding that affected the country and the holding of the country's seventh general elections on 12 October. The elections appeared to have generally been conducted in an orderly fashion, but the high number of spoiled and invalid ballots was a source of controversy, prompting a recount for about 120 polling stations before the preliminary results were announced. Overall voter turnout stood at approximately 55 per cent. While the final election results were to be confirmed by the Central Election Commission, the preliminary results showed that, in the Federation, the Party for Democratic Action received the highest support. The Croatian Democratic Union reaffirmed its position as the largest Croat Party in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Republika Srpska, the ruling coalition, the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats lost votes compared with 2010, but remained the largest party. The three-member Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency saw the re-election of the current Bosniak member and two new Croat and Serb members. One of the candidates for the Croat member of the Presidency announced his intention to file a complaint alleging fraud.

Officials of Republika Srpska continued to question and challenge the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, advocating for secession and the dissolution of the State. The issue of

properties suffered a serious setback, with authorities in Republika Srpska seeking to transfer illegally the right of ownership over sites in the Kalinovik and Foca municipalities to the local municipality in violation of the High Representative's ban.

The authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to make progress on the outstanding objectives for the closure of OHR. In a positive development, the country took steps to assume control of its air space, opening the Bosnia and Herzegovina Area Control Centre to provide air traffic services over parts of the Sarajevo flight information region. Final steps were also completed to make the Vital Interest Panel of the Federation Constitutional Court functional and, in July, the Federation Parliament adopted a new Federation Law on Internal Affairs, representing a workable model for cantonal laws to be similarly improved.

In a later report [S/2015/300], the High Representative informed that the election results for the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the two entities (the Federation and Republika Srpska), and the 10 cantons in the Federation were certified on 10 November. The Republika Srpska National Assembly appointed a government on the same day, the first to do so, which took office on 27 December. The newly elected Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina officially assumed office on 17 November. The House of Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina was inaugurated on 9 December, and the election of working bodies completed on 29 December. On 5 November, the Foreign Ministers of Germany and the United Kingdom launched an initiative, which became an EU initiative, offering the country an opportunity to make progress on integration with the EU. On 13 November, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Air Navigation services commenced services in the airspace between 10,000 and 32,500 feet.

Judicial reform

With the expiration of the justice sector reform strategy at the end of 2013, a new strategy for 2014–2018 was adopted by the Brcko District and Federation. It remained for the Republika Srpska government and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers to adopt the strategy. Corruption was still a concern, with a number of arrests of high-ranking officials in June and September, including the Federation's Deputy Prime Minister and several others on charges of tax evasion. The Supervisory Board for the Implementation of the War Crimes Prosecution Strategy expressed satisfaction with the pace of war crimes processing. Indicators suggested that the goal of reducing the number of unsolved cases by 5 per cent by September was surpassed. Nevertheless, the target of prosecuting the most complex war crimes cases by the end of 2015, and other war crimes cases by 2023, was unlikely to be met. A special report on the causes for the delay was being prepared. Additional judges and prosecutors were appointed to speed up the process.

Economic reform

Although the total economic impact caused by floods and landslides in May were estimated at 15 per cent of the gross national product, Bosnia and Herzegovina's economic recovery was more resilient than expected, with projected growth in 2014 close to 1 per cent. In the first eight months of the year, exports increased by 0.5 per cent, and imports by 5.6 per cent. Industrial production, however, decreased by 4.5 per cent compared to the previous year. Unemployment and foreign direct investment (FDI) levels remained a serious concern, with the official unemployment rate close to 44 per cent and FDI dropping 54.3 per cent in the first half of the year. The resumption of international disbursements, in particular by the International Monetary Fund and indirect taxes to help the country to alleviate the impact of the floods helped mitigate the risks to fiscal stability. The fact that the budget of state institutions had been locked at the same level for three years could impact the functioning of those institutions and their ability to meet their obligations. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina's non-compliance with its international obligations related to money-laundering, the financing of terrorism, and the energy sector, could prompt MONEYVAL (the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism of the Council of Europe) to impose additional measures on the country. On 23 September, the Energy Community Ministerial Council declared Bosnia and Herzegovina in breach of its obligation in the gas sector by its failure to adopt legislation requested by the Council. The Energy Community secretariat was invited by the Council to assist the country in drafting the requested legislation.

Media development

Since the adoption of state-level legislation requiring public broadcasters within Bosnia and Herzegovina to establish the umbrella Public Broadcasting Corporation and implement key reforms to make more efficient use of resources and coordinate within a single system, no action had been taken towards registration. The financial sustainability of the system was also questioned, as transition provisions relating to the financing of public broadcasters were due to expire in less than six months. The failure of the Council of Ministers to appoint a new director to the state-level Communications Regulatory Agency crippled the institution regulating and overseeing public and private electronic media throughout the country.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

The Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities failed to create the conditions for ensuring the right of refugees and displaced persons to return to their pre-war homes. As a result, a possible recommenda-

tion by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to stop granting refugee status to refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina seemed problematic, especially in the light of the expected political fallout from the announcement of census results. The High Representative recommended new consultations with Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities at all levels and with international organizations on the issues following the establishment of new governments in the country after the elections.

The sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons to communities where their group was not a numerical majority was further hindered by divisions and discrimination within the education sector. The High Representative stated that the incoming authorities should address education in order to raise standards throughout the country based on the principles of non-discrimination, non-segregation and inclusiveness.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 11 November [meeting 7307], the Security Council adopted **resolution 2183(2014)** by vote (14-0-1). The draft [S/2014/794] was submitted by France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous relevant resolutions concerning the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and the relevant statements by its President, including resolutions 1031(1995) of 15 December 1995, 1088(1996) of 12 December 1996, 1423(2002) of 12 July 2002, 1491(2003) of 11 July 2003, 1551(2004) of 9 July 2004, 1575(2004) of 22 November 2004, 1639(2005) of 21 November 2005, 1722(2006) of 21 November 2006, 1764(2007) of 29 June 2007, 1785(2007) of 21 November 2007, 1845(2008) of 20 November 2008, 1869(2009) of 25 March 2009, 1895(2009) of 18 November 2009, 1948(2010) of 18 November 2010, 2019(2011) of 16 November 2011, 2074(2012) of 14 November 2012 and 2123(2013) of 12 November 2013,

Reaffirming its commitment to the political settlement of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States there within their internationally recognized borders,

Emphasizing its full support for the continued role in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Underlining its commitment to support the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively, the Peace Agreement), as well as the relevant decisions of the Peace Implementation Council,

Recalling all the agreements concerning the status of forces referred to in appendix B to annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement, and reminding the parties of their obligation to continue to comply therewith,

Recalling also the provisions of its resolution 1551(2004) concerning the provisional application of the status-of-forces agreements contained in appendix B to annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement,

Emphasizing its appreciation to the High Representative, the Commander and personnel of the multinational stabilization force (the European Union Force-Althea), the Senior Military Representative and personnel of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters Sarajevo, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the personnel of other international organizations and agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina for their contributions to the implementation of the Peace Agreement,

Emphasizing that a comprehensive and coordinated return of refugees and displaced persons throughout the region continues to be crucial to lasting peace,

Encouraging the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of the international community, to accelerate their efforts to address the disposal of excess ammunition,

Recalling the declarations of the ministerial meetings of the Peace Implementation Council,

Recognizing that full implementation of the Peace Agreement is not yet complete, while paying tribute to the achievements of the authorities at State and entity level in Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the international community in the 19 years since the signing of the Peace Agreement,

Recognizing also that the security environment has remained calm and stable, and noting that the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities have so far proven capable to deal with threats to the safe and secure environment,

Emphasizing the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration on the basis of the Peace Agreement, while recognizing the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina's transition to a functional, reform-oriented, modern and democratic European country,

Welcoming the steps taken by the international community to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in the ongoing reconstruction efforts following unprecedented floods that hit the country in May 2014, and stressing the importance for its authorities to address the calls by citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve the social and economic situation,

Welcoming also the overall orderly conduct and the competitive environment of the elections, which took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12 October 2014, while taking note of concerns expressed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe election observation mission, and underlining the crucial importance of swift government formation at all levels to address the multiple challenges ahead,

Taking note of the reports of the High Representative, including his latest report, transmitted on 31 October 2014,

Determined to promote the peaceful resolution of the conflicts in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 9 December 1994 and the statement by its President of 9 February 2000,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

Welcoming the continued presence of the European Union Force-Althea, successfully focusing on capacity-

building and training while also retaining the capability to contribute to the deterrence capacity of the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities if the situation so requires,

Welcoming also the readiness of the European Union, as confirmed in the conclusions of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union on 20 October 2014, to continue at this stage an executive military role to support Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to maintain the safe and secure environment, under a renewed United Nations mandate, and welcoming the agreement of the European Union to keep the operation under regular review, including on the basis of the situation on the ground, with a view to making progress on the conditions conducive to the delivery of its mandate,

Recalling the letters between the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization sent to the Security Council on 19 November 2004 on how those organizations will cooperate together in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which both organizations recognize that the European Union Force-Althea will have the main peace stabilization role under the military aspects of the Peace Agreement,

Recalling also the confirmation by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including its constituent entities, of the arrangements for the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters presence,

Welcoming the reaffirmed determination of the European Union to actively and intensively engage in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina's European Union integration process and the continued engagement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization,

Reiterating its calls upon the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take the steps necessary to complete the 5 plus 2 agenda, which remains necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative, as confirmed in the Steering Board communiqués of the Peace Implementation Council, and noting the continued lack of progress in that regard,

Reiterating its calls upon all Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders to refrain from divisive rhetoric and to make further concrete and tangible progress towards European Union integration,

Determining that the situation in the region continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. *Reaffirms once again its support* for the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively, the Peace Agreement), as well as for the Dayton Agreement on Implementing the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina of 10 November 1995, and calls upon the parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Agreements;

2. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for the further successful implementation of the Peace Agreement lies with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina themselves and that the continued willingness of the international community and major donors to assume the political, military and economic burden of implementation and reconstruction efforts will be determined by the compliance and active participation by all the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing the Peace Agreement and rebuilding a civil society, in particular in full cooperation

with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in accordance with their respective obligations under resolutions 827(1993) of 25 May 1993, 955(1994) of 8 November 1994 and 1966(2010) of 22 December 2010, in strengthening joint institutions, which foster the building of a fully functioning self-sustaining State able to integrate itself into the European structures, and in facilitating returns of refugees and displaced persons;

3. *Reminds* the parties once again that, in accordance with the Peace Agreement, they have committed themselves to cooperate fully with all entities involved in the implementation of this peace settlement, as described in the Peace Agreement, or which are otherwise authorized by the Security Council, including the International Tribunal and the Mechanism, in accordance with their respective obligations under resolutions 827(1993), 955(1994) and 1966(2010), and recalls the obligation of States to cooperate with the Tribunal and the Mechanism and in particular to comply without undue delay with requests for assistance;

4. *Emphasizes its full support* for the role of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina in monitoring the implementation of the Peace Agreement and giving guidance to and coordinating the activities of the civilian organizations and agencies involved in assisting the parties to implement the Peace Agreement, and reaffirms that, under annex 10 of the Peace Agreement, the High Representative is the final authority in theatre regarding the interpretation of civilian implementation of the Peace Agreement and that, in case of dispute, he may give his interpretation and make recommendations, and make binding decisions as he judges necessary on issues as elaborated by the Peace Implementation Council in Bonn, Germany, on 9 and 10 December 1997;

5. *Expresses its support* for the declarations of the ministerial meetings of the Peace Implementation Council;

6. *Reaffirms* its intention to keep implementation of the Peace Agreement and the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina under close review, taking into account the reports submitted pursuant to paragraphs 18 and 20 below, and any recommendations those reports might include, and its readiness to consider the imposition of measures if any party fails significantly to meet its obligations under the Peace Agreement;

7. *Recalls* the support of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the European Union Force-Althea and the continued North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence and their confirmation that both are the legal successors to the Stabilization Force for the fulfilment of their missions for the purposes of the Peace Agreement, its annexes and appendices and relevant Security Council resolutions and can take such actions as are required, including the use of force, to ensure compliance with annexes 1-A and 2 of the Peace Agreement and relevant Council resolutions;

8. *Pays tribute* to those Member States which participated in the multinational stabilization force (the European Union Force-Althea), and in the continued North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence, established in accordance with its resolution 1575(2004) and extended by its resolutions 1639(2005), 1722(2006), 1785(2007), 1845(2008), 1895(2009), 1948(2010), 2019(2011) 2074(2012) and 2123(2013), and welcomes their willingness to assist the

parties to the Peace Agreement by continuing to deploy a multinational stabilization force (the European Union Force-Althea) and by maintaining a continued North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence;

9. *Welcomes* the intention of the European Union to maintain a European Union military operation (the European Union Force-Althea) in Bosnia and Herzegovina from November 2014;

10. *Authorizes* the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the European Union to establish for a further period of 12 months, starting from the date of the adoption of the present resolution, a multinational stabilization force (the European Union Force-Althea) as a legal successor to the Stabilization Force under unified command and control, which will fulfil its missions in relation to the implementation of annexes 1-A and 2 of the Peace Agreement in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters presence in accordance with the arrangements agreed between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union as communicated to the Security Council in their letters of 19 November 2004, which recognize that the European Union Force-Althea will have the main peace stabilization role under the military aspects of the Peace Agreement;

11. *Welcomes* the decision of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to continue to maintain a presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the form of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters in order to continue to assist in implementing the Peace Agreement in conjunction with the European Union Force-Althea, and authorizes the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to continue to maintain a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters as a legal successor to the Stabilization Force under unified command and control, which will fulfil its missions in relation to the implementation of annexes 1-A and 2 of the Peace Agreement in cooperation with the European Union Force-Althea in accordance with the arrangements agreed between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union as communicated to the Security Council in their letters of 19 November 2004, which recognize that the European Union Force-Althea will have the main peace stabilization role under the military aspects of the Peace Agreement;

12. *Reaffirms* that the Peace Agreement and the provisions of its previous relevant resolutions shall apply to and in respect of both the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence as they have applied to and in respect of the Stabilization Force and that, therefore, references in the Peace Agreement, in particular in annex 1-A and the appendices thereto, and relevant resolutions to the Implementation Force and/or the Stabilization Force, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the North Atlantic Council shall be read as applying, as appropriate, to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence, the European Union Force-Althea, the European Union and the Political and Security Committee and Council of the European Union respectively;

13. *Expresses its intention* to consider the terms of further authorization as necessary in the light of developments in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

14. *Authorizes* the Member States acting under paragraphs 10 and 11 above to take all measures necessary to effect the implementation of and to ensure compliance with

annexes 1-A and 2 of the Peace Agreement, and stresses that the parties shall continue to be held equally responsible for the compliance with those annexes and shall be equally subject to such enforcement action by the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence as may be necessary to ensure implementation of those annexes and the protection of the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence;

15. *Authorizes* Member States to take all necessary measures, at the request of either the European Union Force-Althea or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters, in defence of the European Union Force-Althea or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence respectively, and to assist both organizations in carrying out their missions, and recognizes the right of both the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence to take all measures necessary to defend themselves from attack or threat of attack;

16. *Authorizes* the Member States acting under paragraphs 10 and 11 above, in accordance with annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement, to take all measures necessary to ensure compliance with the rules and procedures governing command and control of airspace over Bosnia and Herzegovina with respect to all civilian and military air traffic;

17. *Demands* that the parties respect the security and freedom of movement of the European Union Force-Althea, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence and other international personnel;

18. *Requests* the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the European Union and the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to report to the Security Council on the activity of the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters presence respectively, through the appropriate channels and at least at six-monthly intervals;

19. *Invites* all States, in particular those in the region, to continue to provide appropriate support and facilities, including transit facilities, for the Member States acting under paragraphs 10 and 11 above;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to submit to the Security Council reports of the High Representative, in accordance with annex 10 of the Peace Agreement and the conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference held in London on 4 and 5 December 1996, and later Peace Implementation Conferences, on the implementation of the Peace Agreement and in particular on compliance by the parties with their commitments under the Agreement;

21. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2183(2014):

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom, United States.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Russian Federation.

Military and police aspects

EUFOR

The European Union Force-Althea (EUFOR-Althea) in Bosnia and Herzegovina executed the military

aspects of the Peace Agreement as specified in annexes 1-A and 2, which were transferred to it by NATO in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 401]. EUFOR-Althea activities in 2014 were described in reports covering the period from 1 December 2013 to 28 February 2014 [S/2014/531] and 1 March to 31 May 2014 [S/2014/702], which were submitted by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

EUFOR-Althea was comprised of around 600 personnel, based in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams in other parts of the country. It continued to monitor and advise the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of activities related to ammunition and weapons storage sites; the civilian and military movement of weapons and military equipment; the disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition; and defence industry factories.

Kosovo

In 2014, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continued to fulfil its mandate based on Security Council resolution 1244(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 353] and the reconfigured functions outlined in the Secretary-General's June and November 2008 reports [YUN 2008, pp. 438 & 441], following Kosovo's declaration of independence in February 2008 [ibid., p. 437], the entry into force of the Kosovo Constitution on 15 June [ibid., p. 439] and the deployment of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) throughout Kosovo in December of that year [ibid., p. 442]. Serbia condemned Kosovo's declaration of independence and maintained that that action by Kosovo's Provisional Institutions violated Security Council resolution 1244(1999), which reaffirmed Serbia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including Kosovo and Metohija. The position of the United Nations on the status of Kosovo was of status neutrality.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), in a 2010 advisory opinion [YUN 2010, p. 416], concluded that Kosovo declaration of independence did not violate any applicable rule of law. In September of that year, the General Assembly acknowledged the ICJ advisory opinion and welcomed EU readiness to facilitate dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina [ibid.].

Political and security developments

Reports of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General reported on the implementation of UNMIK mandate covering the periods from 16 October 2013 to 20 January 2014 [S/2014/68]; 21 January to 15 April [S/2014/305]; 16 April to 15 July [S/2014/558]; 16 July to 15 October [S/2014/773 & Corr.1]; and 16 October 2014 to 15 January 2015 [S/2015/74].

Following the EU-facilitated agreements reached between Pristina and Belgrade in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 361], the parties continued substantial implementation of the 19 April 2013 Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations [ibid.]. UNMIK continued its engagement with Pristina and Belgrade and regional and international actors in promoting security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and the region. The mayoral election held in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 362], resulted in victory for the Serbian Civic Initiative candidates in all four municipalities in northern Kosovo. The newly elected mayors and municipal assemblies in the north were sworn in on 11 January, with the exception of the mayor-elect of North Mitrovica, who decided not to take office and resigned from his position as Deputy Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of Serbia. A new mayoral election in North Mitrovica was held on 23 February and was won in the first round by the Serbian Civic Initiative candidate. The North Mitrovica municipal assembly was inaugurated on 10 February. The four municipalities completed work on their statutes, and on 16 May, the Ministry of Local Government Administration certified the adopted statutes.

In an extraordinary session held on 7 May, over two thirds of the members of the Assembly of Kosovo voted to dissolve the Assembly, thus triggering an early election on 8 June. A total of 31 political entities, including 5 Kosovo Serb entities, participated in the elections, with 42.63 per cent of eligible voters casting ballots. EU election observers assessed that the elections had been transparent and well organized. On 4 July, the Kosovo Central Election Commission certified the election results. No single party achieved an overall majority in the Kosovo Assembly, which led to a deadlock on the election of the President of the Assembly and the formation of a new government. On 22 August, the Constitutional Court ruled unanimously that the election of the President of the Assembly on 17 July was unconstitutional and confirmed the right of the Democratic Party of Kosovo, with a relative majority as a pre-election bloc, to nominate a candidate for the post. The situation between the parties, however, remained polarized.

On 2 May, the Kosovo authorities and the EU finalized the draft text of a stabilization and association agreement for political and economic association.

On 6 March, the Kosovo government approved recommendations from a two-year strategic security sector review, including a recommendation to transform the Kosovo security forces into Kosovo armed forces. Constitutional amendments on the matter were submitted to the Assembly and were upheld by the Kosovo Constitutional Court. KFOR stated that making changes to the mandate, structure and functioning of the security forces might lead to discussion on their

impact on the provision of continued NATO support to Kosovo. Progress was made regarding the integration of Kosovo Serbian personnel into the Kosovo police. By March, 284 former Serbian police officers were assigned to active duty in northern Kosovo.

The security situation in Kosovo remained overall stable, with the exception of several interethnic incidents. In March, Kosovo police raided the homes of several Kosovo Serb police officers and offices hosting a Belgrade-sponsored court. Serious incidents occurred for illegal logging activities, including near the administrative boundary line. Belgrade and Pristina remained engaged in the EU-facilitated dialogue, albeit at a slower pace because of the general elections in Serbia and the legislative elections in Kosovo. Progress was made in the implementation of the 19 April 2013 agreement, including the structure and staffing of the judiciary in Northern Kosovo.

The Security Council considered the Secretary-General's reports [S/2014/68], [S/2014/305], [S/2014/558] and [S/2014/773] on 10 February [S/PV.7108], 27 May [S/PV. 7183], 29 August [S/PV.7257] and 4 December [S/PV.7327], respectively.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/74], the Secretary-General noted that the achievement of a coalition agreement, the establishment of the Assembly of Kosovo and the formation of a new Kosovo government brought to an end six months of political stalemate. On 19 November, an agreement was reached to form a coalition government, which was signed on 8 December. On 9 December, the Assembly of Kosovo approved the new 21-member coalition government, including two women ministers, two Kosovo Serb representatives and a Kosovo Turk, reflecting efforts to build a multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo. Serbia welcomed the establishment of the new Kosovo authorities and affirmed its readiness to engage at the earliest opportunity.

In December, the United Nations Development Programme completed implementation of the seven-year Kosovo Small Arms Control Initiative, which assisted Kosovo institutions in countering uncontrolled possession and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. In addition to the development of the legislative framework for weapons regulation and control, over 1,500 firearms were removed from circulation. The proliferation of small arms nevertheless remained a concern in Kosovo.

EULEX

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), established to undertake an enhanced operational role in the rule-of-law area, with a focus on policing, justice and customs, became fully operational in April 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 412]. It

operated under the overall authority and within the status-neutral framework of the United Nations and submitted reports to it on a regular basis.

On 23 April, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted a law on the ratification of the international agreement between Kosovo and the EU on EULEX, extending that Mission's mandate until 14 June 2016, and established a specialist court to try cases arising from the findings of the European Union Special Investigative Task Force. The Assembly also amended and supplemented the laws related to EULEX mandate. On 12 June, the EU Council endorsed the extension of EULEX mandate in Kosovo. The Kosovo Judicial Council and EULEX signed an agreement on the activity and cooperation of EULEX judges with Kosovo judges working in the local courts. The agreement clarified the number and role of EULEX judges to hear ongoing and upcoming cases and the procedure by which EULEX might request the Kosovo Judicial Council to refer cases to international judges.

The prosecution of war crimes resulted in the first conviction of rape as a war crime since 2002. Three EULEX judges also started the trial in the "Drenica Group" case against a number of high-profile defendants. EULEX continued to undertake monitoring, mentoring and advising activities around the rule of law and to implement its executive functions according to its mandate. Further steps were taken in the fight against corruption and serious crimes. Verdicts were pronounced in cases involving the Mission's judges and prosecutors. EULEX continued to facilitate the implementation of the agreements reached within the EU-facilitated dialogue on the normalization of relations between Pristina and Belgrade in the rule of law sector, including the registering and issuing of licenses to companies importing controlled goods through the northern crossing points. The Special Investigative Task Force, established in 2011 to investigate allegations of illicit trafficking in human organs contained in the report of the Council of Europe Special Rapporteur, Dick Marty, continued to gather information and evidence. On 29 July, the lead prosecutor explained that compelling evidence had been found to file an indictment against certain former senior officials of the Kosovo Liberation Army. Cooperation with judicial and law enforcement authorities in the region and elsewhere continued to be productive. EULEX continued to strengthen the rule of law throughout Kosovo, including by making arrests in Northern Kosovo of persons accused of war crimes and murder, and advised police in Northern Kosovo to set up a community policing strategy.

The Reports of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on EULEX activities in 2014 were annexed to the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council on UNMIK [S/2014/305, S/2014/558, S/2014/773, S/2014/74].

UNMIK

The United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), established in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 357] to facilitate a political process to determine Kosovo's political future, comprised five components: interim administration; institution-building; economic reconstruction; humanitarian affairs; and police and justice. Following Kosovo's declaration of independence in 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 437], and the deployment of EULEX in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 412], the profile and size of UNMIK were reconfigured. The Mission's strategic goal remained the promotion of security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and in the region through engagement with all communities in Kosovo, with the leadership in Belgrade and Pristina, and with regional and international actors. UNMIK was headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Farid Zarif (Afghanistan).

Financing

The General Assembly considered the Secretary-General's performance report on the UNMIK budget for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/578], the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/701], and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) [A/68/782/Add.5].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/68/926], adopted **resolution 68/290** without vote. [agenda item 156].

Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1244(1999) of 10 June 1999 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo,

Recalling also its resolution 53/241 of 28 July 1999 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/276 of 28 June 2013,

Acknowledging the complexity of the Mission,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Mindful also of the need to ensure coordination and cooperation with the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 32.9 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 95 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo the amount of 46,325,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 42,971,600 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 2,780,600 dol-

lars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 573,200 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 46,325,400 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 4,095,600 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 3,867,900 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 176,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 51,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

15. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 3,329,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

16. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 3,329,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 15 above;

17. *Also decides* that the decrease of 60,000 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be set off against the credits in the amount of 3,329,000 dollars referred to in paragraphs 15 and 16 above;

18. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

20. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo".

On 29 December, the Assembly decided that the item on UNMIK financing would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

KFOR

In accordance with resolution 1244(1999) [YUN, 1999, p. 353], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council reports on the activities during 2014 of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) covering the periods from 1 January to 31 March [S/2014/371]; 1 April to 30 June [S/2014/587]; 1 July to 30 September [S/2014/830]; and 1 October to 31 December [S/2015/106]. On 31 December, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre remained at approximately 4,500.

During the year, KFOR, in close cooperation with the Kosovo police and EULEX, continued to contribute to maintaining a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement in Kosovo. The situation in the northern part of Kosovo remained reasonably stable, with the ongoing implementation of the EU-facilitated agreement on the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina of 19 April [YUN 2013, p. 361] continuing to have a positive effect on the security situation.

Georgia

In 2014, international efforts continued to advance the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process, based on the 2001 Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi (Georgia's Government) and Sukhumi (the Abkhaz leadership) [YUN 2001, p. 386]. That document was intended to serve as a framework for negotiations on the status of Abkhazia as a sovereign state within the State of Georgia. Following the termination of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) in June 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 418], the United Nations had continued to support the Geneva international discussions on security and stability and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees.

Geneva talks. In accordance with the 12 August 2008 six-point ceasefire plan between Georgia and the Russian Federation [YUN 2008, p. 456], and the provisions of the 8 September 2008 ceasefire implementation plan [ibid., p. 457], international discussions under the leadership of the EU and OSCE to address security, stability and humanitarian issues in Georgia were held throughout the year. At the twenty-seventh (26 March) [A/68/824-S/2014/231], twenty-eighth (18 June) [A/68/916-S/2014/441], twenty-ninth (8 October) [A/69/515-S/2014/737], and thirtieth (10 December) [A/69/672-S/2014/900] sessions, participants met in two parallel groups.

Working Group I focused on security and stability in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, especially the key issues of the non-use of force and international security arrangements, and the security situation on the ground. Participants engaged in drafting a statement on the non-use of force;

nonetheless, it was clearly stressed that such a statement should not substitute for a legally binding commitment from the Russian Federation to the non-use of force. Working Group II addressed the situation of IDPs, including their right of return and other durable solutions, and humanitarian and human rights issues, especially the violation of social, economic and cultural rights, the restriction of the freedom of movement and the right to education in the native language. The Geneva discussions remained the only forum for stakeholders to address the issues identified in resolution 68/274 (see below) on IDPs.

IDPs and refugees. In response to General Assembly resolutions 67/268 [YUN 2013, p. 365] and 68/274 (see below), the Secretary-General submitted reports on the status of IDPs and refugees from Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, covering the periods from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 [A/68/868] and 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 [A/69/909]. The reports focused on the right to return of all refugees and IDPs and their descendants; prohibition of forced demographic changes; humanitarian access; the importance of preserving the property rights of refugees and IDPs; and the development of a timetable to ensure the prompt voluntary return of all refugees and IDPs to their homes.

In 2014, no major developments took place in regard to refugees and IDPs exercising their right to return and no new displacements were registered. The Ministry for Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia conducted a comprehensive registration of 262,704 IDPs. Although the main registration ended in December 2013, re-registration by the Ministry continued at its central office in Tbilisi until 31 May 2014, and thereafter as required. The generational aspects of displacement in the absence of durable solutions remained a concern. The largest numbers of IDPs were registered in Tbilisi and Zugdidi.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/274** [draft: A/68/L. 47] by recorded vote (69-13-79) [agenda item 34].

Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including its resolutions 62/153 of 18 December 2007, 62/249 of 15 May 2008, 63/307 of 9 September 2009, 64/162 of 18 December 2009, 64/296 of 7 September 2010, 65/287 of 29 June 2011, 66/165 of 19 December 2011, 66/283 of 3 July 2012, 67/268 of 13 June 2013 and 68/180 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions on Georgia relating to the need for all parties to work towards a

comprehensive peace and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin, and stressing the importance of their full and timely implementation,

Recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as the key international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons,

Concerned by forced demographic changes resulting from the conflicts in Georgia,

Concerned also by the humanitarian situation caused by armed conflict in August 2008, which resulted in the further forced displacement of civilians,

Mindful of the urgent need to find a solution to the problems related to forced displacement in Georgia,

Underlining the importance of the discussions that commenced in Geneva on 15 October 2008 and of continuing to address the issue of the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of internally displaced persons and refugees on the basis of internationally recognized principles and conflict-settlement practices,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 67/268,

1. *Recognizes* the right of return of all internally displaced persons and refugees and their descendants, regardless of ethnicity, to their homes throughout Georgia, including in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

2. *Stresses* the need to respect the property rights of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the conflicts in Georgia and to refrain from obtaining property in violation of those rights;

3. *Reaffirms* the unacceptability of forced demographic changes;

4. *Underlines* the urgent need for unimpeded access for humanitarian activities to all internally displaced persons, refugees and other persons residing in all conflict-affected areas throughout Georgia;

5. *Calls upon* all participants in the Geneva discussions to intensify their efforts to establish a durable peace, to commit to enhanced confidence-building measures and to take immediate steps to ensure respect for human rights and create favourable security conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin;

6. *Underlines* the need for the development of a timetable to ensure the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the conflicts in Georgia to their homes;

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

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 68/274:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland,

Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Vanuatu.

Against: Armenia, Belarus, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nauru, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam.

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia.

Communications. Throughout 2014, Georgia submitted letters to the Secretary-General and the Security Council on issues relating to the Black Sea region, the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and Russia. The letters addressed the expansion of the border into Georgia's territory [A/68/714-S/2014/40], the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) [YUN 1974, p. 846] entitled "Definition of Aggression" [A/69/665-S/2014/898]; and military-related and other activities by the Russian Federation affecting Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali/South Ossetia region [A/68/714-S/2014/40, A/68/755-S/2014/101], [A/68/771-S/2014/129], [A/68/793-S/2014/167], [A/68/982-S/2014/633], [A/69/537-S/2014/744], [A/69/618-S/2014/847], [A/69/644-S/2014/873], [A/69/665-S/2014/898] and [A/69/709-S/2014/941].

Armenia and Azerbaijan

In 2014, Armenia and Azerbaijan maintained their positions with regard to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. The conflict, which began in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 388], was followed by a ceasefire in May 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 577]. Both sides addressed communications to the Secretary-General regarding the conflict. The OSCE Minsk Group (France, Russian Federation, United States) continued to mediate the dispute between the two countries.

Communications. In letters dated 13 January [A/68/706-S/2014/24]; 17 March [A/68/801-S/2014/198]; 15 April [A/68/847-S/2014/277]; 26 May [A/68/894-S/2014/383]; 30 June [A/68/938-S/2014/466]; 2 July [A/68/937-S/2014/467]; 4 August [A/68/964-S/2014/570]; 10 September [A/68/992-S/2014/666]; 15 October [A/689/541-S/2014/746]; and 20 October [A/69/547-S/2014/752], Armenia reported to the Secretary-General on violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan drew the Secretary-General's attention to violations of the ceasefire by the military forces of Armenia in letters dated 10 January [A/68/695-S/2014/20]; 13 January [A/68/705-S/2014/22]; 10 March [A/68/794-S/2014/168]; 3 April [A/68/829-S/2014/249]; 2 May [A/68/865-S/2014/315]; 5 June [A/68/903-S/2014/398]; 2 July [A/68/939-S/2014/470]; 4 August [A/68/962-S/2014/566]; 6 August [A/68/967-S/2014/574]; 9 September [A/68/989-S/2014/658]; 2 October [A/69/420-S/2014/718]; 12 November [A/69/576-S/2014/811]; 19 November [A/69/608-S/2014/843]; 21 November [A/69/607-S/2014/841]; and 15 December [A/69/666-S/2014/899].

In a letter dated 12 February [A/68/752-S/2014/94], Azerbaijan condemned the surge of violence and provocation by Armenia in disregard of the appeal by the Presidents of the UN General Assembly and the International Olympic Committee to all warring parties in conflicts around the world to observe a truce during the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russian Federation. On 18 February [A/68/760-S/2014/110], Armenia stated that it had accepted the truce willingly and abided by it, and accused Azerbaijan armed forces of ignoring the calls for the truce. On 24 February [A/68/768-S/2014/124], Azerbaijan requested the international community to play a more proactive role in ending the impunity of those responsible for the crimes committed against the Azerbaijani population during the conflict between the two countries, including in Khojaly [YUN 1992, p. 388]. On 9 April [A/68/835-S/2014/261], Armenia recalled the offensive by Azerbaijani armed forces in 1992 against the Armenian population in Maragha and paid tribute to the victims of that massacre, while drawing attention to the fact that Azerbaijan continued its policy against Armenia and Armenians based on xenophobia, racism and hate speech. On 24 April [A/68/853-S/2014/298], Azerbaijan refuted Armenia's assertions, and accused Armenia of expelling all non-Armenians, including Azerbaijanis, in furtherance of its policy of creating ethnically homogenous areas in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

On 1 August [A/68/960-S/2014/564], Azerbaijan welcomed the adoption of Assembly **resolution 68/303** of 31 July (see p. 50) entitled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution" and stressed that Azerbaijan supported the promotion of mediation as a way to settle disputes and to prevent and resolve conflict. On 7 August [A/68/968-S/2014/577], Armenia expressed alarm at the escalation of tension and increase in ceasefire violations. It underlined the need for political will to accelerate the peace process and expressed its commitment to an early and lasting settlement of the dispute. In response, Azerbaijan, on 22 August [A/68/979-S/2014/616], listed a number of facts to refute the claims by Armenia, accusing it of disregarding resolutions of the Security Council and other international organizations by continuing its illegal occupation of the

territories of Azerbaijan. On 12 November [A/69/583-S/2014/813], Armenia condemned the shooting down of an Armenian helicopter by Azerbaijan, stating that such action undermined the negotiation process for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

By **decision 68/660** of 15 September, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item on the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and to include it in the draft agenda if its sixty-ninth session. On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the item on the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Cyprus

During 2014, the United Nations continued its sponsorship of the Cyprus peace talks. The Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, with the support of the Special Representative, assisted the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders in implementing the 8 July 2006 Set of Principles and Decision [YUN 2006, p. 487], which included commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation and political equality, and an agreement to meet regularly on issues affecting the day-to-day life of the Cypriot people. Discussions centred on core issues relating to governance and power-sharing, citizenship, property and territory.

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), established to prevent the recurrence of fighting between the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities and to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions, continued to assist in the restoration of normal conditions and in humanitarian functions, with its mandate extended until 31 January 2015 by the Security Council. The Secretary-General submitted two reports covering UNFICYP activities for the periods from 16 December 2013 to 20 June 2014 [S/2014/461] and 21 June to 15 December [S/2015/17].

Political and security developments

Communications. Throughout the year, the Secretary-General received letters from the Government of Cyprus, and from Turkish Cypriot authorities containing charges and counter-charges, protests and accusations, and explanation of positions regarding the question of Cyprus. Letters from the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" were transmitted by Turkey.

On 27 January [A/68/719-S/2014/56], Cyprus expressed concern about the escalation of illegal and provocative activities by the Turkish air force within the Nicosia flight information region and called upon Turkey to cease the violations. On 21 March [A/68/809-

S/2014/215], The “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” refuted those allegations and reported violations of its national airspace by an Italian military aircraft. On 14 April [A/68/842-S/2014/272], Cyprus reported that, on 1 and 3 April, Turkish military aircraft interfered with flights by an Israeli civilian aircraft and a Cypriot National Guard helicopter, respectively. In communications between 30 January and 19 November [A/68/735-S/2014/71, A/68/765-S/2014/119, A/68/795-S/2014/174, A/68/871-S/2014/327, A/68/881-S/2014/352, A/68/911-S/2014/424, A/68/955-S/2014/527, A/68/994-S/2014/682, A/69/543-S/2014/747, A/69/569-S/2014/790, A/69/604-S/2014/832], Cyprus reported violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Cyprus by Turkish military aircraft, as well as the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships. The “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” refuted the allegations of airspace violations in communications between 9 January and 2 December [A/68/704-S/2014/19, A/68/762-S/2014/114, A/68/809-S/2014/215, A/69/532-S/2014/743, A/69/561-S/2014/785, A/69/613-S/2014/845, A/69/632-S/2014/864]. In communications between 7 March and 27 May [A/68/792-S/2014/169, A/68/831-S/2014/251, A/68/892-S/2014/380], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” refuted the allegations of airspace violations and referred to allegations of its illegal use of closed ports as baseless.

In communications between 13 February and 6 October [A/68/759, A/68/883, A/69/425-S/2014/723], Cyprus reported violations of its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf legislation, as well as violations by Turkey of customary international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [YUN 1982, p. 178]. In communications between 25 April and 30 May [A/68/857, A/68/902], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” refuted those allegations made by the Greek Cypriot side.

On 31 January [A/68/740-S/2014/77], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” refuted allegations made by Cyprus in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 368] on the operation of a shooting range of the Turkish army near the castle of Saint Hilarion, and emphasized that the protection of the island’s cultural heritage was of great importance to the Turkish Cypriot side. On 20 January [S/2014/39], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” expressed concern at the delaying tactics by Cyprus in drafting a joint statement that would be issued after the first leaders’ meeting, and its disappointment that the Greek Cypriot side had attempted to discredit the draft negotiated by the United Nations, in consultation with all relevant parties, including the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades.

On 12 June [A/68/909-S/2014/406], Cyprus transmitted the 12 May judgement by the European Court of Human Rights awarding monetary just satisfaction in the case of *Cyprus v. Turkey* with respect to missing persons and lost property. On 4 September

[A/68/993-S/2014/683], Cyprus expressed concern over the visit by the newly elected President of Turkey, Recep Erdogan, to the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”. On 27 October [A/69/558-S/2014/782], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” stated that the Turkish President’s visit was a well-established tradition and the statements by the President were in support of a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus.

On 6 October [A/69/425-S/2014/723], Cyprus denounced the decision of the Turkish Government to illegally interfere in the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus, and consequently announced the suspension of its participation in the meetings to negotiate the settlement of the Cyprus problem scheduled for 9 and 10 October under the auspices of the Secretary-General’s Special Advisor. On 16 October [A/69/544-S/2014/751], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” expressed dismay and disappointment at the decision by Cyprus.

On 18 November [A/69/603-S/2014/834], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” refuted allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration at a September plenary meeting of the General Assembly concerning violations of human rights. On 15 December [A/69/675-S/2014/915], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” rejected allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration contained in a 13 November note verbale [A/69/582] to the United Nations of violation of its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf by the Government of Turkey.

UNFICYP

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), established in 1964 [YUN, 1964, p. 165], continued to monitor the ceasefire lines between the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces on the northern side of the island and the Cypriot National Guard on the southern side; maintain the military status quo and prevent recurrence of fighting; and undertake humanitarian and economic activities. Lisa Buttenheim (United States) continued to serve as the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Cyprus and head of UNFICYP. In August, Espen Barth Eide (Norway) replaced Alexander Downer (Australia) as the Secretary-General’s Special Advisor on Cyprus [S/2014/618] and in May, Major General Kristin Lund (Norway) replaced Major General Chao Liu (China) as UNFICYP Force Commander [S/2014/328]. As at 15 December, UNFICYP comprised 860 troops and 66 civilian police.

Activities

The Security Council considered the Secretary-General’s report [S/2013/781] on UNFICYP covering developments from 21 June to 15 December 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 372].

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 30 January [meeting 7106], the Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2135(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/60] was submitted by the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 30 December 2013 on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus has agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it is necessary to keep the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus beyond 31 January 2014,

Noting also the intention of the Secretary-General to report on his good offices in the next reporting period, echoing the Secretary-General's firm belief that the responsibility for finding a solution lies first and foremost with the Cypriots themselves, and reaffirming the primary role of the United Nations in assisting the parties to bring the Cyprus conflict and division of the island to a comprehensive and durable settlement,

Acknowledging the efforts made so far to restart talks, expressing disappointment that formal negotiations have not yet resumed, and calling upon the parties to agree on a substantive way forward as soon as possible,

Recalling the importance that the international community attaches to all parties engaging fully, flexibly and constructively in the negotiations, noting that the move towards a more intensive phase of negotiations has not yet resulted in an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions, encouraging the sides to resume the substantive negotiations on the core issues, and stressing that the status quo is unsustainable,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to stimulate progress during his meetings with the two leaders on 30 and 31 October 2011 and 23 and 24 January 2012, and expressing continued support for his efforts,

Noting the need to advance the consideration of and discussions on military confidence-building measures, and calling for renewed efforts to implement all remaining confidence-building measures and for agreement on and implementation of further steps to build trust between the communities,

Reaffirming the importance of continued crossings of the Green Line by Cypriots, and encouraging the opening by mutual agreement of other crossing points,

Convinced of the many important benefits, including economic benefits, for all Cypriots that would flow from a comprehensive and durable Cyprus settlement, urging the two sides and their leaders to foster positive public rhetoric, and encouraging them clearly to explain the benefits of the settlement, as well as the need for increased flexibility and compromise in order to secure it, to both communities well in advance of any eventual referendums,

Considering that undermining the credibility of the United Nations undermines the peace process itself,

Highlighting the importance of the supporting role of the international community, and in particular that of the parties concerned, in taking practical steps towards helping the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to exploit fully the current opportunity,

Taking note of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island and along the Green Line remains stable, and urging all sides to avoid any action which could lead to an increase in tension, undermine the progress achieved so far or damage the goodwill on the island,

Recalling the Secretary-General's firm belief that the situation in the buffer zone would be improved if both sides accepted the 1989 aide-memoire used by the United Nations,

Noting with regret that the sides are withholding access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, and that demining in Cyprus must continue, noting also the continued danger posed by mines in Cyprus, and urging rapid agreement on facilitating the recommencement of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields,

Highlighting the importance of the activities of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, urging the opening up of access to all areas to allow the Committee to carry out its work, and trusting that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities,

Agreeing that active participation of civil society groups, including women's groups, is essential to the political process and can contribute to making any future settlement sustainable, recalling that women play a critically important role in peace processes, welcoming all efforts to promote bicomunal contacts and events, including on the part of all United Nations bodies on the island, and urging the two sides to promote the active engagement of civil society and the encouragement of cooperation between economic and commercial bodies and to remove all obstacles to such contacts,

Stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations under close review to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, including a review of the Force when appropriate, and noting the importance of contingency planning in relation to the settlement, including recommendations, as appropriate, for further adjustments to the mandate, force levels and other resources and concept of operations of the Force, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties,

Welcoming also the continued efforts of Mr. Alexander Downer as the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus with a mandate to assist the parties in the conduct of fully fledged negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement, and the efforts of Ms. Lisa Buitenheim as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus,

Echoing the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of the Force and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations, and expressing its appreciation to Member States that contribute personnel to the Force,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. *Acknowledges* the progress made so far in the fully fledged negotiations, but notes that this has not been sufficient and has not yet resulted in a comprehensive and durable settlement, and urges the sides to continue their discussions to reach decisive progress on the core issues;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,
3. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 2026(2011) of 14 December 2011, and calls upon the two leaders:
 - (a) To put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on the core issues;
 - (b) To continue to work with the technical committees with the objective of improving the daily lives of the Cypriots;
 - (c) To improve the public atmosphere for the negotiations, including by focusing public messages on convergences and the way ahead and delivering more constructive and harmonized messages;
 - (d) To increase the participation of civil society in the process, as appropriate;
4. *Urges* the implementation of confidence-building measures, and looks forward to agreement on and implementation of further such steps, including military confidence-building measures and the opening of other crossing points;
5. *Welcomes* all efforts to accommodate the exhumation requirements of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, and calls upon all parties to provide full access;
6. *Reaffirms* all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251(1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;
7. *Expresses its full support* for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and decides to extend its mandate for a further period ending 31 July 2014;
8. *Calls upon* both sides to continue to engage, as a matter of urgency and while respecting the mandate of the Force, in consultations with the Force on the demarcation of the buffer zone and on the United Nations 1989 aide-memoire, with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues;
9. *Calls upon* the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;
10. *Calls upon* both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone, and urges both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone;
11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on contingency planning in relation to the settlement, by 10 July 2014 and to keep the Council updated on events as necessary;
12. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action, including conducting predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;
13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General. In his July report [S/2014/461] covering UNFICYP activities from 16 December 2013 to 20 June 2014, the Secretary-General

reported that the situation in the buffer zone remained calm and stable, with minor incidents and challenges. Concerning the Secretary-General's mission of good offices, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders concluded, on 11 February, a joint declaration marking the official relaunch of high-level negotiations on a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. Following the resumption of high-level negotiations, the two leaders met on 31 March and 2 June. On 22 May, they agreed to meet at least twice a month to speed up the negotiation process. At the 2 June meeting, they discussed the revitalization of technical committees, confidence-building measures and other issues. On 27 February, the Greek Cypriot negotiator visited Ankara and the Turk Cypriot negotiator went to Athens, in a first exchange of its type in the Cyprus peace talks.

UNFICYP continued to maintain the integrity and stability of the buffer zone. The level of military violations by opposing forces remained low, and cooperation between UNFICYP and the opposition forces was good. Challenges to UNFICYP authority continued, however, as the opposing forces questioned the extent of the buffer zone in certain areas. In a new development, Turkish forces deployed 28 closed-circuit television cameras along the ceasefire line in central Nicosia and failed to remove them despite repeated protests by UNFICYP. While no progress was made with respect to military-related confidence-building measures, neither of the opposing forces conducted any major military exercises. During the reporting period, the two sides continued to withhold access to the four known mined areas in the buffer zone. The Committee on Missing Persons reported that the remains of 520 individuals were returned to their families, including 46 individuals during the reporting period. The number of missing persons identified in 2014, stood at 43. The United Nations continued to contribute to restoring normal conditions. UNFICYP issued more than 900 permits for farming and other civilian activities and facilitated the maintenance of utility infrastructure and the provision of basic services. As UNFICYP continued to play an essential role on the island, including in support of the good offices mission, the Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the Force's mandate until 31 January 2015.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2015/17] covering the period from 21 June to 15 December, the Secretary-General noted that the situation along the ceasefire lines remained calm and stable because of UNFICYP regular patrolling and liaison with the opposing forces. Despite minor military violations committed by both forces, which resulted in occasional altercations with UNFICYP, relations between UNFICYP and the opposing forces remained good. For the seventh consecutive year, the Turkish Forces and the Cypriot National Guard did not conduct their annual military exercises. Efforts were ongoing at all levels to encour-

age both sides to advance demining inside and outside the buffer zone, including through the exchange of information on the whereabouts of minefields.

To help facilitate a return to normal conditions, UNFICYP continued to provide humanitarian support to 345 Greek Cypriots and 116 Maronites residing in the north. For Turkish Cypriots residing in the south, UNFICYP remained in contact with local authorities to ensure access to health, welfare and educational support. UNFICYP police assisted and facilitated investigations conducted by the respective police services into criminal matters within the buffer zone, and facilitated meetings of the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters. Contacts with various stakeholders continued in order to improve the situation in old town Nicosia. In cooperation with international and local partners, UNFICYP also supported 77 bicomunal civil society events involving around 2,870 individuals, and facilitated 65 religious services, involving more than 23,000 individuals, which were held in the buffer zone or required crossings to the other side.

The Committee of Missing persons continued with the exhumations, identification and return of the remains of missing persons. As at 18 December, the Committee's bicomunal teams of archaeologists had exhumed the remains of 948 missing persons on both sides of the island. The remains of 564 individuals were returned to their respective families, including 135 individuals during the reporting period. The total number of missing persons identified in 2014 stood at 157, the highest in any given year. UNFICYP also facilitated the post-mortem transfer of six Greek Cypriots for burial in the north. The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the UNFICYP mandate until 31 July 2015.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 30 July [meeting 7229], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2168(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/536] was submitted by France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 9 July 2014 on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus has agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it is necessary to keep the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus beyond 31 July 2014,

Noting also the intention of the Secretary-General to report on his good offices in the next reporting period, echoing the Secretary-General's firm belief that the responsibility for finding a solution lies first and foremost with the Cypriots themselves, and reaffirming the primary role of the United Nations in assisting the parties to bring the Cyprus conflict and division of the island to a comprehensive and durable settlement,

Welcoming the resumption of negotiations and the joint declaration adopted by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish

Cypriot leaders on 11 February 2014 and the cross-visits of the chief negotiators to Ankara and Athens, and expressing its support for the ongoing efforts of the leaders and negotiators to reach a comprehensive settlement as soon as possible,

Recalling the importance that the international community attaches to all parties engaging fully, flexibly and constructively in the negotiations, noting that the move towards a more results-oriented phase of negotiations has not yet resulted in an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions, encouraging the sides to intensify the substantive negotiations on the unresolved core issues interdependently, and stressing that the status quo is unsustainable,

Noting the need to advance the consideration of and discussions on military confidence-building measures, and calling for renewed efforts to implement all remaining confidence-building measures and for agreement on and implementation of further steps to build trust between the communities,

Reaffirming the importance of continued crossings of the Green Line by Cypriots, and encouraging the opening by mutual agreement of other crossing points,

Convinced of the many important benefits, including economic benefits, for all Cypriots that would flow from a comprehensive and durable Cyprus settlement, urging the two sides and their leaders to foster positive public rhetoric, and encouraging them clearly to explain the benefits of the settlement, as well as the need for increased flexibility and compromise in order to secure it, to both communities well in advance of any eventual referendums,

Highlighting the importance of the supporting role of the international community, and in particular that of the parties concerned in taking practical steps towards helping the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to exploit fully the current opportunity,

Taking note of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island and along the Green Line remains stable, and urging all sides to avoid any action, including violations of the military status quo, which could lead to an increase in tension, undermine the progress achieved so far or damage the goodwill on the island,

Recalling the Secretary-General's firm belief that the situation in the buffer zone would be improved if both sides accepted the 1989 aide-memoire used by the United Nations,

Noting with regret that the sides are withholding access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, and that demining in Cyprus must continue, noting the continued danger posed by mines in Cyprus, noting also recent proposals and discussions on demining, and urging rapid agreement on facilitating the recommencement of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields,

Commending the work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, highlighting the importance of intensifying its activities, urging the opening up of access to all areas expeditiously to allow the Committee to carry out its work, and trusting that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities,

Agreeing that active participation of civil society groups, including women's groups, is essential to the political process and can contribute to making any future settlement

sustainable, recalling that women play a critically important role in peace processes, welcoming all efforts to promote bicomunal contacts and events, including on the part of all United Nations bodies on the island, and urging the two sides to promote the active engagement of civil society and the encouragement of cooperation between economic and commercial bodies and to remove all obstacles to such contacts,

Stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations under close review to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, including a review of the Force when appropriate, and noting the importance of contingency planning in relation to the settlement, including recommendations, as appropriate, for further adjustments to the mandate, force levels and other resources and concept of operations of the Force, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Ms. Lisa Bittenheim as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and acting Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, thanking the outgoing Force Commander, Major General Chao Liu, welcoming the incoming Force Commander, Major General Kristin Lund, thanking Mr. Alexander Downer for his efforts over the last six years as Special Adviser, and encouraging the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser in the near future,

Echoing the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of the Force and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations, and expressing its appreciation to Member States that contribute personnel to the Force,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. *Acknowledges* the progress made so far in the fully fledged negotiations, but notes that this has not been sufficient and has not yet resulted in a comprehensive and durable settlement, and urges the sides to continue their discussions to reach decisive progress on the core issues;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 2026(2011) of 14 December 2011, and calls upon the two leaders:

(a) To put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on the core issues;

(b) To continue to work with the technical committees with the objective of improving the daily lives of the Cypriots;

(c) To improve the public atmosphere for the negotiations, including by focusing public messages on convergences and the way ahead and delivering more constructive and harmonized messages;

(d) To increase the participation of civil society in the process, as appropriate;

4. *Urges* the implementation of confidence-building measures, and looks forward to agreement on and implementation of further such mutually acceptable steps, including military confidence-building measures and the opening of other crossing points, that can contribute to a conducive environment for a settlement;

5. *Welcomes* all efforts to accommodate the exhumation requirements of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, and calls upon all parties to provide full access to all areas expeditiously, given the need to intensify the work of the Committee;

6. *Reaffirms* all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251(1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;

7. *Expresses its full support* for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and decides to extend its mandate for a further period ending 31 January 2015;

8. *Calls upon* both sides to continue to engage, as a matter of urgency and while respecting the mandate of the Force, in consultations with the Force on the demarcation of the buffer zone and on the United Nations 1989 aide-memoire, with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues;

9. *Calls upon* the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;

10. *Calls upon* both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone, and urges both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on contingency planning in relation to the settlement, by 10 January 2015 and to keep the Council updated on events as necessary;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action, including conducting predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

On 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the question of Cyprus would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Financing

In June, the General Assembly considered the Secretary-General's report on UNFICYP financial performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/584], the proposed UNFICYP budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/700] and the related ACABQ report [A/68/782/Add.7].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/923], adopted **resolution 68/286** without vote [agenda item 151].

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 186(1964) of 4 March 1964 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2135(2014) of 30 January 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 July 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 47/236 of 14 September 1993 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/272 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force by certain Governments,

Noting that voluntary contributions were insufficient to cover all the costs of the Force, including those incurred by troop-contributing Governments prior to 16 June 1993, and regretting the absence of an adequate response to appeals for voluntary contributions, including that contained in the letter dated 17 May 1994 from the Secretary-General to all Member States,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 19.3 million United States dollars, representing some 4 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 53 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

5. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

7. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

11. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus the amount of 62,531,500 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 58,004,500 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 3,753,300 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 773,700 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

12. *Notes with appreciation* that a one-third share of the net appropriation, equivalent to 19,949,267 dollars, will be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus and the amount of 6.5 million dollars from the Government of Greece;

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 3,006,852 dollars for the period from 1 to 31 July 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 223,641 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 198,033 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 19,850 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 5,758 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

15. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 33,075,381 dollars for the period from 1 August 2014 to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of 3,006,852 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

16. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,460,059 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,178,367 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 218,350 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 63,342 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 638,101 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

18. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 638,101 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. *Decides* that the increase of 183,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 638,101 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. *Also decides*, taking into account its voluntary contribution for the financial period ended 30 June 2013, that one third of the net unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 388,333 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be returned to the Government of Cyprus;

21. *Further decides*, taking into account its voluntary contribution for the financial period ended 30 June 2013, that the prorated share of the net unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 138,566 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be returned to the Government of Greece;

22. *Decides* that, taking into account the provision in paragraph 19 of its resolution 67/272, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective additional share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 12,284 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2012, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2012, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

23. *Also decides* that, taking into account the provision in paragraph 20 of its resolution 67/272, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective additional share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 12,284 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2012, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 22 above;

24. *Further decides*, taking into account the provision in paragraph 22 of its resolution 67/272, that the additional amount of 44,200 dollars, representing one third of the unencumbered balance and other income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2012, shall be returned to the Government of Cyprus;

25. *Decides*, taking into account the provision in paragraph 23 of its resolution 67/272, that the additional amount of 15,016 dollars, representing the prorated share of the unencumbered balance and other income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2012, shall be returned to the Government of Greece;

26. *Also decides* to continue to maintain as separate the account established for the Force for the period prior to 16 June 1993, invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to that account, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in appealing for voluntary contributions to the account;

27. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

28. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

29. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus".

On 29 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNFICYP would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Ukraine

In 2014, following months of mass protests in Kiev that culminated in violence, the crisis in Ukraine emerged as a major new concern of the Security Council. The situation came to a head on 28 January when the Government of Ukraine resigned. Negotiations to settle the conflict were held between the parties, with the participation of EU representatives and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of France, Germany and Poland, and a Special Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation. On 21 February, Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leaders signed, in Kiev, the "Agreement on the Settlement of the Crisis in Ukraine." The Agreement, transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Russian Federation on 23 February [S/2014/121], provided for the restoration of the 2004 Ukrainian Constitution, the creation of

a national unity government, constitutional reforms to be completed in September, presidential elections to be held no later than December, and an investigation of the crisis. On 24 February [S/2014/122], Ukraine reported that on 22 February, President Yanukovich renounced the Agreement and refused to sign the law restoring the 2004 Constitution adopted by the Parliament. He left Kiev for an unknown destination, thus removing himself from his constitutional authority. On the same day, the Parliament adopted decrees on the removal of the president and early presidential elections which were set for 25 May. On 26 February [S/2014/132], Ukraine rejected allegations made by the Russian Federation of “threats to civil rights, particularly of minorities and religious confessions” in Ukraine as false and baseless.

Situation in Crimea

Following a request by Ukraine [S/2014/136], due to the deterioration of the situation in Ukraine’s Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the Security Council met on 28 February [S/PV.7123] in closed session to hear a briefing by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco, and in open session on 1 March [S/PV.7124] by Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson who said that since briefing the Council the previous day by Mr. Fernández-Taranco, reports continued of serious developments in Ukraine, especially in Crimea, where key sites, including the regional parliament, reportedly continued to be blocked by unidentified armed men. Armed personnel took control also of regional administration buildings in several cities in the East and South of Ukraine. He recalled the Secretary-General’s statement of the same day reiterating his call for the full respect for and preservation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Meanwhile, Ukraine reported that Russian troops had illegally entered Crimea to allegedly protect the Russian-speaking population of the peninsula. It called on the Council to do everything possible to stop the aggression against Ukraine. The Russian Federation, for its part, contended that the Russian troops were deployed in Crimea at the request of local authorities, and submitted, on 3 March [S/2014/146], a statement by Mr. Yanukovich appealing to the Russian Federation to use its armed forces to restore law and order in the country.

At the Council’s meeting on 3 March [S/PV.7125], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Fernández-Taranco reported a continuing build-up of Russian troops in Crimea and that a number of Ukrainian military bases were surrounded by Russian troops. In addition, the situation in Eastern Ukraine remained fluid, with reports of demonstrations in certain cities and attempts by local groups to seize control of some official buildings. On 2 March, Ukraine’s Parliament urged Russia to fulfil the terms

of the agreement on its Black Sea Fleet’s temporary presence in Ukraine and to withdraw its troops. Following the Council’s consultation, and in the light of developments on the ground, the Secretary-General asked the Deputy Secretary-General to travel to Ukraine so that he could brief the Secretary-General on next steps.

On 4 March [S/2014/152], Ukraine asserted that since Mr. Yanukovich was no longer a legitimate President of Ukraine, his request to the Russian Federation to use its military forces in Ukraine might not be regarded as an official request. It further informed the Council President on 7 March [S/2014/164], that the Crimean Parliament had decided to hold a referendum on 16 March on the issue of “reuniting Crimea with the Russian Federation.” At its meeting on 13 March [S/PV.7134], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman informed the Council that on 11 March, reports were received that Crimean authorities had closed down the airspace of the peninsula to all commercial flights, except those from Moscow, and Crimea’s Parliament had adopted a “declaration of independence of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea”. The Parliament of Ukraine adopted a resolution urging the Parliament of Crimea to reconsider its decision of 6 March and to bring it in line with Ukraine’s constitution; if it failed to do so by 12 March, the Parliament of Ukraine would initiate the early termination of its powers.

The Secretary-General continued efforts to speak to all relevant parties with the aim of seeking a peaceful resolution of the crisis. Local authorities, however, denied the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović access to Crimea. The human rights monitoring mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was set to become operational in Ukraine. On 13 March [S/2014/186], Ukraine, invoking Article 51 of the UN Charter, requested States and the regional security systems to assist in restoring its sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability. It also informed the Council President, on 15 March [S/2014/193], that its Constitutional Court had found that the 6 March Decree of the Parliament of Crimea on the holding of a referendum on 16 March had violated Ukraine’s territorial integrity and breached Ukraine’s constitution.

On 15 March [S/PV. 7138], the Council had before it for consideration a draft resolution [S/2104/189] proposed by 42 States by which the Council would have noted with concern the intention to hold a referendum on the status of Crimea on 16 March, and would have declared that the referendum would have no validity and could not form the basis of altering the status of Crimea, and would have called on all States and international organizations and agencies not to recognize such change. The draft resolution was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member

of the Council, namely the Russian Federation. On 17 March [S/2014/196], Ukraine noted that four days earlier it had referred to the European Court of Human Rights a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights by the Russian Federation and lodged an inter-State application *Ukraine v. Russia* under article 33 of that Convention.

Meanwhile, the crisis appeared to have deepened, the Deputy Secretary-General reported to the Council on 19 March [S/PV.7144]. The Crimean authorities announced that close to 97 per cent of those who voted in the 16 March referendum did so in favour of Crimea's secession from Ukraine. Subsequently, Crimea declared its independence, which was recognized by the Russian Federation. On 17 March, the EU and the United States applied targeted sanctions against Russian and Crimean officials. The next day, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin signed a treaty to make Crimea part of the Russian Federation. At the same time, the Government in Kiev committed to never accept Crimea's independence or annexation. In other developments, reports emerged that two Ukrainian naval bases in Crimea were taken over by pro-Russian forces or unidentified groups. According to the Deputy Secretary-General, the latest events had heightened tensions and added new layers of complexity to an already precarious situation.

In an 18 March address to the State Duma [A/68/803-S/2014/201], President Putin defended his country's response to the crisis in Ukraine and indicated that he was submitting to the Federal Assembly a request to consider a constitutional law creating two new constituent entities within the Russian Federation: the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and to ratify the treaty admitting them.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 27 March [meeting 80], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/262** [draft: A/68/L.39 & Add.1] by recorded vote (100-11-58) [agenda item 33 (b)].

Territorial integrity of Ukraine

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of the rule of law among nations,

Recalling the obligations of all States under Article 2 of the Charter to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means,

Recalling also its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970, in which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the principles contained therein that the territory of a State shall not be the object of acquisition by another State resulting from the threat or use of force, and that any attempt aimed at

the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State or country or at its political independence is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Recalling further the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975, the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum) of 5 December 1994, the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 31 May 1997 and the Alma-Ata Declaration of 21 December 1991,

Stressing the importance of maintaining the inclusive political dialogue in Ukraine that reflects the diversity of its society and includes representation from all parts of Ukraine,

Welcoming the continued efforts by the Secretary-General and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations to support de-escalation of the situation with respect to Ukraine,

Noting that the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014 was not authorized by Ukraine,

1. *Affirms its commitment* to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;

2. *Calls upon* all States to desist and refrain from actions aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including any attempts to modify Ukraine's borders through the threat or use of force or other unlawful means;

3. *Urges* all parties to pursue immediately the peaceful resolution of the situation with respect to Ukraine through direct political dialogue, to exercise restraint, to refrain from unilateral actions and inflammatory rhetoric that may increase tensions and to engage fully with international mediation efforts;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations to assist Ukraine in protecting the rights of all persons in Ukraine, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

5. *Underscores* that the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014, having no validity, cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol;

6. *Calls upon* all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the above-mentioned referendum and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 68/262:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti,

Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Against: Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Guyana, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia.

On 14 December [S/2014/895], Ukraine issued a statement on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) entitled "Definition of Aggression".

Security and human rights situations

On 16 April [S/PV.7157], Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović told the Security Council that during his visit to Crimea (21–22 March) he interacted with a wide range of interlocutors, including local authorities and civil society, and especially the victims themselves. The media manipulation contributed to a climate of fear and insecurity in the period preceding the referendum. The presence of paramilitary and so-called self-defence groups, as well as soldiers in uniform without insignia, was not conducive to an environment in which voters could freely exercise their right to hold opinions and to freedom of expression during the referendum on 16 March. There were credible allegations of harassment, arbitrary arrests and torture by those groups targeting activists and journalists who did not support the referendum.

Meanwhile, the security situation deteriorated significantly. Reportedly, armed pro-Russian activists established the People's Republic of Donetsk, taking control of Government buildings. In Luhansk, pro-Russian protesters continued to occupy the local security services building. In Kharkiv, participants in a pro-Ukrainian rally were attacked and beaten by pro-Russian demonstrators, resulting in some 50 persons being injured. While reports indicated that the number of protesters, including some allegedly

from outside the region, had not significantly increased, the level of violence and the proportion of armed protesters had, with significant human rights implications.

The Council met again on 29 April [S/PV.7165], and was informed by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman that there was a glimmer of hope for the outcome of the four-party talks between Ukraine, the Russian Federation, the United States and the EU held in Geneva on 17 April, aimed at de-escalating the crisis. The resulting Geneva agreement called for all sides to refrain from violence, intimidation and provocative actions; for all illegal armed groups to be disarmed; and for all illegally seized buildings, occupied streets and public places to be vacated. The emerging spirit of compromise of the 17 April talks, however, appeared to have evaporated. The implementation of the Geneva agreement stalled as parties sought to give different interpretations of what had been agreed upon. Unhelpful rhetoric further escalated the already high tensions. Meanwhile, the situation in parts of eastern and southern Ukraine continued to deteriorate. On 25 April, a group of OSCE military monitors and accompanying Ukrainian staff were captured and detained. There were increasing reports of torture, kidnappings and violent clashes. On 27 April, the mayor of Kharkiv was shot by unknown assailants and remained in critical condition. On the same day, self-declared separatists seized a local government building in Kostiantynivka, in Donetsk Oblast, while in Donetsk itself a pro-unity rally turned violent when separatist elements reportedly attacked the group with clubs and chains. Also, on 27 April, in Kharkiv, clashes between opponents and supporters of a unitary Ukraine broke out resulting in a number of injuries. On 29 April, self-declared separatist groups reportedly began an operation to take control of Lugansk.

On 14 May [A/68/879-S/2014/340], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of comments by its Deputy Defence Minister concerning assertions made by NATO and the United States on the lack of withdrawal of Russian troops from the border with Ukraine. According to the Deputy Defence Minister, no formal protest had been presented to the Russian Federation that it had failed to fulfil, or had directly violated its international obligations regarding conventional weapons. In the interest of preventing further provocation, the Russian Federation had withdrawn from the border. Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces continued to mass on the Russia-Ukraine border, where there was a 15,000-strong concentration of Ukrainian troops. There was a simultaneous build-up of NATO forces in Eastern Europe. He called on NATO and United States officials to refrain from misleading the international community regarding the real situation along the Russia-Ukraine border.

As to Ukraine's early presidential election, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman informed the Council, at its 28 May meeting [S/PV.7185], that reports indicated that 60 per cent of Ukraine's eligible voters had voted, but the numbers varied considerably across the country. In parts of eastern Ukraine, eligible voters were denied their right to vote due to the seizure or blocking of polling stations, the destruction of electoral equipment, intimidation and violence. According to preliminary results, Petro Poroshenko won in the first round with 55 per cent of the vote. The Secretary-General welcomed President-elect Poroshenko's stated intention to engage immediately in dialogue and de-escalation. Both the Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts areas, however, experienced a dramatic increase in deadly fighting. The Secretary-General was concerned by reports of scores of casualties; by suggestions regarding the circulation and use of heavier weaponry in the east; and by allegations of arms, fighters and trucks entering Ukraine. On 22 May, dozens of Ukrainian servicemen were killed and many wounded in an ambush by unknown armed persons at a military checkpoint in Volnovakha, and on 26 May, fierce fighting ensued when armed militia attempted to seize control of the Donetsk international airport.

In a 17 June press statement [SC/11442], Council members expressed their condolences to the families of all journalists killed while covering the crisis in Ukraine, encouraged a thorough investigation of all incidents of violence involving journalists and expressed concern about reported cases of detention and harassment of journalists covering the crisis in Ukraine.

Meeting again on 24 June [S/PV. 7205], the Council was informed by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Tayé-Brook Zerihoun that, due in large part to the initiative by President Poroshenko since his inauguration on 7 June, and the efforts of the international community, there were encouraging signs of a de-escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. On 20 June, Ukraine provided the Secretary-General with an official copy of President Poroshenko's peace plan [S/2014/431], which included de-escalatory measures, such as amnesty for those who did not participate in serious crimes, disarmament, the decentralization of power and early local and parliamentary elections, and a programme for creating jobs in the region. Simultaneously, he announced the start of a one-week unilateral ceasefire to give armed militia an opportunity to disarm. Government forces were ordered to withdraw from their engagements, allowing rebels a chance to lay down their weapons. According to the plan, all rebels who surrendered peacefully and had not committed grave crimes would be granted amnesty. Also, with a view to engaging with Ukraine's eastern regions, the President travelled on 19 June to the Donbass region, and the following

day, to Donetsk and Lugansk. The Secretary-General was pleased that peace talks had reportedly started with representatives of the armed groups in eastern Ukraine, led by former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. He also noted that the armed militia groups had agreed to reciprocate the ceasefire, despite previously rejecting the President's plan. In a welcome development, President Putin asked the Russian Parliament to revoke the authorization given to him to send troops to Ukraine. President Poroshenko's office welcomed the move as the first practical step after President Putin expressed support for the peace plan. Nevertheless, even after President Poroshenko's announced ceasefire, the armed groups publicly rejected the offer and continued their assault on Ukrainian forces. Other reports indicated that Ukrainian forces also continued their security operations. On 14 June, a Ukrainian Ilyushin-76 military transport airplane was shot down in Luhansk by armed militia, killing all 49 people on board. On 1 July [S/2014/460], Ukraine informed the Council President of President Poroshenko's decision not to continue the unilateral ceasefire as at 30 June, as insurgents had violated it over 100 times. The peace plan, however, remained in force.

Downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17

At its 18 July meeting [S/PV.7219], the Security Council expressed its deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those who had lost their lives aboard the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 on 17 July over Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, and to the people and Governments of all the countries that had lost their citizens in the crash. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman told the Council that, while the United Nations had at that point no independent verification of the circumstances regarding the tragic crash, reports suggested that a sophisticated surface-to-air missile was used. Nearly 300 people were killed, two-thirds of them from the Netherlands, including 80 children. The Secretary-General stated that there was clearly a need for a full and transparent international investigation. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) offered to put together an international team.

Also, in an 18 July press statement [SC/11480], Council members called for a full and thorough international investigation into the incident and on all parties to grant access to the crash site to determine the cause of the incident.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 7221], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2166(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/510] was submitted by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chad, Chile, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zea-

land, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam.

The Security Council,

Deplores the downing of a civilian aircraft on an international flight, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, on 17 July 2014 in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, with the loss of all 298 passengers and crew on board,

Reaffirming the rules of international law that prohibit acts of violence that pose a threat to the safety of international civil aviation, and emphasizing the importance of holding those responsible for violations of these rules to account,

Recalling its statement to the press of 18 July 2014,

Stressing the need for a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines, noting in this regard the crucial role played by the International Civil Aviation Organization in aircraft accident and incident investigations, and welcoming the decision of the Organization to send a team to work in coordination with the Ukrainian National Bureau of Incidents and Accidents Investigation of Civil Aircraft in this investigation, following a request for assistance by Ukraine to the Organization and others,

Expressing serious concern that armed groups in Ukraine have impeded immediate, safe, secure and unrestricted access to the crash site and the surrounding area for the appropriate investigating authorities, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and representatives of other relevant international organizations assisting the investigation in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization and other established procedures,

1. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July 2014 in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, resulting in the tragic loss of 298 lives;

2. *Reiterates its deepest sympathies and condolences* to the families of the victims of this incident and to the people and Governments of the victims' countries of origin;

3. *Supports* efforts to establish a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines;

4. *Recognizes* the efforts under way by Ukraine, working in coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization and other international experts and organizations, including representatives of the States of Occurrence, Registry, Operator, Design and Manufacture, as well as States that have lost nationals on MH17, to institute an international investigation of the incident, and calls upon all States to provide any requested assistance to civil and criminal investigations related to this incident;

5. *Expresses grave concern* at reports of insufficient and limited access to the crash site;

6. *Demands* that the armed groups in control of the crash site and the surrounding area refrain from any actions that may compromise the integrity of the crash site, including by refraining from destroying, moving or disturbing wreckage, equipment, debris, personal belongings or remains, and immediately provide safe, secure, full and unrestricted access to the site and the surrounding area for the appropriate investigating authorities, the Organization

for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and representatives of other relevant international organizations according to International Civil Aviation Organization and other established procedures;

7. *Also demands* that all military activities, including by armed groups, be immediately ceased in the immediate area surrounding the crash site to allow for security and safety of the international investigation;

8. *Insists* on the dignified, respectful and professional treatment and recovery of the bodies of the victims, and calls upon all parties to ensure that this happens with immediate effect;

9. *Calls upon* all States and actors in the region to cooperate fully in relation to the international investigation of the incident, including with respect to immediate and unrestricted access to the crash site as referred to in paragraph 6 above;

10. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the statement made on 17 July 2014 by the Trilateral Contact Group of senior representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and demands that the commitments outlined in that statement be implemented in full;

11. *Demands* that those responsible for this incident be held to account and that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability;

12. *Urges* all parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation to observe to the fullest extent applicable the international rules, standards and practices concerning the safety of civil aviation, in order to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, and demands that all States and other actors refrain from acts of violence directed against civilian aircraft;

13. *Welcomes* the full cooperation of the United Nations offered by the Secretary-General in this investigation, and requests the Secretary-General to identify possible options for United Nations support to the investigation and to report to the Security Council on relevant developments;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

On 22 July [A/68/954-S/2014/524], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General the transcript of the special briefing held the previous day by its Ministry of Defence on the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17. On 7 August [S/2014/576], Ukraine clarified the decision of its President to maintain a ceasefire in the immediate area surrounding the crash site. The Netherlands, on 28 August [S/2014/639], informed the Council that, at the request of Ukraine, it had taken the lead in coordinating international efforts regarding the incident with flight MH17. The approach was twofold: recovery of the remains of the victims and their repatriation to their respective home countries; and an international technical investigation into the cause of the crash coordinated by the independent Dutch Safety Board, in accordance with annex 13 of the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation [YUN 1946-1947, pp. 728-740]. As at 22 August, 173 of the 298 victims had been identified. Regrettably, efforts to recover remains and belongings were severely hampered by the volatile security situation on the ground. Continuing armed clashes in the

area prevented any resumption of activities on site in the immediate future.

At the Council's session on 19 September [S/PV.7269], convened at the request of the Russian Federation [S/2014/264], Under-Secretary-General Feltman updated the Council on developments related to the investigation of the crash. He recognized the pivotal role of the Netherlands in leading the investigation, with contributions by a number of countries, ICAO and the European Aviation Safety Agency. On 9 September, the Dutch Safety Board submitted its preliminary report [S/2014/657] containing the first actual findings based on various sources, including the cockpit voice recorder, the flight data recorder, air traffic control data, and radar and satellite images. While the report was preliminary, it asserted that the plane broke apart due to penetration by a large number of "high-energy objects from outside the aircraft." There was no indication that the plane had any technical or operational issues and no distress signal was received.

Also, on the same day [S/2014/690], the Russian Federation informed the Council President of issues that it considered should be examined during further investigation of the crash of the Malaysia Airlines plane.

The Netherlands, on 16 December [S/2014/903], updated the Council on steps it had taken regarding the repatriation and recovery efforts, the technical investigation and the accountability process. After the decision on 6 August to suspend the recovery mission owing to the volatile security situation on the ground, the Netherlands maintained daily contact with the OSCE mission in Ukraine. So far, 294 of the 298 victims had been identified. For the purposes of the investigation by the Dutch Safety Board, pieces of debris relevant to the investigation were recovered from the crash site between 16 and 23 November. The Board aimed to deliver its final public report by mid-2015.

Further developments

At the request of the Russian Federation [S/2104/264], the Council met on 5 August [S/PV.7234] on the situation in Ukraine. John Ging, Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that efforts to find a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine had borne little fruit. Insecurity and violence prevailed in conflict areas, resulting in a steadily worsening humanitarian situation. An estimated 3.9 million people lived in areas directly affected by violence. Fighting caused significant damage to infrastructure. Health supplies were running low and an estimated 70 per cent of health personnel had fled the area, leaving access to medical care significantly reduced. Damage to housing had so far affected 1,600 families. Supply routes were increasingly disrupted, and coping mechanisms among the affected populations were deteriorating. The OHCHR human

rights monitoring mission and the World Health Organization reported that at least 1,367 people, both civilians and combatants, had been killed and 4,087 wounded in eastern Ukraine since mid-April. An additional 58,000 people had fled their homes since the start of July. There were 117,910 people registered as internally displaced throughout Ukraine, 87 per cent of whom were from the east of the country. The Russian Federation reported that 740,000 people had crossed its borders since the start of the year. UNHCR was reaching hosting areas for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and areas to which people were able to return, while OCHA deployed a humanitarian advisory team to Ukraine to assess needs and support the coordination of the response. On 11 August [S/2104/581], Ukraine informed that President Poroshenko was sending an international humanitarian aid mission to the Luhansk region.

Updating the Council on 8 August [S/PV.7239] on the situation in Ukraine, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović reported that since April, 924 people had been abducted and 113 servicemen, military border guards and security personnel detained. In Crimea, UNHCR estimated that 15,200 people had left the Republic while tens of thousands continued to flee the fighting in the east of Ukraine, bringing the number of IDPs to over 117,910 as at 5 August.

On 11 August [S/2014/580], Ukraine informed the Council of the closure, beginning on 15 July, of the seaports of Kerch, Sevastopol, Feodosia, Yalta and Yevpatoria, located in Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, owing to the temporary occupation of those territories. On 15 August [S/2014/599, S/2014/602], Ukraine protested against Russian Federation attempts to establish its national jurisdiction over Ukrainian nuclear facilities located in Crimea, and over the continued aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. On 22 August [S/2014/612], Ukraine also protested the illegal crossing of its border by a Russian Federation convoy.

As the crisis escalated, on 28 August [S/PV.7253] Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman reported to the Council that Presidents Putin and Poroshenko met officially on 26 August and multilateral talks were initiated. The Secretary-General called for the continuation of those talks, with a view to forging a peaceful way out of the conflict, based on President Poroshenko's peace plan (see p. 507). Those events, however, were overshadowed by reports of intensified fighting in south-eastern Ukraine. Illegal armed groups operating in the Donetsk region reportedly had intensified their activities, spreading violence along Ukraine's southern coast in the direction of the strategic port of Mariupol. The town of Novozovsk was seized by the armed groups. The southward spread of fighting along the border with the Russian Federation and the Sea of Azov marked a dangerous

escalation in the conflict. The battle for Luhansk continued, and hostilities in Donetsk were spreading. The United Nations had no way of verifying information of Russian military involvement in that new wave of escalation, and the Russian Federation had rejected those reports.

On 3 September [S/2014/647], the Russian Federation forwarded to the Council President the 'Putin Plan' for the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine, which proposed that the parties to the conflict should agree on ending offensive operations by armed units and militia groups in southeast Ukraine in the Donetsk and Lugansk areas; the withdrawal of Ukraine forces to a safe distance from populated areas; allowing international monitoring of compliance with the ceasefire; excluding use of all military aircraft against civilians; organizing the exchange of those detained; opening humanitarian corridors; and repairing and rebuilding facilities.

President Poroshenko, in a 5 September statement [S/2014/652], said that, taking into account the Russian President's call for a ceasefire addressed to illegal armed groups of the Donbas and the signing of the protocol at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on the implementation of the peace plan of the President of Ukraine, he had ordered a cease-fire starting that same day. On 17 September [S/2014/677], Ukraine expressed concern over a statement by the Russian defence minister concerning the deployment of full-scale and self-sufficient military force in Crimea, and on 25 September [S/2014/704], drew the Council President's attention to the discovery of a mass grave on 23 September in a coal mine in Komunar, near the village of Nyzhnia Krynka, sixty kilometres from Donetsk. On 3 October [SC/11588], Council members condemned the killing of a staff member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Laurent DuPasquier, in Donetsk, Ukraine, on 2 October, and stressed the need for an objective investigation into the tragic death.

On 24 October [S/PV.7287], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Fernández-Taranco told the Council that efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine remained mixed. On 5 September, under the auspices of the Trilateral Contact Group, the Minsk protocol to halt the conflict in eastern Ukraine was signed, and the Minsk memorandum, which clarified implementation of the ceasefire agreement, was signed on 19 September. The Secretary-General joined other leaders in welcoming those agreements and in urging their full implementation. Initial steps were undertaken to implement the Minsk protocol and memorandum, including, the implementation of the ceasefire, the exchange of detained persons and Ukrainian Government's steps [S/2014/755] toward decentralization, including by the adoption of a special status, or interim self-governance, for certain areas in Donetsk and Luhansk. Violation of the ceasefire agreement, however, was a daily occurrence, with reg-

ular loss of life. The OSCE special monitoring mission, charged with monitoring and verifying the ceasefire and other provisions of the Minsk protocol, was doing its utmost to carry out its mandate in the face of logistical challenges. The United Nations engaged continuously with the mission and OSCE secretariat to identify specific areas where its expertise and resources could be of assistance. There were reports also on the alleged widespread use of internationally banned cluster munitions. In the run up to the elections, reports were received of alleged violence against parliamentary candidates and representatives of various parties, as well as inflammatory statements by armed rebel groups threatening to disrupt voting in areas of eastern Ukraine, and to hold their own elections on 2 November. International election monitoring efforts, led by OSCE, as well as international observers and domestic NGOs would be critical.

The Parliamentary elections were held on schedule on 26 October, Assistant Secretary-General ad interim for Political Affairs Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen reported to the Council on 12 November [S/PV.7311]. Although there was no voting in Crimea and those parts of Donbas under rebel control, elections were held throughout the rest of Ukraine. On 11 November, the Central Electoral Commission announced the official results of the elections. On 2 November, rebels in Donetsk and Luhansk held their own elections, in defiance of the Ukrainian Government. Following the elections, the rebels declared themselves as *de facto* independent from Ukraine and threatened to expand the territory under their control. A full mobilization, including the creation of local armies and security forces, was also announced. In response, President Poroshenko proposed that Parliament revoke the law providing for three years of greater autonomy or special status for the rebel-controlled areas that had been offered as fulfilment of a key tenet of the Minsk Protocol. On 5 November, Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk announced that pensions and subsidies would be halted to areas under rebel control.

On 3 November, hostilities in the east reignited. Citing credible threats from the rebel leadership that it would launch a new offensive, on 4 November, President Poroshenko ordered army reinforcements to key cities in southern and eastern Ukraine. Reaffirming that Kiev saw no military solution to the conflict and that it would not attempt to retake rebel areas held by rebel force, the President's stated objective was to protect Ukraine's territory from any further incursions [S/2014/792, S/2014/798]. On 9 November, hostilities were reported to be at their worst, with a heavy exchange of artillery and shelling in and around Donetsk. The upsurge in fighting came amidst regular reports from OSCE of an influx of large convoys of heavy weapons, tanks and troops flowing into rebel-held areas. With the onset of winter, the number of IDPs was expected to increase.

Other issues

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/8** of 11 November on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative (see p. 1609), valued the continuing contribution of the Initiative to the political dialogue and its project management support, providing its member States with a flexible and pragmatic platform for regional cooperation.

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/67 [YUN 2013, p. 375], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/169] containing replies received from Colombia, Lebanon, Portugal and Spain to his 7 February note requesting the views of States on ways to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [62 meeting], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee [A/69/445], adopted **resolution 69/80** without vote [agenda item 101].

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 68/67 of 5 December 2013,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Welcoming the efforts deployed by the Euro-Mediterranean countries to strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism, in particular through the adoption of the Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Counter-terroring Terrorism by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 and 28 November 2005,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recalling, in this regard, the adoption on 13 July 2008 of the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, which launched a reinforced partnership, named the “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean”, and the common political will to revive efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity,

Welcoming the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) as a contribution to the strengthening of peace and security both regionally and internationally,

Recognizing the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing also the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminating the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security, as well as their growing awareness of the need for further joint efforts to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Expressing concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Reaffirms* that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Commends* the Mediterranean countries for their efforts in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, encourages them to strengthen such efforts through, inter alia, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region, and recognizes the role of the United Nations in promoting regional and international peace and security;

4. *Recognizes* that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles, as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures in the Mediterranean area, will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

5. *Calls upon* all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the conditions necessary for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

6. *Encourages* all States of the region to favour the conditions necessary for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;

7. *Encourages* the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible resort by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and in combating international crime and illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation and which jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

Good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

On 2 December (**decision 69/514**), the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first (2016) session the item entitled "Maintenance of international security-good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe".

Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM

The Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), a regional cooperation organization established by the 2006 Kyiv Declaration [YUN 2006, p. 486], was headquartered in Kyiv, Ukraine. On the issue of conflict settlement, GUAM emphasized respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of its members States.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Middle East

The year 2014 was marked by the breakdown of peace negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis and a major escalation of violence in Gaza. Palestinian state-building efforts were undermined by restrictions imposed by Israel on the Occupied Palestinian Territory that prevented the normal movement of persons and goods, economic activity and sustained development and growth.

With the freezing of the peace process, the situation in Gaza remained precarious. As at 31 December, the registered Palestine refugee population in the Gaza Strip stood at 1,276,926. A third war in six years between Israel and armed militants erupted on 8 July and lasted 51 days. An estimated 2,251 Palestinians, 72 Israelis and eleven personnel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) were killed. At its height, the conflict displaced over 475,000 people in Gaza and forced nearly 300,000 to take shelter in 90 UNRWA schools operating as emergency shelters. An estimated 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed and approximately 118 UNRWA installations were damaged. An open-ended ceasefire was brokered by Egypt on 26 August. A UN board of inquiry was established to review the incidents in which death or injuries occurred at, or damage was done to, UN premises in Gaza, or in which the presence of weaponry was reported at those premises.

In the West Bank, the abduction and killing of three Israeli youths on 13 June and the subsequent killing of a Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem on 2 July were followed by increased tension, clashes and violence. The plans for expansion of settlements also continued. On 23 July, the Human Rights Council established a fact-finding mission to investigate all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 13 June.

Ten years after the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, the construction of the separation wall and its associated regime continued, fragmenting Palestinian land, obstructing movement and access, further isolating East Jerusalem and harming the socioeconomic conditions of the Palestinian people. In 2014, the Israeli blockade of Gaza entered its eighth consecutive year. In September, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process brokered a trilateral agreement between Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations to enable work in the Gaza Strip, involving the private sector and giving a lead

role to the Palestinian Authority, while providing security assurances through UN monitoring that dual-use materials would not be diverted from their civilian purpose; the mechanism became fully operational in November.

On 25 November, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/23, by which it reaffirmed its commitment to the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders.

UNRWA continued to provide education, health, relief and social services, and microfinance to the growing refugee population in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan. A severe funding crisis, however, put at risk the Agency's core services to the population, as at 31 December, of 5.1 million registered Palestine refugees. On 31 March, Filippo Grandi of Italy completed his nine-year tenure as UNRWA Commissioner-General and, on 1 April, was succeeded by Pierre Krähenbühl of Switzerland.

The General Assembly proclaimed 2014 as the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

During the year, Lebanon's stability was challenged by the political process, the deteriorating security and the protracted consequences of the Syrian conflict. In May, the Security Council stressed that the implementation of its resolution 1701(2006) remained crucial to ensuring stability and full respect for Lebanon's sovereignty and political independence. The security situation in Lebanon was significantly challenged in the second half of the year by attacks carried out by violent extremist groups, including Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusra Front, in areas bordering Syria. On 16 January, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon opened the in absentia trial of the persons accused in connection with the 2005 killing of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. On 31 December, the Secretary-General extended the mandate of the Tribunal for a period of three years beginning 1 March 2015.

In 2014, Syrians fleeing the conflict in their country sought shelter in Lebanon, which hosted the largest number of Syrian refugees and had a higher proportion of refugees relative to its national population than any country in the world. As at November, there were 1.124 million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon. As the number grew, Lebanon started to put in place a series of measures to restrict the flow of refugees.

On the political front in Lebanon, President Michel Sleiman's leadership upheld the country's disassociation policy, which was vital to prevent the Syrian crisis from exacerbating tensions in Lebanon. After his term ended, on 25 May, the presidency remained vacant, despite fourteen sessions of Parliament that had been scheduled but had failed to take place owing to a lack of quorum. In the absence of a president, the Council of Ministers led by Prime Minister Tammam Salam assumed power.

The stability along the Blue Line and in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was threatened by heightened tension resulting from the outbreak of the Gaza conflict in July and August. Also, in August, the Security Council extended the mandate of UNIFIL for one year, until 31 August 2015, with no major operational changes.

In 2014, the conflict in Syria entered its fourth year. After two rounds of intra-Syrian negotiations in January and February, the talks of the Geneva Conference on Syria on implementation of the 2012 Geneva communiqué stalled. In February and in July the Security Council adopted resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), respectively, regarding the humanitarian situation. On 28 March, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria for one year. On 8 April, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

On 29 April, a new fact-finding mission was established by Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to investigate allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, in particular chlorine, for hostile purposes at various locations in Syria. On 30 September, the Joint Mission of the OPCW and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic concluded its work, having achieved the removal and destruction of that country's declared chemical-weapon stockpile.

Failure to resolve the conflict in Syria produced an enabling environment for ISIL, the Nusra Front and Al-Qaida-affiliated groups that spread outwards from Iraq and posed a threat to regional and international peace and security. On 15 August, the Security Council adopted resolution 2170(2014), expressing concern that parts of Syria were under the control of such groups and demanding their immediate disarmament and disbandment. On 23 September, the international coalition undertook air strikes against ISIL and other targets that continued into November on an almost daily basis.

In January, the Secretary-General issued his first report on children and armed conflict in Syria, which assigned blame on both Syrian Government forces and their associated militias; Syrian Kurdish armed

groups; Free Syrian Army-affiliated groups; the Nusra Front; Ahrar al-Sham; ISIL; and other independent or unidentified armed groups for committing atrocities against children.

The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), established to supervise the observance of the ceasefire between Israel and Syria in the Syrian Golan and to ensure the separation of their forces, was renewed twice in 2014, in June and December, each time for a six-month period. The heavy fighting between Syrian armed forces and armed groups in proximity of the UNDOF headquarters in Camp Faouar and other positions in the central area of separation had two major consequences for the Force: the abduction of 45 of its peacekeepers, later released unharmed, and the relocation of UNDOF personnel from the Syrian to the Israeli side, which significantly reduced the Force's ability to carry out its mandate as agreed by the parties to the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement.

Peace process

Diplomatic efforts

On 28 March, Israel postponed the release of a fourth and final batch of 26 "pre-Oslo" Palestinian prisoners, which had been agreed under the United States-brokered deal that had led to the restart of negotiations in July 2013. On 1 April, the State of Palestine submitted accession instruments to 21 international treaties and conventions. On the same day, Israel announced 708 reissued tenders for illegal settlement construction in East Jerusalem. On 23 April, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Hamas achieved reconciliation and agreed that a national consensus government would be formed within five weeks and elections held no later than six months after the Government's formation. The following day, the Israeli Cabinet suspended peace negotiations. On 2 June, President Mahmoud Abbas swore in the Government of national consensus headed by Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah. Israel declared its opposition to the unity Government and announced the construction of thousands of new settler homes, while the international community welcomed the consensus Government and the United States expressed its readiness to work with it.

Despite the breakdown of the talks between Israel and Palestine, the negotiators continued to meet to find a way out of the impasse. On 14 July, Egypt put forward a proposal for a ceasefire to end hostilities between Hamas in Gaza and Israel. In October, clashes between Palestinian youth and Israeli security forces in many parts of East Jerusalem and the West Bank took place on an almost daily basis. At the end of the

year, the parties took constructive steps to de-escalate the tensions surrounding the holy sites, as per the understandings reached in Amman in November.

On 12 October, Norway, Egypt and Palestine co-hosted the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza. Representatives of more than 90 countries and organizations participated and pledged \$5.4 billion dollars—half of which would be allocated to recovery and reconstruction in Gaza.

The Council discussed the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, at meetings held on 20 January [S/PV.7096 & Resumption 1], 25 February [S/PV.7118], 18 March [S/PV.7140], 29 April [S/PV.7164], 20 May [S/PV.7178], 23 June [S/PV.7204], 10 July [S/PV.7214], 18 July [S/PV.7220], 22 July [S/PV.7222], 28 July [S/PV.7225], 31 July [S/PV.7232], 18 August [S/PV.7243], 16 September [S/PV.7266], 21 October [S/PV.7281], 29 October [S/PV.7291], 17 November [S/PV.7312], 15 December [S/PV.7339] and 30 December [S/PV.7354].

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Political and security developments

Communications. Israel and Palestine brought to the attention of the Secretary-General, the Security Council President and the General Assembly President information on attacks or violations of international law committed by either side throughout the year [S/2014/14, S/2014/23, S/2014/28, S/2014/107, A/ES-10/613-S/2014/47, A/ES-10/614-S/2014/59, A/ES-10/616-S/2014/118, A/ES-10/617-S/2014/128, A/ES-10/618-S/2014/135, A/ES-10/619-S/2014/154, A/ES-10/620-S/2014/180, A/ES-10/621-S/2014/205, A/ES-10/622-S/2014/214, A/ES-10/623-S/2014/257, A/ES-10/624-S/2014/280, A/ES-10/625-S/2014/289, S/2014/301, A/ES-10/628-S/2014/347, A/ES-10/629-S/2014/381, S/2014/385, S/2014/416, A/ES-10/631-S/2014/418, A/ES-10/632-S/2014/429, S/2014/454, A/ES-10/633-S/2014/455, A/ES-10/634-S/2014/468, A/ES-10/635-S/2014/471, S/2014/474, A/ES-10/636-S/2014/473, A/ES-10/637-S/2014/479, A/ES-10/638-S/2014/483, A/ES-10/639-S/2014/489, A/ES-10/640-S/2014/491, S/2014/495, S/2014/499, A/ES-10/641-S/2014/506, A/ES-10/642-S/2014/513, A/ES-10/643-S/2014/519, A/ES-10/644-S/2014/530, A/ES-10/645-S/2014/539, A/ES-10/646-S/2014/551, S/2014/557, A/ES-10/647-S/2014/563, A/ES-10/648-S/2014/567, S/2014/578, A/ES-10/649-S/2014/585, A/ES-10/650-S/2014/607, A/ES-10/651-S/2014/610, S/2014/627, A/ES-10/652-S/2014/621, A/ES-10/653-S/2014/624, S/2014/635, S/2014/636, A/ES-10/655-S/2014/634, A/ES-10/657-S/2014/672, S/2014/721, A/ES-10/660-S/2014/735, S/2014/758, A/ES-10/663-S/2014/775, S/2014/789, A/ES-10/664-S/2014/791, S/2014/804, A/ES-10/665-S/2014/810, A/ES-10/666-S/2014/820, S/2014/825, A/69/624-S/2014/850, S/2014/880, A/ES-10/667-S/2014/881, S/2014/926, A/ES-10/668-S/2014/927, A/ES-10/669-S/2014/947].

Security Council consideration (January–February). On 20 January [S/PV.7096 & Resumption 1], the Secretary-General addressed the Council's open

debate, saying that the year 2014 would be decisive in helping Israelis and Palestinians draw back from an unsustainable status quo. The United States of America had laid out a framework—in which Jordan had paid an essential role—on all core issues to allow for continued negotiations towards a final agreement. Israeli and Palestinian leaders would be required to make bold decisions and painful compromises for peace, and had to therefore prepare their peoples for those necessary steps. The Secretary-General expressed concern about the recurrent violence on all sides, as well as about the continued settlement activity, which was illegal under international law. Gaza also remained a cause for concern. The realization of the Arab Peace Initiative [YUN 2002, p. 419] would yield benefits for all the peoples of the Middle East: for Palestinians, it would encourage the implementation of the State-building agenda, and for Israelis, it would bring security and recognition in the region and beyond. Reminding that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was starting the year with an expected end-of-year shortfall of \$67 million under its regular budget, the Secretary-General encouraged all Member States to provide additional funding.

On 25 February [S/PV.7118], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman informed the Council that the United States' efforts to forge a framework proposal as a basis for continued negotiation was reaching a defining moment and potentially would provide a credible horizon to achieve the two-State solution.

The situation on the ground remained fragile. In the West Bank, Israeli security forces carried out a total of 424 search and arrest operations. Clashes increased in and around Palestinian refugee camps, most notably in early February. Attacks by settlers on Palestinian property continued, as did the settlement activity, including in occupied East Jerusalem. In Gaza, the ceasefire understanding of November 2012 was eroding in both ending the hostilities and in opening the crossing for people and goods. The United Nations condemned the increased rocket fire towards Israel. Due to the ongoing closure of Gaza, the humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate. UNRWA urgently needed an additional \$30 million to sustain critical emergency operations in Gaza, without which food aid would be cut back.

Meanwhile, efforts to bridge the Palestinian divide continued. Fatah and Hamas delegations met in Gaza to discuss the implementation of existing reconciliation agreements, including the formation of a national consensus government headed by President Abbas, and the organization of general elections.

Communication. In a letter dated 22 January to the Secretary-General [A/68/718-S/2014/49], Morocco transmitted the Final Communiqué of the

twentieth session of the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (oic), held in Marrakech on 17 and 18 January.

Security Council consideration (March–April).

On 18 March [S/PV.7140], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman briefed the Council that eight months since the resumption of talks between Israelis and Palestinians, United States-led efforts were ongoing. A business conference on the importance of improving socioeconomic conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, jointly organized by the Quartet and the United States Secretary of State, took place in Prague on 8 and 9 March. Unemployment had reached 23.4 per cent in 2013—the highest level since 2010. In February, the Palestinian Cabinet approved a \$4.2 billion budget for 2014, reflecting a 9 per cent increase from 2013. The 2014 budget presented a deficit of \$1.3 billion and development needs of \$333 million.

On 3 March, the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics stated that construction in the settlements more than doubled in 2013 as compared to 2012. The Under-Secretary-General also expressed his concern about any movement towards the approval of settlement projects in East Jerusalem, and reiterated that settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory were contrary to international law and an obstacle to peace. Further, tensions increased with respect to the Temple Mount/Haram Al-Sharif.

In Gaza, the foundations of the ceasefire understanding were undermined by the dangerous escalation of violence that took place between 11 and 13 March. At the same time, the economic and humanitarian situation was also worsening, severely affecting the lives of the population.

On 29 April [S/PV.7164], the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Robert Serry, briefed the Council that the nine-month long United States-brokered peace talks between Israel and Palestine, supported by the Quartet, had faltered and ended without any agreement to continue the talks.

On 28 March, the Israeli Cabinet postponed its decision to follow through with the release of the fourth and last tranche of 30 pre-Oslo prisoners [YUN 2012, p. 382]. On 1 April, interpreting that as a breach of a diplomatic truce in return for the release of 104 pre-Oslo prisoners, the Palestinians, by a unanimous vote of the PLO, proceeded with submitting accession instruments to many international treaties and conventions. On the same day, Israel reissued 708 tenders for settlement units in Gilo. Israel later indicated its understanding that they were nearing a deal to extend negotiations that comprised more than the aforementioned prisoners. In Israel's interpretation, the original understanding was valid as long as there was progress within the talks. Despite those events,

the negotiators continued to meet in an effort to find a way out of the impasse.

In subsequent developments, Palestinians reached a unity agreement on 23 April, stipulating, *inter alia*, that a national consensus government would be formed within five weeks, and elections would be held no later than six months after the formation of that Government. Following the announcement of that accord, Israel cancelled a meeting scheduled with Palestinian negotiators and suspended the talks. The political stalemate also impacted the already volatile situation in the West Bank and Gaza, which was serious and was likely to further deteriorate if not addressed. Settlements activities continued and the situation in East Jerusalem remained worrisome.

Communications. In a 3 March letter [A/68/799-S/2014/185] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Iraq, as Chair of the Group of Arab States for that month, made reference to the communiqué that was issued by the League of Arab States at its extraordinary session (Cairo, Egypt, 26 February), condemning Israel's aggressions against the Al-Aqsa mosque.

On 6 March [A/68/791-S/2014/161], Guinea, in its capacity as Chair of the oic Group transmitted a letter to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, by which it expressed concern about the attempt by Israel's parliament at imposing its sovereignty over the Al-Aqsa mosque.

On 26 March [A/68/818-S/2014/227], Indonesia and Japan transmitted to the Secretary-General the joint statement adopted at the second ministerial meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, issued on 1 March in Jakarta.

On 21 April [S/2014/290], Jordan transmitted a letter to the Security Council President expressing its concerns for the developments in East Jerusalem, in particular in the Al-Aqsa compound.

Security Council consideration (May–July).

On 20 May [S/PV.7178], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernández-Taranco, focused his remarks to the Council on the impasse of the nine-month long peace talks between Israel and Palestine brokered by the United States, stressing that without a credible political horizon the Oslo paradigm was in jeopardy. He added that parties could not be rushed back to the table without proper parameters in place. The pause in the talks allowed for both parties to consider their next steps, while the Secretary-General remained committed to working with them to end the occupation that began in 1967 and establish a Palestinian State, living side by side in peace with Israel within secure and recognized borders. It was the responsibility of the two sides not to take unilateral steps that would complicate efforts to return to negotiations.

On 23 June [S/PV.7204], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman said that with peace negotiations suspended since the end of April and despite the restraint initially displayed by both sides, the situation on the ground had turned highly volatile with several disturbing developments. Intensive search operations in the West Bank for three Israeli students abducted near Hebron were ongoing with a corresponding increase in violence. The hunger strike by Palestinian administrative and other detainees since 24 April was in its sixty-first day. New settlement units had been announced. Further, the fragile calm in Gaza was interrupted by multiple rockets fired at Israel, and by the Israeli military response. On 2 June, President Abbas announced the formation of a government of national consensus based on the PLO commitments of recognition of Israel, non-violence and adherence to previous agreements; President Abbas also said that elections would be organized within six months.

On 10 July [S/PV.7214], the Secretary-General briefed the Council, as the situation in Israel and the Gaza Strip deteriorated. Following the firing of more than 550 rockets and mortars from Gaza into Israel by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched more than 500 air strikes on Gaza, primarily targeting Hamas/Islamic Jihad facilities and private residences of their members. Eighty-eight Palestinians, many of them civilians, were reported killed and 339 injured. As at 9 July, some 150 homes had been destroyed or severely damaged, with nearly 900 people displaced.

Two days later [SC/11472], Council members issued a press statement that called for de-escalation; reinstitution of the November 2012 ceasefire [YUN 2012, p. 381]; respect for international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians; and support for the resumption of direct negotiations.

On 18 July [S/PV.7220], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman reported to the Council about the intensification of violence in and around Gaza. While Israel had legitimate security concerns, the international community was concerned over Israel's heavy response. A ceasefire was indispensable and urgent, as the impact of the Gaza crisis was extending, and started to be felt within the entire region. Once calm was restored, it was imperative to immediately tackle the causes of the violence, including putting an end to weapons smuggling, the full opening of the crossings and bringing Gaza back under one legitimate Palestinian Government adhering to the PLO commitments.

On 22 July [S/PV.7222], the Secretary-General briefed the Council by teleconference from Ramallah, with forty Member States participating. He reiterated that it was essential to reach a ceasefire but also to address the deeper causes of the crisis and not merely delay it for another time. The most promising prospect

of a ceasefire was an initiative put forward by Egypt on the basis of the November 2012 understanding on a ceasefire. That effort had garnered the support of President Abbas and had been discussed with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Hamas, however, had yet to respond positively.

To address the causes of the crisis, it was imperative to tackle, among others, the question of governance. Tens of thousands of employees hired after 2007 and working in Gaza were not being paid, while more than 60,000 employees continued to receive salaries from Ramallah without performing essential government functions in Gaza. Underscoring that it was the third time that he had to participate in an emergency mission to the region since he took office, the Secretary-General said that the parties had to seize the opportunity not only to renew a ceasefire, but also to support a durable political, security, institutional and socioeconomic progress that stabilized Gaza.

On 28 July, the Council convened [S/PV.7225] to adopt a presidential statement (see below). On 31 July [S/PV. 7232], the Council met on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, a day after Israel's shelling of an UNRWA shelter. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos and UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl briefed the Council. Under-Secretary-General Amos said that more than 1,300 Palestinians had been killed—more than 80 per cent of whom were civilians, including 251 children—and 6,000 injured. Israel had faced rocket fire with 59 killed, of whom three were civilians and 56 soldiers. Up to 440,000 people in the Gaza Strip were displaced, amounting to almost 24 per cent of the population, and more than 240,000 were hosted in UNRWA schools, while others were seeking refuge wherever they could.

More than 240,000 people had sought protection in United Nations facilities and more than 103 of those facilities had come under attack; including the UNRWA school the previous day, which was hosting more than 3,300 displaced people and where 19 were killed and more than 100 injured. The United Nations had lost seven staff members, and other humanitarian workers had been killed since the outbreak of hostilities.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 July [meeting 7225], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/13** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council expresses grave concern regarding the deterioration in the situation as a result of the crisis related to Gaza and the loss of civilian lives and casualties.

The Council calls for full respect of international humanitarian law, including the protection of the civilian population, and reiterates the need to take ap-

propriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and their protection.

The Council expresses strong support for the call by international partners and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for an immediate and unconditional humanitarian ceasefire, allowing for the delivery of urgently needed assistance, and urges all parties to accept and fully implement the humanitarian ceasefire into the Eid period and beyond. The Council commends the Secretary-General and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Mr. John Kerry, for their efforts in this regard.

The Council also calls upon parties to engage in efforts to achieve a durable and fully respected ceasefire, based on the Egyptian initiative. In this regard, the Council welcomes the efforts of international partners and the convening of the international meeting to support the ceasefire, in Paris on 26 July 2014, and urges all concerned regional and international parties to vigorously support efforts to consolidate an agreement between the parties.

The Council emphasizes that civilian and humanitarian facilities, including those of the United Nations, must be respected and protected, and calls upon all parties to act consistently with this principle.

The Council calls for the full implementation of its resolution 1860(2009) and stresses the need for immediate provision of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, including through urgent additional contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The Council recognizes and commends the vital role played by the Agency, along with other United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations, in addressing the critical humanitarian needs in Gaza.

The Council urges the parties and the international community to achieve a comprehensive peace based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders, as envisioned in Council resolution 1850(2008).

Communications. On 11 July [A/68/950-S/2014/486], Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (oic), transmitted to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the final communiqué of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of oic on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Al-Quds al-Sharif, which was adopted in Jeddah, on 10 July.

In a 21 July [S/2014/514] communication to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General transmitted a 13 July letter by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, which requested that the territory of the State of Palestine be placed under an international protection system by the United Nations, with the central aim of ensuring the protection of the Palestinian people.

In a 30 July letter [A/68/961-S/2014/561] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council Presi-

dent, Bolivia and Iran, in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the Joint Coordination Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China, transmitted the communiqué of the Committee calling for an end to the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Security Council consideration (August–November). On 18 August [S/PV.7243] Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry briefed the Council. He cautioned that the slide towards a state of permanent conflict and hopelessness had to be halted at once, and that the restive situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, along with the Gaza crisis, served as a bleak warning of what the future might bring if the negative trend towards a one-State reality was not reversed. The two-State solution remained the only viable scenario.

In his 16 September [S/PV.7266] briefing to the Council, Mr. Serry said that the ceasefire agreement brokered by Egypt on 26 August had largely held but had to be solidified. Under the agreement, provisions for entry of humanitarian and relief aid and construction materials, and an expansion of the fishing zone to six nautical miles had been made.

On the humanitarian front, critical priorities included emergency shelter, energy and water, the absence of which would hinder progress in all other sectors. In that regard, on 10 September, the United Nations and the Palestinian Government had called for international donors to provide \$550 million in aid to help the hundreds of thousands of Gazans affected by the conflict.

Furthermore, Gaza had to be opened for reconstruction and recovery, while legitimate security concerns with regard to dual-use material must be meaningfully addressed. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process had brokered a trilateral agreement between Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations to enable work in the Gaza Strip, involving the private sector in Gaza and giving a lead role to the Palestinian Authority, while providing security assurances through the United Nations that those materials would not be diverted from their civilian purpose.

In a 21 October [S/PV.7281] briefing to the Council following his first visit to Gaza since the conflict in Gaza, the Secretary-General reported on his participation in the International Conference on Palestine, which had been held in Cairo on 12 October and had focused on the reconstruction of Gaza.

Approximately \$414 million were immediately needed for humanitarian relief, \$1.2 billion for early recovery and \$2.4 billion for reconstruction efforts. More than 100,000 residents of Gaza remained homeless, with over 50,000 still sheltering in UNRWA schools. Many lacked access to water and blackouts of up to 18 hours per day were common. Despite

the harsh reality on the ground, the first supplies of construction materials were being delivered in Gaza under the temporary mechanism brokered by the Special Coordinator.

A united Palestinian government was beginning to take shape. The consolidation of the national consensus Government was crucial, as the effective management of Gaza's borders would facilitate the flow of construction materials into Gaza and allow the restoration of trade between Gaza and the West Bank.

The situation in the West Bank also demanded renewed attention, particularly in the light of plans to construct residential housing units in occupied East Jerusalem. Reiterating that settlement activities were illegal under international law and would jeopardize the pursuit of a two-State solution, the Secretary-General urged the Israeli Government to reverse those activities. Furthermore, he expressed his concern about unilateral actions, restrictions and provocations at the holy sites in Jerusalem, as well as about the mounting number of attacks by settlers.

On 29 October [S/PV.7291], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman briefed the Council at an emergency meeting held in the light of worrisome developments in Jerusalem, including growing violence and renewed settlement activities. He said that the Secretary-General was alarmed by new reports about the advancement of planning for some 1,000 Israeli settlements units in occupied East Jerusalem, in addition to the decision taken at the end of September to accelerate the construction of some 2,600 residential units also in East Jerusalem. New settlements threatened the very viability of the future State of Palestine.

The situation in East Jerusalem grew tenser after 22 October, when a Palestinian man drove his car into a train station and ran over passengers disembarking from the train, killing a three-month old baby and injuring six other people, one of whom succumbed to her injuries. The driver was shot dead by Israeli police as he tried to flee the scene. Tensions also escalated in rest of the West Bank, where Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian-American teenager near Ramallah, reportedly following stone- and Molotov cocktail-throwing during a demonstration.

On 17 November [S/PV.7312], ad interim Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jens Anders Franz Toyberg-Frandzen briefed the Council on the tensions surrounding access to the holy sites in Jerusalem and violence in Jerusalem and the West Bank, with clashes between Palestinian youth and Israeli security forces taking place on an almost daily basis. Violence had spread also elsewhere in Israel.

He also reported on an increase in demolition of Palestinian buildings; continuing Israeli settlement expansion, which undermined efforts to calm the tensions in Jerusalem; and reconstruction progress in Gaza.

On 13 November, President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu had separate meetings with King Abdullah of Jordan and United States Secretary of State John Kerry in Amman. On 14 November, the age restrictions for access to the Temple Mount/Haram Al-Sharif, were lifted and Friday prayers reportedly went without incident.

On 19 November, the Council issued a press statement [SC/11660], condemning in the strongest term the terrorist attack in a synagogue in Jerusalem that occurred a day earlier and resulted in the killing of four worshippers and a police officer.

Communications. In a 5 August letter [A/68/965], Bolivia transmitted to the Secretary-General its statement of 22 July.

On 22 August [A/ES-10/654-S/2014/615], Bolivia transmitted, on behalf of the countries that comprised the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP)—Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela—a joint communication on the situation in the State of Palestine condemning the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

On 14 November [A/69/584-S/2014/814], Saudi Arabia transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter on behalf of the oic Ambassadorial Group expressing concern about the breaches of international law perpetrated by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in occupied East Jerusalem.

Also on 14 November [A/69/601-S/2014/816], Morocco transmitted to the Secretary-General a press communiqué issued by the first meeting of the oic Ministerial Contact Group that had met in Rabat on 12 November, following the Israeli incursions against the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Security Council consideration (December). On 12 December [SC/11699], the Security Council issued a press statement expressing sorrow at the death of Palestinian Minister Ziad Abu Ein, which occurred after a demonstration in the Palestinian village of Turmus Ayya. The Council encouraged the parties to ensure that a swift and transparent investigation was undertaken, and took note of the willingness of Israel to conduct a joint investigation into the incident.

On 15 December [S/PV.7339], the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr.erry, briefing the Council, described 2014 as a dramatic year during which efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement had stalled, a devastating 51-day war in Gaza had occurred, and violence throughout the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, had increased. Israel was heading to the polls following the collapse of the ruling coalition, less than two years into its tenure. While constructive steps had been taken by the parties to de-escalate the tensions surrounding the holy sites as per the agreement reached

in Amman, the situation on the ground remained explosive in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

In Gaza, as at 10 December, more than 17,000 individuals requiring material for shelter repairs had been cleared to purchase materials, and around 25,000 home owners were expected to have access to construction materials by the end of December.

On 30 December [S/PV.7354], the Council held a meeting to vote on draft resolution [S/2014/916] put forward by Jordan, calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories by the end of 2017.

Communications. In a 10 December letter [A/ES-10/667-S/2014/881] to the Secretary-General and the Assembly and Council Presidents, Palestine condemned the killing of Minister Abu Ein by Israeli forces while he participated in a peaceful demonstration.

In a 16 December letter to the Council President [S/2014/901], Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as Chair of the OIC Ambassadorial Group in New York, expressed the Group's condemnation of the killing of Minister Abu Ein.

Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

Communication. In a 1 September letter [S/2014/685] the Security Council President, the League of Arab States transmitted the resolutions of the League's Council adopted at its 142nd session, held in Cairo on 7 September, which included 10 resolutions on the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Report of Secretary-General. In a September report [A/69/371-S/2014/650], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 68/15 [YUN 2013, p. 383] and covering the period from September 2013 to August 2014, the Secretary-General shared the replies received by the parties concerning the notes verbales he had sent pursuant to that resolution, and presented his observations on the state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and on international efforts to move the peace process forward.

In a May note, the Secretary-General had sought the positions of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, as well as the State of Palestine, receiving replies from Israel and Palestine. Palestine stated that the Assembly resolutions devoted to the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine usually received overwhelming support, which underscored the global approval of a solution that ensured Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. Israel considered resolution 68/15 and similar resolutions passed annually by the Assembly one-sided and which only served to undermine the credibility of the United Nations as an impartial agent for the advancement of peace.

The Secretary-General observed that following the resumption of the peace process in July 2013 and the first formal round of talks of 14 August 2013, dialogue had intensified between Israelis and Palestinians with approximately 17 rounds of talks held by the end of the year. The negotiation efforts were, however, complicated by the repeated announcements of settlement expansion with each release of Palestinian prisoners.

On 28 March, Israel postponed its decision to release the fourth and final tranche of 30 pre-Oslo Palestinian prisoners, citing lack of progress in the peace talks. In response, on 1 April, and following the announcement on the same day of 708 reissued tenders for settlement units, President Abbas announced that the Palestinian leadership had unanimously voted to join 15 international conventions and treaties. On 24 April, Israel suspended the talks in response to the announcement a day earlier of an intra-Palestinian unity agreement for the formation of a national consensus government, stating that it would not negotiate with any Palestinian government backed by Hamas, which did not recognize Israel's right to exist. On 2 June, President Abbas announced the formation of a Government of national consensus headed by Prime Minister Hamdallah, which would abide by the PLO commitments regarding the recognition of Israel, non-violence and adherence to previous agreements.

Following the discovery of the bodies of three Israeli students on 30 June in the West Bank, tensions in Gaza increased further and, starting from 8 July, escalated with the launch of the Israel Defense Force operation Protective Edge, which aimed to destroy Hamas infrastructure and limiting rocket launches into Israel. On 17 July, the operation extended to Israeli ground incursions into Gaza, which had the objective of destroying the tunnel network.

At the peak of the crisis, there were approximately 520,000 internally displaced persons, or nearly 30 per cent of Gaza's population. Approximately 16,700 housing units had been destroyed or severely damaged, affecting some 100,000 Palestinians. Six UNRWA schools harbouring civilians were directly hit by shelling or affected by rocket fire, with serious loss of life and injuries. On 29 July, the premises of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process in Gaza were hit.

An open-ended ceasefire was brokered by Egypt on 26 August, ending the 50 days of fighting between Israel and the Gaza militants. Tensions and violence, however, continued in the West Bank and East Jerusalem throughout the reporting period.

The increase in settlements was also particularly concerning, with settler violence remaining high. The Secretary-General had repeatedly stressed that settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, was illegal under international law. The demolitions and evictions that were

carried out in Area C of the West Bank—constituting over 61 per cent of the West Bank territory—were of deep concern. Palestinians required access to a fair planning and zoning regime, so as not to resort to the building of unauthorized structures that led to unjustified demolitions.

As at September, there were 450 Palestinians held under administrative detention, more than twice the number being held in May. The Secretary-General reiterated that administrative detention should be used sparingly and exceptionally and those detained either charged and brought to trial or released.

Palestinians continued to advance their State-building programme, albeit limited to the territory under the Palestinian Authority's control, which excluded Area C, East Jerusalem and Gaza. Despite strong international consensus that the Palestinian Authority was capable of running a State, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee was concerned primarily about fiscal sustainability and economic viability, owing to the Palestinian Authority's fiscal difficulties during the reporting period.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/23** [draft: A/69/L.24 & Add.1] by recorded vote (148-6-8) [agenda item 36].

Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Recalling further relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 338(1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397(2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544(2004) of 19 May 2004 and 1850(2008) of 16 December 2008,

Recalling the affirmation by the Security Council of the vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders,

Noting with concern that it has been 67 years since the adoption of its resolution 181(II) of 29 November 1947 and 47 years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to the request made in its resolution 68/15 of 26 November 2013,

Reaffirming the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with regard to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law and relevant resolutions,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Convinced that achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of

the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East,

Stressing that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples is among the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970, and reiterating the importance of maintaining and strengthening international peace founded upon freedom, equality, justice and respect for fundamental human rights and of developing friendly relations among nations irrespective of their political, economic and social systems or the level of their development,

Reaffirming the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern about the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including on the contiguity, integrity and viability of the Territory and the efforts to advance a peaceful settlement in the Middle East,

Expressing grave concern also about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Reaffirming the illegality of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem, including settlement construction and expansion, home demolitions, evictions of Palestinian residents, excavations in and around religious and historic sites, and all other unilateral measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the city and of the Territory as a whole,

Reaffirming also that the construction by Israel, the occupying Power, of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing Israeli policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian, via the imposition of prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, as well as of checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern also about the consequent negative impact of such policies on the contiguity of the Territory and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people, which is a disastrous humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, and on the efforts aimed at reha-

bilitating and developing the damaged Palestinian economy, while taking note of developments regarding the situation of access there, particularly the recent trilateral agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard,

Recalling the mutual recognition 21 years ago between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the need for full compliance with the agreements concluded between the two sides,

Recalling also the endorsement by the Security Council, in resolution 1515(2003), of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the call in Council resolution 1850(2008) for the parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map and to refrain from any steps that could undermine confidence or prejudice the outcome of negotiations on a final peace settlement,

Stressing the road map obligation upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called “natural growth”, and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Recalling the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002,

Urging renewed efforts by the international community aimed at advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and ultimately of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

Reiterating support for the convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in resolution 1850(2008) and the Quartet statement of 23 September 2011, for the advancement and acceleration of the peace efforts towards the fulfilment of its stated objectives,

Noting the important contribution to peace efforts of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, including within the framework of the activities of the Quartet and with regard to the recent trilateral agreement regarding the Gaza Strip,

Noting also the continuing efforts of the Quartet’s Special Representative, in particular the efforts to strengthen Palestinian institutions, promote Palestinian economic development and mobilize donor support,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, under the chairmanship of Norway, and noting its recent meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2014, at which donor countries reaffirmed the necessity of continued and increased donor support in this critical period, in particular for urgently addressing the disastrous humanitarian situation and immense reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions, emphasizing

the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure (2014–2016), including the National Strategic Framework for Development Policies and Interventions in Area C, and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, while also expressing concern about the negative impact of the current financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government,

Recognizing also the positive contribution of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is aimed, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Welcoming the convening of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

Welcoming also the ministerial meetings of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development convened in Tokyo in February 2013 and Jakarta in March 2014 as a forum for the mobilization of political and economic assistance, including via exchanges of expertise and lessons learned, in support of Palestinian development,

Recognizing the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the Palestinian security sector, noting the continued cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Gravely concerned over the negative developments that have continued to occur in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the escalation of violence and any excessive use of force, resulting in a large number of deaths and injuries, mostly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women, the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, the arbitrary arrest and detention of more Palestinian civilians, the acts of violence, vandalism and brutality committed against Palestinian civilians by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, the widespread destruction of public and private Palestinian property, including religious sites, and infrastructure, the internal forced displacement of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and the consequent deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, and the widespread destruction of thousands of homes and civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious

sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Expressing grave concern over the disastrous humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, in November 2012 and between December 2008 and January 2009, particularly as a result of the widespread destruction and trauma inflicted,

Recalling the statement of the President of the Security Council of 28 July 2014,

Stressing the need for calm and restraint by the parties, including by consolidating the ceasefire agreement of 26 August 2014, achieved under the auspices of Egypt, to halt the deterioration of the situation,

Reiterating the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Stressing that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points,

Expressing concern over the continued imposition of hundreds of checkpoints and obstacles to movement in and around Palestinian population centres by the Israeli occupying forces, and emphasizing in this regard the need for the implementation by both sides of the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings,

Expressing grave concern about the imprisonment and detention by Israel of thousands of Palestinians, including children, under harsh conditions,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety, protection and well-being of all civilians in the whole Middle East region, and condemning all acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides, including the firing of rockets,

Stressing the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Welcoming the formation of the Palestinian Government of national consensus under the leadership of the President, Mahmoud Abbas, consistent with Palestine Liberation Organization commitments and the Quartet principles, and emphasizing the need for respect for and the preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Stressing the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, and initiatives to support the parties in building a climate for peace, to assist the parties in advancing and accelerating the peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that ends the occupa-

tion which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours, on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, the road map and the Arab Peace Initiative,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,

Taking note also of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,

Noting the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Acknowledging the efforts being undertaken by civil society to promote a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the findings by the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion, including on the urgent necessity for the United Nations as a whole to redouble its efforts to bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, to a speedy conclusion, thereby establishing a just and lasting peace in the region,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967,

Affirming once again the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and of intensifying all efforts towards that end, and stresses in this regard the urgency of salvaging the prospects for realizing the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

2. *Calls for* the intensification of efforts by the parties, including through negotiations, with the support of the international community, towards the conclusion of a final peace settlement;

3. *Stresses* the need for increased and renewed international efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the existing agreements between the Israeli and Palestinian sides;

4. *Also stresses* the need for a resumption of negotiations based on clear parameters and with a defined time frame aimed at expediting the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement, and in this regard encourages serious efforts by the United States of America, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United Nations, as members of the Quartet, and by the League of Arab States and all other concerned States;

5. *Encourages* continued serious regional and international efforts to follow up and promote the Arab Peace

Initiative, including by the Ministerial Committee formed at the Riyadh summit in March 2007;

6. *Calls for*, in this regard, the timely convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in resolution 1850(2008), for the advancement and acceleration of the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

7. *Calls upon* both parties to act responsibly on the basis of international law and their previous agreements and obligations, in particular adherence to the road map, irrespective of reciprocity, in order to create the conditions necessary for the advancement of peace efforts;

8. *Calls upon* the parties themselves, with the support of the Quartet and other interested parties, to exert all efforts necessary to halt the deterioration of the situation, to reverse all unilateral and unlawful measures taken on the ground since 28 September 2000, to take every possible step to promote conditions conducive to the success of peace negotiations and to refrain from actions that undermine trust or prejudice final status issues;

9. *Calls upon* the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, including in East Jerusalem;

10. *Underscores* the need for the parties to take confidence-building measures aimed at improving the situation on the ground, promoting stability, building trust and fostering the peace process, including the need for the further release of prisoners and an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions, and notes in this regard the recent release of prisoners;

11. *Stresses* the need for the removal of checkpoints and other obstructions to the movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

12. *Also stresses* the need for an immediate and complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror;

13. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009);

14. *Reiterates* the need for the full implementation by both parties of the Agreement on Movement and Access and of the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, and the need, specifically, to allow for the sustained opening of all crossings into and out of the Gaza Strip for humanitarian supplies, movement and access, as well as for commercial flows and all necessary construction materials, and stresses the urgent need to promote reconstruction, including through the implementation of United Nations-led projects and civilian reconstruction activities, all of which are essential for alleviating the disastrous humanitarian situation, including the impact of the large-scale displacement of civilians in July and August 2014, improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and promoting the recovery of the Palestinian economy;

15. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and to cease all of its measures that are contrary to international law and all unilateral actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that are aimed at altering the character,

status and demographic composition of the Territory, including via the confiscation and de facto annexation of land, and thus at prejudging the final outcome of peace negotiations, with a view to achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967;

16. *Reiterates its demand* for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

17. *Stresses*, in this regard, the need for Israel forthwith to abide by its road map obligation to freeze all settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle settlement outposts erected since March 2001;

18. *Calls for* the cessation of all provocations, including by Israeli settlers, in East Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites;

19. *Demands*, accordingly, that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003 and ES-10/15, and, inter alia, that it immediately cease its construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon all States Members of the United Nations to comply with their legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion;

20. *Reaffirms its commitment*, in accordance with international law, to the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

21. *Stresses* the need for:

(a) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem;

(b) The realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent State;

22. *Also stresses* the need for a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees in conformity with its resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948;

23. *Urges* Member States to expedite the provision of economic, humanitarian and technical assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Government during this critical period in order to help to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which is disastrous in the Gaza Strip, to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy and infrastructure and to support the development and strengthening of Palestinian institutions and Palestinian State-building efforts in preparation for independence;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, towards the attainment of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the promotion of peace in the region and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on these efforts and on developments on this matter.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/23:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bul-

garia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Honduras, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, Vanuatu.

In **resolution 69/165** of 18 December (see p. 813), the General Assembly reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to an independent State of Palestine.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda items on the situation in the Middle East and on the question of Palestine would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Israeli settlements

The issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remained central to the question of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the peace negotiations. The Quartet road map [YUN 2003, p. 464] and the Joint Understanding [YUN 2007, p. 446] reached at the 2007 Annapolis Conference [ibid., p. 445] committed Israel to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since 2001 and to freeze, consistent with the 2001 report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee (Mitchell Report) [YUN 2001, p. 409], all settlement activity, including "natural growth".

Communications. Throughout the year, Palestine, in a series of letters, brought to the attention of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the Security Council [A/ES-10/612-S/2014/16, A/ES-10/615-S/2014/82, A/ES-10/626-S/2014/317, A/ES-10/627-S/2014/335, A/ES-10/630-S/2014/396, A/ES-10/656-S/2014/646, A/ES-10/659-S/2014/716, A/ES-10/661-S/2014/748, A/ES-10/662-S/2014/765] the ongoing construction and expansion of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Je-

rusalem, as well as other Israeli activities that adversely affected Palestinian civilians.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 68/82 [YUN 2013, p. 387], which reiterated its demand for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan, the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/348], prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, covering the period from 1 July 2013 to 15 May 2014. The report focused on both official and informal methods used by Israel to control land, which was then allocated to settlements; on how Israel had failed to maintain public order; and on how to ensure accountability for settler violence.

During the reporting period, Israel continued to expand existing settlements and approve new ones. According to the Israeli non-governmental organization Peace Now, in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, tenders for 6,013 housing units in Israeli settlements were announced, and 9,712 housing units were supported. Further expansion of Israeli settlements was also encouraged through funding: approximately \$172 million were reportedly transferred to Israeli settlements through budget adjustments that were not included in the State budget.

Since 2004—the year of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory [YUN 2004, p. 465]—the settler population in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, had increased from an estimated 415,000 settlers to between 500,000 and 650,000 in 2012.

Since 2013, one of the official methods used by Israel to seize land for creating and expanding settlements was by claiming land as State land. In April 2014, the body responsible for this practice—the Blue Line Task Force—endorsed the declaration of approximately 250 acres in the West Bank as State land. Previous practice indicated that once the declaration of State land was endorsed, the land was allocated to Israeli settlements. Another method was the creation and "legalization" of outposts combined with the failure to implement demolition orders of existing ones.

Supporting agricultural and archaeological projects was among the informal methods of seizing land. In addition, acts of violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians and their property took place on a regular basis. Of concern was the increase of settler violence in the Old City of Jerusalem, which rose from 3 in 2012 to 17 in 2013. Israel failed to protect Palestinians and Palestinian property from attacks by settlers, including the construction of physical obstacles impeding the access of Palestinians to their own farmlands,

intimidation and violence against Palestinian farmers, and destruction of trees and crops.

In the occupied Syrian Golan, during the reporting period, Israeli authorities continued to consolidate the presence of settlements. In January, the Government of Israel approved a five-year plan for the development of around 7,400 acres (30,000 dunams) of land near existing settlements. The plan involved the removal of mines and the improvement of water infrastructure systems to grant agricultural land for up to 750 settler families.

The report concluded that Israel played a leading role in the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and had to, therefore, implement relevant United Nations resolutions and withdraw from territories occupied since 1967 and put an end to the creation and expansion of settlements. Furthermore, Israel had to stop the funding and support of archaeological projects, often managed by settlers, as well as the forcible transfer of the Palestinian population, including the Bedouin communities and herders residing in the central West Bank and the eastern periphery of Jerusalem. Israel had also the obligation to provide Palestinian communities in Area C with adequate housing and access to water and services.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/69/454] adopted **resolution 69/92** by recorded vote (159-7-12) [agenda item 51].

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 68/82 of 11 December 2013, as well as those resolutions adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 446(1979) of 22 March 1979, 465(1980) of 1 March 1980, 476(1980) of 30 June 1980, 478(1980) of 20 August 1980, 497(1981) of 17 December 1981 and 904(1994) of 18 March 1994,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Affirming that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva

Convention and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting that the International Court of Justice concluded that “the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law”,

Taking note of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,

Recalling the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Recalling further the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and emphasizing specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including so-called natural growth, and the dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001, and the need for Israel to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard,

Recalling its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Noting the accession by Palestine on 1 April 2014 to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Aware that Israeli settlement activities involve, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of land, the forced transfer of Palestinian civilians, including Bedouin families, the exploitation of natural resources and other actions against the Palestinian civilian population and the civilian population in the occupied Syrian Golan that are contrary to international law,

Bearing in mind the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities on the efforts to resume and advance the peace process, on the credibility of the peace process and on the prospects for the achievement of peace in the Middle East in accordance with the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders,

Expressing grave concern about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, the agreements reached between the parties and obligations under the Quartet road map, and in defiance of the calls by the international community to cease all settlement activities,

Expressing grave concern in particular about Israel's construction and expansion of settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan that

aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, and ongoing settlement activities in the Jordan Valley,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing unlawful construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and expressing its concern in particular about the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, which is causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline of socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, is fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the Territory and undermining its viability, and could prejudice future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement,

Deeply concerned that the wall's route has been traced in such a way as to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Deploring settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan and any activities involving the confiscation of land, the disruption of the livelihood of protected persons, the forced transfer of civilians and the de facto annexation of land,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Gravely concerned about the rising incidents of violence, destruction, harassment, provocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands,

Taking note of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,

Noting the special meeting of the Security Council convened on 26 September 2008, as well as the meeting of the Council of 18 February 2011,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49, and to comply with all of its obligations under international law and cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Reiterates its demand* for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls in this regard for the full implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including, inter alia, resolutions 446(1979), 452(1979) of 20 July 1979, 465(1980), 476(1980) and 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003;

4. *Stresses* that a complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities is essential for salvaging the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders;

5. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice;

6. *Reiterates its call* for the prevention of all acts of violence, destruction, harassment and provocation by Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands;

7. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and stresses in this regard the need for the implementation of Security Council resolution 904(1994), in which the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including confiscation of arms, aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

8. *Encourages* all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements;

9. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies to take all necessary measures and actions within their mandates to ensure full respect for and compliance with Human Rights Council resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011, concerning the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and other relevant international laws and standards, and to ensure the implementation of the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework, which provides a global standard for upholding human rights in relation to business activities that are connected with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/92:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman,

Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Honduras, Madagascar, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Vanuatu.

Jerusalem

Report of Secretary-General. On 2 September [A/69/341], the Secretary-General reported that three Member States—Cuba, Mexico and Syria—had replied to his request for information on steps taken or envisaged to implement Assembly resolution 68/16 [YUN 2013, p. 389] on Jerusalem. The resolution stressed that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides, and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by the people of all religions and nationalities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/24** [draft: A/69/L.25 & Add.I] by recorded vote (144-6-10) [agenda item 35].

Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 181(II) of 29 November 1947, in particular its provisions regarding the City of Jerusalem,

Recalling also its resolution 36/120 E of 10 December 1981 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including resolution 56/31 of 3 December 2001, in which it, inter alia, determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular the so-called “Basic Law” on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

Recalling further the Security Council resolutions relevant to Jerusalem, including resolution 478(1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, inter alia, decided not to recognize the “Basic Law” on Jerusalem,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Expressing its grave concern about any action taken by any body, governmental or non-governmental, in violation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

Expressing its grave concern also, in particular, about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of illegal settlement activities, including provocations regarding the so-called E-1 plan, its construction of the wall in and around East Jerusalem, its restrictions on Palestinian access to and residence in East Jerusalem and the further isolation of the city from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are having a detrimental effect on the lives of Palestinians and could prejudice a final status agreement on Jerusalem,

Expressing its grave concern further about the continuing Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes, the revocation of residency rights and the eviction and displacement of numerous Palestinian families from East Jerusalem neighbourhoods, including Bedouin families, as well as other acts of provocation and incitement, including by Israeli settlers, in the city, including desecration of mosques and churches,

Expressing its concern about the Israeli excavations undertaken in the Old City of Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites,

Reaffirming that the international community, through the United Nations, has a legitimate interest in the question of the City of Jerusalem and in the protection of the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the city, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions on this matter,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,

1. *Reiterates its determination* that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever, and calls upon Israel to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures;

2. *Stresses* that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of the City of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by people of all religions and nationalities;

3. *Also stresses* the need for the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, and expresses its grave concern in particular about the recent series of negative incidents in East Jerusalem;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/24:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic,

Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Togo, Tonga, Vanuatu.

Other matters

Israeli practices affecting human rights of Palestinian people

Special Committee on Israeli Practices. By an August note [A/69/355], the Secretary-General submitted the forty-sixth report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices), which was established by General Assembly resolution 2443(XXIII) [YUN 1968, p. 555] and was composed of three Member States: Sri Lanka (Chair), Malaysia and Senegal. The report covered the period from 27 June 2013 to 5 June 2014 and was submitted in response to Assembly resolution 68/80 [YUN 2013, p. 395], by which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, especially Israeli violations of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. The Assembly also requested the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment of the thousands of prisoners and detainees, including children and women, in Israeli prisons and detention centres in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

The Special Committee held its annual consultations with Member States concerned with the implementation of resolution 68/80 in Geneva on 26 and 27 March, and convened other meetings in

Amman (1–3 June) and in Cairo (4–5 June). It was unable to hold meetings in Syria, owing to the situation in that country, but engaged with interlocutors who travelled from the occupied Syrian Golan to Amman. Due to the Government of Israel's practice of non-cooperation, the Special Committee was unable to gain access to the occupied territories within its mandate or consult with the Israeli authorities.

According to information received from Palestinian officials, since the start of the occupation in 1967, the overall number of detainees held in Israeli prisons and detention facilities had exceeded 850,000, the majority of whom were Palestinians, including 25,000 children. As at June, 5,243 detainees were held in Israeli custody in more than 17 prisons, detention centres and military camps in the occupied West Bank and in Israel, including 198 children. In fact, the collapse of the nine-month-long peace negotiations brokered by the United States had been triggered by Israel reneging on its commitment to release, in March, the final group of 30 detainees held in Israeli custody since before the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993. As at June, 191 Palestinians, including eight Legislative Council members, continued to be held by Israel under administrative detention, without charge or trial, for an indefinite period of time.

On 23 April, approximately 100 Palestinian administrative detainees launched a hunger strike to protest the continued use by Israel of administrative detention, and to demand that a basic standard of due process be observed, namely to know what they were accused of and to be able to defend themselves. By early June, the total number of Palestinian detainees on hunger strike reached more than 290. Furthermore, during the year, the Special Committee heard testimonies indicating that the medical needs of Palestinian detainees within the Israeli prison system had been neglected, in some cases leading to deaths that might have been avoided with proper care and timely diagnosis.

Other Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, were the torture of detainees held in Israeli custody, 73 of whom had died since 1967 as a result; the detention of children, 76.5 per cent of whom in 2013 had endured some form of physical violence; Israeli settlement expansion; designation of areas as closed military zones, national parks and archaeological sites; demolition of Palestinian structures and the forcible transfer of families and communities; interference with humanitarian assistance; settler violence; and the excessive use of force by Israeli security forces.

In the Gaza Strip, during its mission to the region in June, the Special Committee heard of the critical situation in relation to fuel, electricity, food, water and sanitation, and unemployment. The Israeli blockade, which entered its eighth consecutive

year [YUN 2007, p. 472] despite repeated calls by the international community to lift it, coupled with the access-restricted areas, was undermining the ability of Gaza's population to sustain itself. The escalation of hostilities between Israel, Hamas and Palestinian armed groups that took place in July and August, prior to the ceasefire agreement brokered by Egypt, had befallen the people of Gaza. Furthermore, Israel and foreign companies continued to exploit natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as reported in June by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

The Special Committee reiterated its call on Israel to cooperate with it in the implementation of its mandate; end the practice of administrative detention by either bringing to trial those administratively detained with all applicable judicial guarantees or by immediately releasing them; ensure that all Palestinian children detained by Israel had access to a lawyer; and prohibit the solitary confinement of minors. Furthermore, it recommended that Israel immediately cancel all existing demolition and eviction orders against Palestinian structures; end the blockade of Gaza; and cease the expansion of settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The Special Committee called upon the General Assembly to adopt measures to address Israel's long record of non-cooperation with the United Nations, particularly regarding the implementation of Assembly and Security Council resolutions; and upon the international community to apply pressure to ensure the lifting of the blockade.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 68/83 [YUN 2013, p. 392], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/347], prepared by OHCHR, on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, covering the period 1 July 2013 to 15 May 2014. The report focused on four main themes: an assessment of the impact of the wall and related measures in the light of the 2004 advisory opinion of the ICJ on the *Legal Consequences of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory* [YUN 2004, p. 465]; Israel's practice of administrative detention; the human rights situation in Gaza; and accountability for reported excessive use of force by security forces. It also provided an update on efforts to build Palestinian institutions.

A key component of the wall was what was known as the permit and gate regime. Since 2004, gates designated for agricultural access and the right to food of Palestinians had worsened with the extension of the wall affecting both those seeking to leave the area between the Green Line and the wall—the “seam zone”—and those seeking to access their land in the seam zone. The level of access was not enough for farm-

ers to carry out adequate maintenance on their land and crops. Some parts of the wall had been rerouted because of Israeli court decisions, but still within the West Bank rather than along the Green Line or Israel. The expansion of the wall had also significant repercussion on the rights to health and education—it was estimated that approximately 11,000 Palestinians still had to pass through checkpoints to access education, health and other services.

Concerning the situation of Palestinians in Israeli administrative detention, on 18 May, a bill was approved by the Israeli Ministerial Committee on legislation that allowed, under certain conditions, for detainees on hunger strike to be force-fed and given medical treatment against their will.

In Gaza, due to the blockade, residents had relied heavily on transit and trade with Egypt through the Rafah crossing, as well as through tunnels used to smuggle goods. Since July 2013, however, Egypt had severely restricted travel through Rafah—with the passage of persons in both directions dropping by 76 per cent from the first to the second half of 2013—and had destroyed most smuggling tunnels. This had resulted in shortages of affordable fuel, construction materials, medicine and other goods. During the reporting period, an excessive use of force against Palestinians had been reported both in Gaza, with the killing of six people and the injuring of 121 others, and in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where 30 Palestinians had died and 2,019 had been injured in incidents involving Israeli security forces.

During the reporting period, the Israeli Military Advocate General opened investigations into at least 10 out of the 30 Palestinian fatalities in incidents involving Israeli security forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. By the end of the reporting period, however, no criminal investigations had been opened into allegations of violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) during the escalation of November 2012, even though two fact-finding committees were formed to investigate specific incidents.

The Turkel Commission—established in June 2010, following the killing of nine civilians by IDF during an interception at sea of a humanitarian flotilla sailing from Turkey to Gaza [YUN 2010, p. 439], to review the mechanisms used by Israel for investigating complaints of violations of the laws of armed conflict—was scheduled to report to the Government of Israel in September or October on the implementation of recommendations made by the Commission in its previous reports.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Governments of Israel and the State of Palestine carry out prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigations into allegations of unlawful killing or injury, or of torture or other cruel, inhu-

man or degrading treatment by their security forces, and that those responsible be brought to justice in fair trials. Moreover, Israel should fully lift the blockade of Gaza; ensure that the rules of engagement or open fire regulations of Israeli security forces were consistent with international law; and rescind all policies and practices that led to the forced eviction of civilians. The State of Palestine should implement the Palestinian National Development Plan, while Palestinian armed groups in Gaza must respect international humanitarian law, especially in relation to all rules on the conduct of hostilities.

Report of the Special Rapporteur. By an 11 August note [A/69/301 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the report by Special Rapporteur Makarim Wibisono on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, submitted in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 [YUN 2007, p. 662]. (For information on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and on the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel (see p. 927).

UN Register of Damage. On 9 September, in accordance with Assembly resolution ES-10/17 [YUN 2006, p. 529], the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly a progress report, dated 20 June, from the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory [A/ES-10/658] covering the period from 15 June 2013 to 20 June 2014. During that period, the Board held three meetings in Vienna to review 3,570 claims for category A (agriculture) losses, 498 claims for category B (commercial) losses, 36 claims for category C (residential) losses and 217 claims for category E (access to services) losses. As at 20 June, the Board had decided to include most or all of the losses set out in 12,515 claim forms and to exclude 659 claim forms where none of the losses met the eligibility criteria, bringing the total number of decided claims to 13,174. There was a considerable gap between the number of claim forms collected and the ones processed by the Vienna Office of the Register of Damage, despite the diligent work of the secretariat. Further, despite donors' support, the resources available would be soon exhausted, thus putting into question the continuation of the claim-intake activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

During the reporting period, the Board addressed and took decisions on duplicate agricultural claims; divergent markings of the Green Line; loss of access to health services; interruption of education; destruction of items at the crossing gates; and theft from property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, among others.

For its activities, the Board counted on the cooperation of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian National Committee for the Register of Damage and local governors, mayors and members

of village councils; and for its funding, on the contributions of 18 United Nations Member States, as well as the Fund for International Development of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Israel continued to consider that any claims in relation to damage caused by the construction of the wall should be addressed through the existing Israeli mechanism. Despite that, the Executive Director of the Office of the Register of Damage maintained constructive contacts with relevant Israeli authorities and, during the reporting period, the Office did not experience any problem with access, freedom of movement, security and delivery of needed materials or issuance of required visas by Israel.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/454], adopted **resolution 69/93** by recorded vote (158-8-11) [agenda item 51].

Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolution 68/83 of 11 December 2013 as well as those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and stressing the need for their implementation,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Special Committee,

Taking note of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, as well as of other relevant recent reports of the Human Rights Council,

Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law, and recalling in this regard its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting in particular the Court's reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in

and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Taking note of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Noting the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Reaffirming further the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties,

Reaffirming that all States have the right and the duty to take actions in conformity with international law and international humanitarian law to counter deadly acts of violence against their civilian population in order to protect the lives of their citizens,

Stressing the need for full compliance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreements reached within the context of the Middle East peace process, including the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, and the implementation of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

Stressing also the need for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including that arising from the excessive use of force and military operations causing death and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children, women and non-violent, peaceful demonstrators; the arbitrary imprisonment and detention of Palestinians, some of whom have been imprisoned for decades; the use of collective punishment; the closure of areas; the confiscation of land; the establishment and expansion of settlements; the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949; the destruction of property and infrastructure; the forced displacement of civilians; and all other actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Deploing the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, the widespread destruction of thousands of homes and civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites, and United Nations schools and facilities, the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the disastrous humanitarian situation and the critical socioeconomic and security situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and from the continuing and vastly negative repercussions of the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009, in November 2012 and in July and August 2014, as well as about the firing of rockets into Israel,

Recalling the statement by the President of the Security Council of 28 July 2014,

Stressing the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Stressing also that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Gravely concerned by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry and in the report of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, and reiterating the necessity for serious follow-up by all parties of the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the human rights situation and on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population,

Expressing deep concern also about the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions, including through hundreds of obstacles to movement, checkpoints and a permit regime, all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory's contiguity, consequently violating the human rights of the Palestinian people and negatively impacting their socioeconomic situation and the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the Palestinian economy, which remains that of a critical humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, while taking note of recent developments with regard to the situation of access there,

Expressing grave concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including, inter alia, unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, the extensive use of administrative detention of excessive duration without charge and denial of due process, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for prisoners who are ill, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits, that impair their well-being, and expressing grave concern also about the ill-treatment and harassment and all reports of torture of any Palestinian prisoners,

Expressing deep concern about the recent hunger strikes by numerous Palestinian prisoners in protest of the harsh conditions of their imprisonment and detention by the occupying Power, while taking note of the agreement reached in May 2012 on conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for its full and immediate implementation,

Expressing concern about the possible consequences of the enactment by Israel, the occupying Power, of military orders regarding the detention, imprisonment and deportation of Palestinian civilians from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalling in this regard the prohibition under international humanitarian law of the deportation of civilians from occupied territories,

Stressing the need for the prevention of all acts of violence, harassment, provocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, agricultural lands and historic and religious sites, and expressing deep concern about the violation of the human rights of Palestinians in this regard,

Convinced of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties to implement the agreements reached, and in this regard recalling the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron,

Noting the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the Palestinian security sector, and noting also the continued cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Urging the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, including in East Jerusalem, and to take every possible step to promote conditions conducive to the success of the resumed peace negotiations,

Emphasizing the right of all people in the region to the enjoyment of human rights as enshrined in the international human rights covenants,

1. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the killing and injury of civilians, the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians, the forced displacement of civilians, and the destruction and confiscation of civilian property, and that it fully respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard, including in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

3. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention;

4. *Notes* the resumption of cooperation by Israel with the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and calls for full cooperation with the relevant special rapporteurs and other relevant mechanisms and inquiries of the Human Rights Council;

5. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, all of which, inter alia, gravely and detrimentally impact the human rights of the Palestinian people and the prospects for achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

6. *Calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees;

7. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which have caused extensive loss of life and vast numbers of injuries, including among thousands of children and women, massive damage and destruction to homes, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, vital infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity networks, religious sites and public institutions, including hospitals and schools, and United Nations facilities, and agricultural lands, and large-scale internal displacement of civilians;

8. *Expresses grave concern* at the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas resulting in loss of life and injury;

9. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009);

10. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 and ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparations for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has gravely impacted the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;

11. *Reiterates* the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;

12. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, and in this regard to fully implement the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 No-

vember 2005, in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue and massive reconstruction needs and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip, while noting the recent tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard;

13. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to preserve and develop the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and the promotion of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and welcomes in this regard the formation of the Palestinian national consensus government under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, consistent with the Palestine Liberation Organization commitments and the Quartet principles;

15. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/93:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Vanuatu.

Work of Special Committee

In response to Assembly resolution 68/80 [YUN 2013, p. 395], the Secretary-General issued a July report on the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices [A/69/128]. The Committee collected testimony from 35 victims, witnesses, officials and representatives of organizations working to document and prevent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The UN Department of Public Information continued to cover, in multiple languages, the activities of the Special Committee through traditional and new media platforms. The Department's Meetings Coverage Section produced press releases of the Committee's meetings and statements in English and French. The Committee was also prominently covered on the UN News Centre portal, with news stories posted online and distributed through the portal's e-mail service, RSS feeds, Facebook and Twitter accounts. UN Radio spotlighted issues and developments relating to the Committee's mandate, including news stories and programmes about the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip; the activities of UNRWA and special rapporteurs; and the overall economic, social and human rights conditions of people living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/454], adopted **resolution 69/90** by recorded vote (88-9-79) [agenda item 51].

Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2443(XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 68/80 of 11 December 2013, and the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, including resolutions S-12/1 of 16 October 2009 and S-21/1 of 23 July 2014,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Taking into account the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling in this regard its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Recalling its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Convinced that occupation itself represents a gross and grave violation of human rights,

Gravely concerned about the continuing detrimental impact of ongoing unlawful Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, resulting in the death and injury of civilians and the widespread destruction of property and vital infrastructure, including during the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, as well as ongoing settlement activities and construction of the wall, the internal forced displacement of civilians, the imposition of collective punishment measures, particularly against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where continuing severe restrictions on movement amount to a blockade, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians,

Gravely concerned also about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands,

Gravely concerned in particular by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, including the findings in the summary by the Secretary-General of the report of the Board of Inquiry and in the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, and reiterating the necessity for serious follow-up by all parties to the recommendations addressed to them towards ensuring accountability and justice,

Deploing the killing and injury of thousands of civilians, including women and children, during the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Stressing the urgency of bringing a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and thus an end to the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people, and of allowing for the realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination and their independent State,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,

Recalling its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, *inter alia*, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,

Noting the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;

2. *Reiterates its demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, cooperate, in accordance with its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations, with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate, and deplores the continued lack of cooperation in this regard;

3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the report of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;

4. *Expresses grave concern* about the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as a result of unlawful Israeli practices and measures, and especially condemns and calls for the immediate cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities and the construction of the wall, the lifting of the blockade of the Gaza Strip, as well as a complete cessation of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force and military operations against the civilian population, settler violence, the destruction and confiscation of properties, the forced displacement of civilians, all measures of collective punishment, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of civilians;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

6. *Also requests* the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Further requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment and status of the thousands of prisoners and detainees, including children and women, in Israeli prisons and detention centres in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and expresses grave concern about harsh conditions and ill-treatment of prisoners and recent hunger strikes, while taking note of the agreement reached in May 2012 concerning conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for its full and immediate implementation;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(b) To continue to make available such staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(c) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above;

(d) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/90:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Panama, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Economic and social situation

In May, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/8 [YUN 2013, p. 397] and General Assembly resolution 68/235 [ibid., p. 400], prepared a report [A/69/81-E/2014/13] on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the

Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan. The report covered the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

During 2013, the overall economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory continued its negative trend. Unemployment was recorded at 38.5 in Gaza and at 18.2 in the West Bank, affecting 33.5 per cent of Palestinian women, 32.3 per cent of refugees and 39 per cent of youth. Food insecurity levels rose dramatically affecting over 1.5 million Palestinians (34 per cent of the population). Since 2000, UNRWA had spent more than \$900 million in food and cash assistance benefiting the poorest refugees in Gaza, where more than 800,000 refugees depended on the Agency's food assistance.

The poor quality and insufficient water and inadequate wastewater treatment posed a major public health problem, particularly for children in Gaza. The public health system in Gaza remained fragile, dependent on donor aid and vulnerable to the closure of borders, restrictions on the movement of people and goods, and Israeli military operations. Those conditions were exacerbated by power cuts of up to 16 hours a day owing to a shortage of fuel entering Gaza. In 2013, almost 15,000 patients had to leave Gaza to access life-saving medical care in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Israel and Egypt. The volume of permit applications through the Erez crossing increased by 48 per cent in 2013 compared with 2012, reflecting more demand owing to drug shortages and reduced access via Rafah to Egypt.

During the reporting period, 40 Palestinian civilians were killed and another 3,654 injured by Israeli security forces and settlers throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The casualties included at least 5 Palestinian children killed and another 1,001 injured. A total of 4,881 Palestinians, including 183 minors, had been detained or imprisoned by Israeli security forces by January, with reported torture, ill-treatment and denial of rights. In 2013, 663 Palestinian structures, including homes, were demolished, displacing 1,103 people. Over 1 billion square metres of Palestinian land had been seized by Israel since the onset of the occupation in 1967. During 2013, Israel started construction on 2,534 housing units in settlements in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, comprising an increase of 123.7 per cent over 2012. Violence and attacks by settlers continued with impunity. In 2013, 93 attacks were recorded against Palestinians, including children, their property and holy places.

Israeli measures had a detrimental impact on the environment and natural resources and curtailed Palestinian development and livelihood through discriminatory policies, including in access to land and water allocation. Israeli settlers consumed six times

more water than Palestinians in the West Bank. Ninety per cent of the water from the Gaza aquifer was not safe for drinking without prior treatment, further exacerbating the conditions of the Palestinians living there.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45] the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/26** [draft: E/2014/L.26] by roll-call vote (44-2-2) [agenda item 14].

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 68/235 of 20 December 2013 and 68/82 of 11 December 2013,

Recalling also its resolution 2013/8 of 19 July 2013,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 252(1968) of 21 May 1968, 338(1973) of 22 October 1973, 465(1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the report by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Taking note, in that regard, of the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Stressing the importance of the revival and acceleration of serious and credible negotiations within the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973), 425(1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397(2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544(2004) of 19 May 2004 and 1850(2008)

of 16 December 2008, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly as a result of settlement activities, which are illegal under international law,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Commending the efforts of the Palestinian Government, despite the many constraints, to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water, and welcoming in that regard the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, launched on 15 August 2013, which is aimed at, inter alia, enhancing developmental support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Gravely concerned about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in that regard,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to

work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinian civilians, including the Bedouin community, due to the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about ongoing Israeli military operations and policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestinian refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, about the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Recognizing the prolonged negative impact of the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and in November 2012 on the economic conditions, the provision of social services and the living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, including as a result of the heavy casualties among civilians, including hundreds of children and women, the internal displacement of thousands of civilians and the widespread damage to homes, vital civilian infrastructure, hospitals, schools, food supply installations, economic, industrial and agricultural properties and several United Nations facilities in the Gaza Strip,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the

hampering of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, lack of proper medical care and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and all reports of torture, while taking note of the agreement reached in May 2012 on conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for its full and immediate implementation,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institutions and promote good governance, emphasizing the need to preserve the Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure, and commending in that regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013 on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure, and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, while also expressing

concern about the negative impact of the current financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, as well as the assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Welcoming the formation of the new Palestinian Government of national consensus under the authority of President Mahmoud Abbas, in line with the Quartet principles, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map, in cooperation with the Quartet,

Aware that development and fostering healthy economic and social conditions are difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860(2009), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multi-layered closures system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is critical in the Gaza Strip, and calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial continuity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and governmental institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates the call* for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the

Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to prevent Israeli settlers from perpetrating such illegal activities;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct the implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, and notably to provide electrical power needed for the work on the northern Gaza emergency treatment project, and stresses in that regard the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the project for the desalination facility for the Gaza Strip;

11. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including, in particular, in and around occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

12. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalls in that regard Security Council resolution 904(1994) of 18 March 1994, and stresses the need for its implementation;

13. *Reaffirms* that the ongoing construction by Israel of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice rendered on 9 July 2004 and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

14. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaitra entrance;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

16. *Expresses appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, which has helped to ameliorate their critical economic and social conditions, and urges the continued provision of assistance, in cooperation with official Palestinian institutions and consistent with the Palestinian National Development Plan;

17. *Reiterates* the importance of the revival and accelerated advancement of negotiations of the peace process on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973), 425(1978), 1397(2002), 1515(2003), 1544(2004) and 1850(2008), the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its 2015 session the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan".

ROLL-CALL VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2014/26:

In favour: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom.

Against: Canada, United States.

Abstaining: Congo, Panama.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/475], adopted **resolution 69/241** by recorded vote (165-6-9) [agenda item 60].

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/235 of 20 December 2013, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/26 of 16 July 2014,

Recalling also its resolutions 58/292 of 6 May 2004 and 59/251 of 22 December 2004,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 465(1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling, in this regard, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Recalling also the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling further its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Recalling further its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Taking note of the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties,

Expressing its concern about the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing its grave concern about the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees and the destruction of farms and greenhouses, and the grave environmental and economic impact in this regard,

Expressing its grave concern also about the widespread destruction caused by Israel, the occupying Power, to vital infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage networks

and electricity networks, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip during the military operations of July and August 2014, which, inter alia, pollutes the environment and negatively affects the functioning of water and sanitation systems and the water supply and other natural resources of the Palestinian people, and stressing the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water and other vital civilian infrastructure, including the project for the desalination facility for the Gaza Strip,

Expressing its grave concern further about the negative impact on the environment and on reconstruction and development efforts of the thousands of items of unexploded ordnance that remain in the Gaza Strip as a result of the conflict in July and August 2014,

Recalling, in this regard, the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the grave environmental situation in the Gaza Strip, and the 2012 report, "Gaza in 2020: A liveable place?", by the United Nations country team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and stressing the need for follow-up to the recommendations contained therein,

Aware of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, including the destruction of orchards and crops and the seizure of water wells by Israeli settlers, and of the dire socioeconomic consequences in this regard,

Recalling the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Aware of the detrimental impact on Palestinian natural resources being caused by the unlawful construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and of its grave effect as well on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242(1967), 338(1973) of 22 October 1973, 425(1978) of 19 March 1978 and 1397(2002) of 12 March 2002, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet performance-based road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003 and supported by the Council in its resolution 1850(2008) of 16 December 2008,

Stressing also, in this regard, the need for respect for the obligation upon Israel under the road map to freeze settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Stressing further the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling the need to end all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction,

Taking note of the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic

and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with within the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

4. *Stresses* that the wall and settlements being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are contrary to international law and are seriously depriving the Palestinian people of their natural resources, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations affirmed in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and in relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution ES-10/15;

5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

6. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to bring a halt to all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* Israel to cease its destruction of vital infrastructure, including water pipelines, sewage networks and electricity networks, which, inter alia, has a negative impact on the natural resources of the Palestinian people, stresses the urgent need to advance reconstruction and development projects in this regard, including in the Gaza Strip, and calls for support for the necessary efforts in this regard, in line with the commitments made at, inter alia, the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014;

8. *Calls for* the immediate and safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip and for support for the efforts of the United Nations Mine Action Service in this regard;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including with

regard to the cumulative impact of the exploitation, damage and depletion by Israel of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/241:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, Vanuatu.

Fourth Geneva Convention

The applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention) to the Israeli-occupied territories was reaffirmed during the year by the General Assembly and several other UN bodies, including the Special Committee on Israeli Practices.

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General, in an August report [A/69/316], informed the Assembly that Israel had not replied to his 9 May request for information on steps taken or envisaged to implement resolution 68/81 [YUN 2013, p. 402], which demanded that Israel accept the *de jure* applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, and

that it comply scrupulously with its provisions. The Secretary-General had also drawn the attention of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to paragraph 3 of the same resolution, which called on them to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention's provisions. Three Member States—Qatar, Cuba and Colombia—had replied to his request for information on steps taken to implement the resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/454], adopted **resolution 69/91** by recorded vote (163-7-9) [agenda item 51].

Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 68/81 of 11 December 2013,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Recalling the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,

Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and also recalling General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Noting in particular the Court's reply, including that the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that Israel is in breach of several of the provisions of the Convention,

Recalling the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, held on 15 July 1999, as well as the Declaration adopted by the reconvened Conference on 5 December 2001 and the need for the parties to follow up the implementation of the Declaration,

Welcoming and encouraging the initiatives by States parties to the Convention, both individually and collectively, according to article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions, aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention, as well as the continuing efforts of the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions in this regard,

Noting the accession by Palestine on 1 April 2014 to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I,

Stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions and as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004, to continue to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

4. *Notes* the ongoing consultations by Switzerland, the depositary State, regarding the requests to convene a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention;

5. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including at its tenth emergency special session and including resolution ES-10/15, with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/91:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname,

Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Paraguay, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Vanuatu.

Issues related to Palestine

General aspects

In 2014, the General Assembly, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian Rights) and other UN bodies addressed issues related to Palestine, and several UN programmes and agencies continued to provide assistance to the Palestinian people.

Committee on Palestinian Rights

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Committee on Palestinian Rights) was established by Assembly resolution 3376(XXX) [YUN 1975, p. 248] with the task of recommending a programme designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights. In 2014, the Committee was composed of 26 Member States and had 20 Member States as observers, in addition to the State of Palestine, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (oic).

Committee report. In response to Assembly resolution 68/12 [YUN 2013, p. 403], the Committee submitted its annual report to the Assembly [A/69/35] covering the period from 7 October 2013 to 6 October 2014. During the reporting period, the activities of the Committee and its Bureau focused on bringing the attention of the international community to the 2014 International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, as proclaimed in that resolution, with the objective of mobilizing wide support for ending the Israeli occupation and realizing the two-State solution. The Committee reiterated that a permanent settlement of the question of Palestine could be reached only by ending the Israeli occupation that began in 1967; by achieving the independence of the State of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital; and by achieving a just and agreed solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees. The tragic events in Gaza, which had undergone three Israeli military assaults in six years, reinforced the view. The ceasefire should be solidified and the root causes of the crisis fully addressed, including a lifting of the illegal blockade on Gaza.

In March, the Committee organized an international meeting in Quito, Ecuador. In April, it held a round table in Geneva on legal aspects of the question of Palestine. In May, it organized an international meeting on the question of Jerusalem in Ankara, Turkey, in cooperation with the oic and Turkey. In July, it held a seminar in Nairobi on assistance to Palestinian people. The Committee also organized a series of events within the framework of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, including a joint meeting with the League of Arab States in Cairo, at which a joint declaration was adopted; a special meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the advisory opinion of the ICJ on the separation wall; and high-level briefings and film screenings at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Committee noted that the establishment of a Palestinian government of national unity under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, which the Committee strongly supported and which all UN Member States should support, provided an opportunity to stabilize Gaza. National elections should be held as planned, and Gaza crossings should be opened.

The Committee noted that the latest round of negotiations had failed, as it had happened in 2000–2001 and 2007–2008, in large part owing to the acceleration of Israel's illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and its failure to honour the agreement to release Palestinian prisoners. The Committee observed that, in each case, the failure of negotiations was followed by an outbreak of violence. The repeated failure also reflected the limitations of the traditional format of bilateral Israeli-Palestinian final status talks facilitated by a single Member State. In that regard, the Committee suggested to propose innovative approaches and formats that could help break the deadlock.

The Committee welcomed the establishment, on 23 July, of a fact-finding mission by the Human Rights Council to investigate all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in Gaza, since 13 June. The Committee also welcomed the request by the Palestinian leadership addressed to the Secretary-General that the territory of the occupied State of Palestine be placed under an international protection system by the United Nations, and called upon the Secretary-General to expedite the review of that request and submit his recommendations to the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Committee further welcomed the accession by the State of Palestine, on 1 April, to 21 international conventions and treaties, and encouraged the signature of additional international instruments, which would allow it to pursue justice and accountability for Palestinian victims through the available international legal mechanisms. The Committee called upon the Assembly to establish provisions for a mechanism

that would allow the United Nations to document the costs—an estimated \$7 billion annually—borne by the Palestinian economy, particularly in Gaza and in Area C of the West Bank, owing to the Israeli occupation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/20** [draft: A/69/L.21 & Add.1] by recorded vote (94-7-56) [agenda item 36].

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 181(II) of 29 November 1947, 194(III) of 11 December 1948, 3236(XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375(XXX) and 3376(XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its emergency special sessions and its resolution 68/12 of 26 November 2013,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides and the need for full compliance with those agreements,

Affirming its support for a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,

Recalling its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note of the accession by Palestine, on 1 April 2014, to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian Peo-

ple for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, and takes note of its annual report, including the conclusions and valuable recommendations contained in chapter VII thereof;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to support the achievement without delay of an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and the just resolution of all final status issues and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people, and in this regard authorizes the Committee to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and thereafter;

3. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General, as appropriate;

4. *Further requests* the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and to continue to involve additional civil society organizations and parliamentarians in its work in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly during this critical period of political instability, humanitarian hardship and financial crisis, with the overall aim of promoting the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map;

5. *Commends* the efforts and activities of the Committee in commemoration of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 2014, in cooperation with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations;

6. *Also commends* the efforts of the Working Group of the Committee in coordinating the efforts of international and regional civil society organizations regarding the question of Palestine;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194(III), and other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation that they have at their disposal;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Committee in the performance of its tasks, recalling its repeated call for all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine;

9. *Requests*, as called for by the Committee, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to report

to the General Assembly on the economic costs of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the facilities necessary for the performance of its tasks.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/20:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

Communication. By a note verbale of 24 November [A/69/636], Cuba transmitted to the Secretary-General a message in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Division for Palestinian Rights

The Division for Palestinian Rights in the UN Department of Political Affairs, in cooperation with relevant technical and library services of the Secretariat, continued to administer, maintain, expand and develop the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine and the "Question of Palestine" website on the UN home page. That included the ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the technical components of the system and involved the expansion of the document collection to include relevant new and old United Nations and other documents. Through its Facebook and YouTube pages, as well as Twitter feeds, the Division disseminated information about the work of the Committee on

Palestinian Rights, and the United Nations as a whole, on the question of Palestine; and continued to publish a periodic online bulletin on civil society initiatives. Furthermore, the Division carried out research and monitoring activities; conducted the annual training programme for government staff of the State of Palestine; and organized the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November). The Committee on Palestinian Rights, in its annual report [A/69/35], requested the Division to continue its work.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/21** [draft: A/69/L.22 & Add.1] by recorded vote (91-7-59) [agenda item 36].

Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Taking note, in particular, of the action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat in accordance with their mandates,

Recalling its resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including its resolution 68/13 of 26 November 2013,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution 68/13;

2. *Considers* that, by providing substantive support to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the implementation of its mandate, the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to make a most useful and constructive contribution to raising international awareness of the question of Palestine and of the urgency of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in all its aspects on the basis of international law and United Nations resolutions and the efforts being exerted in this regard and to generating international support for the rights of the Palestinian people;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continues to carry out its programme of work as detailed in relevant earlier resolutions, in consultation with the Committee and under its guidance;

4. *Requests* the Division, in particular, to continue to monitor developments relevant to the question of Palestine, to organize international meetings and conferences in various regions with the participation of all sectors of the international community and to ensure, within existing resources, the continued participation of eminent persons and international renowned experts in these meetings and conferences, to be invited on a par with the members of the Committee, to liaise and cooperate with civil society and parliamentarians, including through the Working Group of the Committee and its associated “UN Platform for Palestine”, to develop and expand the “Question of Palestine” website and the documents collection of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, to prepare and widely disseminate publications and information materials on various aspects

of the question of Palestine and to develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Government in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts;

5. *Also requests* the Division, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize, under the guidance of the Committee, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, and encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation with the Division of the United Nations system entities with programme components addressing various aspects of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Division in the performance of its tasks.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/21:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

Special information programme

As requested by Assembly resolution 68/14 [YUN 2013, p. 406], the UN Department of Public Information continued its special information programme on the question of Palestine during the reporting period from 7 October 2013 to 6 October 2014.

The Department organized two international media seminars on peace in the Middle East: in Istanbul,

Turkey (8 and 9 October 2013) and in Tokyo, Japan (9 and 10 June 2014); it also organized the five-week annual training programme for Palestinian journalists (New York and Washington, D.C., 4 November to 6 December 2013).

The declaration of 2014 as the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was prominently covered by all the Department, as well as by the United Nations information centres. The Department developed an online portal dedicated to the Year in the six official languages of the Organization, while the information centres disseminated materials in official and non-official languages. During the reporting period, 132 scholars and students were briefed on the question of Palestine and the Middle East peace process, and some 138,000 visitors took the guided tour of United Nations Headquarters, which included a permanent exhibit on the question of Palestine.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/22** [draft: A/69/L.23 & Add.1] by recorded vote (147-7-9) [agenda item 36].

Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Taking note, in particular, of the information contained in chapter VI of that report,

Recalling its resolution 68/14 of 26 November 2013,

Convinced that the worldwide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of civil society organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and independence, and for the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides,

Affirming its support for a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Taking note of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with resolution 68/14;

2. *Considers* that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department is very useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of peace efforts and should receive the necessary support for the fulfilment of its tasks;

3. *Requests* the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme for 2015–2016, in particular:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine and peace efforts, including reports on the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations, as well as on the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy vis-à-vis the objective of peace;

(b) To continue to issue, update and modernize publications and audiovisual and online materials on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including materials concerning relevant recent developments, in particular the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine;

(c) To expand its collection of audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, to continue the production and preservation of such material and to update, on a periodic basis, the public exhibit on the question of Palestine displayed in the General Assembly Building as well as at United Nations headquarters in Geneva and Vienna;

(d) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel;

(e) To organize international, regional and national seminars or encounters for journalists aimed in particular at sensitizing public opinion to the question of Palestine and peace efforts and at enhancing dialogue and understanding between Palestinians and Israelis for the promotion of a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including by fostering and encouraging the contribution of the media in support of peace between the two sides;

(f) To continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, in particular through its annual training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists;

4. *Encourages* the Department to formulate ways for the media and representatives of civil society to engage in open and positive discussions to explore means for encouraging people-to-people dialogue and promoting peace and mutual understanding in the region.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/22:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria,

Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Honduras, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Togo, Tonga, Vanuatu.

Assistance to Palestinians

UN activities

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/100 [YUN 2013, p. 408], the Secretary-General submitted a report covering the period from May 2013 to April 2014 [A/69/84-E/2014/75], through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of assistance to the Palestinians.

During the reporting period, the Palestinian Authority (PA) continued to implement the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013, and developed the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016. In support of those efforts, the United Nations came forth with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the State of Palestine 2014–2016, thus complementing the humanitarian programming outlined in the 2014 Strategic Response Plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which had a total budget of \$390 million. UNRWA programme goals for the period 2010–2015 were reflected in the Agency's medium-term strategy, which was estimated at \$639.4 million for 2013–2014, excluding emergency relief interventions.

The 2014–2016 Framework focused on six priority areas: economic empowerment, livelihoods, decent work and food security; governance, rule of law, justice and human rights; education; health care; social protection; and urban development, natural resource management and infrastructure, which

required \$1.2 billion. As at April, one third of that budget had been mobilized.

The United Nations continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian assistance, including food assistance, to over 1 million people; water and sanitation assistance to over 1.5 million people; and health and nutrition services to nearly 2.5 million people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Despite continued closures in Gaza that hampered operations, the United Nations implemented development works worth nearly \$450 million and, in 2013, through UNRWA construction projects, generated 4,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

Regarding education, nine United Nations agencies continued to support the implementation of the "Education for All" package for the State of Palestine, from which 70 pilot schools had benefited. UNRWA had provided free primary education to 283,307 students enrolled in 344 elementary and preparatory schools across the West Bank and Gaza. In the context of health care, the Agency operated 42 facilities, one hospital and one non-communicable disease referral centre in Gaza and the West Bank employing over 2,000 staff. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) supported the Ministry of Health in procuring polio vaccines, and coordinated a national immunization campaign from which 639,481 children under the age of five had benefited. UNICEF scaled up its psychosocial programmes implemented in family centres in Gaza through five psychosocial emergency teams and through the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, that reached approximately 150,000 children, half of them girls (of whom 37,145 were adolescents), with professional psychosocial support services.

In the field of employment, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) targeted around 4,000 families across the West Bank and Gaza and focused on income-generating activities in microenterprise and small enterprise development, housing, education, health and rehabilitation. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), through 41 women's centres, focused on job opportunities in food processing and marketing, which had directly benefited 536 women workers; and over 35,800 women had benefited from the overall services provided at the centres.

With regard to food security and agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had provided intensive training to 350 farmers on integrated pest management, global agricultural practices certification, integrated crop management and integrated plant protection. UNDP had finalized the development of an additional 240 hectares (2,400 dunums) for poor farmers in areas of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, that were in

direct proximity to Israeli settlements or in the seam zones, bringing the total reclaimed land to approximately 1,200 hectares (12,000 dunums) in 2013.

In regard to human rights, UN-Women had established 49 women's centres for survivors of gender-based violence and eight community-based women's centres that also served as shelters. More than 300 women had benefited from psychosocial, social and legal counselling services at the first multipurpose anti-violence centre in Gaza, and a monthly average of 20 women had benefited from similar services at a women's centre in the West Bank.

Regarding support to Palestinian institutions, the United Nations provided technical assistance to line ministries for the development of sectoral strategies that informed the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016. Technical assistance had been also provided to the Government of the State of Palestine in the area of human rights. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) had worked closely with the Government in the preparation of a guidance document on human rights to be incorporated in the Palestinian National Development Plan. That document had been adopted by the Government in January. UN-Women had supported the Ministries of Social Affairs and of Women's Affairs supported the establishment of an observatory on women's access to justice under the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights. The International Labour Organization (ILO) had finalized an actuarial assessment providing different scenarios for a new social security scheme, while the United Nations Office for Project Services had continued its programme of enhancing the operational capacity of the Palestinian Civil Police, the national security forces, the Presidential Guard and other security services, including the Civil Defence in their disaster risk response responsibilities.

During the reporting period, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process had continued to ensure effective coordination among the PA, the United Nations, the international community and the Government of Israel. The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee held one meeting in New York on 25 September 2013.

In 2013, Palestine had struggled to meet its financial obligations, since expenditures were slightly higher than expected and revenue was less than projected. Although external financing had been higher than expected, Palestine had accumulated considerable arrears during the year, particularly to the private sector and the pension system, and had increased its stock of debt to domestic banks to \$1.2 billion by February 2014.

The 2013 Consolidated Appeal Process for the Occupied Palestinian Territory had requested a revised amount of \$401.6 million to tackle the most urgent

humanitarian needs, of which 65.9 per cent had been funded. Despite the increasing needs, the 2014 Strategic Response Plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory had requested \$390 million. As at 7 April, only 17 per cent had been raised. Additional support was also urgently needed for the UNRWA core budget, which faced a shortfall of \$68.2 million for 2014, and for its 2013 Emergency Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which had an estimated \$163.2 million shortfall.

On 16 July, by **decision 2014/236**, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's report on assistance to the Palestinian people.

UNCTAD assistance to Palestinians

At its sixty-first session (Geneva, 15–26 September) [TD/B/61/10 & Corr.1, 2], UNCTAD Trade and Development Board considered a secretariat report [TD/B/61/3] on assistance to the Palestinian people. The report considered the constraints imposed on Palestinian economic development, which had continued to lose ground in 2014 due to one more year of prolonged occupation.

Overall economic growth in the Occupied Palestinian Territory dropped from an average of about 11 per cent in 2010 and 2011 to a mere 1.5 per cent in 2013—the lowest rate of growth since 2006—well below that of population growth. In Gaza, growth fell from an average of 26 per cent in 2010 and 2011 to 4.5 per cent in 2013. Real gross domestic product was 20 per cent below its level in 1994.

Only one in four households in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was classified as food secure. The Israeli occupation of Area C, which included more than 61 per cent of the area of the West Bank and was under complete Israeli control, deprived the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory of much of its natural resource base. Area C included the most fertile agricultural areas and the bulk of Palestinian land reserves for development activities, thus constituting the backbone of Palestinian economy.

To tap the economic potential of Area C, UNCTAD recommended that Israel take measures such as removing the barriers it had installed that hampered investment; grant permits for critical projects, such as the construction of wells to meet growing demand for water; and allow the Palestinian National Authority to establish a planning and zoning regime. To the Palestinian National Authority, UNCTAD recommended, among other measures, to further enhance its policy attention to Area C in a more systematic manner; build its own legal capacity to provide Palestinian communities, producers and investors with legal aid to seek redress; and establish a national land registry to survey and register all land, especially in Area C; and enact legislation, in particular, a Palestinian land law and mortgage and foreclosure laws.

Despite difficult field conditions and the acute need for mobilizing additional resources, UNCTAD continued to respond to the complex needs of the Palestinian economy. Securing extrabudgetary resources, however, remained critical for enhancing UNCTAD support to the Palestinian people.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/242** [draft: A/69/L.38 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 69 (b)].

Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/100 of 13 December 2013, as well as its previous resolutions on the question,

Recalling also the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the subsequent implementation agreements concluded by the two sides,

Recalling further all relevant international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and, in particular, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Gravely concerned at the difficult living conditions and humanitarian situation affecting the Palestinian people, in particular women and children, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip where economic recovery and vast infrastructure repair, rehabilitation and development are urgently needed, especially in the aftermath of the conflict of July and August 2014,

Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory,

Welcoming, in this context, the development of projects, notably on infrastructure, to revive the Palestinian economy and improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people, stressing the need to create the appropriate conditions to facilitate the implementation of these projects, and noting the contribution of partners in the region and of the international community,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and is best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all people, in particular women and children, in the whole Middle East region, the promotion of which is facilitated, inter alia, in a stable and secure environment,

Deeply concerned about the negative impact, including the health and psychological consequences, of violence on the present and future well-being of children in the region,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities, and recalling in this regard the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza,

Expressing grave concern about the grave humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and the need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat and the establishment of the Consultative Group, as well as all follow-up meetings and international mechanisms established to provide assistance to the Palestinian people,

Underlining the importance of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

Recalling the International Donors' Conference for the Palestinian State, held in Paris on 17 December 2007, the Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law, held on 24 June 2008, the Palestine Investment Conferences, held in Bethlehem from 21 to 23 May 2008 and on 2 and 3 June 2010, and the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009,

Welcoming the ministerial meetings of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, convened in Tokyo in February 2013 and in Jakarta in March 2014, as a forum for the mobilization of political and economic assistance, including through exchanges of expertise and lessons learned, in support of Palestinian development,

Welcoming also the latest meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, held in Brussels on 19 March 2013 and in New York on 25 September 2013 and 22 September 2014,

Welcoming further the activities of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013 on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure and the adoption of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016: State-building to Sovereignty, and stressing the need for continued international support for the Palestinian State-building process, as outlined in the summary by the Chair of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee held on 22 September 2014,

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people,

Recognizing, in this regard, the positive contribution of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is aimed, inter alia, at enhancing developmental support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Welcoming steps to ease the restrictions on movement and access in the West Bank, while stressing the need for

further steps to be taken in this regard, and recognizing that such steps would improve living conditions and the situation on the ground and could promote further Palestinian economic development,

Welcoming also the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations regarding access to the Gaza Strip, and calling for its full implementation and for complementary measures that address the need for a fundamental change in policy that allows for the sustained and regular opening of the border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, including for humanitarian and commercial flows and for the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza,

Stressing that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Stressing also the urgency of reaching a durable solution to the crisis in Gaza through the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009, including by preventing the illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition and by ensuring the sustained reopening of the crossing points on the basis of existing agreements, including the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel,

Stressing, in this regard, the importance of the effective exercise by the Palestinian Authority of its full government responsibilities in the Gaza Strip in all fields, including through its presence at the Gaza crossing points,

Noting the active participation of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority in the activities of the Special Envoys of the Quartet,

Reaffirming the necessity of achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 338(1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397(2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003, 1850(2008) of 16 December 2008 and 1860(2009), as well as the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the principle of land for peace, in order to ensure a political solution, with two States—Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable Palestinian State—living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Expressing grave concern about continuing violence against civilians,

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

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and ongoing efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people, including with regard to the emergency humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority and of the steps taken under the aus-

pices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

6. *Welcomes* the meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians of 19 March and 25 September 2013 and 22 September 2014, the outcome of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014 and the generous donor response to support the needs of the Palestinian people, and urges the rapid disbursement of donor pledges;

7. *Stresses* the importance of following up on the results of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, to effectively promote economic recovery and reconstruction in a timely and sustainable manner;

8. *Calls upon* donors that have not yet converted their budget support pledges into disbursements to transfer funds as soon as possible, encourages all donors to increase their direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority in accordance with its government programme in order to enable it to build a viable and prosperous Palestinian State, underlines the need for equitable burden sharing by donors in this effort, and encourages donors to consider aligning funding cycles with the Palestinian Authority's national budget cycle;

9. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with priorities set forth by the Palestinian side;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and recognizes the vital role of the Agency in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the difficult humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women, children and their families and to help in the reconstruction and development of relevant Palestinian institutions;

12. *Stresses* the role that all funding instruments, including the European Commission's Palestinian-European Mechanism for the Management of Socioeconomic Aid and the World Bank trust fund, have been playing in directly assisting the Palestinian people;

13. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

14. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

15. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of ensuring free humanitarian access to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

16. *Also stresses* the need for the full implementation by both parties of existing agreements, including the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population, as well as for imports and exports, within and into and out of the Gaza Strip;

17. *Further stresses* the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies, as well as the need to ensure safe and unhindered access by humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations;

18. *Urges* the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend to the Palestinian people, as rapidly as possible, emergency economic assistance and humanitarian assistance, particularly in the Gaza Strip, to counter the impact of the current crisis;

19. *Stresses* the need for the continued implementation of the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995, including with regard to the full, prompt and regular transfer of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", the sub-item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on assistance to the Palestinian people would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued to provide education, health, relief and social services, and microfinance to the growing refugee population in all its five fields of operation—the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Report of Commissioner-General. The UNRWA Commissioner-General, in his annual report on the work of the agency [A/70/13], said that in 2014, violence and marginalization continued to affect Palestine refugees in all five of the Agency's fields of operation.

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was marked by the breakdown of peace negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis in April, a major escalation of violence and continued restrictions on rights and opportunities for the Territory's 1.9 million registered Palestine refugees. As at 31 December, the registered Palestine refugee population in the Gaza Strip stood at 1,276,926. The hostilities that occurred between 8 July and 26 August caused widespread loss of life, massive internal displacement and unprecedented damage to homes and infrastructure. An estimated 2,251 Palestinians were killed (1,462 civilians), including 538 children and 306 women. Approximately 11,000 injuries were reported and were estimated to have resulted in 1,000 long-term or permanent disabilities. Eleven UNRWA personnel were among those killed. Seventy-two Israelis and one foreigner were also killed (6 civilians), including one child. At its height, the conflict displaced over 475,000 people in Gaza; and nearly 300,000 took shelter in 90 UNRWA schools operating as designated emergency shelters. An estimated 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, affecting more than 600,000 people; and some 118 UNRWA installations were damaged, including 83 schools and 10 health centres. On seven separate occasions, UNRWA schools that had been sheltering displaced persons were struck directly or in the immediate vicinity by shells or other munitions because of Israeli actions, resulting in at least 44 Palestinians being killed and at least 227 injured.

Gaza entered its eighth year of blockade imposed by Israel. The almost continuous closure of the border by Egypt also exacerbated the situation. In 2014, UNRWA priorities for Gaza were the provision of humanitarian assistance, including the provision of food to 868,000 people, and child protection. Food insecurity in Gaza was primarily caused by a lack of economic access rather than by food unavailability. Unemployment rate among refugees in Gaza reached 40.9 per cent by the year's end.

Technology was the only sector not crippled by the blockade, and UNRWA secured donor support for the social enterprise Gaza Gateway, launched in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 411], which combined skills development with service delivery to strengthen graduates' employability, and introduced new buyers to Gaza's information and communications technology industry. Education remained also paramount for UNRWA, with almost 240,000 students in 252 schools. Ninety per cent of the schools, however, continued to run on double shift.

The 774,176 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in the West Bank continued to endure difficult economic and social conditions. The abduction and killing of three Israeli youth in the West Bank on 13 June and the subsequent killing of a Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem on 2 July, were followed by increased tension, clashes and violence. During

operations by Israeli security forces in 2014, the use of deadly force in the West Bank continued to increase, with 21 Palestine refugees killed by comparison to 17 in 2013. At least 122 Palestine refugees were injured by the use of live ammunition in and around refugee camps in 2014, an increase of 139 per cent from 2013. Of special concern to UNRWA were Israeli plans to transfer Bedouin communities—a majority of whom were Palestine refugees—from Area C to three townships. If implemented, there were serious concerns that it would be contrary to Israel's obligations under international law, including the prohibition on forcible transfer.

During the year, humanitarian-funded interventions supported 13,200 poor refugee households through cash-for-work opportunities or food vouchers. The family health team model—by which care was delivered by a multidisciplinary medical team composed of at least one doctor, one nurse and one clerk—was implemented in 35 of the 42 West Bank health clinics or focal points, while the family protection programme and gender-based violence referral system was introduced in all 19 refugee camps. Primary education was provided to 50,566 students.

The crisis in Syria increasingly affected the 528,616 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in the country. Since the start of the conflict, 14 UNRWA staff members had been killed and 30 staff had been missing. Furthermore, many Palestine refugees had been killed or seriously injured by parties to the conflict, including in incidents that affected UNRWA installations. In 2014, UNRWA established 10 new health points to serve displaced refugee communities throughout Syria. The Syrian authorities continued to express support for Palestine refugees and to facilitate the work of UNRWA. Use of 43 government school buildings allowed UNRWA to almost double enrolment rates among Palestine refugee children, from 24,000 in 2013 to 46,000 in 2014, while the deployment of innovative learning (such as self-learning, Internet modules and televised lessons) reached children who could not access classes. Despite the cooperation from the Syrian Government, the pervasive nature of the conflict seriously affected the Agency's operations in the country. At least 46 of a total of 219 UNRWA schools, clinics and other facilities had been damaged. UNRWA school buildings and its Damascus Training Centre continued to serve as temporary accommodation for Syrians and Palestine refugees.

More than 80 per cent of Palestine refugees resided in Damascus and the surrounding suburbs, which continued to suffer intense armed engagements throughout 2014. After near-total closure for more than twelve months, from January UNRWA was able to intermittently secure humanitarian access into Yarmouk, in the Damascus area, distributing food and health kits to the 18,000 civilians trapped inside. The Agency was granted access to the Qabr

Essit camp, also in the Damascus area, which had been under government control since 2013. Cash assistance was expanded from two rounds of \$42 per person in 2013 to three rounds of \$64 per person in 2014. Events in Syria continued to have significant implications for UNRWA operations in Jordan and Lebanon. The Agency recorded approximately 45,000 Palestine refugees from Syria in Lebanon and 15,000 in Jordan.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, of whom 452,669 were registered with UNRWA, continued to face acute socioeconomic deprivation and barriers to fully enjoying a broad range of human rights. On 25 May, the term of President Michel Sleiman ended and the presidency remained vacant. UNRWA continued to advocate for Palestine refugees' right to work in Lebanon, which remained highly restricted. The conflict in Syria had a serious impact on Lebanon, with sporadic eruptions of clashes involving armed groups linked to that conflict. The Palestinian leadership reiterated its disassociation from all domestic and regional conflicts. In May, however, the Lebanese authorities imposed further restrictions to the entry of Palestine refugees from Syria into Lebanon, and UNRWA appealed to the Lebanese authorities to uphold the principle of non-refoulement (non-expulsion) and equal treatment of all refugees in accordance with international standards. During the year, the implementation of the family health team approach was completed in Lebanon's 27 health centres. Through the Education in Emergency response of UNRWA, 7,300 Palestine refugee students could participate in regular classes, while large-scale improvements were undertaken in Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon.

Jordan hosted 2,117,361 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA, 15,000 refugees from Syria and increasing numbers from other countries. While Jordan had remained stable in an insecure region, the influx of people presented increasing challenges to Jordan's resources and infrastructure. The vast majority of Palestine refugees enjoyed social, economic and political rights, but a group of 150,000 Palestine refugees, who had fled Gaza in 1967, was excluded from access to government services and was subject to a range of other restrictions. The same applied to Palestine refugees from Syria, who lived in fear of arrest and deportation, especially since January 2013, when the Jordanian Government had announced a policy of non-admission of Palestine refugees from Syria. UNRWA appealed to Jordan to uphold the principle of non-refoulement and equal treatment of all refugees, and requested Jordan to consider temporary access for Palestine refugees fleeing Syria.

In 2014, the roll-out of the family health team approach took place only in 18 of Jordan's 24 health centres because of inadequate funding. Despite that limitation, UNRWA succeeded in ensuring good access to health services for Palestine refugees from Syria,

who were eligible to access primary services at all the 24 health centres, with 97 per cent reporting that they had no problems accessing the medical care they needed. Approximately 2,100 children from Syria enrolled in UNRWA schools in Jordan in 2014.

UNRWA continued to follow the framework set out in its medium-term strategy 2010–2015, which provided direction based on 15 strategic objectives, each of which contributed to one or more of four human development goals: a long and healthy life; acquired knowledge and skills; a decent standard of living; and human rights enjoyed to the fullest. Concerning the first goal, UNRWA delivered primary health care to Palestine refugees through its 137 health centres, providing 9.3 million outpatient medical consultations to Palestinian refugees. In regard to acquired knowledge and skills, UNRWA provided general education to approximately 494,944 Palestine refugee children in about 666 elementary and preparatory schools, and developed and finalized the implementation of a policy framework supporting children with special needs. In the context of a decent standard of living, in 2014, UNRWA delivered a social safety net comprised of food, cash and specialized services to almost 290,000 Palestine refugees; financed 34,967 loans valued at \$34.38 million; and provided training in technical and vocational skills to almost 7,300 students, of whom 43.4 per cent were women. As for the full enjoyment of human rights, internally, UNRWA promoted protection in and through its programming and service delivery, and externally, it promoted greater respect for international law. During the year, to address gender-based violence, the staff of UNRWA benefited from 1,197 basic, 622 in-depth and 636 specialized trainings.

On 31 March, Filippo Grandi (Italy) completed his nine-year tenure as UNRWA Commissioner-General. His successor, Pierre Krähenbühl (Switzerland), was appointed by the Secretary-General effective 1 April.

Advisory Commission. The UNRWA Advisory Commission in its comments on the Agency's report on its 2014 activities [A/70/13] expressed concern about the effects that violence had on the Agency's ability to serve the needs of Palestine refugees in areas affected by conflict; the increasing demands imposed by the conflict in Syria on UNRWA in the neighbouring countries; and the lack of access by the Agency to, and information on, its staff who had been detained by the relevant authorities. The Commission called on all relevant parties to comply fully with their obligations under international law, including humanitarian law, to respect United Nations resolutions, enable UNRWA to fulfil its humanitarian obligations without unnecessary hindrance or cost, and refrain from taking any actions that jeopardized the safety, security or neutrality of UNRWA staff and installations. It also urged all relevant parties to grant access for humanitarian purposes to refugee populations.

The Commission was also concerned about the persisting funding shortfalls, in particular for the UNRWA General Fund, which undermined the Agency's ability to promote human development and meet refugee needs. The Commission, therefore, urged donors and partners to mobilize the resources needed to secure service delivery.

Report of Conciliation Commission. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/76 [YUN 2013, p. 412], the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine submitted, in September, its sixty-eighth report [A/69/349], covering the period from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014. The Commission, which was established by Assembly resolution 194(III) [YUN 1948–1949, p. 203] to facilitate the repatriation, resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation of the refugees and payment of compensation, said that it had nothing to report since its previous submission.

Communication. In a 29 January letter [A/68/723-S/2014/62] addressed to the Secretary-General, the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, the State of Palestine conveyed its grave concern about the critical humanitarian situation of Palestine refugees in Syria, underscoring the dire conditions of those refugees trapped in the Al-Yarmouk camp.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/453], adopted **resolution 69/86** by recorded vote (163-1-10) [agenda item 50].

Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question, including resolution 68/76 of 11 December 2013,

Recalling also its resolution 302(IV) of 8 December 1949, by which, inter alia, it established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

Recalling further the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Aware of the fact that, for more than six decades, the Palestine refugees have suffered from the loss of their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Affirming the imperative of resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees for the achievement of justice and for the achievement of lasting peace in the region,

Acknowledging the essential role that the Agency has played for over 60 years since its establishment in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of education, health, relief and social services and ongoing work in the areas of camp infrastructure, microfinance, protection and emergency assistance,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the Agency covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013,

Aware of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees throughout all the fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Expressing grave concern at the especially difficult situation of the Palestine refugees under occupation, including with regard to their safety, well-being and socioeconomic living conditions,

Expressing grave concern in particular at the grave humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and urgent reconstruction efforts,

Noting the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on 13 September 1993 by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and the subsequent implementation agreements,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194(III), has not yet been effected, and that, therefore, the situation of the Palestine refugees continues to be a matter of grave concern and the Palestine refugees continue to require assistance to meet basic health, education and living needs;

2. *Also notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194(III), and reiterates its request to the Conciliation Commission to continue exerting efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly on the efforts being exerted in this regard as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2015;

3. *Affirms* the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services, including emergency assistance, for the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestine refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees;

4. *Calls upon* all donors to continue to strengthen their efforts to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including with regard to increased expenditures arising from conflicts and instability in the region and the serious socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and those needs mentioned in recent emergency, recovery and reconstruction appeals and plans for the Gaza Strip and in the regional crisis response plans to address the situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and those Palestine refugees who have fled to countries in the region;

5. *Commends* the Agency for its provision of vital assistance to the Palestine refugees and its role as a stabilizing factor in the region and the tireless efforts of the staff of the Agency in carrying out its mandate;

6. *Decides* to invite Brazil and the United Arab Emirates, in accordance with the criterion set forth in General Assembly decision 60/522 of 8 December 2005, to become members of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/86:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Canada, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Paraguay, South Sudan, United States, Vanuatu.

Financing

In 2014, UNRWA expended \$1.3 billion. The largest expenditure amounted to \$669.7 million under the unrestricted regular budget, accounting for 52.1 per cent of total expenditure. Restricted fund activities, emergency activities and projects accounted for 3.7 per cent, 18.3 per cent and 25.1 per cent, respectively. Education remained the largest programme funded from the general fund, accounting for \$401 million (59.9 per cent), followed by executive and support programme at \$111.1 million (16.6 per cent); health at \$105.3 million (15.7 per cent); relief and social services at \$38.5 million (5.8 per cent); and infrastructure at \$13.6 million (2 per cent).

An addendum to the Commissioner-General's report on the work of UNRWA in 2013 [A/69/5/Add.4] included the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of UNRWA for the year ended on 31 December 2013.

Working Group. The Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA was established by Assembly resolution 2656(XXV) [YUN 1970, p. 280] to study all aspects of the financing of the Agency. In 2013, its mandate was renewed by Assembly resolution 68/76 [YUN 2013, p. 412]. In 2014, the Working Group con-

sisted of 9 Member States and held six meetings, on 30 June; 15 July; 20 August and 5, 10, and 18 September [A/69/391].

The Working Group noted that, as at August, with an expected cash deficit at year's end of \$55.9 million, UNRWA would not be able to meet its financial obligations by the end of October. As at the end of December 2013, the UNRWA General Fund cash balance was \$2.9 million, with a monthly cash outflow of \$55 million (comprising staff and non-staff costs), which meant that UNRWA had no working capital. An injection of some \$165 million in working capital would be required to create a minimum safety cushion. The cash deficiency was recurrent in nature and had worsened over the years, as costs had risen faster than the rate of growth in traditional donor income.

The Working Group was concerned about the inadequacy of project funding in view of the Agency's urgent need to meet the needs of a growing refugee population.

Following the military escalation in Gaza, on 8 July, UNRWA launched an emergency flash appeal for \$295.4 million to provide emergency assistance to 500,000 people. Prior to it, in March, UNRWA had launched an emergency appeal for \$300 million, of which 85 per cent would cover activities in the Gaza Strip and 15 per cent activities in the West Bank. To sustain the most critical emergency operations in Gaza, UNRWA required at least \$118 million, the majority of which was needed for food aid. As at 31 August, the Agency had received pledges totalling only \$111.1 (37 per cent of the emergency appeal target). UNRWA had been forced to suspend the school feeding programme since September 2013, which had provided one meal per day to the nearly quarter of a million students in Gaza, and an important psychosocial programme for children.

The Working Group noted with concern the large funding gap anticipated for the UNRWA General Fund in 2014. It encouraged the Assembly to keep the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 under review to ensure the Agency's ability to deliver. It urged Governments to contribute to UNRWA on a regular basis, raise their level of support, or continue their contributions. The Working Group also urged donor Governments to put in place increased multi-year funding to allow UNRWA to better plan its activities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/453], adopted **resolution 69/88** by recorded vote (166-6-6) [agenda item 50].

Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194(III) of 11 December 1948, 212(III) of 19 November 1948, 302(IV) of 8 December

1949 and all subsequent related resolutions, including its resolution 68/78 of 11 December 2013,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013,

Taking note of the letter dated 17 June 2014 from the Chair of the Advisory Commission of the Agency to the Commissioner-General,

Deeply concerned about the extremely critical financial situation of the Agency, caused in part by the structural underfunding of the Agency, as well as its rising expenditures resulting from the deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and the conflicts and rising instability in the region and their significant negative impact on the provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including its emergency, recovery, reconstruction and development programmes in all fields of operation,

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,

Recalling also the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

Aware of the continuing needs of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Gravely concerned about the extremely difficult socioeconomic conditions being faced by the Palestine refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the recurrent military operations, continuing prolonged Israeli closures, the construction of settlements and the wall, and the severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, which have deepened unemployment and poverty rates among the refugees, with potentially lasting, long-term negative effects, while taking note of developments with regard to the situation of access there, particularly the recent tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations,

Deploing the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites, and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Deploing also attacks affecting United Nations installations, including Agency schools sheltering displaced civilians, and all other breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises during the conflict in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014,

Gravely concerned about the lasting negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009, as well as in November 2012, on the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation of the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip,

Commending the extraordinary efforts by the Agency to provide shelter to more than 290,000 Palestinian civilians, the majority of them Palestine refugees, as well as emergency relief, medical, food, protection and other humanitarian assistance during the military operations of July and August 2014,

Recalling, in this regard, its resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009 and Security Council resolution 1860(2009) of 8 January 2009,

Expressing regret over the continuing restrictions that impede the Agency's efforts to repair and rebuild thousands of damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and calling upon Israel to ensure the unimpeded import of essential construction materials into the Gaza Strip and to reduce the burdensome cost of importation of Agency supplies, while taking note of recent developments regarding the situation of access there, including the recent tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard,

Expressing concern about the severe classroom shortage in the Gaza Strip, which has been compounded by the destruction caused to schools in the Israeli military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the continuing use of Agency schools to shelter displaced persons, and the consequent negative impact on the right to education of refugee children,

Stressing the urgent need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, including by ensuring the timely facilitation of construction projects and by sustaining the swift entry of construction materials needed for projects managed by the Agency, and the need for the accelerated implementation of other urgent United Nations-led civilian reconstruction activities,

Welcoming contributions made to the Agency's emergency appeals for the Gaza Strip following the military operations in July and August 2014, and calling urgently on the international community for continued support in accordance with the Agency's strategic response plan,

Welcoming also the convening of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

Stressing that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian national consensus government in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points,

Noting with appreciation the progress made towards rebuilding the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, commending the Government of Lebanon, donors, the Agency and other concerned parties for the continuing efforts to assist affected and displaced refugees, and emphasizing the need

for additional funding to complete the reconstruction of the camp and end the displacement of its 27,000 residents without delay,

Expressing deep concern at the critical situation of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and at the impact of the crisis on the Agency's ability to deliver its services, and regretting profoundly the loss of life among refugees and the killing of 14 staff members of the Agency during the crisis since 2012,

Emphasizing the need for increased assistance to Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic as well as those who have fled to neighbouring countries, and emphasizing the necessity of ensuring open borders for Palestine refugees fleeing the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, consistent with the principles of non-discrimination and non-refoulement under international law, and recalling in this regard the statement by the President of the Security Council of 2 October 2013,

Aware of the valuable work done by the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees, and recalling the need for the protection of all civilians in situations of armed conflict,

Deploring the endangerment of the safety of the Agency's staff and the damage and destruction caused to the facilities and properties of the Agency during the period covered by the report of the Commissioner-General, and stressing the need to maintain the neutrality of and safeguard the inviolability of United Nations premises, installations and equipment at all times,

Deploring also the breaches of the inviolability of United Nations premises, the failure to accord the property and assets of the Organization immunity from any form of interference and the failure to protect United Nations personnel, premises and property,

Deploring the killing and injury of Agency staff members by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since September 2000, including the 11 Agency personnel killed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014,

Deploring also the killing and wounding of refugee children and women sheltering in the Agency schools by the Israeli occupying forces during the military operations of July and August 2014,

Deeply concerned about the continuing imposition of restrictions on the freedom of movement and access of the Agency's staff, vehicles and goods, and the injury, harassment and intimidation of the Agency's staff, which undermine and obstruct the work of the Agency, including its ability to provide essential basic and emergency services,

Aware of the agreement between the Agency and the Government of Israel,

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,

1. *Reaffirms* that the effective functioning of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East remains essential in all fields of operation;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the Agency, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work, particularly in the light of the difficult conditions, instability and crises faced during the past year;

3. *Expresses special commendation* to the Agency for the essential role that it has played for over 60 years since its establishment in providing vital services for the well-being, human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the amelioration of their plight;

4. *Commends also* the extraordinary efforts of the Agency, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies on the ground, to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including shelter, food and medical aid, to refugees and affected civilians during the military operations in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the important support and cooperation provided by the host Governments to the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

6. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the Agency, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work;

8. *Commends* the Agency's six-year Medium-Term Strategy, which commenced in January 2010, and the continuing efforts of the Commissioner-General to increase the budgetary transparency and efficiency of the Agency, as reflected in the Agency's programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, and welcomes the progress made in the preparation of the medium-term strategy for 2016–2021;

9. *Also commends* the Agency for sustaining its reform efforts, despite difficult operational circumstances, and urges it to continue to apply maximum efficiency procedures to reduce operational and administrative costs and to maximize the use of resources;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the management capacity of the Agency, and urges all Member States to carefully consider the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, including the continued provision of financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations;

11. *Endorses* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are internally displaced and in serious need of continuing assistance as a result of recent crises in the Agency's fields of operation;

12. *Encourages* the Agency to provide increased assistance, in accordance with its mandate, to affected Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic as well as those who have fled to neighbouring countries, as detailed in the Syria regional crisis response plans, and calls upon donors to urgently ensure sustained support to the Agency in this regard;

13. *Welcomes* the progress made thus far by the Agency in rebuilding the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon, and calls for the expeditious completion of its reconstruction, for the continued provision of relief assistance to those displaced following its destruction in 2007 and for the alleviation of their ongoing suffering through the provi-

sion of the necessary support and financial assistance until the reconstruction of the camp is complete;

14. *Encourages* the Agency, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations entities, to continue making progress in addressing the needs and rights of children, women and persons with disabilities in its operations, including through the provision of necessary psychosocial and humanitarian support, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, respectively;

15. *Commends*, in this regard, the Agency's initiatives that provide recreational, cultural and educational activities for children during the summer, including in the Gaza Strip, and, recognizing their positive contribution, calls for full support of such initiatives;

16. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply fully with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

17. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in order to ensure the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of its facilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, at all times;

18. *Calls for* a full and transparent investigation into all of the incidents affecting the Agency's facilities during the conflict in the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, with a view to ensuring accountability for all violations of international law;

19. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expeditiously reimburse the Agency for all transit charges incurred and other financial losses sustained as a result of delays and restrictions on movement and access imposed by Israel;

20. *Calls upon* Israel particularly to cease obstructing the movement and access of the staff, vehicles and supplies of the Agency and to cease the levying of taxes, extra fees and charges, which affect the Agency's operations detrimentally;

21. *Reiterates its call upon* Israel to fully lift the restrictions impeding or delaying the import of necessary construction materials and supplies for the reconstruction and repair of thousands of damaged or destroyed refugee shelters, and for the implementation of suspended and urgently needed civilian infrastructure projects in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip;

22. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the positive contribution of the Agency's microfinance and job-creation programmes, and calls upon the Agency, in close cooperation with the relevant agencies, to continue to contribute to the development of the economic and social stability of the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation;

24. *Reiterates its appeals* to all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to augment the special allocations for grants and scholarships for higher education to Palestine refugees in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the Agency and to contribute to the establishment of vocational training

centres for Palestine refugees, and requests the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships;

25. *Urges* serious follow-up efforts by the Agency and the donor community to meet the goals set forth in the conclusions endorsed by the special meeting of a group of supporters of the Agency, held on 26 September 2013 on the margins of the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

26. *Urges* all States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to support the Agency's valuable and necessary work in assisting the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation by providing or increasing their contributions to the Agency in order to address the serious financial constraints and underfunding affecting the Agency's regular budget, noting that financial needs have been exacerbated by conflicts and instability in the recent period and the deteriorating humanitarian situation on the ground;

27. *Calls*, in this regard, for the full and timely funding by donors of the Agency's emergency, recovery and reconstruction programmes as set out in its emergency appeals and response plans.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/88:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Paraguay, South Sudan, Vanuatu.

Displaced persons

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/77 [YUN 2013, p. 417] the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/345] on persons displaced as a result

of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities. The resolution requested the Secretary-General, after consulting with the UNRWA Commissioner-General, to report to the Assembly on the progress made in implementing that resolution.

On 19 May, the Secretary-General sought information from Member States, including Israel, on action taken or envisaged to implement the provisions of Assembly resolutions 68/76 to 68/80. UNRWA was not involved in any arrangements for the return of unregistered refugees or displaced persons. Its information was based on requests by returning registered refugees for the transfer of their UNRWA records from Jordan, Lebanon or Syria to the areas to which they had returned. The Agency would not necessarily be aware of the return of any registered refugees who did not request the transfer of their registration records. Based on information obtained from the UNRWA Commissioner-General for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, 242 refugees registered with the Agency had returned to the West Bank and 257 to Gaza from places outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The number of displaced registered refugees known by UNRWA to have returned since June 1967 amounted to approximately 35,628. The Agency was unable to estimate the total number of displaced inhabitants who had returned, although it had kept records of registered refugees. The records were perhaps incomplete, particularly with respect to the location of such refugees.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/453], adopted **resolution 69/87** by recorded vote (165-7-6) [agenda item 50].

Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252(ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B(XXII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 237(1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259(1968) of 27 September 1968,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 68/77 of 11 December 2013,

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013,

Concerned about the continuing human suffering resulting from the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities,

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 with regard to the modalities for the admission of persons displaced in 1967, and concerned that the process agreed upon has not yet been effected,

Taking note also of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Stresses* the necessity for an accelerated return of displaced persons, and calls for compliance with the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993 on the return of displaced persons;

3. *Endorses*, in the meantime, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

4. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above-mentioned purposes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its seventieth session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/87:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Paraguay, South Sudan, Vanuatu.

Palestinian women

In a report to the 2014 session of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/CN.6/2014/6], submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/17 [YUN 2013, p. 419], the Secretary-General highlighted the situation of Palestinian women between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2013 and gave an overview of UN assistance in education and training; health; economic empowerment and livelihoods; the rule of law and violence against women; power and decision-making; and institutional development.

The impact of the protracted crisis continued to had a devastating effect on the psychosocial well-being of women and families. The living conditions of women varied depending on sociocultural factors and the different status applied to Palestinian women and men in different areas. Food insecurity remained a significant challenge, due to factors such as the continued closure of the Gaza Strip, restrictions on access in the West Bank and related high rates of poverty, increases in food prices and threats to livelihoods. In 2012, female-headed households received a monthly average of \$131 in assistance compared with \$78 for male-headed households. The targeted assistance was successful in lowering the percentage of overall food-insecure households, from 54 to 36 per cent for female-headed households and from 37 to 33 per cent for male-headed households.

In the labour market, women's overall unemployment rate had almost doubled, from 17 per cent in 2002 to 32.9 per cent in 2012, while for men it had decreased from 33.5 to 20.5 per cent over the same period. In 2012, the average daily wage for women was 86.8 per cent of that for men. Most women in formal employment worked in the public sector—health and education—outside of which they had few prospects of earning a living wage. Women were being pushed progressively into unpaid and family jobs in the agricultural sector, domestic work and a broad range of cleaning jobs.

Women's health, as well as critical water, sanitation and hygiene situation, remained reasons of concern. In Gaza, less than 10 per cent of available groundwater resources were suitable for drinking purposes; and in the West Bank, over 1 million people continued to access less than 60 litres per capita per day of water. With regard to school enrolment rates, parity had been reached in primary education, and girls outnumbered boys in secondary and higher education. Illiteracy rates among individuals aged 15 years or older in the Occupied Palestinian Territory had fallen in the period 1997–2012 from 13.9 per cent to 4.1 per cent. There were, however, considerable differences between the sexes: 1.8 per cent for males compared with 6.4 per cent for females. Female illiteracy rates were highest in rural areas (8.6 per cent), followed by refugee camps (6.3 per cent) and urban localities (6.1 per cent).

While women continued to participate in a range of roles in political life, they remained underrepresented in decision-making bodies. As at September 2013, women held only 3 out of a total of 24 ministerial level posts in the Palestinian Government.

The Palestinian Legislative Council was not functional during the reporting period and, therefore, there was a hold on the passing of new laws or amending existing ones, including those that were discriminatory towards women and in contradiction to human rights. Violence against women remained a serious concern. According to the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights and civil society partners, 24 women were killed in the name of so-called “honour” between January and August 2013, in a significant deterioration over 2012, when 12 women were killed over the whole year. According to UNDP and UN-Women, the number of cases was most likely underreported.

The PA took noteworthy steps to strengthen capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women. The Ministry of Women’s Affairs signed memorandums of understanding with six key line ministries for the operationalization of a national strategy to combat violence against women. The Ministry also finalized a national regulation for the establishment of women’s protection centres. In June, the Palestinian Civil Police launched a strategy for family protection units that provided a framework for addressing the rights of victims of violence in accordance with international standards.

UN entities continued to implement many initiatives to promote women’s and girls’ access to education and training. The programme “Education for All” was being piloted in 47 schools, and the World Food Programme (WFP) provided date bars and milk to 88,834 children (49 per cent girls). UNRWA continued to provide primary and secondary education in Gaza to 222,000 students (48.6 per cent girls), and primary education to 51,695 students in the West Bank (58 per cent girls), while UNICEF implemented after-school activities reaching out to 10,000 adolescents (50 per cent girls).

With regard to health, the United Nations Population Fund, supported the implementation of the national obstetric care protocol through the training of 316 health providers; provided home visits to 2,625 pregnant women, as well as postnatal care to 1,664 women in the West Bank and Gaza; and supported the launch of the Youth Peer Education Network, whose aim was to promote healthy lifestyle among youth and raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

In the context of economic empowerment and livelihood, the International Labour Organization (ILO) provided direct support to six women’s cooperatives, and UNDP trained women entrepreneurs and gave

technical assistance to 28 women’s cooperatives. WFP reached 310,148 female beneficiaries through food distribution and conditional voucher programmes.

Microfinance support continued to be a source of short-term poverty alleviation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, the Agency’s microfinance programme provided 35 per cent of loans to women (out of a total of 10,067) amounting to 27 per cent of the total value of loans (\$13.7 million); while in Gaza, the programme provided 39 per cent of loans to women (out of a total of 1,382), also amounting to 27 per cent of the total value of loans (\$1.48 million). Also in Gaza, UNRWA reached a total of 1,108 female graduates through its Young Women Leaders Programme.

United Nations entities implemented a range of initiatives to improve women’s access to justice and prevent and respond to violence against women. Priority was given to the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women 2011–2019. UN-Women supported the institutionalization of the Family Protection Units in the Palestinian Civil Police, which, in 2012, had handled 2,849 cases of family violence. UNDP supported the Gender Unit of the Civilian Police, including the development of a diploma programme on gender-responsive policing targeting mid- and high-level officers. From 2011 to June 2013, UNDP provided legal aid services to a total of 43,609 women in Gaza and the West Bank, tripling the number of women who were granted legal representation in courts and almost doubling the number provided with legal information and advice. Through the gender-based violence referral system established by UNRWA in all its field operations, 414 cases were reported (75 per cent female) in the West Bank, the majority of which received individual counselling. In Gaza, 384 survivors of gender-based violence were detected through the system.

As for institutional development, in addition to the UN-Women assistance to the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the Ministry of Planning, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization supported the Palestinian Women’s Documentation and Research Centre in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment through capacity-building, research, advocacy and documentation activities. ILO assisted the National Committee for Women’s Employment in developing its three-year strategic plan to advocate for gender-sensitive policies, legislation and capacity-building interventions; and UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Affairs to strengthen the national child protection system so that girls and young women were afforded greater protection from violence, abuse and exploitation. One of the results was that an amended child law came into force.

The Secretary-General noted that high levels of unemployment and poverty persisted, and

many Palestinian women and girls still faced significant obstacles in accessing basic services, health care, justice institutions, water and sanitation, and economic opportunities. The first ever United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Palestine—developed by the UN country team during the reporting period—and the new Palestinian National Development Plan should be used to improve efficiency among all development actors, the Secretary-General said. That included new joint programmes building on gender equality and the empowerment of women initiatives funded under the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund [YUN 2007, p. 877] that ended in April 2013. More determined action was needed by all actors to increase women's participation and representation at all levels of decision-making and to support women in elected and appointed posts, possibly applying UN-Women experience in building the capacity of women leaders in different regions.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 22], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/2014/27], adopted **resolution 2014/1** by recorded vote (12-2-15) [agenda item 16 (j)].

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

Recalling also its resolution 2013/17 of 24 July 2013 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolution 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights, arbitrary detention and imprisonment and escalating settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their property, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, incidents of domestic violence and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern about the dire humanitarian crisis and the insecurity and instability on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploing the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement of civilians and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access of pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned, in particular, about the critical socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from Israeli military operations, including those in November 2012, and the continuing imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground,

Reiterating the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration into the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure

their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, commends the implementation of the August 2009 plan of the Palestinian Authority for constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by international institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights, in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

6. *Stresses* the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, to assist the parties in advancing and accelerating peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its neighbours, on the basis of United Nations resolutions, the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session;

7. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for

Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2014/1:

In favour: Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation.

Against: Canada, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Austria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Property rights

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/79 [YUN 2013, p. 420], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/351] on Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues. The Russian Federation, Mexico and Israel had replied to his request for information from Member States on action taken or envisaged in relation to the implementation of Assembly resolutions 68/76 to 68/80 [YUN 2013, pp. 412–420 & 395] and also in reference to the request contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 68/79.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/453], adopted **resolution 69/89** by recorded vote (165-7-6) [agenda item 50].

Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194(III) of 11 December 1948 and 36/146 C of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to its resolution 68/79 of 11 December 2013, as well as that of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014,

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

Recalling in particular its resolution 394(V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine refugees,

Noting the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress report, and the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and a file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

Expressing its appreciation for the preservation and modernization of the existing records, including the land records, of the Conciliation Commission, and stressing the importance of such records for a just resolution of the plight of the Palestine refugees in conformity with resolution 194(III),

Recalling that, in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993, to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of equity and justice;
2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel;
3. *Calls once again upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;
4. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;
5. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues within the framework of the final status peace negotiations;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/89:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Paraguay, South Sudan, Vanuatu.

Lebanon

In 2014, Lebanon's stability was challenged by its political process, the deteriorating security and the protracted consequences of the Syrian conflict. On several occasions, the Security Council appealed to all Lebanese parties to preserve national unity in the face of attempts to undermine it, and stressed the importance to respect Lebanon's policy of disassociation and to refrain from any involvement in the Syrian crisis. The implementation of Council resolution 1701(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 583] remained crucial to ensuring stability in the country and full respect for Lebanon's sovereignty and political independence.

Lebanon hosted the largest number of Syrian refugees—approximately 80 per cent of whom were women and children—and had a higher proportion of refugees relative to its national population than any country in the world. At the beginning of the year only, refugees crossing into Lebanon had totalled over 860,000—a six-fold increase over 2013. As at November, there were 1.124 million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon. On 31 May, Lebanon announced that Syrian refugees who returned to Syria after 1 June would lose their refugee status in Lebanon. Problems arose also in securing birth registration for Syrian refugee children born in Lebanon.

With regard to the political situation, President Michel Sleiman's leadership upheld the country's disassociation policy, which was vital to prevent the Syrian crisis from exacerbating tensions in Lebanon. On 25 May, however, when his term ended, the presidency remained vacant despite fourteen sessions of Parliament that had been scheduled but had failed to take place owing to a lack of quorum. In the absence of a president, the Council of Ministers led by Prime Minister Tammam Salam assumed the powers of the presidency. On 30 November, the Constitutional Court upheld the legality of the decision taken on 5 November by parliamentarians to extend the Parliament's mandate until 20 June 2017.

No progress was made towards the delineation of the Lebanese-Syrian border, as called for in Security Council resolutions 1680(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 571] and 1701(2006). The delineation of the border was in fact crucial to extend the authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout the whole Lebanese territory and to enable the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to secure borders, thus preventing the entry of arms or related materiel. Further, there was no progress on the issue of the Shab'a Farms, the disputed agricultural area where Lebanon, Syria and Israel converged. There had still been no reaction from either Israel or Syria to the provisional definition of that area contained in the Secretary-General's report of 30 October 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 488].

The area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) remained relatively stable, despite serious violations by Israel of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity. In July and August, stability along the Blue Line was threatened by heightened tension resulting from the outbreak of the Gaza conflict; rockets were fired on nine occasions from Lebanon towards Israel, with Israel responding with artillery fire on five occasions. Two serious incidents in the Shab'a Farms Area (Sector East) took place on 5 and 7 October. In each instance, the quick intervention by UNIFIL and positive engagement by both Lebanon and Israel helped to contain the situation. Tripartite meetings were held throughout the year: on 29 January, 24 March, 7 May, 23 July and 17 September, in addition to a videoconference on 25 August that focused on rocket launchings; on each side's concerns emanating from the situation in Syria; and on role of UNIFIL along the Blue Line.

There was no change in the status of the Israeli-occupied northern part of the village of Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line, which remained a violation of resolution 1701(2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty.

In 2014, LAF continued to work robustly to contain threats from armed groups along the border with Syria. Significant challenges to the security situation, however, came in the form of attacks carried out by violent extremist groups, including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusra Front in the Bekaa Valley. By year's end, Lebanese soldiers and security personnel continued to be held hostage near Aarsal by the Nusra Front and ISIL. On 14 August, Lebanon approved a grant of \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia to support the Lebanese security forces and combat terrorism. On 23 December, the Future Movement—former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri's party, led after his death by his son Saad Hariri—and Hizbullah initiated a dialogue under Speaker Nabih Berri's auspices aimed at lowering tensions between the Sunni and Shia communities, and agreeing on a mechanism to elect a new president.

One year after its formation, the International Support Group for Lebanon was concerned that the challenges facing Lebanon had become more severe.

On 16 January, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon opened the *in absentia* trial of the persons accused in connection with the 2005 killing of former Prime Minister Hariri. In December, the Secretary-General extended the mandate of the Tribunal for a period of three years beginning 1 March 2015.

Political and security developments

Security Council consideration. The Security Council considered the situation in Lebanon, UNIFIL and the implementation of Council resolu-

tions 1559(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 506], 1680(2006) and 1701(2006) in meetings held throughout the year.

On 20 January [S/PV.7096 & Resumption 1], the Secretary-General commended President Michel Sleiman's leadership in upholding the country's disassociation policy, which was vital to prevent the Syrian crisis from exacerbating tensions in Lebanon. On 16 January, nine years after the assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri, the trial of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon started. Violations of Lebanon's border with Syria continued, including an escalation of rocket firing and air strikes into Lebanon's Bekaa region. Refugees crossing into Lebanon had totalled over 860,000—a six-fold increase over 2013. The situation in the area of operations of UNIFIL remained relatively stable thanks to the cooperation of the Lebanese and Israeli authorities to contain incidents. The Security Council and the International Support Group for Lebanon [YUN 2013, p. 422] called for generous support for the humanitarian response and stabilization efforts, as well as for LAF, to whom Saudi Arabia pledged \$3 billion in assistance.

On 25 February [S/PV.7118], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman welcomed the formation, on 15 February, of a government of national interest, despite the continued tensions stemming from a series of terrorist attacks, as well as incidents of shelling and shooting from across the Syrian border into Lebanon.

On 20 May [S/PV.7178], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco reminded Council members that the term of President Sleiman's presidency would expire on 25 May and reiterated the importance of holding successful elections in Lebanon—entirely Lebanese-owned and free of foreign interference—and of avoiding a vacancy in the presidency. The security plan approved by the Government of Prime Minister Tammam Salam had improved security in Tripoli and the Bekaa Valley, despite incidents connected with the conflict in Syria and incidents in the Palestinian refugee camps.

On 29 May, the Council convened [S/PV.7190] to adopt a presidential statement (see p. 569).

On 23 June [S/PV.7204], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman informed the Council that Italy had hosted a ministerial conference in Rome on 17 June within the framework of the International Support Group for Lebanon on support to LAF.

On 4 August [SC/11507], the Security Council in a press statement condemned the attacks by violent extremist groups against LAF and internal security forces in the area of Aarsal, at the border with Syria, beginning on 2 August, which had led to at least 14 deaths, 86 injured, and 22 missing among the Lebanese security forces, in addition to civilian casualties.

On 14 August [S/PV.7241], the Council issued an official communiqué, following a closed meeting with UNIFIL troop- and police-contributing countries

and a briefing by Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Edmond Mulet.

On 26 August [S/PV.7248], the Security Council drew attention to a letter from the Secretary-General dated 31 July, by which the Secretary-General had recommended the renewal of the mandate of UNIFIL (see p. 572).

In his 16 September [S/PV.7266] briefing to the Council, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry said that LAF had regained control of the border town of Arsal from militants from Syria, including of the Nusra Front and ISIL, but efforts to secure the release of 27 LAF hostages continued. Between 11 July and 25 August, 10 separate incidents of rocket launchings from southern Lebanon towards Israel had taken place, and on five occasions the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) had responded with fire across the Blue Line—the United Nations-brokered delineation of the Israel-Lebanon border.

In a 21 October [S/PV.7281] briefing to the Council, the Secretary-General expressed his concern about the escalation of violence that had taken place in the country since the August attacks by ISIL and the Nusra Front on Arsal, and about the fighting that took place at the beginning of the month between the Nusra Front and Hizbullah outside the town of Brital.

On 15 December [S/PV.7339], Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Serry said that the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General was in Beirut for the launch of the new Lebanon crisis response plan to address the refugee presence in the country. He also reported that, on 5 December, a member of the Lebanese security forces had been executed by his captors, while 25 other Lebanese soldiers and security personnel were still being held hostage by the Nusra Front and ISIL. Further, on 2 December, six Lebanese soldiers had been killed in an attack on an army patrol by militants near the Syrian border.

Communications. In two letters, dated 9 January [A/68/703-S/2014/18] and 14 January [A/68/707-S/2014/25] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Lebanon transmitted complaints against Israel for waging electronic warfare on its communication and data networks.

Appointment. On 25 November [S/2014/860], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Sigrid Kaag (Netherlands) as the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, succeeding Derek Plumbly (United Kingdom). The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 28 November [S/2014/861].

In **resolution 69/212** of 19 December (see p. 1194), the General Assembly reiterated its request to Israel to assume responsibility for compensation to Lebanon and other countries affected by the oil slick on Lebanese and Syrian shores caused by Israeli military action in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1215].

Implementation of resolution 1559(2004)

The Secretary-General submitted his nineteenth and twentieth semi-annual reports on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 506], which called for strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government, the withdrawal of all remaining foreign forces from Lebanon, and the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias.

Report of Secretary-General (April). In April [S/2014/296], the Secretary-General, in his nineteenth semi-annual report, remarked that no tangible progress on key provisions of resolution 1559(2004) had taken place since his previous report in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 423]. Lebanon continued to face serious challenges to its stability and security, both internally and along its borders with Syria, including from arms smuggling and from further influxes of refugees. Despite being the smallest and most vulnerable of the countries neighbouring Syria, Lebanon hosted the largest number of Syrian refugees and, as a consequence, was facing significant humanitarian and socioeconomic challenges. Positive developments, however, had taken place on the political front.

Lebanon witnessed many terrorist incidents during the reporting period, leading to at least 65 fatalities and more than 400 injuries. The conflict in Syria continued to have an impact on the security and stability of Lebanon, with at least five attacks by the Syrian air force on the area around the Lebanese town of Arsal, close to the Syrian-Lebanese border. Among the positive developments during the reporting period were the opening of the trial in the Special Tribunal for Lebanon on 16 January of the persons accused in connection with the 2005 killing of former Prime Minister Hariri and the formation of a 24-member government on 15 February. The new Government committed itself to, among other things, preserving the sovereignty and improving the security of Lebanon; respecting Security Council resolutions; supporting the National Dialogue, including resuming discussions concerning the national defence strategy; building the capabilities of the armed forces; and following up on decisions agreed upon in the context of the International Support Group for Lebanon.

Since the adoption of resolution 1559(2004) on 2 September 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 506], the provisions that had been implemented were the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections, the withdrawal of Syrian troops and military assets from Lebanon in April 2005, and the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Syria in 2009. The delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border, however, had still not taken place. Further, the existence and activities of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias along

the border continued to pose a threat to the stability of the country and the region. The delineation and demarcation of the boundaries of Lebanon remained essential to guaranteeing national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as provided for by resolution 1559(2004), and in line with the 1989 Taif Agreement. The occupation by IDF of the northern part of the village of Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line continued, in violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon and resolutions 1559(2004) and 1701(2006).

During the reporting period, no progress was made in relation to the issue of the Shab'a Farms—a disputed agricultural area where Lebanon, Syria and Israel converged. Also in violation of resolutions 1559(2004) and 1701(2006), during the reporting period, unmanned aerial vehicles and fixed-wing aircraft of the Israeli armed forces made almost daily overflights of Lebanon. Lebanon had reiterated to the United Nations its intention to extend State authority over all Lebanese territory, as called for in the Taif Agreement and in resolution 1559(2004). The armed forces and internal security forces had played a crucial role in that respect under difficult circumstances. The ability of the Lebanese State to fully exercise its authority over all its territory, however, continued to be challenged. Several incidents—mostly linked to the war in Syria—had undermined national security and exacerbated sectarian tensions in Lebanon. Concern continued about the involvement of Lebanese fighters in Syria, notably those of Hizbullah. While Hizbullah publicly acknowledged its involvement in that fighting, the Lebanese Government continued to call upon all parties to adhere to the policy of disassociation agreed upon in the Baabda Declaration [YUN 2012, p. 422] during the National Dialogue session of June 2012.

Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias within the country continued to operate outside the control of the Government, in violation of resolution 1559(2004), with the armed component of Hizbullah being the most heavily armed. On 4 December, a Hizbullah commander was assassinated in Beirut. In addition, a number of Palestinian armed groups continued to operate in the country inside and outside the refugee camps.

The Secretary-General reiterated his support to the National Dialogue as the best way to deal with the issue of arms and achieve the goal of no weapons or armed forces in Lebanon other than those of the Lebanese State. A National Dialogue session was held on 31 March under the leadership of the President of Lebanon, to which the main Lebanese political groups participated, with the exception of Hizbullah and the Lebanese Forces.

An encouraging step had been the discussion of the President's 2012 vision for developing a national defence strategy. The Secretary-General urged all parties to engage in the National Dialogue and to

implement the decisions relating to the disarmament of non-Lebanese groups and the dismantling of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada military bases. Further, he urged the Government and armed forces of Lebanon to take all measures necessary to prohibit Hizbullah from acquiring weapons and building paramilitary capacities outside the authority of the State, and called upon countries in the region to encourage the transformation of the armed group into a solely political party.

Report of Secretary-General (October). In October, the Secretary-General submitted his twentieth semi-annual report [S/2014/720] on the implementation of resolution 1559(2004), providing an update on the subject since the April report. In response to the political situation in Lebanon, the Security Council, in a 29 May presidential statement (see p. 569), expressed disappointment and concern that the presidential elections had not been conducted within the time frame set out in the Constitution.

During the reporting period, Lebanon witnessed further challenges to its security situation, including five terrorist attacks and car bombs that left at least three people dead and tens injured. There were also at least 15 attacks by the Syrian air force on the area around the Lebanese town of Aarsal. In its press statement of 4 August, the Council condemned the attack by violent extremist groups on LAF and internal security forces around that town. The attack had started on 2 August and by the time it ended, on 7 August, caused some 100 fatalities and numerous injuries. Further, there were at least 23 cross-border shelling incidents and rocket attacks in the north-east of Lebanon, and reports of 22 air raids by the Syrian air force on Lebanese territory, which caused at least five deaths and more than 20 injuries. The Lebanese authorities had highlighted the need to defend Lebanon from such attacks and, on 25 July, the armed forces responded by firing back at the Syrian aircraft that had violated Lebanese sovereignty.

Until his term as President of Lebanon ended on 25 May, Michel Sleiman had maintained his calls for all Lebanese parties to disassociate themselves from the war in Syria. The Secretary-General, however, expressed his concern about the failure to elect a new president since Mr. Sleiman's mandate had ended, leaving the position of Head of State vacant for more than four months and increasing the country's vulnerability. No sessions of the National Dialogue had been convened since 5 May. On 26 September, the Secretary-General met the Lebanese Prime Minister and highlighted the importance of international support for the security and stability in Lebanon.

At the border between Lebanon and Syria, reports continued of arms trafficking in both directions, which caused concern among several Member States.

Israeli officials stated that they would act to prevent advanced weapons systems from being transferred to Hizbullah from Syria. Senior Hizbullah representatives, for their part, stated that they had no intention of acquiring chemical weapons. Despite the difficulty in controlling the border between Lebanon and Syria, LAF had been deployed to tighten security along the border. No tangible progress towards the disbanding and disarming of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias had been made during the reporting period. The Secretary-General reiterated the view that the National Dialogue was the best way to deal with the issue of arms and achieve the ultimate goal of no weapons or armed forces in Lebanon other than those of the Lebanese State.

The humanitarian conditions for Palestine refugees in Lebanon was growing dire. The influx of an additional 44,000 refugees from Syria had increased the tension between the Palestine refugees who had been residing in Lebanon and those arriving from Syria. The Secretary-General reiterated his call on donors to support UNRWA and its vital work in providing services to Palestine refugees in Lebanon. Lebanon hosted the largest number of refugees per capita in the world. The Secretary-General welcomed the activation of the multi-donor trust fund, established with the help of the World Bank, and encouraged Member States to fulfil their burden-sharing responsibilities by contributing generously through that and other mechanisms. The Secretary-General also called upon Israel to adhere to its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions: to withdraw its forces from the northern part of the village of Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line; and to cease its overflights of Lebanese airspace.

Implementation of resolution 1701(2006) and UNIFIL activities

Security Council resolution 1701(2006) [YUN 2006, p. 583], which was approved by both the Lebanese and the Israeli Governments, brought about a ceasefire, effective 14 August 2006, between Israel and Hizbullah after a month-long conflict that caused hundreds of civilian deaths and major infrastructure damage throughout Lebanon. By the same resolution, the Council expanded the mandate of UNIFIL to undertake substantial new tasks, in addition to tasks mandated under resolutions 425(1978) [YUN 1978, p. 312] and 426(1978) [ibid.], and authorized an increase in UNIFIL strength from 2,000 to a maximum of 15,000 troops. The Secretary-General updated the Council on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006) in three periodic reports during the year.

UNIFIL was established by Council resolution 425(1978), following Israel's invasion of Lebanon [YUN 1978, p. 296]. The Force was originally entrusted with confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces, re-

storing international peace and security, and assisting Lebanon in regaining authority in the southern part of the country. Following a second invasion in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 425], the Council, in resolution 511(1982) [ibid., p. 450], authorized the Force to carry out the additional task of providing protection and humanitarian assistance to the local population. After the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 465], UNIFIL was reinforced in order to monitor those territories previously occupied by Israel, to prevent the recurrence of fighting and to create conditions for the restoration of Lebanese authority in the area.

Communications. Throughout the year, Lebanon reported on Israeli violations of resolution 1701(2006) by air, land and sea, which resulted in the loss of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity [A/68/726-S/2014/70, A/68/772-S/2014/155, A/68/776-S/2014/134, A/68/806-S/2014/204, A/68/839-S/2014/284, A/68/848-S/2014/278, A/68/851-S/2014/294, A/68/876-S/2014/326, A/68/885-S/2014/359, A/68/888-S/2014/366, A/68/945-S/2014/482, A/68/952-S/2014/507, A/68/957-S/2014/548, A/68/973-S/2014/582, A/68/987-S/2014/654, A/69/412-S/2014/712, A/69/427-S/2014/717, A/69/526-S/2014/741, A/69/581-S/2014/823, A/69/715-S/2015/5, A/69/714-S/2015/8].

Israel, in communications sent from February through December to the Security Council, responded to some of Lebanon's letters and reported on Lebanese violations of Israeli sovereignty [S/2014/86, S/2014/254, S/2014/494, S/2014/626, S/2014/630, S/2014/724, S/2014/795, S/2014/878].

Report of Secretary-General (February). In February, the Secretary-General submitted his first report of the year [S/2014/130] on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701(2006), covering the period from 14 November 2013 to 27 February 2014.

In the midst of Lebanon's protracted political process and deteriorating security situation, UNIFIL area of operations remained relatively stable despite two serious violations of resolution 1701(2006), on 15 and on 29 December 2013. On 15 December, one IDF soldier was killed by a LAF soldier shooting across the Blue Line in an individual act. On 29 December, rockets launched from southern Lebanon against Israel were met with artillery response. Lebanon and Israel displayed their resolve to safeguard the quiet along the Blue Line and their commitment to resolution 1701(2006), although their respective outstanding obligations under the resolution remained pending.

There was an upsurge in terrorist incidents related to the conflict in Syria, as Al-Qaida-linked armed groups claimed responsibility for terrorist attacks in Lebanon, including a double suicide bombing of the Embassy of Iran in Beirut on 19 November 2013. As at 5 February 2014, there were a further six suicide bombings in Lebanon, killing 15 people. On 27 December 2013, former Minister Mohamad Chatah was assassinated, along with other five people, in a

car bomb attack. On 16 January, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon opened the in absentia trial of the persons accused in connection with the 2005 killing of former Prime Minister Hariri. Cross-border shelling and shooting from Syria into Lebanon continued.

The International Support Group for Lebanon met in New York on 25 November 2013. On 15 December, a multi-donor trust fund was established by the World Bank in support of Lebanon's stabilization efforts. The liaison and coordination arrangements between UNIFIL and the parties continued to serve as the foundation in implementing resolution 1701(2006), safeguarding the cessation of hostilities, ensuring full respect for the Blue Line, and protecting security and stability in southern Lebanon. The parties continued to engage constructively with UNIFIL both at the tripartite and bilateral levels. The tripartite forum chaired by the Force Commander of UNIFIL remained the key mechanism for addressing all security and military operational issues related to the implementation of resolution 1701(2006). During the reporting period, three tripartite meetings were held, on 4 and 16 December 2013 and 29 January 2014.

UNIFIL observed a number of brief ground violations of the Blue Line committed by Lebanese shepherds and farmers, mainly in the Shab'a Farms area (Sector East). There was no change in the status of the Israeli-occupied northern part of the village of Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line, which remained a violation of resolution 1701(2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty. Israel was yet to respond to the proposal of UNIFIL regarding security arrangements aimed at facilitating IDF withdrawal from the area, submitted to both parties on 25 June 2011. LAF had informed UNIFIL of its approval in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 463]. Air violations, mostly by unmanned aerial vehicles, continued almost daily in violation of resolution 1701(2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty. UNIFIL protested to IDF, calling upon the authorities to cease them immediately. The Israeli authorities continued to claim that the reconnaissance overflights were necessary security measures.

UNIFIL generally enjoyed full freedom of movement throughout its area of operations. During the reporting period, however, UNIFIL troops encountered five cases of unfriendly behaviour by civilians, some involving aggressive conduct towards peacekeepers and, in one instance, theft of UNIFIL equipment, which the Force reported to the Lebanese authorities. Despite those incidents, UNIFIL relations with the local population remained generally positive. The Force participated in joint outreach activities with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, providing medical, dental and veterinary assistance and implementing water and sanitation projects.

UNIFIL also provided assistance to LAF in establishing an area free of armed personnel, assets and

weapons between the Blue Line and the Litani River, other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL. Israel alleged that Hizbullah had been building up its military presence inside populated areas in southern Lebanon and that unauthorized weapons were being transferred into Lebanon, including into the area of operations of UNIFIL. UNIFIL, however, had neither been provided with, nor found, evidence of the unauthorized transfer of arms into its area of operations.

UNIFIL Maritime Task Force continued to carry out its dual mandate of conducting maritime interdiction operations and training LAF. Along the line of buoys, UNIFIL observed IDF patrol boats dropping depth charges and flares, but it had no mandate to monitor that line, which Israel had installed unilaterally and which Lebanon did not recognize. UNIFIL also continued to work with the parties to establish visible markers along the Blue Line. As at 29 January, the Force had cleared 300 points from mines, measured 230 points, constructed 203 points and verified 182 points.

As at 27 January 2014, the total military strength of UNIFIL was 10,113, including 365 women, supported by 52 military observers, including two women, of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). The civilian component consisted of 935 international and national staff, including 90 and 160 women, respectively. The Maritime Task Force consisted of three frigates, four fast patrol boats and two helicopters.

The Secretary-General remained concerned by the lack of progress towards achieving a permanent ceasefire to the conflict, envisaged in resolution 1701(2006), as major obligations under the resolution remained outstanding and required action by both parties.

Communication. In a 24 March letter [S/2014/216] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria transmitted its comments on the Secretary-General's February report (see above). Since Council resolution 1701(2006) was adopted as a result of Israel's military aggression against Lebanon, Syria believed that dealing with matters such as displaced Syrians in Lebanon and the demarcation of the border between Lebanon and Syria was outside the scope of resolution 1701(2006) and pertained to the national sovereignty of both countries.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 29 May [meeting 7190], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/10** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls all its previous resolutions and the statements by its President on the situation in Lebanon.

The Council pays tribute to the work of the outgoing President of Lebanon, Mr. Michel Sleiman, and expresses its disappointment and concern that the election of a new President of Lebanon has not taken place within the constitutional time frame. The Council urges the Parliament to uphold Lebanon's long-standing democratic tradition and to work to ensure that presidential elections take place as soon as possible and without external interference.

The Council reiterates its full support for the Government of Lebanon to discharge its duties during this interim period in accordance with the Constitution, until the election of the new President.

The Council looks forward to the continued engagement of the Lebanese authorities with the international community, in particular the International Support Group for Lebanon, to mobilize support for Lebanon. The Council reiterates the need for sustained international support to Lebanon in addressing the economic, security and humanitarian challenges facing the country and in meeting Lebanon's international obligations.

Recalling the statement by its President of 10 July 2013, the Council appeals to all Lebanese parties to preserve national unity in the face of attempts to undermine the stability of the country, consistent with their commitment in the Baabda Declaration, and stresses the importance for all Lebanese parties to respect Lebanon's policy of disassociation and to refrain from any involvement in the Syrian crisis.

The Council also stresses that effective implementation of Council resolution 1701(2006) and all other relevant Council resolutions remains crucial to ensuring stability in Lebanon and full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon.

Report of Secretary-General (June). In June, the Secretary-General submitted his second report of the year [S/2014/438] on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701(2006), covering the period from 28 February to 26 June. The area of operations of UNIFIL remained generally calm and stable. The cessation of hostilities was interrupted on 14 March, when IDF conducted heavy artillery shelling into Lebanon and directed tank fire at two houses in response to a roadside explosion that hit its patrol in the area of Shab'a Farms, south of the Blue Line. Immediately after the incident, UNIFIL engaged both parties urging them to defuse tensions and facilitate the restoration of the cessation of hostilities.

The security situation in Lebanon saw notable improvement following the adoption by the new Government of Lebanon of security plans for Tripoli and the Bekaa region, whose implementation began on 1 April and led to the successful interdiction of people and materiel associated with terrorist activities. Three terrorist attacks did, however, occur: on 16 and 29 March, and on 20 June, killing a total of 8 people.

The ongoing conflict in Syria led to a further influx of Syrian nationals into Lebanon: as at 11 June, there were 1,093,603 registered Syrian refugees assisted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees (UNHCR)—an increase of approximately 197,906 since February. Lebanon established a committee chaired by the Prime Minister to address refugee-related issues. On 31 May, the Minister of the Interior announced that Syrian refugees who returned to Syria after 1 June would lose their refugee status in Lebanon. Approximately 80 per cent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon were women and children; problems arose also in securing birth registration for Syrian refugee children born in Lebanon, owing to a weak legal framework.

On the political front, upon the expiration of the term of President Sleiman, the powers of the presidency transferred to the Council of Ministers under the leadership of Prime Minister Salam, in accordance with the Constitution. On 5 March the International Support Group for Lebanon met in Paris.

UNIFIL continued to carry out, along with LAF, daily activities between the Blue Line and the Litani River. In 17 cases, UNIFIL patrols encountered unfriendly or hostile behaviour from local civilians, but the relations with the local population remained largely positive.

Two tripartite meetings took place, on 24 March and on 7 May, at which the incidents occurred during the reporting period were addressed. Following discussions at the 24 March meeting about the 14 March incident, UNIFIL increased its presence along the Blue Line in the Shab'a Farms area to deter possible illicit activities. UNIFIL continued to work with the parties to erect visible markers along the Blue Line; as at 3 June, the Force had cleared 307 points from mines, measured 235 points, constructed 216 points and verified 194 points.

Hizbullah continued to acknowledge publicly that it maintained a substantial military capacity separate from that of the Lebanese State, which allegedly served as a deterrent against potential aggression from Israel. President Sleiman continued to advocate the approach to the control of Hizbullah's arms contained in the national defence strategy proposal that he had presented under the National Dialogue in September 2012. On 31 March and 5 May, President Sleiman chaired National Dialogue sessions, at which participants considered how best to take forward the national defence strategy proposal and to abide by Lebanon's policy of disassociation pursuant to the Baabda Declaration of 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 422]. Arms outside the control of the State continued to threaten stability in Lebanon. Despite a drop in the frequency and size of attacks on civilians, suicide bomb attacks took place on 19 February, 16 and 29 March. While a greater degree of stability appeared to have been established in Tripoli, no progress was made in the dismantling of the military bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada—as decided during the 2006 National

Dialogue. The existence of such bases compromised Lebanese sovereignty and impeded the ability of the State to monitor and control effectively parts of the Lebanese-Syrian border. On 28 March, leaders of Palestinian factions in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon signed a memorandum of understanding to insulate the camps from regional and local tensions. Despite that positive step, however, several camps witnessed increased intra-Palestinian violence.

UNIFIL cleared more than 1,307 square metres of hazardous areas to provide access to Blue Line points, found and destroyed 116 anti-personnel landmines and reached seven Blue Line points. No progress was made in delineating or demarcating the Lebanese-Syrian border, including in areas where it was uncertain or disputed, as called for in Security Council resolutions 1680(2006) and 1701(2006).

As at 8 June, the total military strength of UNIFIL was 10,112, including 407 women, from 37 troop-contributing countries, supported by 52 UNTSO military observers, including two women. The civilian component consisted of 962 international and national staff, including 236 women. The Force's Maritime Task Force consisted of two frigates, including one carrying a helicopter, a corvette with a helicopter and five fast patrol boats.

The Secretary-General urged the parties to work towards fulfilling their respective obligations under resolution 1701(2006), and to make full use of the de-confliction tools UNIFIL put at their disposal. He remained concerned about incidents impeding UNIFIL movement and aggressive behaviour towards its personnel, and called for the implementation of earlier decisions of the National Dialogue, including the disarmament of non-Lebanese groups and the dismantling of the military bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada.

Report of Secretary-General (November). In November, the Secretary-General submitted his third report of the year [S/2014/784] on the implementation of Council resolution 1701(2006), covering the period from 27 June to 5 November. In the first part of the reporting period, he noted that the prevailing stability along the Blue Line and in the area of operations of UNIFIL was threatened by heightened tension resulting from the outbreak of the Gaza conflict in July and August. During that period, rockets were fired on nine occasions from Lebanon towards Israel. On five occasions, Israel responded with artillery fire. In addition, there were two serious incidents in the Shab'a Farms area (Sector East), on 5 and 7 October. In each instance, quick intervention by UNIFIL and positive engagement by both Lebanon and Israel through UNIFIL liaison and coordination channels helped to contain the situation. In spite of those incidents, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation

of resolution 1701(2006) and worked with UNIFIL to mitigate tensions and preserve the general calm along the Blue Line.

The security situation in Lebanon was significantly challenged by attacks carried out by violent extremist groups, including ISIL and the Nusra Front, in areas bordering Syria. On 2 August, militant groups entered Aarsal, precipitating five days of deadly fighting with LAF that ended with the withdrawal of the militants to the outskirts of the town. On 14 August, Lebanon approved a grant of \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia to support the Lebanese security forces and combat terrorism. In addition, Member States stepped up assistance to LAF following the attack on Aarsal.

As at early November, there were 1.1 million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon—an increase of 30,000 since June.

Since the end of President Sleiman's term in office on 25 May, fourteen sessions of Parliament scheduled to elect a new President had failed to take place owing to a lack of quorum. In the absence of a President, the Council of Ministers led by Prime Minister Salam had assumed the powers of the Presidency. The Parliament's term was due to expire on 20 November and the political parties had been engaged in discussions about a further extension of the Parliament's mandate if the parliamentary elections due to be held by 16 November did not take place. A ministerial meeting of the International Support Group for Lebanon took place in New York on 26 September in New York. Participants were concerned that on the first anniversary of the Group's formation the challenges facing Lebanon had become more severe over the past year. The Group reconvened on 28 October in Berlin.

In the area of operations of UNIFIL, there were nine incidents of rockets launched from Lebanon towards Israel between July and August, to some of which IDF responded by firing artillery shells into Lebanon. UNIFIL maintained close contact with both sides, investigated all the incidents, and shared its findings and recommendations with both parties. Violations of Lebanese airspace by IDF continued, with almost daily overflights by unmanned aerial vehicles. Since June, UNIFIL had also observed a significant increase in the number of Blue Line violations mainly by IDF, which the Secretary-General considered unacceptable. During the reporting period, there were also serious incidents involving IDF and LAF personnel aiming their weapons at peacekeepers. UNIFIL strongly protested each incident to the concerned party. In general, however, UNIFIL generally enjoyed full freedom of movement throughout its area of operations.

UNIFIL and LAF continued to carry out their coordinated activities. During the reporting period, two regular tripartite meetings were held, on 23 July and 17 September, in addition to a videoconference on 25 August. The tripartite discussions largely focused

on the rocket launchings and on each side's concerns about the situation in Syria. At the centre of those discussions was the role of UNIFIL in maintaining stability in its area of operations and along the Blue Line.

UNIFIL made progress with the parties in establishing markers along the Blue Line. As at 14 October, the Force had cleared access lanes to 311 points from mines and unexploded ordnance, measured 238 points, constructed 225 points and verified 203 points.

As at 21 October, the total military strength of UNIFIL was 10,519 from 38 troop-contributing countries, including 410 women, supported by 55 UNTSO military observers, including one woman. The civilian component consisted of 1,159 personnel, including 238 women. With a view to streamlining the Maritime Task Force requirements while maintaining its operational capability, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations recommended reconfiguring the Maritime Task Force in phases by gradually substituting frigates with corvettes.

The Secretary-General urged the parties to take more tangible steps towards full compliance with resolution 1701(2006), as the deployment of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon could not substitute for a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution. At the same time, the parties must maintain their commitment to the cessation of hostilities; fully respect the Blue Line in its entirety; continue working with UNIFIL on confidence-building measures, including visibly marking the Blue Line; and further strengthen the liaison and coordination arrangements. There were also other actions that each party had to undertake separately. For Israel, they included the withdrawal of IDF from northern Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line, which was long overdue, and the full cessation of violations of Lebanese airspace, which exacerbated tensions in the area of operations of UNIFIL. For Lebanon, it was important to make further progress towards exercising effective authority over the entire Lebanese territory, preventing the use of its territory for hostile activities, and ensuring the implementation of Government decisions and of resolution 1701(2006) with respect to an area free of armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government and of UNIFIL.

Four years into the Syrian conflict, the impact of that crisis on Lebanon had never been as severe. The Secretary-General called upon the Government of Syria and all parties fighting in that country to cease violations of the border and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. He also condemned the participation of Lebanese parties and citizens in the conflict in Syria in breach of the policy of disassociation adopted by the Government of Lebanon and of the principles of the 2012 Baabda Declaration.

The Secretary-General appealed to the international community to fully acknowledge the unique

burden Lebanon bore in hosting the largest number of refugees from Syria, and to recognize the need for sustained international efforts to assist them and share the burden. Further, he welcomed Palestinian efforts to work with the Lebanese authorities to maintain order in the Palestinian refugee camps, and reiterated how crucial it was to improve the living conditions of Palestine refugees in Lebanon.

Recognizing that for both Lebanon and Israel the exploration and development of their offshore oil and gas reserves was a national priority, he encouraged both Governments to address the delimitation of their respective maritime exclusive zones.

UNIFIL

Appointment. On 12 June [S/2014/411], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Major General Luciano Portolano (Italy) as Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNIFIL to succeed Major General Paolo Serra (Italy), who would complete his assignment on 24 July. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention on 16 June [S/2014/412].

Extension of UNIFIL mandate. On 31 July [S/2014/554], the Secretary-General requested the Council to consider the renewal of the mandate of UNIFIL, which was due to expire on 31 August, for one year. On 26 August, by resolution 2172(2014) (see below), the Council extended the mandate for one year, until 31 August 2015, with no major changes in deployment.

As at 23 July, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIFIL amounted to \$19.2 million and amounts owed to UNIFIL troop-contributors totalled \$24.1 million. Reimbursements of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs had been made for the periods up to 30 April and 31 March, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 26 August [meeting 7248], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2172(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/614] was submitted by France, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on Lebanon, in particular resolutions 425(1978) and 426(1978) of 19 March 1978, 1559(2004) of 2 September 2004, 1680(2006) of 17 May 2006, 1701(2006) of 11 August 2006, 1773(2007) of 24 August 2007, 1832(2008) of 27 August 2008, 1884(2009) of 27 August 2009, 1937(2010) of 30 August 2010, 2004(2011) of 30 August 2011, 2064(2012) of 30 August 2012 and 2115(2013) of 29 August 2013, as well as the statements by its President on the situation in Lebanon,

Responding to the request of the Government of Lebanon to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force

in Lebanon for a new period of one year, without amendment, presented in the letter dated 25 July 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon to the Secretary-General, and welcoming the letter dated 31 July 2014 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council recommending this extension,

Reiterating its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of all provisions of resolution 1701(2006), and aware of its responsibilities to help to secure a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in the resolution,

Calling upon all parties concerned to strengthen their efforts to fully implement all provisions of resolution 1701(2006) without delay,

Expressing deep concern at all violations in connection with resolution 1701(2006), and looking forward to the rapid finalization of the investigations by the Force with a view to preventing such violations in the future,

Welcoming the constructive role played by the tripartite mechanism in de-escalating tensions, and expressing its support for the efforts of the Force to engage with both parties to further develop liaison and coordination arrangements,

Emphasizing the importance of full compliance with the prohibition on sales and supply of arms and related materiel established by resolution 1701(2006),

Recalling the utmost importance that all parties concerned respect the Blue Line in its entirety, welcoming the continued progress in the marking of the Blue Line, and encouraging the parties to accelerate their efforts in coordination with the Force to visibly mark the Blue Line in its entirety, as well as to move forward on the marking of its points of contention, as recommended by the strategic review of the Force,

Condemning in the strongest terms all attempts to threaten the security and stability of Lebanon, reaffirming its determination to ensure that no such acts of intimidation will prevent the Force from implementing its mandate in accordance with resolution 1701(2006), and recalling the necessity for all parties to ensure that Force personnel are secure and their freedom of movement is fully respected and unimpeded,

Recalling the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Commending the active role and dedication of the personnel of the Force, expressing its strong appreciation to Member States that contribute to the Force, and underlining the necessity that the Force have at its disposal all necessary means and equipment to carry out its mandate,

Recalling the request of the Government of Lebanon to deploy an international force to assist it to exercise its authority throughout the territory, and reaffirming the authority of the Force to take all necessary action, in areas of operations of its forces and as it deems within its capabilities, to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind and to resist attempts by forceful means to prevent it from discharging its mandate,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations, including the Force, under close review, and stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Expressing its full support for the strategic priorities and recommendations identified by the Secretary-General in his letter dated 12 March 2012 to the President of the Security Council as a result of the strategic review of the Force, and requesting the Secretary-General to continue to update the Council on the implementation of the strategic review,

Calling upon Member States to assist the Lebanese Armed Forces as needed to enable them to perform their duties in line with resolution 1701(2006),

Determining that the situation in Lebanon continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend the present mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon until 31 August 2015;

2. *Commends* the positive role of the Force, whose deployment together with the Lebanese Armed Forces has helped to establish a new strategic environment in southern Lebanon, welcomes the expansion of coordinated activities between the Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces, and calls for further enhancement of this cooperation;

3. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the engagement of the Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces in the strategic dialogue, which aims at carrying out analysis of ground forces and maritime assets and setting a series of benchmarks reflecting the correlation between the capacities and responsibilities of the Force vis-à-vis those of the Lebanese Armed Forces, with a view to identifying Lebanese Armed Forces requirements for implementing tasks mandated in resolution 1701(2006), and in this regard is encouraged by the progress made in the formalization of a regular strategic dialogue mechanism between the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Force;

4. *Commends*, in this context, the Lebanese Armed Forces for their efforts regarding their wider capabilities development plan, of which the strategic dialogue plan forms a separate but integral component, consistent with the relevant recommendations of the strategic review of the Force, encourages Member States to support the Lebanese Armed Forces, in particular through the established coordination tools of international assistance to build up Lebanese Armed Forces capabilities, including through training, as these forces are a central pillar of the country's stability; and recognizes in this regard the importance of the International Support Group for Lebanon and the related meetings held in Paris and Rome, as well as substantial contributions already made by some donors;

5. *Strongly calls upon* all parties concerned to respect the cessation of hostilities, to prevent any violation of the Blue Line and to respect it in its entirety and to cooperate fully with the United Nations and the Force;

6. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the constructive role played by the tripartite mechanism in facilitating coordination and in de-escalating tensions, and expresses support for the efforts of the Force to engage with both parties to further develop liaison and coordination arrangements;

7. *Urges* all parties to abide scrupulously by their obligation to respect the safety of the Force and other United Nations personnel and to ensure that the freedom of movement of the Force is fully respected and unimpeded, in conformity with its mandate and its rules of engagement, including by avoiding any course of action which endangers United Nations personnel, and in this regard calls for further cooperation between the Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces, in particular regarding coordinated and ad-

jacent patrols, welcomes the commitment of the Lebanese authorities to protect the movements of the Force, and reiterates its call for the rapid finalization of the investigation launched by Lebanon regarding the attacks of 27 May, 26 July and 9 December 2011 in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of those attacks;

8. *Also urges* all parties to cooperate fully with the Security Council and the Secretary-General to make tangible progress towards a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in resolution 1701(2006), and emphasizes that more work remains to be done by the parties to advance the full implementation of resolution 1701(2006);

9. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expedite the withdrawal of its army from northern Ghajar without further delay in coordination with the Force, which has actively engaged Israel and Lebanon to facilitate such a withdrawal;

10. *Reaffirms its call upon* all States to fully support and respect the establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani River of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and the Force;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1701(2006) every four months or at any time as he deems appropriate;

13. *Stresses* the importance of, and the need to achieve, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 338(1973) of 22 October 1973, 1515(2003) of 19 November 2003 and 1850(2008) of 16 December 2008;

14. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Financing

The General Assembly had before it the Secretary-General's performance report on the budget of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/618]. Expenditures amounted to \$545.3 million, representing an almost full utilization of resources, leaving an unencumbered balance of \$7,500.

In February [A/68/757], the Secretary-General submitted the budget of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, amounting to \$488,946,300. The budget provided for the deployment of 15,000 military personnel, 313 international staff and 653 national staff.

In May [A/68/782/Add.12], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended that the unencumbered balance of \$7,500, as well as other income and adjustments in the

amount of \$6,996,400, be credited to Member States. It also recommended that the Assembly appropriate \$487,208,400 for the maintenance of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, and assess an amount of \$81,201,400 for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2014.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/68/928], adopted **resolution 68/292** by recorded vote (138-3-1) [agenda item 159 (b)].

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 425(1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2115(2013) of 29 August 2013, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2014,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/279 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of 14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004, 59/307 of 22 June 2005, 60/278 of 30 June 2006, 61/250 A of 22 December 2006, 61/250 B of 2 April 2007, 61/250 C of 29 June 2007, 62/265 of 20 June 2008, 63/298 of 30 June 2009, 64/282 of 24 June 2010, 65/303 of 30 June 2011, 66/277 of 21 June 2012 and 67/279,

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April

2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 32.6 million United States dollars, representing some 0.5 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 74 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298, 64/282, 65/303, 66/277 and 67/279;

5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C, 62/265, 63/298, 64/282, 65/303, 66/277 and 67/279;

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

8. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

10. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

13. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 B, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 C, paragraph 21 of resolution 62/265, paragraph 19 of resolution 63/298, paragraph 18 of resolution 64/282, paragraph 15 of resolution 65/303, paragraph 13 of resolution 66/277 and paragraph 13 of resolution 67/279, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dol-

lars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

15. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 549,322,600 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 509,554,400 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 32,971,700 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 6,796,500 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

16. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 91,553,770 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

17. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,407,130 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,957,150 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 348,780 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 101,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 457,768,830 dollars for the period from 1 September 2014 to 30 June 2015 at a monthly rate of 45,776,883 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and for 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

19. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 18 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 12,035,670 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 9,785,750 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 1,743,920 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 506,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

20. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 7,003,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239,

taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

21. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 7,003,900 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 20 above;

22. *Decides* that the increase of 2,250,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 7,003,900 dollars referred to in paragraphs 20 and 21 above;

23. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

24. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

25. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 68/292:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, United States.

Abstaining: Zambia.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of

UNIFIL would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Special Tribunal for Lebanon

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon was established in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 505] to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the terrorist bombing on 14 February 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 551] that resulted in the death of former Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri and 21 others in Beirut. It succeeded the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission, which was established by Security Council resolution 1595(2005) [ibid., p. 553]. The Tribunal consisted of the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor, the Defence Office and the Registry. On 16 January, the Special Tribunal opened the in absentia trial of the persons accused in connection with the killing of Prime Minister Hariri.

Extension of mandate. On 23 December [S/2014/949], the Secretary-General informed the Council of his intention to extend the mandate of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon for a period of three years beginning 1 March 2015, as the work of the Tribunal had not been completed. On 26 December [S/2014/950], the Council took note of the Secretary-General's intention.

Syrian Arab Republic

In 2014, the conflict in Syria entered its fourth year. After two rounds of intra-Syrian negotiations in January and February, the talks of the Geneva Conference on Syria on implementation of the 2012 Geneva communiqué [YUN 2012, p. 448] stalled. Between March 2011 and March 2014, more than 100,000 people had been killed; more than 600,000 people injured; and more than 9.3 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance, 6.5 million of whom were internally displaced. Nearly 2.6 million people had sought refuge in neighbouring countries and North Africa. Approximately half of the 540,000 Palestine refugees registered in Syria had been displaced within the country, with at least another 70,000 displaced abroad. Some 5.5 million Syrian children needed assistance.

During the year, the continuing non-compliance with Security Council resolution 2139(2014) (see p. 578) prompted the Council to adopt resolution 2165(2014) (see p. 583), which enabled the United Nations and partners to reach more locations where assistance was urgently needed.

On 28 March, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria for one year. On 8 April, the High Commissioner for Human

Rights called on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

On 29 April, a new fact-finding mission was established by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to investigate allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, in particular chlorine, for hostile purposes at various locations during the year.

The Joint Mission of the OPCW and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme ended on 30 September.

Failure to resolve the conflict in Syria produced an enabling environment for Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and Al-Qaida-affiliated groups, spreading outwards from Iraq and posing a threat to regional and international peace and security. On 15 August, the Security Council adopted resolution 2170(2014) (see p. 131), expressing concern that parts of Syria were under the control of such groups and demanding their immediate disarmament and disbandment. On 23 September, the international coalition undertook air strikes against ISIL and other targets, which continued into November on an almost daily basis.

In January, the Secretary-General issued his first report on children and armed conflict in Syria, which assigned blame on both Syrian Government forces and their associated militias; Syrian Kurdish armed groups; Free Syrian Army (FSA)-affiliated groups; the Nusra Front; Ahrar al-Sham; ISIL; and other independent or unidentified armed groups for committing atrocities against children.

Political and security developments

Communications. Throughout the year, Syria, in a series of letters [A/68/730-S/2014/66, A/68/746-S/2014/89, S/2014/195, A/68/810-S/2014/207, A/68/815-S/2014/209, S/2014/217, S/2014/218, S/2014/223, A/68/821-S/2014/232, A/68/836-S/2014/260, A/68/850-S/2014/292, A/68/863-S/2014/309, A/68/873-S/2014/324, A/68/877-S/2014/334, A/68/889-S/2014/372, S/2014/426, A/68/912-S/2014/433, A/68/949-S/2014/484, A/68/974-S/2014/590, A/68/984-S/2014/642, A/69/426-S/2014/719, A/69/531-S/2014/742, S/2014/817, A/69/646-S/2014/874, S/2014/938, S/2014/952], brought to the attention of the Secretary-General and the Security Council concerns such as the presence in the country of terrorist groups, including organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida, which carried out attacks in the Hamah governorate, the city of Homs, Damascus and Aleppo; the interference in the Syrian crisis by Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia; a letter from Syrian and Arab lawyers; a report of a judicial commission of the Minister of Justice established in early July to investigate an attack carried out in the Hamah governorate; information included in a Security Council press statement of 31 October [SC/11626] concerning an alleged attack to a displaced persons camps in the Idlib governorate; and aggres-

sions by Israel. On 13 February [A/68/764-S/2014/102], Syria informed the Security Council of the measures taken by its Government to deliver humanitarian aid between December 2013 and February 2014 to different locations, including the Yarmuk camp and the old city of Homs.

On 11 February [A/68/769-S/2014/92], Saudi Arabia, in response to a 2013 letter transmitted by Syria, affirmed that, since the Syrian crisis began, it had consistently supported efforts to arrive at a peaceful resolution and had cooperated with the international community as it responded to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war waged by the Syrian regime against its people.

On 14 February [S/2014/108], the Sudan, in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Arab States for the month of February, expressed the Group's support to a Security Council draft resolution concerning the humanitarian assistance to and protection of civilians in Syria.

On 2 April [S/2014/244], France transmitted a report on the torture and summary execution of persons incarcerated by the Syrian regime. The report was made public in January and was prepared by a commission of inquiry consisting of legal, medical and medical imaging experts, chaired by the former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

On 9 April [A/68/833-S/2014/255], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General a declaration by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the escalation of tensions in north-western Syria, which was adopted in Moscow on 3 April.

On 19 May [A/68/884-S/2014/361], Switzerland transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter sent to all United Nations Member States and Observers calling upon them to co-sponsor the French draft Security Council resolution referring the situation in Syria since March 2011 to the International Criminal Court.

Security Council consideration. On 20 January [S/PV.7096 & Resumption 1], the Secretary-General, addressing the Council's open debate, expressed his gratitude to the many countries that had pledged generous funding at the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference on Syria, held in Kuwait City on 15 January.

On 22 February [S/PV.7116], the Council held a meeting to vote on a draft resolution, which was adopted unanimously as resolution 2139(2014).

On 25 February [S/PV.7118], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman informed the Council that significant developments had taken place in relation to the Syrian crisis, with the holding of the Geneva Conference on Syria, which started on 22 January, and the Council's adoption of resolution 2139(2014) on 22 February, regarding the humanitarian situation in the country.

On 23 June [S/PV.7204], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman summarized the six points made by the Secretary-General on 20 June concerning Syria to help address the situation in the country in an integrated way.

On 14 July [S/PV.7216], the Council held a meeting to vote on a draft resolution, which was adopted unanimously as resolution 2165(2014).

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 February [meeting 7116], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2139(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/115] was submitted by Australia, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2042(2012) of 14 April 2012, 2043(2012) of 21 April 2012 and 2118(2013) of 27 September 2013, and the statements by its President of 3 August 2011, 21 March and 5 April 2012 and 2 October 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Being appalled at the unacceptable and escalating level of violence and the death of well over 100,000 people in the Syrian Arab Republic, including over 10,000 children, as reported by the Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,

Expressing grave alarm at the significant and rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular the dire situation of hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped in besieged areas, most of whom are besieged by the Syrian armed forces and some by opposition groups, as well as the dire situation of over three million people in hard-to-reach areas, and deploring the difficulties in providing, and the failure to provide, access for the humanitarian assistance to all civilians in need inside the Syrian Arab Republic,

Emphasizing the need to respect the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance, and stressing the importance of such assistance being delivered on the basis of need, devoid of any political prejudices and aims, commending the efforts of the United Nations and all humanitarian and medical personnel in the Syrian Arab Republic and in neighbouring countries, and condemning all acts or threats of violence against United Nations staff and humanitarian actors, which have resulted in the death, injury and detention of many humanitarian personnel,

Expressing grave concern at the increasing number of refugees and internally displaced persons caused by the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, which has a destabilizing impact on the entire region, and underscoring its appreciation for the significant and admirable efforts that have been made by the countries of the region, notably Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate the more than 2.4 million refugees who have fled the Syrian Arab Republic as a result of the ongoing violence, while acknowledging the enormous political, socioeconomic and financial

impact of the presence of large-scale populations in these countries, and underscoring the need for all parties to respect and maintain the security and civilian character of camps for refugees and internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the pledges totalling 2.5 billion United States dollars made at the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, hosted by Kuwait on 15 January 2014, and expressing its appreciation to Member States and regional and subregional organizations that have pledged to provide humanitarian assistance to people in need in all parts of the Syrian Arab Republic, including internally displaced persons, as well as to refugees in neighbouring host countries, and calling upon all Member States to ensure the timely disbursement of pledges and continued support in line with growing humanitarian needs,

Calling upon all parties to immediately end all violence which has led to human suffering in the Syrian Arab Republic, save the Syrian Arab Republic's rich societal mosaic and cultural heritage and take appropriate steps to ensure the protection of its World Heritage Sites,

Strongly condemning the increased terrorist attacks resulting in numerous casualties and destruction carried out by organizations and individuals associated with Al-Qaida, its affiliates and other terrorist groups, and reiterating its call upon all parties to commit to putting an end to terrorist acts perpetrated by such organizations and individuals, while reaffirming that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed,

Expressing its regret that the statement by its President of 2 October 2013 has not delivered as expected and has not yet translated into meaningful progress on the ground, and that humanitarian aid delivery continues to be impeded throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, while condemning all cases of denial of humanitarian access and recalling that arbitrary denial of humanitarian access and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supply and access, can constitute a violation of international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate in the absence of a political solution to the crisis, reiterating its endorsement of the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria (Geneva communiqué) of 30 June 2012, and demanding that all parties work towards the immediate and comprehensive implementation of the Geneva communiqué aimed at bringing an immediate end to all violence, violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international law, and facilitating the Syrian-led political process launched in Montreux, Switzerland, on 22 January 2014, leading to a transition that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and enables them independently and democratically to determine their own future,

1. *Strongly condemns* the widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities, as well as the human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law by armed groups, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as all grave violations and abuses committed against children in contravention of applicable international law, such as recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape, attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as

arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, ill treatment and use as human shields, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic;

2. *Demands* that all parties immediately put an end to all forms of violence, irrespective of where it comes from, cease and desist from all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights and reaffirm their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and stresses that some of these violations may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity;

3. *Also demands* that all parties immediately cease all attacks against civilians, as well as the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs, and methods of warfare which are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering, and recalls in this regard the obligation to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and further recalls, in particular, the obligation to distinguish between civilian populations and combatants and the prohibition against indiscriminate attacks and attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such;

4. *Further demands* that all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, fully implement the provisions of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 2 October 2013, including through facilitating the expansion of humanitarian relief operations, in accordance with applicable provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance;

5. *Calls upon* all parties to immediately lift the sieges of populated areas, including in the old city of Homs (Homs), Nubul and Zahra (Aleppo), Madamiyet Elsham (Rural Damascus), Yarmouk (Damascus), eastern Ghouta (Rural Damascus), Darayya (Rural Damascus) and other locations, and demands that all parties allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, cease depriving civilians of food and medicine indispensable to their survival, and enable the rapid, safe and unhindered evacuation of all civilians who wish to leave, and underscores the need for the parties to agree on humanitarian pauses, days of tranquillity, localized ceasefires and truces to allow humanitarian agencies safe and unhindered access to all affected areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, recalling that starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited by international humanitarian law;

6. *Demands* that all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, promptly allow rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, including across conflict lines and across borders, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches people in need through the most direct routes;

7. *Urges* all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, to take all appropriate steps to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and all humanitarian actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the affected people in the Syrian Arab Republic, including by promptly facilitating safe and unhindered humanitarian access to populations in need of assistance in all areas under their control, and encourages further cooperation between

the United Nations, its specialized agencies and all parties concerned, including Syrian civil society organizations, to facilitate access and the delivery of assistance in the entirety of the Syrian territory;

8. *Demands* that all parties respect the principle of medical neutrality and facilitate free passage to all areas for medical personnel, equipment, transport and supplies, including surgical items, and recalls that under international humanitarian law the wounded and sick must receive, to the fullest extent practicable, and with the least possible delay, medical care and attention required by their condition and that medical and humanitarian personnel, facilities and transport must be respected and protected, and expresses grave concern in this regard at the removal of medical supplies from humanitarian shipments;

9. *Also demands* that all parties take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including members of ethnic, religious and confessional communities, and stresses that in this regard the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities;

10. *Further demands* that all parties demilitarize medical facilities, schools and other civilian facilities and avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and desist from attacks directed against civilian objects;

11. *Strongly condemns* the arbitrary detention and torture of civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic, notably in prisons and detention facilities, as well as kidnappings, abductions and forced disappearances, and demands the immediate end of these practices and the release of all arbitrarily detained persons, starting with women and children, as well as sick, wounded and elderly people, and including United Nations personnel and journalists;

12. *Urges* all parties to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel, those of its specialized agencies, and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities, without prejudice to their freedom of movement and access, stresses that the primary responsibility in this regard lies with the Syrian authorities, and further stresses the need not to impede these efforts;

13. *Stresses* the need to end impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and reaffirms that those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for such violations and abuses in the Syrian Arab Republic must be brought to justice;

14. *Strongly condemns* the increased terrorist attacks resulting in numerous casualties and destruction carried out by organizations and individuals associated with Al-Qaida, its affiliates and other terrorist groups, urges the opposition groups to maintain their rejection of these organizations and individuals which are responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law in opposition-held areas, calls upon the Syrian authorities and opposition groups to commit to combating and defeating organizations and individuals associated with Al-Qaida, its affiliates and other terrorist groups, demands that all foreign fighters immediately withdraw from the Syrian Arab Republic, and reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed;

15. *Emphasizes* that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate in the absence of a political solution, welcomes in this regard the Geneva Conference on Syria, launched in Montreux, Switzerland, on 22 January 2014, and demands that all parties work towards the comprehensive implementation of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 leading to a genuine political transition that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and enables them independently and democratically to determine their own future, and further stresses that rapid progress on a political solution should include full participation by all groups and segments of Syrian society, including women, and represents the only sustainable opportunity to resolve the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic peacefully and that the implementation of the present resolution is key to meeting the humanitarian needs of the Syrian people;

16. *Urges* all Member States to contribute or increase their support to the United Nations humanitarian appeals to meet the spiralling needs of people affected by the crisis and to provide this support in coordination with the relevant United Nations agencies, and to ensure that all pledges are honoured in full, and further urges all Member States, based on burden-sharing principles, to support the neighbouring host countries to enable them to respond to the growing humanitarian needs, including by providing direct support;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular paragraphs 2 to 12, in 30 days from its adoption and every 30 days thereafter, and upon receipt of the report of the Secretary-General expresses its intent to take further steps in the case of non-compliance with the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014)

Report of Secretary-General (March). In March [S/2014/208], pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139(2014) (see above), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to it every 30 days on the implementation of the resolution by all parties in Syria, the Secretary-General provided information on the humanitarian situation in the country covering the period from 22 February to 21 March. The information was based on the data provided by the Syrian Government and the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria.

Indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, including aerial bombings, shelling, mortars and car bombs in populated areas, caused mass civilian death and injuries, and forced displacement. Clashes between government and opposition forces continued in most parts of the country. Many car bombings and suicide attacks, including against civilian targets were claimed by ISIL and the Nusra Front. Clashes also took place between armed opposition groups and ISIL, mainly in the north. Government-controlled cities and towns, including Damascus, were subject to

mortar attacks by armed opposition groups. Reported daily death tolls were on average more than 200 people, including civilians. Fighting was particularly intense in Aleppo, Dar'a and Rural Damascus governorates. At least 500,000 people had been displaced from Aleppo since late January, and 159,000 from Dar'a as at the end of February. In Rural Damascus governorate, around 50,000 people had fled the city of Yabroud—which was recaptured by Government forces on 16 March—including nearly 14,000 who had fled to Aarsal in Lebanon.

Despite the worsening security situation, in February, the World Food Programme (WFP) and partners were able to provide food to 3.7 million people in 13 of the country's 14 governorates. Between 22 February and 8 March, UNHCR and partners delivered essential relief items for more than 1 million people in all governorates, except Deir-ez-Zor. On 25 February, the International Organization for Migration reached Deir-ez-Zor governorate for the first time since March 2013 with basic life-saving commodities for 13,000 internally displaced persons. Since 23 February, UNRWA delivered food for 140,000 Palestine refugees, and primary education to 41,500 children throughout the country. UNICEF provided water treatment supplies benefiting approximately 1.8 million people, and the World Health Organization (WHO) reached nearly 441,000 beneficiaries with medicines (excluding vaccines) in six governorates.

During the reporting period, the fourth round of the polio vaccination campaign was carried out, reaching 2.8 million children under 5 years of age.

The independent international commission of inquiry on Syria presented the findings from its report, covering from 15 July 2013 to 20 January 2014, to the Human Rights Council. The report stated that Government forces and pro-government militia had committed crimes against humanity and war crimes, including massacres. Torture and ill-treatment were routinely committed at official detention facilities by intelligence agencies, at checkpoints around besieged areas, in house raids and as part of the sieges of communities. Armed opposition groups had also committed war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law, including massacres, and had inflicted severe physical or mental pain on civilians in areas under their control, during apprehension and/or detention. Hospitals, ambulances and medical staff continued to come under attack, and medical facilities were used for military purposes.

As the conflict intensified, more people were slipping out of the reach of humanitarian organizations: as at the end of March, around 3.5 million people were estimated to be in need of assistance in hard-to-reach areas, an increase of 1 million since the beginning of 2014. Following the adoption of Council resolution 2139(2014), the Government of Syria established

a working group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the United Nations country team in Syria and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to discuss ways to enhance humanitarian access and implement the resolution. At the request of the United Nations, the working group also included representatives of the government security forces. In a 19 March letter to the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, the President of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (Syrian Coalition) pledged the commitment of the Coalition and the Free Syrian Army to complying with that resolution. The formation of the working group notwithstanding, there was no progress in streamlining and speeding up procedures to facilitate United Nations convoys during the reporting period. The governmental process for approval remained extremely complex and time-consuming.

Around 220,000 people remained besieged in various locations: approximately 175,000 people by Government forces and 45,000 by opposition groups. No new ceasefires were reached in besieged areas during the reporting period. In Homs, following the ceasefire that allowed the evacuation of 1,366 people from the old city in early February, shelling and bombing returned to pre-ceasefire levels. Since 15 March, an additional 200 people had been evacuated from the old city following an agreement between the parties and the Governor of Homs.

The Secretary-General remained concerned about the participation of foreign elements and groups in the fighting, and called upon all States, organizations and groups to immediately cease supporting the violence and to use their influence to promote a political solution instead. He urged the Government of Syria to speed up convoy procedures, ensure the safe passage of humanitarian convoys at all Government-controlled checkpoints; facilitate the passage of medicines, including surgical supplies, and continue to speed up the approval of visas. Further, he urged opposition forces to facilitate safe and unhindered humanitarian access and grant safe passage to convoys, particularly at checkpoints under their control; and ensure the safety and security of humanitarian staff.

Communications. In letters [S/2014/182, S/2014/224, S/2014/287] transmitted between 13 March and 17 April by the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom to the President of the Security Council, the Syrian Coalition expressed its assessments of the first two rounds of the Geneva Conference on Syria; the Coalition's commitment to Council resolution 2139(2014); and the Coalition's concern about the Syrian Government's violation of that resolution, respectively.

In identical letters dated 24 March to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President [A/68/811-S/2014/212], Syria provided an overview of the humanitarian cooperation between its Government

and the United Nations in accordance with resolution 2139(2014), including the establishment of a joint Government-United Nations committee, which met four times in March.

On 11 April [A/68/845-S/2014/269], Qatar reiterated that it had sought to find a political solution to the crisis through the League of Arab States, as the competent regional organization.

Report of Secretary-General (April). In his April report [S/2014/295], on the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014), covering the period from 22 March to 21 April, the Secretary-General observed that two months since the adoption of that resolution, none of the parties to the conflict had adhered to the demands of the Council. Fighting between Government and opposition forces, as well as between various opposition groups, continued in many parts of Syria. In Aleppo, fighting had escalated with significant shelling and the continued use of other heavy weaponry by Government forces. The use of missiles and rocket launchers by opposition groups had also resulted in a high number of casualties and injuries; an average of 20 shells and missiles were reported to have fallen daily on neighbourhoods in Aleppo. Foreign fighters supported all sides of the Syrian conflict, including extremist groups, armed opposition groups and the Government. The United Nations, however, was unable to provide a verified assessment of their presence and activities. Thousands of people were forcibly displaced, the largest numbers from opposition-held areas into areas under Government control, which were considered safer.

The treatment of civilians under the control of parties to the conflict continued to raise serious concerns, as there were reports of killings, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, kidnappings, and increasing sexual violence. In addition, there had been reports of child recruitment and child labour. On 28 March, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria for one year. On 8 April, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called on the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC). On 29 March, ISIL reportedly executed and mutilated the bodies of members of the Free Syrian Army held hostage. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) received the names of 24 victims of the incident. Concerns also remained about the situation of civilians in other areas under opposition control, particularly around Kassab, as well as about the situation of detainees in the Government-run Aleppo Central Prison, which had been surrounded by several armed groups since mid-2013.

Approximately 9.3 million people, more than 6.5 million of them internally displaced, needed urgent

humanitarian assistance. It was estimated that 3.5 million people resided in areas that were difficult or impossible for humanitarian actors to reach. That included at least 242,000 people who lived in areas besieged by either government or opposition forces. WFP reported an increase in the number of people supported with food in hard-to-reach areas with an estimated 297,750 people reached, up from 115,500 during the previous period. The assistance provided, however, only reached 34 out of the 262 locations identified as being hard to reach or besieged, a mere 13 per cent of locations.

Distribution of the aid transported between 20 and 25 March from Turkey to Syria through one border crossing was ongoing in opposition-, Government- and Kurdish-controlled areas. Requests made by the United Nations to the Syrian authorities to urgently authorize the use of additional border crossings remained pending. The delivery of medical supplies was negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and was restricted by the Government for delivery in opposition-held areas. Negotiations, however, were ongoing to allow at least medicines and medical supplies into opposition areas. Prior to distribution, supplies were checked multiple times by security forces. The March round of the polio vaccination campaign had reached almost 3 million children while there was no progress on the demilitarization of hospitals.

A total of 18 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were authorized to work in Syria, but they were prevented from partnering with national NGOs.

The Secretary-General regretted that, while the crisis in Syria could be resolved only through a political solution, after two rounds of intra-Syrian negotiations in January and February, the talks of the Geneva Conference on Syria on implementation of the 2012 Geneva communiqué had stalled. He urged the parties, and in particular the Government of Syria, to honour their obligations under international humanitarian law, as Council resolution 2139(2014) left no room for interpretation or further negotiation of access. He also called upon all parties to the conflict to work with the United Nations to establish lasting arrangements at key border and combat line crossings to facilitate access, and called on Syria to streamline convoy procedures.

Communications. On 28 April [A/68/860-S/2014/304], in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria presented its position with respect to the Secretary-General's April report (see above), commenting, among other things, that the report failed to make the connection between the humanitarian situation in Syria and the need to combat terrorism.

In letters [S/2014/308, S/2014/362] of 30 April and 21 May transmitted by Saudi Arabia and the Nether-

lands to the Council President, the Syrian Coalition expressed its concern about the Syrian Government's failure to abide by Council resolution 2139(2014) and expressed the Coalition's support to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC.

Report of Secretary-General (May). In his May report [S/2014/365], on the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014), covering the period from 22 April to 19 May, the Secretary-General observed that violence continued unabated across Syria. In Aleppo, Government forces continued to carry out indiscriminate air strikes, while opposition forces had detonated large tunnel bombs underneath Government military positions in the centre of the city, destroying dozens of building. Further, the city experienced significant cuts in its water supply from 5 to 13 May. Non-Syrian fighters continued to support both opposition groups and Government forces, and messages designed to recruit them circulated on various social networks. On 8 May, France, Germany, Jordan, Morocco, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States met in Brussels to discuss measures to improve cooperation among their countries to prevent the travel of their nationals to Syria to join the fighting.

Disrespect for human life and dignity remained a defining feature of the Syrian conflict and was at the root of the continued killing, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions, kidnappings, and the sexual and gender-based violence. Explosive weapons continued to be used indiscriminately in populated areas, where children were at the forefront of the casualties. Approximately 241,000 people were deliberately forced to live under the inhumane and illegal conditions of siege warfare, and for over 3.5 million others, access to humanitarian assistance was extremely inadequate.

The Secretary-General noted that the Government of Syria was failing in its responsibility to look after its own people through its refusal to give consent to humanitarian organizations to use all means at their disposal, including the use of border crossings operated by opposition groups, for the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance. The Government of Syria arbitrarily withholding consent for the opening of all relevant border crossings was a violation of international humanitarian law, and non-compliance with resolution 2139(2014).

Resolution 2139(2014) demanded that sieges be immediately lifted, that schools and hospitals be respected and protected from attack, that medical personnel and supplies be immediately allowed to reach all those in need. The parties to the conflict, however, were not heeding those demands, and resolution 2139(2014) had yet to make a difference to the lives of the millions of people in need in Syria. The Secretary-General called on the Council to consider

what steps it would take to secure compliance with its demands. The Secretary-General, following consultations with the League of Arab States, had accepted with deep regret the request of Lakhdar Brahimi to relinquish his duties as Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, effective 31 May.

Communications. On 27 May [A/68/893-S/2014/378], in identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria presented its position with respect to the Secretary-General's May report (see above) deploring the attempts of some Member States and United Nations Secretariat officials to legitimize the violation of Syria's sovereignty under the pretext of delivering humanitarian assistance, and disapproved the use, in the report, of the term "armed opposition" to refer to what the Government of Syria considered terrorist organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida.

In letters [S/2014/379, S/2014/389, S/2014/432] transmitted between 28 May and 23 June by the United Kingdom, Qatar and France to the Council President, the Syrian Coalition drew the attention of the Council to the systematic violations by the Syrian regime of Council resolution 2139(2014); the presidential elections under way in Syria and the obstacles that they posed to the realization of peace and stability in the Middle East; and the threat posed by ISIL and that organization's links with the Bashar Al-Assad regime, respectively.

On 2 June [A/68/901-S/2014/386], Syria transmitted to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President a press release of the same day issued by the Syrian High Relief Commission, regarding the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014) and the relevant humanitarian response plan.

On 13 June [S/2014/407], Syria informed the Secretary-General and the Council President that presidential elections were held on 3 June across the country and abroad with 3.8 per cent of the total ballots being invalid. Syria also said that the allegations that the elections could hinder a peaceful solution to the crisis in the country had been proved false.

Report of Secretary-General (June). In June [S/2014/427], the Secretary-General submitted his fourth report on the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014), covering the period from 20 May to 17 June. Severe levels of violence were ongoing with intensified use of barrel bombs by Government forces against civilian populations, and the continuation of mortar attacks against residential neighbourhoods by the armed opposition forces. There was no progress made towards the implementation of the Geneva Communiqué. On 3 June, the Government of Syria held presidential elections, in which no opposition candidate ran. The elections were held outside the framework of the Geneva process.

OHCHR continued to receive reports of arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill treatment, allegedly perpetrated by members of the Syrian security apparatus, including military intelligence, political security, State security and air force intelligence. On 22 May, Syrian armed forces entered Aleppo Central Prison, breaking the siege imposed by several armed opposition groups since mid-2013. On 9 June, President Bashar Al-Assad issued a legislative decree granting a general amnesty for crimes committed before 9 June.

The humanitarian situation had further deteriorated during the reporting period. Estimates indicated that the number of people in need had reached 10.8 million. Clearance requirements imposed by the Government further undermined access to people in desperate need of assistance; by 9 June, only 12 per cent of the planned 4.25 million people in WFP food dispatch plan were reached in comparison to 26 per cent in April.

By early June, eight opposition groups had signed a declaration of commitment on compliance with international humanitarian law and facilitation of humanitarian assistance. Six of those groups signed during the reporting period.

Deteriorating security and direct attacks on aid workers continued. On 24 May, a warehouse run by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Douma was attacked while the United Nations team was present. One Red Crescent driver was injured and several civilians were killed. As at June, 29 United Nations staff were detained.

The sixth country-wide polio vaccination campaign reached 2.8 million children in all 14 governorates. As at 9 June, however, there were 36 confirmed cases of polio, and 160 cases of measles. As at 17 June, the total funding for the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan stood at 29 per cent (\$6.5 billion requested, \$1.9 billion received) with the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan 26 per cent funded and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan 31 per cent funded.

The Secretary-General expressed his concern about the indiscriminate use of hundreds of barrel bombs on defenceless civilians in populated neighbourhoods, which was a war crime.

Communication. In a 25 June communication [S/2014/439] to the Security Council President, Germany transmitted a letter of the same day from the Syrian Coalition highlighting the Coalition's efforts to implement resolution 2139(2014), as well as what the Coalition considered the resolution's non-compliance by the Government of Syria.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 14 July [meeting 7216], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2165(2014)**. The

draft [S/2014/490] was submitted by Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2042(2012) of 14 April 2012, 2043(2012) of 21 April 2012, 2118(2013) of 27 September 2013 and 2139(2014) of 22 February 2014, and the statements by its President of 3 August 2011, 21 March and 5 April 2012 and 2 October 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Being appalled at the unacceptable and escalating level of violence and the death of more than 150,000 people, including well over 10,000 children, as a result of the Syrian conflict, as reported by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,

Expressing grave alarm at the significant and rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, at the fact that the number of people in need of assistance has grown to over 10 million, including 6.4 million internally displaced persons and over 4.5 million living in hard-to-reach areas, and that over 240,000 are trapped in besieged areas, as reported by the Secretary-General,

Deploing the fact that the demands made in its resolution 2139(2014) and the provisions of the statement by its President of 2 October 2013 have not been heeded by the Syrian parties to the conflict, as stated in the reports of the Secretary-General of 22 May and 20 June 2014, and recognizing that, while some steps have been undertaken by the Syrian parties, they have not had the necessary impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all people in need throughout the Syrian Arab Republic,

Commending the indispensable and ongoing efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and all humanitarian and medical personnel in the Syrian Arab Republic and in neighbouring countries to alleviate the impact of the conflict on the Syrian people,

Reiterating its appreciation for the significant and admirable efforts that have been made by the countries of the region, notably Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate the more than 2.8 million refugees who have fled the Syrian Arab Republic as a result of ongoing violence, including the approximately 300,000 refugees who have fled since the adoption of resolution 2139(2014), and urging again all Member States, based on burden-sharing principles, to support these neighbouring host countries to enable them to respond to the growing humanitarian needs, including by providing direct support,

Strongly condemning the continuing widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities, as well as the human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law by armed groups,

Stressing the need to end impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and reaffirming that those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for such violations and abuses in the Syrian Arab Republic must be brought to justice,

Expressing grave alarm, in particular, at the continuing indiscriminate attacks in populated areas, including an intensified campaign of aerial bombings and the use of barrel bombs in Aleppo and other areas, artillery, shelling and air strikes, and the widespread use of torture, ill-treatment and sexual and gender-based violence as well as all grave violations and abuses committed against children, and reiterating that some of these violations may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Reiterating its demand that all parties demilitarize medical facilities, schools and other civilian facilities and avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and desist from attacks directed against civilian objects,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Syrian authorities to protect the population in the Syrian Arab Republic and reiterating that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians, and recalling in this regard its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including journalists, media professionals and associated personnel,

Recalling the need for all parties to respect the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance,

Expressing grave alarm at the spread of extremism and extremist groups, the targeting of civilians based on their ethnicity, religion and/or confessional affiliations, expressing further grave alarm at the increased attacks resulting in numerous casualties and destruction, indiscriminate shelling by mortars, car bombs, suicide attacks, tunnel bombs, as well as hostage-taking, kidnappings and attacks against civilian infrastructure, including deliberate interruptions of water supply, condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and recalling in this regard its resolutions 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005, 2129(2013) of 17 December 2013 and 2133(2014) of 27 January 2014,

Deeply disturbed by the continued, arbitrary and unjustified withholding of consent to relief operations and the persistence of conditions that impede the delivery of humanitarian supplies to destinations within the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, and noting the view of the Secretary-General that arbitrarily withholding consent for the opening of all relevant border crossings is a violation of international humanitarian law and an act of non-compliance with resolution 2139(2014),

Emphasizing that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the crisis, reiterating its endorsement of the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria (Geneva communiqué) of 30 June 2012, and demanding that all parties work towards the immediate and comprehensive implementation of the Geneva communiqué aimed at bringing an immediate end to all violence, violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international law, and facilitating the Syrian-led process launched in Montreux, Switzerland, on 22 January 2014, leading to a transition that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and enables them independently and democratically to determine their own future,

Recalling its intent, expressed in its resolution 2139(2014), to take further steps in the case of non-compliance with the resolution,

Determining that the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic constitutes a threat to peace and security in the region,

Underscoring that Member States are obligated under Article 25 of the Charter to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council,

1. *Reiterates* that all parties to the conflict, in particular the Syrian authorities, must comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and must fully and immediately implement the provisions of its resolution 2139(2014) and the statement by its President of 2 October 2013;

2. *Decides* that the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners are authorized to use routes across conflict lines and the border crossings of Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyah and Al-Ramtha, in addition to those already in use, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance, including medical and surgical supplies, reaches people in need throughout the Syrian Arab Republic through the most direct routes, with notification to the Syrian authorities, and to this end stresses the need for all border crossings to be used efficiently for United Nations humanitarian operations;

3. *Also decides* to establish a monitoring mechanism, under the authority of the Secretary-General, to monitor, with the consent of the relevant neighbouring countries of the Syrian Arab Republic, the loading of all humanitarian relief consignments of the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners at the relevant United Nations facilities, and any subsequent opening of the consignments by the customs authorities of the relevant neighbouring countries, for passage into the Syrian Arab Republic across the border crossings of Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyah and Al-Ramtha, and with notification by the United Nations to the Syrian authorities, in order to confirm the humanitarian nature of these relief consignments;

4. *Further decides* that the United Nations monitoring mechanism shall be deployed expeditiously;

5. *Decides* that the decisions contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present resolution shall expire 180 days from the adoption of the present resolution, and shall be subject to review by the Security Council;

6. *Also decides* that all Syrian parties to the conflict shall enable the immediate and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance directly to people throughout the Syrian Arab Republic by the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, on the basis of United Nations assessments of need and devoid of any political prejudices and aims, including by immediately removing all impediments to the provision of humanitarian assistance;

7. *Notes*, in this regard, the role that ceasefire agreements that are consistent with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law could play to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance in order to help to save civilian lives, and further underscores the need for the parties to agree on humanitarian pauses, days of tranquility, localized ceasefires and truces to allow humanitarian agencies safe and unhindered access to all affected areas

in the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with international humanitarian law, and recalls that starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited by international humanitarian law;

8. *Decides* that all Syrian parties to the conflict shall take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, those of its specialized agencies and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities as required by international humanitarian law, without prejudice to their freedom of movement and access, stresses the need not to impede or hinder these efforts, and recalls that attacks on humanitarian workers may amount to war crimes;

9. *Reiterates* that the only sustainable solution to the current crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process with a view to full implementation of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012, endorsed in its resolution 2118(2013) and contained in annex II thereto, pays tribute to the efforts of Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and welcomes the appointment of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution and on compliance with it by all Syrian parties to the conflict, within the framework of his reporting on resolution 2139(2014);

11. *Affirms* that it will take further measures in the event of non-compliance with the present resolution or resolution 2139(2014) by any Syrian party;

12. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Communication. In a letter dated 16 July [S/2014/505], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that, pursuant to Council resolution 2165(2014), he had requested the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to work on the establishment of the monitoring mechanism, including its expeditious deployment.

Report of Secretary-General (July). In July [S/2014/525], the Secretary-General submitted his fifth report on the implementation of Council resolution 2139(2014), covering the period from 18 June to 21 July, during which no major changes took place as compared with the previous reporting period.

Heavy fighting continued in and around Aleppo, with air and ground bombardment by Government forces on opposition-held districts between 6 June to 14 July. In Dar'a governorate, barrel bombs were used on opposition-held areas, while in Idlib governorate, Government air strikes resulted in the deaths of dozens of civilians. Government-controlled cities and towns continued to be subject to indiscriminate mortar attacks, shelling and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by armed opposition groups and extremists, notably the cities of Homs, Damascus, Rural Damascus and Hamah. All parties to the conflict were increasingly targeting vital services resulting in interruptions to the supply of safe drinking water and electricity. Following negotiations since 2 June to

access the water pumping station to conduct repairs and provide fuel, on 19 July repairs to the damaged water network began.

On 29 June, ISIL declared an Islamic caliphate, stretching from Aleppo governorate to Diyala governorate in eastern Iraq, covering an area with an estimated population of up to 7 million people. Fighting intensified in Syria between ISIL and the Government and armed opposition, resulting in the displacement of 250,000 people. Developments in the Ninewa governorate of Iraq had resulted in displacement and insecurity in areas along the Syrian-Iraqi borders. UNHCR had started the registration of an estimated 3,000 newly arrived Iraqi refugees in Syria, while an estimated 1,000 Syrians previously seeking refuge in Iraq had crossed back into the eastern part of Syria. Estimates indicated that hundreds of Syrians were returning to their country daily.

On 20 June, the Secretary-General set out six key areas for urgent action. First was bringing an end to the violence. Second, protecting the human rights, safety and dignity of the Syrian people. Third, starting a serious political process for a new Syria. Fourth, addressing the issue of accountability for the serious crimes committed by all sides. Fifth, completing the destruction of the chemical weapons production facilities, which had been achieved, and sixth, the need to address the regional dimensions of the conflict, including the extremist threat. On 10 July, the Secretary-General appointed Staffan de Mistura as his Special Envoy for the Syrian Arab Republic to replace Lakhdar Brahimi.

The Secretary-General underscored that the parties had continued to obstruct humanitarian assistance to those most in need, and to withhold consent for operations in a completely arbitrary manner as a tactic of war. He said that it was the continuing non-compliance with resolution 2139(2014) (see p. 578) that had led the Security Council to adopt resolution 2165(2014) (see p. 583), a resolution which should not have been necessary. Resolution 2165(2014) made four additional border crossings available to the United Nations and its implementing partners, and could help humanitarian actors to reach up to 2.9 million more people, if security and other conditions allowed. Therefore, he called upon the parties to the conflict, in the strongest terms, to comply with the demands of the Council contained in resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014).

On 28 July, the Council issued presidential statement **S/PRST/2014/14** (see p. 131), stressing the obligation of the Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, and expressing grave concern over the reports of the access to and seizure of oilfields and pipelines in Syria and Iraq by terrorist groups listed by the Security Council Committee, namely ISIL and the Nusra Front.

Communications. On 29 July [A/68/958-S/2014/547], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the fifth report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2139(2014). The letter summarized efforts by the Government to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and raised concern about the reference in the report to the area of separation in the Golan, as that area was covered by the Secretary-General's reports on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

In a 31 July letter [S/2014/559] transmitted by Turkey to the Security Council President, the Syrian Coalition drew the Council's attention to the Syrian regime's refusal to implement Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014).

Report of Secretary-General (August). In August [S/2014/611], the Secretary-General submitted his sixth report pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139(2014) and paragraph 10 of Council resolution 2165(2014) (see p. 583), covering the period from 22 July to 18 August.

The United Nations established the monitoring mechanism foreseen in paragraph 3 of resolution 2165(2014) to ensure that additional cross-border operations authorized under that resolution were transparent. As a result, new cross-line and cross-border openings became accessible. The mechanism became operational on 23 July in Turkey and on 2 August in Jordan, following the deployment and training of advanced teams of United Nations monitors. Deployment of monitoring teams to Iraq remained pending owing to ongoing fighting and insecurity in the north-western part of that country.

During the reporting period, the United Nations and its partners sent five shipments—four from Turkey and one from Jordan—of food, non-food, water and sanitation, and medical supplies to Syria under the terms of resolution 2165(2014), using two border crossings. United Nations teams monitored the loading of the shipments and accompanied the loaded vehicles to the border crossing. In line with resolution 2165(2014), the United Nations notified the Government of Syria in advance of each shipment, including details about content, destination and number of beneficiaries, and confirming the humanitarian nature of the shipment.

The protection situation worsened. Reportedly, over 1,000 civilian deaths occurred in August only, the deadliest month since the start of the war. The prolongation of the conflict in Syria had created fertile ground for radical armed groups, including those affiliated with Al-Qaida. During the reporting period, events taking place in Iraq and the latest fighting in Arsal, Lebanon, demonstrated the devastating impact of the Syrian conflict on the neighbouring countries.

ISIL increased its influence in Syria making advances in three governorates and taking over, in one of them, two of the three remaining Government-controlled military bases. In Idlib governorate, the Nusra Front took full control of a strip of the Turkish-Syrian border, including one border crossing, following an offensive on the Free Syrian Army. The Nusra Front was in control of the smuggling trade on the border, a key source of income for armed opposition groups.

On 14 August, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2170(2014) (see p. 131), condemning the recruitment by ISIL, the Nusra Front and all other entities associated with Al-Qaida of foreign terrorist fighters. Meanwhile, ISIL communication and recruitment campaigns continued to promote the “Islamic Caliphate” through professionally made audio- and visual material in different languages. The territory encompassing ISIL-declared Islamic caliphate, from Aleppo governorate to Diyala governorate in eastern Iraq, was extending and was estimated to have a population of up to 9 million people.

The Secretary-General asked Special Envoy de Mistura and Deputy Special Envoy Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy to look for new openings to launch a political process that would contribute to the implementation of the six points he presented on 20 June.

Regarding humanitarian access across borders, following the adoption of resolution 2165(2014), had resulted in broader reach to areas in five governorates, including Aleppo. There had also been new openings in access across conflict lines in three governorates. Many of those locations had not received assistance since the onset of the conflict. Of particular note was that, in August, medical supplies, including surgical items, reached a number of opposition-held areas. Overall, assistance reached 48 (approximately 17 per cent) of the 287 locations identified as besieged or hard to reach. Food assistance by WFP and UNRWA reached 469,510 people in 23 hard-to-reach areas compared to 95,838 people in 14 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. UNHCR, UNRWA and UNICEF delivered non-food items to 81,151 people in 23 hard-to-reach areas compared to 62,090 people in 29 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. Designated terrorist groups, however, continued to severely constrain access to the eastern governorates of Syria.

Communications. On 26 August [A/68/983-S/2014/631], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the sixth report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014). The report did not reflect accurately the number of Iraqi refugees who had entered its territory, which stood, as at 24 August, at 95,000. Syria found deplorable that, in all its reports, the Secretariat had failed to men-

tion the facilities that the Government provided to United Nations organizations in connection with the delivery of assistance; that the Secretariat said it was incapable of verifying whether foreign fighters were present in Syria; and that the United Nations officials responsible for drafting the Secretary-General’s sixth report continued to ignore the fact that armed terrorist groups were primarily responsible for the ever-worsening humanitarian crisis in Syria.

In a letter of 27 August [S/2014/637] transmitted by Norway to the Security Council President in relation to the implementation of Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), the Syrian Coalition said that, one year after the gravest chemical weapons attack of the twenty-first century, in which nearly 1,500 Syrians were killed, no one had been held accountable.

Report of Secretary-General (September). The Secretary-General submitted his seventh report in September [S/2014/696] on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), covering the period from 19 August to 17 September.

Civilians continued to be displaced because of ongoing fighting and conflict. Parties to the conflict targeted vital services and infrastructure. Reduced availability of water and electricity was reported in four governorates. During the reporting period, ISIL increased its influence in Syria, predominantly along the main supply lines and in areas with border crossings, natural resources and key infrastructure. Although the United Nations did not have the means to independently verify numbers and origins, non-Syrian fighters, including designated terrorist groups, increasingly were participating in the fighting in Syria, on all sides of the conflict. Estimates on the number of new foreign fighters joining ISIL per month in Syria ranged from about 200 to 300 to up to 6,000 fighters in July alone.

On 11 September, the 45 UNDOF peacekeepers, who had been detained by the Nusra Front since 28 August, were released and were found in good condition. The situation in UNDOF on the Syrian side and the area of separation significantly deteriorated in mid-September, when armed groups made advances around UNDOF positions, posing a direct threat to the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers. As a result, all United Nations personnel in those positions were relocated.

The Special Envoy for Syria, de Mistura, and his Deputy, Ramzy, visited Damascus from 9 to 13 September for initial discussions with Government officials, opposition representatives, and representatives of civil society organizations and women’s groups. It was their first visit to the country since the new Special Envoy took up his assignment on 1 September.

On 27 August, the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria released its eighth report, based on 480 interviews and evidence collected

between 20 January and 15 July. The commission reported that both Government forces and the armed groups named in the report, including ISIL, had committed massacres and war crimes. Women and children continued to be severely affected by the conflict. As at 17 September, about 130 of the 153 students abducted by ISIL on 29 May continued to be held by the group. Furthermore, ISIL targeted media personnel and educational institutions. The commission of inquiry had yet to receive any response from Syria to its latest letter of 30 July—the third in 2014—asking for access to Syria, which continued to be denied.

The Secretary-General underlined that ISIL was a consequence, not a cause, of the conflict in Syria, which had deep political roots and needed to be resolved through negotiations. He observed that the lack of progress in finding a political solution and the continued deterioration of the security situation was driving increasing numbers of Syrians to negotiate local agreements to stop the fighting. Some local ceasefires, however, were the result of coercion and deliberate starvation; they were not credible and should not be supported. The involvement of the United Nations as a guarantor in such negotiations was being sought. The Secretary-General urged all sides, especially the Government of Syria, to consider cooperating with the United Nations in identifying ways to build lasting local agreements, ensuring that such agreements met international standards and included relief and recovery elements.

Communications. On 26 September [A/69/411-S/2014/705], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the seventh report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014). Syria noted that the report continued to ignore the realities of the situation in Syria, and described armed terrorist groups as “armed groups”, although the international community had affirmed that those groups were terrorist entities. The report also strayed from the mandate established for the Secretary-General, in that it addressed issues removed from the humanitarian situation, such as the situation of UNDOF and the use of chlorine.

On 25 September [S/2014/703], Saudi Arabia transmitted to the Security Council President a letter of the same day from the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (Syrian Coalition) about the attacks carried out against Syrian refugees trapped in Arsal, Lebanon, near the border with Syria.

Report of Secretary-General (October). The Secretary-General submitted in October [S/2014/756] his eighth report on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014) covering the period from 18 September to 17 October.

Heinous attacks and atrocities against civilians continued, committed by all sides in the Syrian conflict. On 1 October, twin bomb attacks occurred close to a school in Homs, killing over 50 people, including 29 children, and injuring dozens more, a large majority of them children. The Government of Syria accused “armed terrorist groups”. No party claimed responsibility for the attacks. The international coalition undertook air strikes on 23 September against ISIL and other targets in Syria. The Secretary-General, however, observed that while the international community had rightly mobilized to counter the threat posed by terrorism, a military campaign alone could not resolve the crisis in Syria or halt the spread of terrorism from Syria and Iraq. In response to coalition air strikes, ISIL, the Nusra Front and other Islamist groups accused the international coalition of fighting a war against Islam and called for retaliation against the coalition and those perceived to be “collaborators”, including civilians, thus heightening the insecurity of aid workers. Recruitment of fighters, including foreign fighters, had reportedly increased following the beginning of the international coalition air strikes.

The threat posed by ISIL raised serious additional protection concerns, as evidenced by the offensive on the Kurdish town of Ayn al-Arab/Kobane City in Aleppo governorate, on 16 September, which resulted in the massive displacement of civilians, including into Turkey, and large numbers of deaths and injuries. More than 190,000 refugees had crossed into Turkey since the offensive began. The Secretary-General observed that the international community had to better share the burden of hosting over 3 million refugees fleeing Syria. He said that while the world’s attention had focused on the barbarity of ISIL and its advance in Syria, people throughout the country faced grave abuses at the hands of the Government and other parties to the conflict, who continued to violate international human rights and humanitarian law.

Access to hard-to-reach areas, where some 4.7 million people were in need, remained very limited. Approximately, 241,000 people remained besieged, the majority by Government forces, despite the Government’s repeated statements that it was looking after its people. Humanitarian actors on the ground continued to serve people in need throughout Syria at great personal risk.

At the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria presented its eighth report noting that Government forces used chlorine gas, an illegal weapon. In addition, the commission reported that members of ISIL had committed massacres targeting civilians, captured soldiers, and deliberately exposed civilians, including women and children, to violence and indoctrination. Anti-government armed groups

continued to commit crimes without regard to international law. The commission repeated its call to the Security Council to consider referring the situation in Syria to ICC. Members of the commission of inquiry, OHCHR and United Nations human rights monitors continued to be denied access to the country.

In early October, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Syria, de Mistura, resumed his consultations, visiting Iran, Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon.

Communications. On 28 October [S/2014/769], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the eighth report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014). Syria noted that the report continued to describe armed terrorist groups as “armed groups” or the “armed opposition”, contradicting international acknowledgement, albeit belated, of the terrorist nature of those groups.

In a 29 October communication [S/2014/772] to the Security Council President, Denmark transmitted a letter of the same day from the Syrian Coalition highlighting the Coalition’s efforts to implement resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), as well as what the Coalition considered the non-compliance of the resolutions by the Government of Syria.

Report of Secretary-General (November). In November [S/2014/840], the Secretary-General submitted his ninth report on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), covering the period from 18 October to 16 November and providing a review of events since the adoption of resolution 2165(2014).

Government forces, armed opposition groups and designated terrorists continued to attack, kill and injure civilians with impunity. Attacks by the Government, many of which were carried out with barrel bombs, took place in Aleppo, Damascus and Homs, among other places, killing many civilians, including children. Armed opposition and designated terrorist groups continued to shell Government-controlled areas, including in civilian-populated zones, using mortars and small rockets, causing civilian deaths and casualties. The use of improvised explosive devices, including vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and suicide bombs, were also reported.

Civilians continued to be displaced: as at late October, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent had registered 100,000 internally displaced in two locations alone. During the reporting period, ISIL and the Nusra Front, both listed terrorist groups, increased efforts aimed at recruiting domestic and foreign fighters.

The international coalition continued to carry out air strikes against ISIL in Syria on an almost daily basis. Approximately, 865 people had been killed, including 50 civilians, in Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Hasakeh, Idlib and Raqqah since the strikes began. In response to

the attacks, ISIL placed its fighters in populated areas, raising additional concerns for the protection of civilians, and changed its main positions.

On 14 November, the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria released a paper based on the first-hand accounts of 300 victims and witnesses, which detailed the use by ISIL of the terror and brutality inflicted upon those not confirming to its mores.

Fighting also took place in Idlib between the Nusra Front and the Syrian Revolutionary Front, a group being considered as part of the Free Syrian Army; and between ISIL and the Kurdish People’s Protection Units for the city of Ayn al-Arab/Kobane.

Briefing the Security Council on 30 October, Special Envoy de Mistura, laid out an action plan that included a strategic de-escalation of violence that focused on select zones of stability anchored on a “freezing of the fronts” between Government and opposition forces, starting with Aleppo. Following a meeting with the President of Syria on 10 November in Damascus, the Special Envoy took note of the Government’s intent to implement a freeze in Aleppo.

As at late October, 12.2 million people were in need of assistance—nearly 5 million of whom lived in hard-to-reach areas, despite the additional access granted through resolution 2165(2014)—and 7.6 million people internally displaced. Another 3.2 million people had fled to neighbouring countries, with approximately 212,000 people besieged.

The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the international community’s resolve to address the threat posed by ISIL and other Al-Qaida-affiliated groups, but remained concerned that a military campaign alone could lead to further radicalization and spark a cycle of renewed violence. The adoption of resolution 2165(2014) had enabled the United Nations and partners to reach more locations where assistance was urgently needed, but humanitarian needs continued to rise and the situation on the ground continued to deteriorate.

While the international community had to do whatever it could to make sure that the rights of people in Syria were respected and their needs met, it was the ultimate responsibility of the parties to the conflict to reduce the violence and end the conflict. The proposal made by the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy to establish incremental freezes, beginning with the city of Aleppo, was exactly intended for that purpose: to lead to a strategic de-escalation of violence, starting from specific areas with a national impact.

Report of Secretary-General (December). In a later report [S/2015/48], the Secretary-General provided an update of the situation in Syria for December. Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continued throughout the country, particularly in the governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir ez-

Zor, Rif Dimashq, Damascus, Hasakeh, Idlib, Dar'a, Quneitra and Raqqa. Indiscriminate aerial bombings, including the use of barrel bombs, by Government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition, extremist and listed terrorist groups, resulted in deaths, injuries and the displacement of civilians.

In the governorate of Aleppo, aerial bombardment and shelling of opposition-controlled eastern Aleppo continued; while in Rif Dimashq, there were Government aerial bombardment against opposition-held areas, with the districts of Douma, Hamouria, Khan el-Sheikh and Zabadani being the most affected. Severe levels of violence were reported in Dar'a, killing at least 200 people, including 37 children and 16 women. In the governorate of Homs, at least four civilians, including a child, were killed in the district of Waer as a result of Government shelling.

In mid-December, Ahrar al-Sham, the Nusra Front and other armed groups took control of two strategic military bases in Wadi al-Daif and Hamidiyah in Idlib. They also surrounded the Abou al-Dohour airport in rural Idlib and targeted roads between Hama and Aleppo and Idlib and Ladhqiyyah, reinforcing their presence in rural Hama. Parties to the conflict continued to target civilian facilities, including vital services and infrastructure. In late December, the Nusra Front and possibly other armed groups cut electricity and water supplies in Idlib and Aleppo cities, affecting approximately 1.7 million people. International coalition airstrikes against ISIL led by the United States continued, targeting mostly ISIL positions in Kobani.

Civilians continued to be displaced as a result of the conflict. During December, at least 40,000 people fled clashes in Sheikh Meskin in western rural Dar'a governorate, seeking refuge in the surrounding villages. Consultations with the Syrian parties and a wide range of interlocutors inside and outside the Syrian Arab Republic addressed the parameters of the proposed "freeze" arrangements to start in Aleppo City. Special Envoy de Mistura visited Istanbul and Gaziantep and met with the Syrian Opposition Coalition and armed opposition groups to explain the difference between the proposed Aleppo freeze and previous local ceasefire initiatives.

Communications. On 23 November [S/2014/846], Syria conveyed to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President the position of its Government regarding the ninth report (see above) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014), explaining that the success in delivering assistance from inside Syrian territory would not have had occurred without the full cooperation of the Government with the United Nations and its agencies in Syria.

In communications of 24 November [S/2014/848] and 15 December [S/2014/902] transmitted by Saudi

Arabia to the Security Council President, the Syrian Coalition urged the Council to strengthen and renew resolution 2165(2014); insist on coordination between the United Nations and Syrian aid organizations; insist that the United Nations makes full use of the mandate of resolution 2165(2014), particularly for cross-border aid delivery; and increase humanitarian commitments to the Syrian people.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 December [meeting 7344], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2191(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/897] was submitted by Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2042(2012) of 14 April 2012, 2043(2012) of 21 April 2012, 2118(2013) of 27 September 2013, 2139(2014) of 22 February 2014, 2165(2014) of 14 July 2014 and 2175(2014) of 29 August 2014, and the statements by its President of 3 August 2011, 21 March and 5 April 2012 and 2 October 2013,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing outrage at the unacceptable and escalating level of violence and the killing of more than 191,000 people, including well over 10,000 children, as a result of the Syrian conflict, as reported by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict,

Gravely distressed by the continued deterioration of the devastating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and by the fact that now more than 12.2 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic—of whom 7.6 million are internally displaced, 4.5 million are living in hard-to-reach areas and 212,000 are trapped in besieged areas, including Palestinian refugees—require urgent humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, and noting with concern that approximately one million more people have been displaced within the Syrian Arab Republic since the adoption of resolution 2165(2014),

Gravely concerned at the lack of effective implementation of its resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014) by the parties to the Syrian domestic conflict, recalling in this regard their legal obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as all the relevant decisions of the Security Council, including by ceasing all attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including those involving attacks on schools and medical facilities and the deliberate interruptions of water supply, the indiscriminate use of weapons, including artillery, barrel bombs and air strikes, indiscriminate shelling by mortars, car bombs, suicide attacks and tunnel bombs, as well as the use of starvation of civilians as a method of combat, including by the besiegement of populated areas, and the widespread use of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary executions, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and sexual and gender-based violence as well as all grave violations and abuses committed against children,

Expressing its grave concern that areas of the Syrian Arab Republic are under the control of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusrah Front and about the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology and actions on stability in the Syrian Arab Republic and the region, including the devastating humanitarian impact on the civilian populations which has led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, reaffirming its resolve to address all aspects of the threat posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and calling for the implementation of Council resolutions 2170(2014) of 15 August 2014 and 2178(2014) of 24 September 2014 and the statement by its President of 28 July 2014,

Strongly condemning the arbitrary detention and torture of civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic, notably in prisons and detention facilities, as well as the kidnappings, abductions, hostage-taking and forced disappearances, and demanding the immediate end of these practices and the release of all arbitrarily detained persons starting with women and children, as well as sick, wounded and elderly people, including United Nations and humanitarian personnel and journalists,

Recalling its strong condemnation in resolution 2175(2014) of all forms of violence and intimidation to which those participating in humanitarian operations are increasingly exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of their assets, and its urging of all parties involved in an armed conflict to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and their assets, and urging that all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict must take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, those of its specialized agencies and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities,

Noting that, despite all the challenges, the United Nations and its implementing partners continue to deliver life-saving assistance to millions of people in need, and taking note that hard-to-reach locations in Aleppo, Idlib, Qunaytirah and Dar'a have been reached since the adoption of resolution 2165(2014) through humanitarian aid delivered across borders, stressing, however, in this regard that most people in hard-to-reach and besieged areas remain difficult for the United Nations and its implementing partners to reach with humanitarian assistance,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing and new impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance across borders and across conflict lines, encouraging the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners to take steps to scale up humanitarian deliveries into hard-to-reach and besieged areas, including by using, as effectively as possible, border crossings under resolution 2165(2014), and noting that the United Nations monitoring mechanism is operational and is continuing its activities, including monitoring shipments and confirming their humanitarian nature, in accordance with resolution 2165(2014),

Reaffirming the need to support the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners in their efforts to expand the delivery of humanitarian assistance to reach all people in need in the Syrian Arab Republic, and further reaffirming its decision in resolution 2165(2014) that all Syrian parties to the conflict shall enable the immediate and unhindered delivery of humanitarian

assistance directly to people throughout the Syrian Arab Republic by the United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, on the basis of United Nations assessments of need and devoid of any political prejudices and aims, including by immediately removing all impediments to the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Noting the role that ceasefire agreements which are consistent with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law can play in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance in order to help to save civilian lives,

Recalling the need for all parties to respect the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance,

Expressing grave concern at the more than 3.2 million refugees, including more than 2.5 million women and children, who have fled the Syrian Arab Republic as a result of ongoing violence, and recognizing that the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic is further contributing to the movement of refugees and poses risks to regional stability,

Reiterating its deep appreciation for the significant and admirable efforts that have been made by the countries of the region, notably Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate Syrian refugees, including the approximately 400,000 refugees who have fled the Syrian Arab Republic since the adoption of resolution 2165(2014), and mindful of the immense costs and social challenges incurred by these countries as a consequence of the crisis,

Noting with concern that the international response to the Syrian and regional crisis continues to fall short of meeting the needs as assessed by host Governments and the United Nations, therefore urging once again all Member States, based on burden-sharing principles, to support the United Nations and the countries of the region, including by adopting medium- and long-term responses to alleviate the impact on communities, providing increased, flexible and predictable funding as well as increasing resettlement efforts, and taking note in this regard of the Berlin Communiqué on solidarity with refugees and their hosts of 28 October 2014,

Noting with grave concern that impunity in the Syrian Arab Republic contributes to widespread violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, stressing the need to end impunity for these violations and abuses, and re-emphasizing in this regard the need for those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for such violations and abuses in the Syrian Arab Republic to be brought to justice,

Emphasizing that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the crisis,

Determining that the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region,

Underscoring that Member States are obligated under Article 25 of the Charter to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council,

1. *Demands* that all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict, in particular the Syrian authorities, immediately comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and fully and immediately implement all the provisions of Security Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014) and the

statement by its President of 2 October 2013, and recalls that some of the violations and abuses committed in the Syrian Arab Republic may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity;

2. *Decides* to renew the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 2165(2014) for a period of 12 months, that is, until 10 January 2016;

3. *Also decides* to conduct, six months after the renewal of these decisions, a review of the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

4. *Expresses its full support* for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, looks forward in particular to further advice from the Special Envoy concerning his proposals aimed at reducing violence, including through the implementation of freeze zones, emphasizes that if the violence in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to escalate, the humanitarian situation will continue to worsen, and reiterates that the only sustainable solution to the current crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people, with a view to full implementation of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012 endorsed in its resolution 2118(2013) and contained in annex II thereto;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution and on compliance by all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict, within the framework of his reporting on resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014);

6. *Reaffirms* that it will take further measures under the Charter of the United Nations in the event of non-compliance with the present resolution or resolution 2139(2014) or 2165(2014) by any party to the Syrian domestic conflict;

7. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

Effective 31 May, the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi relinquished his duties. On 10 July, the Secretary-General announced the appointments of Staffan de Mistura as his Special Envoy for Syria, and of Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy as Deputy Special Envoy.

Financing

In September [A/69/363/Add.1], the Secretary-General proposed resource requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy of Secretary-General for Syria for 2015 in the amount of \$11,871,100 (net of staff assessment).

In December [A/69/628], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) took note of the relocation of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria from Geneva to Brussels; and of the request for redeployment and reclassification of five positions from Geneva to Damascus. ACABQ recommended that, while it had no objection to the position of the Special Envoy for Syria to be based in Brussels for 2015, the Secretary-General should keep

the arrangement for the location of the Special Envoy for Syria under review. Furthermore, considering that the functions of the five security-related positions were no longer required in Geneva and considering the need for additional security capacity in Damascus, ACABQ recommended that the five positions at the General Service (Other level) be abolished in Geneva and five new positions at the local level be established in Damascus. ACABQ also recommended the abolishment of the position for the Special Assistant at the P-4 level, which had been vacant since 1 November 2012; and further recommended the application of a 50 per cent vacancy factor to the estimates for international staff for 2015 (compared to the 30 per cent proposed by the Secretary-General) taking into account the actual average vacancy rate of 54 per cent for the period from January to August 2014, the actual vacancy rate of 53.6 per cent as at 30 September 2014, and the number of vacant posts of two years and longer in the Office.

The General Assembly, in section IV of **resolution 69/262** of 29 December (see p. 1631), decided on a vacancy rate of 40 per cent for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria.

Children and armed conflict

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Security Council resolution 1612(2005) [YUN 2005, p. 863], in January the Secretary-General issued his first report [S/2014/31] on children and armed conflict in Syria covering the period from 1 March 2011 to 15 November 2013.

Access and security issues in Syria posed serious limitations to reporting; as a consequence, the United Nations country task force was able to independently monitor and report only on a limited number of cases inside Syria, and the information was based to a large extent on interviews conducted by the United Nations, including numerous accounts from Syrian refugees.

As at December 2013, the United Nations estimated that more than 100,000 individuals had been killed, including more than 10,000 children, and many more injured since March 2011. During the first two years of the conflict, most incidents of killing and maiming of children were attributed to government forces. Armed opposition groups increasingly engaged in such acts during 2013. The report also stressed the disappearance of many children, and highlighted that children in Syria had experienced an elevated level of distress because of witnessing the killing and injuring of members of their families and peers, or of being separated from their family and/or displaced.

In its initial stages, violations were committed largely by the Government of Syria, which led to the listing of Government forces in the annexes to the 2012 annual report of the Secretary-General on children and

armed conflict [YUN 2012, p. 724] for patterns of killing and maiming of children and for recurrent attacks against schools and hospitals and protected personnel. As the conflict intensified and the opposition became more organized, an increasing number of violations committed by the Free Syrian Army (FSA)-affiliated groups was documented, leading to the listing of FSA in the annexes to the 2013 annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict [YUN 2013, p. 168] for the recruitment and use of children. In the same report, the Government forces were also listed for grave sexual violence against children. Known perpetrators of grave violations against children included also the Syrian armed and intelligence forces; Government-associated militias such as the Shabiha; the popular committees (later formalized under the National Defence Forces); Syrian Kurdish armed groups; FSA-affiliated groups; the Nusra Front; Ahrar al-Sham; ISIL; and other independent or unidentified armed groups.

Of concern were cases of recruitment or attempted recruitment of children mostly from lack of education or job opportunities and peer pressure within refugee populations in neighbouring countries. Most incidents were related to recruitment by FSA-affiliated groups or Syrian Kurdish armed groups. While the United Nations did not receive reports of children formally recruited by Government forces, they reportedly intimidated and seized young males, including those under the age of 18, to join their ranks. The United Nations also gathered reports of the use of children as human shields during Syrian Government forces ground operations, particularly in 2011 and 2012.

Children were arrested, detained, ill-treated and tortured in detention facilities by Government forces in large-scale arrest campaigns, particularly in 2011 and 2012. Children were arrested for their or their relatives' actual or perceived participation in demonstrations or support to armed opposition groups. Multiple accounts of witnesses indicated that many children were held in the same cells as adults, and that children as young as 11 years old suffered ill treatment and acts tantamount to torture to extract confessions or humiliate them or to pressure a relative to surrender or confess. Access to children detained was largely denied to the United Nations and humanitarian actors. In addition, family members of children detained often did not receive any information on their whereabouts. Children were also caught in cross-fire between Government forces and armed groups, or between armed groups themselves.

Sexual violence was believed to be largely underreported owing to fears of reprisals and social stigma, combined with the lack of safe and confidential response services. Sexual violence against girls and women, or the fear of sexual violence, was reported as one of the reasons for which families were internally displaced or fled Syria. The United Nations also re-

ceived reports of allegations of rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, including in the presence of relatives, by Government forces at checkpoints or during incursions and house searches of families perceived to be pro-opposition.

Schools and hospitals had been seriously affected by the conflict in Syria and disproportionately targeted by all parties. In addition, indiscriminate Syrian Government air strikes and shelling by armed opposition groups on populated areas damaged or destroyed education and health facilities. Moreover, the United Nations received several reports of abduction of children by pro-Government militias or armed opposition groups in exchange for ransom or the release of prisoners, or as pressure on relatives perceived as supporting the opposing party.

The Secretary-General urged all parties to stop all grave violations committed against children and take all appropriate steps to protect children; immediately release abducted women and children; cease the military use of schools and hospitals; and take all measures to prevent and halt all forms of sexual violence and abuse against boys and girls. The Secretary-General also called upon the Government of Syria to put an end to the killing and maiming of children; halt the arbitrary arrest and detention of children; and ensure that all Government-affiliated militias put an end to all violations against children. Further, the Secretary-General urged opposition groups to put an end to the killing and maiming of children and other grave violations against children, and to take all appropriate steps to protect children; and prevent and halt the recruitment of children.

Working Group conclusions. The Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the Secretary-General's first report on children and armed conflict in Syria (see above) and submitted its conclusions [S/AC.51/2014/4] in November. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter to the Government of Syria reiterating the Council's profound indignation at the death of well over 10,000 children, as a result of the Syrian conflict; and demand that the Government immediately cease all violations against children, and comply fully with resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014) and the Council's presidential statement of 2 October 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 438]. The Working Group also agreed to send letters from its Chair calling upon the World Bank and the donor community to provide the necessary financial resources to ensure that children affected by armed conflict in Syria had access to adequate health care and nutrition, as well as appropriate education.

Communications. In a 6 February letter [S/2014/245] to the Security Council President, Syria underscored its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, who had visited the country twice.

Syria had established a national committee on violations against children and had provided the Special Representative with data concerning human rights violations against children—information that had not been mentioned in the Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict in Syria.

In a letter dated 18 September [A/69/394-S/2014/684] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria reported the death, on 16 September, of 15 children in Idlib governorate who had died after been given expired and poisoned measles vaccine that was obtained from unknown sources at fictitious health institutions affiliated with armed terrorist groups and Turkey.

In a 2 October letter [A/69/421-S/2014/715] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria denounced the attack on a school complex by armed terrorist groups in Homs city, which took place on 1 October, killing 33 civilians, including 22 children.

UNSMIS

By its resolution 2059(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 449], the Security Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) for a final period of 30 days and expressed its willingness to renew it again only if the Secretary-General reported, and the Council confirmed, the cessation of the use of heavy weapons and a reduction of violence by all sides sufficient to allow UNSMIS to implement its mandate. As those conditions were not met, UNSMIS mandate came to an end on 19 August 2012.

Financing

In April [A/68/782/Add.1], ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly approve the action proposed by the Secretary-General in his November 2013 report on UNSMIS [YUN 2013, p. 441], namely, to appropriate and assess the expenditure amount of \$6,530,100 for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. In that report, the Secretary-General provided that during the liquidation period, the Mission disposed of approximately 700 non-expendable assets, about 40 per cent of which were transferred to the Office of the Joint Special Representative and the remainder to either neighbouring peacekeeping missions or the United Nations reserve. ACABQ recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to reflect such details clearly in future reports on the budget performance of the peacekeeping missions. Furthermore, according to the supplementary information provided to the ACABQ, UNSMIS borrowed \$10 million from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, which were used to cover the expenditure incurred by the Mission from strategic deployment stocks and other miscellaneous charges that could arise. ACABQ recommended that the Reserve Fund be used in strict compliance

with Assembly resolution 47/217 [YUN 1992, p. 1022], by which the Fund was established.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/921], adopted **resolution 68/295** without vote [agenda item 162].

Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2043(2012) of 21 April 2012, by which the Council established for an initial period of 90 days the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic under the command of a Chief Military Observer, and Council resolution 2059(2012) of 20 July 2012, by which the Council renewed the mandate for a final period of 30 days,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 0.5 million United States dollars, representing some 3 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 122 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

3. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic the amount of 6,530,100 dollars, previously authorized by the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, under the terms of section VI of its resolution 64/269 of 24 June 2010;

Financing of the appropriation for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

4. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 6,530,100 dollars for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels up-

dated in its resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2012, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

5. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 4 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 162,400 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

6. *Further decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic”.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNSMIS would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Use of chemical weapons

Communications. In letters on 8 February [S/2014/88] and 14 April [A/68/846-S/2014/271] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria said that since the inception of the crisis, it had been unjustly accused by certain countries, including Member States of the Council, to have used chemical weapons. Those countries not only ignored that Syria complied with its obligation under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention), but they were, along with terrorist organizations, responsible for the crimes that were committed in Syria with chemical weapons, including the 2014 attack in Kafr Zayta.

In letters [S/2014/274, S/2014/285, S/2014/370, S/2014/637, S/2014/649, S/2014/824] transmitted by Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, France, Norway and Saudi Arabia to the Security Council President between April and November, the Syrian Coalition brought to the Council’s attention that, in the preceding five months, the Syrian regime had engaged in systematic attacks in opposition-held areas using chemical weapons in violation of Council resolution 2118(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 443]. By that resolution, the Council endorsed the OPCW Executive Council decision of 27 September 2013, which contained special procedures both for the destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons stockpiles, as well as the stringent verification thereof.

OPCW-UN joint mission for the elimination of the chemical weapons programme in Syria

On 27 September 2013, the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) decided to establish special procedures for the expeditious destruction of Syria’s chemical

weapons programme. On the same day, the Security Council, by its resolution 2118(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 443], endorsed the OPCW Executive Council decision, authorized a United Nations advance team to provide early assistance to OPCW activities in Syria, and requested OPCW Director-General and the Secretary-General to closely cooperate in the implementation of the Executive Council decision. In a letter of 7 October 2013 to the Council, the Secretary-General outlined the proposal for a Joint Mission of OPCW and the United Nations, which was officially authorized by the Council on 11 October.

On 23 June 2014, the Joint Mission confirmed that all declared chemical weapons materials of Syria had been removed from Syrian territory. In the immediate months following the completion and removal of declared chemical weapons, the Joint Mission re-configured its capacities, and then was formally closed on 30 September.

OPCW reports. In letters [S/2014/52, S/2014/133, S/2014/220, S/2014/300, S/2014/368, S/2014/444, S/2014/533, S/2014/622, S/2014/706, S/2014/767, S/2014/853, S/2014/948] sent between January and December to the Security Council, the Secretary-General transmitted twelve monthly reports issued in 2014—from the fourth to the fifteenth report—by OPCW Director-General pursuant to paragraph 12 of Council resolution 2118(2013). Collectively, the reports covered the period from 21 December 2013 to 22 December 2014.

In January [S/2014/52], the Secretary-General recalled that, in 2013, OPCW Executive Council had set the intermediate milestone of 31 December 2013 for the removal of the most critical chemical weapons precursor, binary and end-state materials from Syria for destruction outside the country; however, because of several factors, including logistical and technical issues, as well as the volatile security situation, the milestone had not been met. Nevertheless, the removal of chemical weapons material from Syria did start on 7 January 2014, when a first quantity of priority chemical materials was moved from storage sites to Latakia and subsequently loaded onto a cargo vessel.

Between 21 January and 21 February [S/2014/133], Syria met the early milestones, including the functional destruction of its capacity to produce, mix and fill chemical weapons munitions, and the destruction of all unfilled chemical munitions. It destroyed its mobile production facilities and specialized equipment at many chemical weapons production facilities. Two intermediate milestones for the removal of chemical weapons material from Syria for destruction outside the country however were not met. As a result, the process of eliminating the chemical weapons programme fell behind schedule.

Between 23 February and 22 March [S/2014/220], Syria accelerated the removal of chemical weapons material from its territory and made important pro-

gress in reducing its stockpile. As at 24 April, the total figure for removal and in-country destruction of all chemical weapons material had reached 92.5 per cent, including 96.45 per cent of high-priority chemical materials and 81.09 per cent of other chemical materials removed.

Transmitting the eighth reports of OPCW in May [S/2014/368], the Secretary-General announced that no further removal of chemical weapons material had taken place between 25 April and 22 May, and expressed his concern about the allegations regarding the use of chlorine gas for hostile purposes at various locations. To investigate those allegations, on 29 April, the OPCW Director-General announced the establishment of an OPCW Fact-Finding Mission.

On 23 June [S/2014/444], the OPCW-UN joint mission confirmed that all declared chemical weapons materials of Syria had been removed from Syrian territory or, in the case of isopropanol, destroyed in the country. The achievement of that critical milestone followed the movement of the remaining chemical materials to the port of Latakia, where they were loaded onto a cargo vessel for onward transportation and destruction. As at late June, the following steps remained to be undertaken for the full elimination of the chemical weapons programme of Syria: the destruction of the chemicals at sea- and at land-based facilities; the destruction of structures at 12 production facilities pending agreement on the modalities of destruction by the OPCW Executive Council; the destruction of one item of loading equipment at one production facility; the destruction of one building located at a production facility under the control of armed opposition groups; and the conclusion of consultations regarding any possible remaining discrepancies in the original declaration submitted by Syria.

Between 24 June and 25 July [S/2014/533], following the completion of the removal of declared chemical weapons materials from Syria, attention continued to focus on the remaining steps (see above) of the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

In the period between 25 July and 22 August [S/2014/622], the destruction of declared priority chemical weapons materials of Syria on board a United States maritime vessel was completed. Progress was also made in the destruction of the remaining declared chemical weapons materials at designated facilities outside of Syria. Following consultations with OPCW Director-General, the Secretary-General announced that the OPCW-UN joint Mission would be officially concluded on 30 September.

In September [S/2014/706], OPCW finalized arrangements with the United Nations Office for Project Services to enable OPCW to continue its remaining inspection and verification activities inside Syria beyond 30 September. To ensure continuity, the

Secretary-General asked Special Coordinator for the Joint Mission, Sigrid Kaag, to continue to assist him.

Between 23 September and 22 October [S/2014/767], OPCW Executive Council discussed the second report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria, mandated to establish the facts surrounding allegations of toxic chemicals, reportedly chlorine, for hostile purposes. Between 23 October and 22 November [S/2014/853], OPCW Director-General advised of the imminent start of the destruction of the 12 chemical weapons productions facilities remaining in Syria, while OPCW technical experts continued their dialogue with the Syrian authorities regarding the country's initial declaration and subsequent amendments.

In December [S/2014/948], too, OPCW Director-General advised of the imminent start of the destruction of the remaining 12 chemical weapons production facilities in Syria. Regarding Syria's initial declaration and subsequent amendments, OPCW technical experts continued their dialogue with the Syrian authorities and undertook a visit to Syria, from 10 to 15 December. The third report of the OPCW fact-finding mission in Syria provided a more detailed account of the work undertaken by the fact-finding mission earlier in 2014.

Following the appointment of Sigrid Kaag (Netherlands) as the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, the Secretary-General asked High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane (Germany), to continue to exercise the good offices on his behalf in the implementation of resolution 2118(2013).

Communications. On 1 July [S/2014/462], Saudi Arabia transmitted to the Council President a 17 June letter it had sent to OPCW Director-General in response to a previous communication sent by Syria to the Director-General. Saudi Arabia denied the claims appearing in Syria's letter that it was sending explosive and toxic material to armed groups in Syria. Since joining OPCW, Saudi Arabia had consistently reaffirmed its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and all the requirements set out therein.

In a 30 December letter [S/2014/955], Australia, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States transmitted to the Council President the first, second and third report of OPCW fact-finding mission established on 29 April. The first report on 16 June—a summary covering the period from 3 to 31 May—announced the establishment of the mission; the second report, dated 10 September, included key findings; and the third report, released on 18 December, presented, with a high degree of confidence, the mission's conclusions that chlorine had been used as a weapon. Those reports were integral to the Security Council's role in monitoring the implementation of resolution 2118(2013), whose

first and second paragraphs indicated that the use of chemical weapons anywhere constituted a threat to international peace and security, and condemned any use of chemical weapons in Syria.

The Syrian Golan

The Golan Heights in the Syrian Arab Republic, occupied by Israel since 1967, were effectively annexed when Israel extended its laws, jurisdiction and administration to the territory in 1981 [YUN 1981, p. 309]. In 2014, the General Assembly reiterated its demand that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and called upon Israel to resume talks with Syria and Lebanon. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) continued to supervise the ceasefire between Israel and Syria in the Golan Heights, and to ensure the separation of militaries. The Force's mandate was extended twice during the year, in June and in December.

Reports of Secretary-General. In his August report [A/69/327] to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General stated that no reply had been received from Israel in response to an April note issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on his behalf requesting information on steps taken or envisaged for the implementation of resolution 68/84 [YUN 2013, p. 453]. In addition to the response from Syria, replies had been received from Algeria, Colombia, Cuba and Slovakia.

On 2 September [A/69/341], the Secretary-General reported that, as at 11 August, Cuba, Mexico and Syria had replied to his request for information on steps taken or envisaged to implement Assembly resolution 68/17 [YUN 2013, p. 452] on the Syrian Golan. The resolution demanded that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Special Committee on Israeli Practices. The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, in its August report [A/69/355], stated that the Committee was not able to hold meetings in Syria owing to the prevailing situation in the country, but met with interlocutors who travelled from the occupied Syrian Golan to Amman.

Approximately 20,000 Israeli settlers resided in 33 settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan, enjoying disproportionate benefits in terms of water and agricultural resources. In January, the Government of Israel had reportedly approved a project proposal to develop over 7,400 acres (30,000 dunums) of land in the occupied Syrian Golan, which included the

establishment of 750 farming estates and \$108 million in investment over four years. Further, Israel had sponsored agricultural expansion, which was strategically timed to increase settler presence in the occupied Syrian Golan at a time of protracted internal conflict in Syria.

Testimony also focused on the exploitation of natural and agricultural resources, including prospecting by Israel for oil through a local subsidiary of United States-based Genie Energy, which was granted a licence early in 2013 by Israel to explore for oil and gas in a 153-square-mile radius in the southern part of the occupied Syrian Golan. Further, it was impossible to market apples grown locally, with the Syrian market disrupted and traditional markets in the Occupied Palestinian Territory inaccessible owing to Israeli occupation policies and practices.

The Special Committee called upon Israel to comply with Council resolution 497(1981) [YUN 1981, p. 312], which annulled the decision of Israel on the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan and to immediately take steps to cease the expansion of and reverse settlements in the area.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 November [meeting 61], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/25** [draft: A/69/L.26 & Add.1] by recorded vote (99-6-57) [agenda item 35].

The Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,
Having considered the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,

Stressing the illegality of the Israeli settlement construction and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967,

Noting with satisfaction the convening in Madrid on 30 October 1991 of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967, 338(1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425(1978) of 19 March 1978 and the formula of land for peace,

Expressing grave concern over the halt in the peace process on the Syrian track, and expressing the hope that peace talks will soon resume from the point they had reached,

1. *Declares* that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497(1981);

2. *Also declares* that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and has no validity whatsoever, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 497(1981), and calls upon Israel to rescind it;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;

4. *Determines once more* that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to resume the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect the commitments and undertakings reached during the previous talks;

6. *Demands once more* that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

7. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned, the co-sponsors of the peace process and the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the resumption of the peace process and its success by implementing Security Council resolutions 242(1967) and 338(1973);

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/25:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Por-

tugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/454] adopted **resolution 69/94** by recorded vote (162-1-15) [agenda item 51].

The occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,

Deeply concerned that the Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967, has been under continued Israeli military occupation,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497(1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 68/84 of 11 December 2013,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution 68/84,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 237(1967) of 14 June 1967,

Welcoming the convening at Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242(1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338(1973) of 22 October 1973 aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, and expressing grave concern about the stalling of the peace process on all tracks,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497(1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;

3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal

status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/94:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Paraguay, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo, Tonga, United States, Vanuatu.

UNDOF

The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), established by Security Council resolution 350(1974) [YUN 1974, p. 205] to supervise the observance of the ceasefire between Israel and Syria in the Syrian Golan and to ensure the separation of their forces, was renewed twice in 2014, in June and in December, each time for a six-month period.

To carry out its mandate, UNDOF maintained an area of separation, which was over 75 kilometres long and varied in width between approximately 10 kilometres in the centre to 200 metres in the extreme south. UNDOF headquarters was located at Camp Yafour, and an administrative office was maintained in Damascus. Logistics support to UNDOF was provided by Camp Ziouani, the alternate headquarters of the Force.

In 2014, the heavy fighting between the Syrian armed forces and armed groups close to the UNDOF headquarters in Camp Faouar and other positions in the central area of separation had two major consequences for the Force: the abduction by armed groups, on 28 August, of 45 of its peacekeepers, who were released unharmed on 11 September; and the relocation, between 13 and 15 September, of UNDOF personnel and military observers from several positions in the area of separation from the Syrian to the Israeli side, which significantly reduced the Force's ability to carry out its mandate, as agreed by the parties to the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement of Forces [YUN 1974, p. 198]. As at 12 November, UNDOF comprised 929 troops, including 30 women, from Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 80 military observers, including one woman, from UNTSO. Philippines withdrew its contingent of 344 peacekeepers in September.

Communications. In a 12 February letter [A/68/763-S/2014/97] to the Secretary-General and the Security Council President, Syria reported that, on 31 January, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel had called for Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Syria emphasized that politically, legally and morally, it was unacceptable that Israel should be allowed to persist in its refusal to implement United Nations resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the other occupied Arab territories, including Council resolution 497(1981).

In a 5 March letter [A/68/786-S/2014/156], Syria drew the attention of the Security Council to a violation of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces (Agreement) by Israel that had taken place the same day, and called on the Council to condemn unequivocally Israel's aggressions, which contravened international law and increased tension around the area of disengagement.

Report of Secretary-General (March). Pursuant to resolution 2131(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 457] and previous ones, the Secretary-General reported in March [S/2014/199] to the Security Council on UNDOF activities between 4 December 2013 and 10 March 2014.

The ceasefire between Israel and Syria was generally maintained. The Syrian armed forces continued to deploy personnel and equipment inside the area of separation and carried out military activities and security operations against armed members of the op-

position in the UNDOF area of operation, in violation of the Agreement. Seven incidents of firing from the Syrian side into the area of separation and across the ceasefire line took place, while heavy clashes between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition continued. Incidents of note took place on 27 December, 13 and 29 January, and on 6 and 9 February.

On numerous occasions during periods of fighting between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition, United Nations personnel were forced to take shelter in their positions. UNDOF continued to observe and report instances of transborder movements of unidentified individuals between Lebanon and Syria in the northern part of the area of separation. The Force Commander maintained regular contact with IDF and the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate.

On 2 February, UNDOF vehicles carrying out a night movement that had been coordinated with the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate were fired upon by light and heavy machine gun fire, as the vehicles approached a Syrian armed forces checkpoint. There was no injury to United Nations peacekeepers, but some bullets hit the United Nations vehicles. The Force Commander strongly protested the incident to the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate, who stated that an investigation would be carried out, and that armed members of the opposition had been moving in the area at the same time, which may have prompted Syrian armed forces personnel to fire when the UNDOF vehicles approached the checkpoint.

During the reporting period, United Nations personnel encountered increased restrictions of movement and heightened risk, owing also to the placement of improvised explosive devices alongside roads in the area of separation. Within that challenging environment, UNDOF supervised the area of separation by manning static positions and conducting around-the-clock observation to ensure that the military forces of both parties were excluded from it. UNDOF, through Observer Group Golan, also continued to establish temporary observation posts in several locations along the ceasefire line.

As at 3 March, UNDOF comprised 1,240 troops, including 38 women, from Fiji, the Philippines, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 86 military observers from UNTSO, including three women, who assisted the Force.

Communications. In letters sent on 19 and on 25 March [A/68/804-S/2014/201, A/68/814-S/2014/219], Syria informed the Secretary-General and the Security Council President of Israel's violations of the Agreement that occurred on 5, 18 and 19 March; and set out Syria's position regarding the March report (see above) of the Secretary-General on UNDOF.

On 3 June [S/2014/388], Israel, wrote to the Secretary-General and the Security Council Presi-

dent, expressing its concern over the Syrian violation on 2 June of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement, when a 122-mm rocket was launched into the Israeli side of the Mount Hermon area.

Report of Secretary-General (June). In his June report [S/2014/401], the Secretary-General gave an account of UNDOF activities from 11 March to 28 May.

During the reporting period, the most significant violation since the conclusion of the Agreement occurred on 18 and 19 March, when IDF fired into the areas of separation and limitation on the Syrian side, which, according to Syrian authorities, resulted in the death of two Syrian soldiers and wounding 17 others. IDF fire was in response to what IDF claimed was the placing of an improvised explosive device in the Israeli-occupied Golan that injured four IDF soldiers. Further, on 19 March, IDF conducted air strikes on three Syrian armed forces locations on the Syrian side, and, on 23 and 24 April, a Syrian armed forces aircraft dropped a bomb in the area of separation. The investigation of UNDOF into the incidents could not establish whether the explosion that injured IDF soldiers on 18 March had resulted from a drifted mine or an improvised explosive device, while it found out that the 19 March Israeli air strikes had hit locations where Syrian armed or security forces were based.

The heavy fighting between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition that had started in UNDOF area of operation at the end of January, immediately adjacent to the area of separation, continued throughout the reporting period, interrupted only by short phases when fighting decreased. On numerous occasions, rounds landed inside or near United Nations positions, at times forcing United Nations personnel to take shelter.

During the reporting period, United Nations personnel encountered increased restrictions of movement and risk, owing also to the placement by armed members of the opposition of improvised explosive devices alongside roads in the area of separation. UNDOF continued to adapt its operational posture to the military activities of the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition in its area of operation.

As at 23 May, UNDOF comprised 1,251 troops, including 47 women, from Fiji, the Philippines, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 77 UNTSO military observers, including four women.

The Secretary-General underscored that a mix of factors was contributing to a volatile security situation, which further undermined the Agreement. It remained critical that both sides worked through UNDOF in case of incidents along or across the ceasefire line. He observed that the presence of Syrian armed forces and unauthorized military equipment in the area of separation were grave violations of the Agreement.

Communications. On 17 June [S/2014/415], in identical letters to the Secretary-General and the

Security Council President, Israel expressed its concern about a statement included in the June report of the Secretary-General, namely that Israel had committed the most significant violation of the Disengagement Agreement since 1974. Stressing that it had acted in self-defence, Israel noted that, in the previous five months, it had incurred more intentional attacks than in the previous 40 years.

On 23 June [S/2014/434], Israel informed the Secretary-General and the Council President that an attack of the previous day from Syria into Israel had killed a 13-year-old boy and injured four others. Israel had shown restraint until that moment, but it could not be expected to stand by as its soldiers and citizens were targeted.

Also in a 23 June letter [A/68/913-S/2014/435], Syria informed the Security Council President of violations of the Disengagement Agreement by Israel that took place on 22 and 23 June, when tank and mortar shells and two rockets were fired, and five Israeli aircraft attacked Syrian law enforcement forces positions, killing four persons and wounding nine.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 June [meeting 7209], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2163(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/437] was submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States.

The Security Council,

Noting with concern that the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 10 June 2014 on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and reaffirming its resolution 1308(2000) of 17 July 2000,

Stressing that both parties must abide by the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974 between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and scrupulously observe the ceasefire,

Concurring with the findings of the Secretary-General that the ongoing military activities conducted by any actor in the area of separation continue to have the potential to escalate tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries, and pose a risk to the local civilian population and United Nations personnel on the ground,

Expressing grave concern at all violations of the disengagement of forces agreement,

Stressing that there should be no military forces in the area of separation other than those of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force,

Strongly condemning the recent intense fighting in the area of separation, and calling upon all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions in the area of operation of the Force, and further condemning the increased use by elements of the Syrian opposition and other groups of improvised explosive devices in the area of operation of the Force,

Condemning the use of heavy weapons by both the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition in the ongoing Syrian conflict in the area of separation, including the use of tanks by the Syrian armed forces and opposition during clashes,

Condemning also the horrific crimes committed by some armed members of the opposition, and calling upon all parties to the ongoing conflict to respect international humanitarian law,

Echoing the Secretary-General's call upon all parties to the Syrian conflict to cease military actions throughout the country, including in the area of operation of the Force,

Strongly condemning the incidents threatening the safety and security of United Nations personnel in recent months,

Underscoring the need for the Force to have at its disposal all means and resources necessary to carry out its mandate safely and securely, and recalling that the theft of United Nations weapons and ammunition, vehicles and other assets, and the looting and destruction of United Nations facilities, are unacceptable,

Expressing its profound appreciation to the military and civilian personnel of the Force, including those from Observer Group Golan, for their service and continued contribution, in an increasingly challenging operating environment, underscoring the important contribution that the continued presence of the Force makes to peace and security in the Middle East, welcoming steps taken to enhance the safety and security of the personnel of the Force, including Observer Group Golan personnel, and stressing the need for continued vigilance to ensure the safety and security of Force and Observer Group Golan personnel,

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338(1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Stresses* the obligation on both parties to scrupulously and fully respect the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974, calls upon the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation, and underscores that there should be no military activity of any kind in the area of separation, including military operations by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces;

3. *Underlines* that there should be no military activity of the armed opposition groups in the area of separation, and urges Member States to convey strongly to the Syrian armed opposition groups in the area of operation of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the need to halt all activities that endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground and to accord the United Nations personnel on the ground the freedom to carry out their mandate safely and securely;

4. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of the Force, to respect its privileges and immunities and to ensure its freedom of movement, as well as the security of and unhindered and immediate access for the United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, including the unimpeded delivery of Force equipment and the temporary use of an alternative port of entry and departure, as required, to ensure safe and secure troop rotation activities, in conformity with existing agreements, and urges prompt reporting by the Secretary-General to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries of any actions that impede the ability of the Force to fulfil its mandate;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

6. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Force for a period of six months, that is, until 31 December 2014, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Force has the required capacity and resources to fulfil the mandate in a safe and secure way;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338(1973).

Communication. In identical letters [S/2014/625] of 25 August, Israel informed the Secretary-General and the Council President about attacks launched at Israel from Syria on 24 and 25 August.

Report of Secretary-General (September). In September [S/2014/665], the Secretary-General reported on UNDOF activities between 29 May and 3 September. During the reporting period, the situation in the UNDOF area of operation was very volatile and was evolving rapidly, with heavy fighting continuing between the Syrian armed forces and the armed members of the opposition and other armed groups in the area of separation. Several UNDOF peacekeepers of the Fijian battalion were detained by armed elements. The ceasefire between Israel and Syria generally was maintained, but several incidents of firing across the ceasefire line occurred, resulting in casualties.

Syrian armed forces maintained a larger number of soldiers, and increased their heavy equipment inside the area of separation. In the morning of 27 August, approximately 100 members of several armed groups, including the Nusra Front, launched an attack on Syrian armed forces positions in the area of separation. UNDOF evacuated its personnel from the Charlie gate to Camp Ziouani—the alternate headquarters of the Force. Armed groups also engaged the Syrian armed forces in other positions, and, following several hours of heavy fighting, the armed elements gained control of the Bravo gate and other positions.

In the afternoon of the same day, eight armed fighters forcibly entered one of UNDOF positions while UNDOF personnel were in the shelter, and demanded that the United Nations personnel vacate the position to avoid injury in the ongoing fighting. The UNDOF personnel refused and remained in the shelter while the fighting continued. The Force Commander spoke to the leader of the armed fighters and requested that the armed elements vacate the position and not harm the United Nations peacekeepers. The armed fighters, however, remained inside the United Nations premises and continued their attack on the Syrian armed forces

through the night. Some armed elements ransacked the position and took United Nations and personal items from it. The following day, the armed fighters who had remained at the position overnight demanded that the UNDOF personnel leave the position, leaving behind their vehicles. After the Force Commander gave orders for the United Nations personnel to vacate the position, the armed fighters took the weapons of the UNDOF personnel and then transported 45 UNDOF peacekeepers of the Fijian contingent to the area of the Bravo gate with the understanding that they would be allowed to cross to the Israeli-occupied side. The detained peacekeepers, however, were sent elsewhere and no additional information on their status or location was established.

Since the fierce fighting that started on 27 August, and the siege of two UNDOF positions, UNDOF Force Commander had been in close contact with the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate and IDF. Both parties provided full support to UNDOF in ensuring the safe evacuation of its peacekeepers from positions that had to be vacated as a result of the ongoing fighting. The Force Commander and Secretariat staff were also in ongoing contact with Member States that might have influence over the armed groups, in order to bring about the immediate, unconditional and safe release of the members of the Fijian contingent.

There were also incidents involving UNDOF patrols and considerable restrictions of movement and risk for United Nations personnel, owing to the placement of improvised explosive devices alongside roads in the area of separation by armed members of the opposition.

As at 2 September, UNDOF comprised 1,271 troops, including 48 women, from Fiji, the Philippines, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 81 UNTSO military observers, including one woman.

The Secretary-General strongly condemned the forced removal of the Fijian peacekeepers from their position and their detention by armed elements, and called for their immediate, unconditional and safe release. Further, he noted that armed opposition groups and other armed groups had gained control of a large part of the area of separation, including a section of the main road connecting the two UNDOF camps—Camp Faouar and Camp Ziouani—and the crossing between the Israeli and the Syrian sides. The Secretary-General also expressed his concern about the firing of a cluster ammunition round, which was contrary to the Convention on Cluster Munitions of 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 623].

Communication. In identical letters [S/2014/667] to the Secretary-General and the Council President, dated 15 September, Syria set out its position regarding the September report (see above) of the Secretary-General, reiterating its commitment to the Disengagement Agreement; denouncing Israel's violations of the Agreement; and condemning the

abduction of United Nations peacekeepers by armed terrorist groups. The United Nations had ignored the intelligence provided by Syria and had failed to react, thus encouraging the groups to persist in their acts.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 19 September [meeting 7270], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/19** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms the importance of maintaining the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974 between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council stresses that, despite the latest security challenges and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force's temporary relocation of the majority of its personnel across the Alpha line, both parties must remain committed to the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement and scrupulously observe the ceasefire and the separation of forces. The Council also urges both parties to continue to offer support to the Force during this period of heightened security threats, and to offer the Force and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization-Observers Group Golan safe passage and resupply when requested.

The Council also reaffirms its unconditional support for the Force and the importance of maintaining the Force as a vital contributor to peace and security in the Middle East. The Council notes with concern the deteriorating security situation in the area of operation of the Force due to the ongoing Syrian conflict and the activities of several non-State armed actors, including Al-Nusra Front, and the risk it poses to the disengagement of forces agreement and to United Nations peacekeepers serving there. In this connection, the Council recognizes the necessity of efforts to flexibly adjust the posture of the Force to minimize risk to United Nations personnel as the Force continues to implement its mandate, while emphasizing that the ultimate goal is for the peacekeepers to return to their positions in the area of operation of the Force as soon as practicable.

The Council condemns recent hostile acts against United Nations peacekeepers in the area of operation of the Force by terrorist groups and non-State armed actors designated by the Council and stresses that there can never be any justification for these attacks on and detention of United Nations peacekeepers. The Council is deeply concerned that firing in close proximity to United Nations positions and camps also significantly increases risk to United Nations personnel. To this end, the Council demands that all groups other than the Force must abandon all Force positions and the Qunaytirah crossing point and return the peacekeepers' vehicles, weapons and other equipment. The Council reiterates that the mandate, impartiality, operations, safety and security of the Force must be respected. The Council calls upon all parties to allow the Force to operate freely and to ensure full security of its personnel and full implementation of the 1974 agreement.

The Council commends peacekeepers of the Force and the United Nations Truce Supervision Operation-Observers Group Golan for their bravery in facing the

threats and challenges in their area of operation, and extends its appreciation to the troop-contributing countries. The Council notes the importance of maintaining the force strength and self-defence resources of the Force at the level necessary to carry out its important mandate and to retain its quick reaction and counter-improvised explosive device capabilities, which have proved indispensable in the face of a changing security environment.

The Council urges Member States with influence to convey strongly to non-State armed actors in this area the need to halt immediately all activities that endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground and impede them in the implementation of their duties as mandated by the Council. The Council recalls the obligation of all Member States to ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice and notes the importance of this obligation with respect to terrorist acts directed against United Nations peacekeepers.

The Council requests that the Secretary-General provide an update within 30 days on steps necessary to maintain the ability of the Force to carry out its mandate, including options for monitoring the ceasefire and the separation of forces even under circumstances when security conditions constrain the Force from fully operating in the area of separation and the area of limitation on the Bravo side, and to keep the Council updated on ways it can support the continuation of this vital mission.

Report of Secretary-General (December). In November [S/2014/859], the Secretary-General reported on UNDOF activities between 4 September and 19 November. During the reporting period, the heavy fighting between Syrian armed forces and various armed groups, including the Nusra Front, in the areas of limitation and separation, which had started in late August, intensified. Between 13 and 15 September, the significant deterioration of the security situation necessitated the temporary relocation of UNDOF personnel and military observers from a few remaining positions in the area of separation to the Israeli-occupied side. The Syrian armed forces carried out more than 40 air strikes in the days immediately following the UNDOF relocation, targeting several locations in the areas of separation and limitation.

On 11 September, the 45 UNDOF peacekeepers, who had been detained since 28 August, were released unharmed to UNDOF.

During the reporting period, the Syrian armed forces withdrew from additional positions and checkpoints in the areas of separation and limitation, leaving armed groups in control of more territory in UNDOF area of operations. Further to the presidential statement of 19 September (see above), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in coordination with UNDOF, held consultations with the parties to the Disengagement Agreement on the necessary steps to maintain the ability of UNDOF to carry out its mandate.

The Department also held consultations with Israel and Syria in New York on the reconfiguration and activities of UNDOF. Both parties expressed their commitment to the Disengagement Agreement and the continuation of UNDOF with its established mandate; regarded the relocation of UNDOF from Camp Faouar and other positions as a temporary measure; and expressed the desire to see the full return of UNDOF to the area of separation, when the security conditions allowed.

Following the decision by the Philippines to withdraw its contingent, 344 Philippine peacekeepers left the mission between 18 and 27 September. As at 12 November, UNDOF comprised 929 troops, including 30 women, from Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal and the Netherlands, and 80 UNTSO military observers, including one woman.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNDOF for further six months, until 30 June 2015, a decision to which both Syria and Israel agreed.

Communication. In identical letters [S/2014/885] to the Secretary-General and the Council President, dated 11 December, Syria set out its position regarding the Secretary-General's December report (see above). Syria stressed that the occupied Syrian Golan was an integral part of Syria and, therefore, UNDOF was present until Israel's occupation came to an end in accordance with relevant Council resolutions. Syria welcomed the fact that the report had documented the crimes committed in the area of separation by armed terrorist groups, including the Nusrah Front, and that the report had recognized such groups' responsibility for the deteriorating situation in the area. Syria, however, said that the Council needed to counteract the States that supported the armed terrorist groups, in order to drive such groups out of the area of separation.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 7346], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2192(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/904] was submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States.

The Security Council,

Noting with concern that the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 28 November 2014 on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and reaffirming its resolution 1308(2000) of 17 July 2000,

Stressing that both parties must abide by the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974 between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and scrupulously observe the ceasefire,

Concurring with the findings of the Secretary-General that the ongoing military activities conducted by any ac-

tor in the area of separation continue to have the potential to escalate tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries, and pose a risk to the local civilian population and United Nations personnel on the ground,

Expressing grave concern at all violations of the disengagement of forces agreement,

Stressing that there should be no military forces in the area of separation other than those of the Force,

Strongly condemning the recent intense fighting in the area of separation, calling upon all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions in the area of operation of the Force and to respect international humanitarian law, and further condemning the use by armed Syrian extremist groups of improvised explosive devices in the area of operation of the Force,

Condemning the use of heavy weapons by both the Syrian armed forces and armed groups in the ongoing Syrian conflict in the area of separation, including the use of tanks by the Syrian armed forces and opposition during clashes,

Echoing the Secretary-General's call upon all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions throughout the country, including in the area of operation of the Force,

Strongly condemning the incidents threatening the safety and security of United Nations personnel in recent months, including the detention of 45 Force peacekeepers by Al-Nusrah Front, stressing that there can never be any justification for these attacks on and detention of United Nations peacekeepers, and emphasizing the need to hold those responsible accountable,

Reaffirming its readiness to consider listing individuals, groups, undertakings and entities providing support to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant or to Al-Nusrah Front, including those who are financing, arming, planning or recruiting for Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant or Al-Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida under the Al-Qaida sanctions regime pursuant to resolutions 1267(1999) of 15 October 1999 and 1989(2011) of 17 June 2011, including those participating in or otherwise supporting attacks against United Nations peacekeepers,

Recognizing the necessity of efforts to flexibly adjust the posture of the Force on a temporary basis to minimize the security risk to United Nations personnel as the Force continues to implement its mandate, while emphasizing that the ultimate goal is for the peacekeepers to return to their positions in the area of operation of the Force as soon as practicable,

Underscoring the need for the Force to have at its disposal all means and resources necessary to carry out its mandate safely and securely, and recalling that the theft of United Nations weapons and ammunition, vehicles and other assets and the looting and destruction of United Nations facilities are unacceptable,

Expressing its profound appreciation to the military and civilian personnel of the Force, including those from Observer Group Golan, for their service and continued contribution in an increasingly challenging operating environment, underscoring the important contribution that the continued presence of the Force makes to peace and security in the Middle East, welcoming steps taken to

enhance the safety and security of personnel of the Force, including Observer Group Golan personnel, and stressing the need for continued vigilance to ensure the safety and security of Force and Observer Group Golan personnel,

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338(1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Stresses* the obligation on both parties to scrupulously and fully respect the terms of the disengagement of forces agreement of 31 May 1974, calls upon the parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent any breaches of the ceasefire and the area of separation, and underscores that there should be no military activity of any kind in the area of separation, including military operations by the Syrian Arab Armed Forces;

3. *Underlines* that there should be no military activity of the armed opposition groups in the area of separation, and urges Member States to convey strongly to the Syrian armed opposition groups in the area of operation of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the need to halt all activities that endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground and to accord the United Nations personnel on the ground the freedom to carry out their mandate safely and securely;

4. *Calls upon* all groups other than the Force to abandon all Force positions and the Qunaytirah crossing point and to return the peacekeepers' vehicles, weapons and other equipment;

5. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of the Force, to respect its privileges and immunities and to ensure its freedom of movement, as well as the security of and unhindered and immediate access for the United Nations personnel carrying out their mandate, including the unimpeded delivery of Force equipment and the temporary use of alternative ports of entry and departure, as required, to ensure safe and secure troop rotation and resupply activities, in conformity with existing agreements, and urges prompt reporting by the Secretary-General to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries of any actions that impede the ability of the Force to fulfil its mandate;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

7. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Force for a period of six months, that is, until 30 June 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Force has the required capacity and resources to fulfil the mandate in a safe and secure way;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338(1973).

Financing

The General Assembly had before it the performance report of UNDOF from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/596], which showed expenditures amount-

ing to \$46,238,700 gross (\$45,059,900 net) against an appropriation of \$45,992,000 gross (\$44,929,300 net). The budget provided for the deployment of 1,047 military contingent personnel, 46 international staff and 110 national staff. The Assembly also considered the Secretary-General's report [A/68/725] containing the budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, which amounted to \$62,417,100 gross (\$60,930,600 net) providing for the deployment of 1,284 military contingent personnel, 58 international staff (including 12 temporary positions) and 110 national staff.

In May [A/68/782/Add.6], ACABQ recommended that the unencumbered balance of \$4,500 for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, as well as other income and adjustments in the amount of \$663,700, for the period ended 30 June 2013, be credited to Member States. It also recommended that the General Assembly appropriate an amount of \$62,394,900 for the maintenance of UNDOF for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNDOF beyond 30 June 2014.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/671/Add.1], adopted **resolution 68/260 B** without vote [agenda item 159 (a)].

Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 350(1974) of 31 May 1974 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2163(2014) of 25 June 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 3211 B(XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/260 A of 27 December 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolu-

tions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 28.5 million United States dollars, representing some 2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 63 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 69,114,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 64,110,900 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 4,148,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 855,100 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 34,557,200 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, in accordance with the levels updated

in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 913,100 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 743,250 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 131,650 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 38,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

15. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 34,557,200 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of 5,759,533 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

16. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 913,100 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 743,250 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 131,650 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 38,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 668,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

18. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 668,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. *Decides* that the decrease of 11,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be set off against the credits in the amount of 668,200 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

22. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate,

in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations Disengagement Observer Force”.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNDOF would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UNTSO

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was the first ever peacekeeping operation

established by the United Nations. It was originally set up to monitor the ceasefire called for by Security Council resolution S/801 of 29 May 1948 [YUN 1947–1948, p. 427] in the newly partitioned Palestine. In 2014, UNTSO continued its work through its military observers who fulfilled evolving mandates—from supervising the four armistice agreements between Israel and its neighbours (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic) to monitoring other ceasefires, as well as performing other tasks. During the year, UNTSO personnel also worked with the two other peacekeeping forces in the area: the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

UNTSO operated under a UN regular budget appropriation of \$74,291,900 million for the 2013–2014 period.

Disarmament

Progress in nuclear disarmament was not reflected in the work of key United Nations disarmament bodies—the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament and the General Assembly’s First Committee. The Conference on Disarmament was unable to commence substantive negotiations based on an agreed programme of work, while the Disarmament Commission ended a third consecutive three-year cycle without agreement on matters of substance. Nevertheless, 2014 was also a year of highlights. The Arms Trade Treaty entered into force on 24 December, marking the opening of a new chapter in collective efforts to bring responsibility, accountability and transparency to the global arms trade. Another significant achievement was the removal and destruction of the Syrian Arab Republic’s declared chemical-weapon stockpile under the auspices of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons–United Nations Joint Mission for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The General Assembly continued its efforts to promote disarmament, including through observing the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September and establishing the Group of Governmental Experts for a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. All nuclear-weapon States signed the protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia that would, when ratified, provide binding negative security assurances to States parties. The Assembly decided to convene in New York in 2015 the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia to promote coordination and convergence in the implementation of the provisions of those treaties and in strengthening the regime of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. On the other hand, nuclear-armed States continued to modernize their nuclear arsenals and, in the case of some nuclear-armed States, expand them.

The humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament gathered renewed momentum. During the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in the First Committee, a total of 155 States endorsed the joint statement on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons proposed by New Zealand, and 20 States endorsed the separate joint statement made by Australia. The tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1540(2004), designed to prevent

non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, was observed on 28 April. It provided an important opportunity to review the status of the resolution and to look forward. In commemoration of the tenth anniversary, the Council held a meeting on 7 May entitled “Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”, during which 60 States expressed their support for the effective implementation of resolution 1540(2004). The third Nuclear Security Summit (The Hague, Netherlands, 24–25 March) issued The Hague Summit’s Communiqué which reaffirmed the fundamental responsibility of States to maintain effective security of all nuclear and other radioactive materials, including those used in nuclear weapons and facilities under their control. The Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons completed its work and made recommendations to the Conference.

The United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament continued to help with capacity-building measures for preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, while also assisting Member States and key stakeholders in implementing Security Council resolution 1540(2004).

UN machinery

Disarmament issues before the United Nations were considered mainly through the Security Council, the General Assembly and its First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee, the Disarmament Commission (a deliberative body) and the Conference on Disarmament (a multilateral negotiating forum which met in Geneva). The Organization also maintained efforts to engage civil society organizations concerned with disarmament issues.

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs provided substantive and organizational support to UN bodies, fostered disarmament measures and disseminated impartial and up-to-date information.

UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) continued to provide for norm-setting in disarmament through the work of the General Assembly and its First Committee, the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament

and other bodies. It fostered disarmament measures, encouraged regional disarmament efforts, provided information on multilateral disarmament and reinforced the Organization's advocacy potential in disarmament and non-proliferation. The Office maintained regional centres for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, UNODA organized and supported activities to facilitate the preparation and implementation of national plans for further implementation of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544]. It also produced, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, a short film entitled *Weapons of mass destruction: threats and global responses* to promote resolution 1540(2004) on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its adoption. With respect to conventional weapons, UNODA promoted the online reporting facility, "The Global Arms Trade", for use by Member States. It continued its advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and civil society, and expanded its interaction with the media, think tanks and civil society organizations.

During the year, UNODA issued its flagship publication, *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* (Sales Nos. E.14.IX.7 and E.14.IX.9).

Fourth special session devoted to disarmament

On 2 December (**decision 69/518**), the General Assembly, by recorded vote (175-0-4), decided to hold at a later date an organizational session of the Open-ended Working Group on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament for the purpose of setting a date for its substantive session in 2015 and 2016. The Working Group had to submit a report on its work, including possible substantive recommendations, before the end of the Assembly's seventy-first (2016) session. The Assembly included the item on the convening of the fourth special session in the provisional agenda of its seventieth (2015) session.

Disarmament Commission

In 2014, the Disarmament Commission, comprising all UN Member States, held six plenary meetings (New York, 7–25 April) [A/69/42]. The main agenda items included recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, addressed by the Commission's Working Group I; and practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons, addressed by Working Group II. Working Group I held eight meetings from 9 to 24 April, during which it considered the Chair's three working papers, as well as working papers submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; Iraq on behalf of the

League of Arab States; and Mexico. On 24 April, the Chair concluded that there was no consensus on the working paper and decided to circulate it under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. Working Group II held 10 meetings from 10 to 24 April, during which it discussed the Chair's non-paper on the subject, which was later revised. On 24 April, the Working Group was unable to achieve consensus on the Chair's third revised non-paper; and was informed that the Chair's non-paper would be issued as a working paper under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. The Commission adopted the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions contained therein. No recommendations were put forward by the Commission.

On 25 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted its report to be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty ninth session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/442], adopted **resolution 69/77** without vote [agenda item 98 (b)].

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012 and 68/63 of 5 December 2013,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission", Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the

General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, in so far as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, notes that the Commission has not submitted any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly in the course of the past 15 years, and thus encourages the revitalization of the work of the Commission in its upcoming triennial cycle;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for a focused and results-oriented discussion on the items on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982 and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";

5. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission intensify consultations with a view to reaching agreement on the items on its agenda, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492, before the start of its substantive session of 2015, providing for focused deliberations and keeping in mind the proposal to include a third agenda item;

6. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (e) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

7. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2015, namely from 6 to 24 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the

Conference on Disarmament on its 2014 Session, together with all the official records of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

9. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2015 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2015 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

Conference on Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral negotiating body, held 28 formal and 29 informal plenary meetings (Geneva, 20 January–28 March, 12 May–27 June, and 28 July–12 September) [A/69/27]. The Conference considered the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament (see p. 620); prevention of nuclear war (*ibid.*); prevention of an arms race in outer space (see p. 678); effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (see p. 623); new types of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and new systems of such weapons: radiological weapons (see p. 640); comprehensive programme of disarmament (see p. 612); and transparency in armaments (see p. 677).

On 21 January [CD/PV.1302], while addressing the Conference, the Secretary-General expressed his hope that the Conference—as the sole standing body on disarmament negotiations—would make 2014 a year of creativity and action. He noted that there was progress on which to build—as the open-ended working group, which convened in Geneva in 2013, had generated some new thinking on the way forward. The Secretary-General suggested that while the Conference continued to seek a path towards renewed disarmament negotiations, it was important that it developed treaty frameworks and proposals through structured discussions. Laying such a foundation for future negotiations would be a concrete first step towards revalidating the relevance of the Conference. He hoped the Conference could make good progress before the third preparatory meeting for the 2015 Review Conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as that would significantly boost morale for that important event.

The Conference concluded its 2014 session without reaching consensus on a programme of work. It decided to hold its 2015 session between January and

September, and requested the current and incoming Presidents to conduct intersessional consultations and to make recommendations, taking into account relevant proposals, views and discussions.

On 10 September, the Conference adopted its report [CD/2004] for submission to the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/442], adopted **resolution 69/76** without vote [agenda item 98 (a)].

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, as expressions of support and concern for the endeavours of the Conference and as calls for the Conference to immediately commence negotiations to advance disarmament goals through the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Recognizing also the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues, and considering that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations,

Noting with renewed concern that, despite the intensive efforts by States members and successive Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament in the 2014 session to reach consensus on a programme of work on the basis of relevant proposals and suggestions, the Conference did not succeed in commencing its substantive work, including negotiations, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/64 of 5 December 2013, or in agreeing on and implementing a programme of work,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals,

Welcoming the overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament without further delay, on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Appreciating the continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the six successive Presidents of the Conference at its 2014 session,

Noting with appreciation the significant contributions made during the 2014 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, including the informal discussions held pursuant to the decision contained in document CD/1978, and noting the discussions on the functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Emphasizing the importance of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as a stand-alone, autonomous institution, and the contribution that its research makes,

Recognizing the importance of engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament according to decisions taken by the Conference,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2015 session,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Appreciates* the strong support expressed for the Conference on Disarmament during its 2014 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, while also acknowledging their concern about its ongoing impasse, and takes into account their calls for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference without further delay;

3. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to further intensify consultations and to explore possibilities for overcoming its ongoing deadlock of well over a decade by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date during its 2015 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009, as well as other relevant present, past and future proposals;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the informal working group with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation, and appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chair and Vice Co-Chair of the informal working group;

5. *Also welcomes* the fact that the Conference on Disarmament, pursuant to document CD/1978, held a series of structured and substantive informal discussions on all items on the agenda of the Conference;

6. *Further welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to request the current President and the incoming President of the Conference to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations;

7. *Requests* all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, in its 2015 session;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations in 2015 on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure and to strengthen, if needed, the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of all necessary administrative, substantive and conference support services;

10. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on its work;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session”, the sub-item entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament”.

Also on the same day (**decision 69/519**), the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth (2015) session the item entitled “Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations”.

Comprehensive programme of disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament discussed agenda item 6, “Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament”, in informal plenary meetings (25–26 June). Delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item.

Multilateral disarmament agreements

As at 31 December 2014, the following States had become parties to the multilateral arms regulation and disarmament agreements listed below (in chronological order, with the years in which they were signed or opened for signature).

Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (1925 Geneva Protocol): 138 parties

Antarctic Treaty (1959): 50 parties

Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (Partial Test Ban Treaty) (1963): 126 parties

Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Outer Space Treaty) (1967) [YUN 1966, p. 41, GA res. 2222(XXI), annex]: 103 parties

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (1967): 33 parties

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (1968) [YUN 1968, p. 17, GA res. 2373(XXII), annex]: 190 parties

Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (Sea-bed Treaty) (1971) [YUN 1970, p. 18, GA res. 2660(XXV), annex]: 94 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC) (1972) [YUN 1971, p. 19, GA res. 2826(XXV), annex]: 169 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (1977) [YUN 1976, p. 44, GA res. 31/72, annex]: 76 parties

Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1979) [YUN 1979, p. 110, GA res. 34/68, annex]: 16 parties

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) (1981): 119 parties

South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Rarotonga Treaty) (1985): 13 parties

Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) (1990): 30 parties

Treaty on Open Skies (1992): 34 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) (1993): 190 parties

Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Bangkok Treaty) (1995): 10 parties

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) (1996): 39 parties

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (1996): 163 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, formerly known as the Ottawa Convention) (1997): 162 parties

Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (1997): 31 parties

Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (1999): 16 parties

Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (CANWFZ Treaty) (2006): 5 parties

Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008): 88 parties

Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention) (2010): 4 parties.

Arms Trade Treaty (2013): 61 parties.

UN role in disarmament

Disarmament and development

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/37 [YUN 2013, p. 466], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/152] regarding trends to further strengthen within the United Nations the relationship between disarmament

and development. The report contained information received from 12 countries (Albania, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Iraq, Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Ukraine) on measures to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. Within the United Nations, the main coordination mechanisms on issues relating to arms and development remained the United Nations Mine Action Team, the Coordinating Action on Small Arms, and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

The Secretary-General said that the United Nations continued to implement the recommendations contained in key documents on disarmament and development, including the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development [YUN 1987, p. 82], and the 2004 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development [YUN 2004, p. 579]. In recent years, it had broadened the scope of disarmament and arms regulation efforts to address the social and economic impact of the use of conventional weapons, their proliferation and accumulation and the illicit trade, in particular, in small arms. The 2013 Arms Trade Treaty [YUN 2013, p. 507] explicitly acknowledged the interlinkage between development and, peace and security and human rights, as well as the security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional weapons. The Treaty would provide a framework for international cooperation and capacity-building regarding the prevention of diversion and questionable transfers. Given the direct impact that armed violence could have on achieving agreed goals pertaining to development, a goal related to peace and security needed to be high on the agenda when looking ahead towards the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/56** without vote [agenda item 96 (ii)].

Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations envisages the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Recalling also the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly concerning the relationship between disarmament and development, as well as the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, 52/38 D of 9 December 1997, 53/77 K of 4 December 1998, 54/54 T of 1 December 1999, 55/33 L of 20 November 2000, 56/24 E of 29 November 2001, 57/65 of 22 November 2002, 59/78 of 3 December 2004, 60/61 of 8 December 2005, 61/64 of 6 December 2006, 62/48 of 5 December 2007, 63/52 of 2 December 2008, 64/32 of 2 December 2009, 65/52 of 8 December 2010, 66/30 of 2 December 2011, 67/40 of 3 December 2012 and 68/37 of 5 December 2013 and its decision 58/520 of 8 December 2003,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012,

Mindful of the changes in international relations that have taken place since the adoption in 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, including the development agenda that has emerged over the past decade,

Bearing in mind the new challenges for the international community in the fields of development, poverty eradication and the elimination of the diseases that afflict humanity,

Stressing the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection, and concerned at increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development and its reappraisal of this significant issue in the current international context,

Bearing in mind the importance of following up on the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,

1. *Stresses* the central role of the United Nations in the relationship between disarmament and development, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field, in particular the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development, in order to ensure continued and effective coordination and close cooperation between the relevant United Nations departments, agencies and subagencies;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted on 11 September 1987 at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;

3. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

4. *Encourages* the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to make reference to the contribution that disarmament could provide in meeting them when it reviews its progress towards this purpose, as well as to make greater efforts to integrate disarmament, humanitarian and development activities;

5. *Encourages* the relevant regional and sub-regional organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations and research institutes to incorporate issues related to the relationship between disarmament and development into their agendas and, in this regard, to take into account the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development;

6. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the information provided by Member States pursuant to paragraph 6 above;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

Women and disarmament

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/33 [YUN 2013, p. 467], the Secretary-General submitted a report on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control [A/69/114 & Add.I] containing the replies of 16 Member States, the European Union, and six UN organizations to his request for their views on ways and means of promoting the role of women in those areas.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/61** by recorded vote (183-0-0) [agenda item 96 (r)].

Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms the equal rights of women and men,

Recalling also its resolutions 65/69 of 8 December 2010, 67/48 of 3 December 2012 and 68/33 of 5 December 2013,

Recalling further General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the issue of women and peace and security,

Welcoming the call for the full and meaningful participation of women in efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit transfer of small arms, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013, 2117(2013) of 26 September 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013,

Reaffirming that the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is one of the essential factors for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures carried out at the local, national, subregional and regional levels in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict, and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control,

Recognizing also that the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control should be further developed and in particular the need to facilitate the participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control,

Noting the imminent entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, and therefore encouraging States parties to fully implement all the provisions of the Treaty, including the provision on serious acts of gender-based violence,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Member States to increase the participation of women in their national and regional coordination mechanisms on disarmament-related matters, including in efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

1. *Urges* Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken by Member States to implement General Assembly resolution 68/33;

3. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts of the United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to accord high priority to the issue of women and peace and security, and in this regard notes the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting the implementation of all resolutions related to women in the context of peace and security;

4. *Encourages* Member States to better understand the impact of armed violence, in particular the impact of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons on women and girls, through, inter alia, strengthening the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age;

5. *Urges* Member States to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels;

6. *Calls upon* all States to empower women, including through capacity-building efforts, as appropriate, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts;

7. *Also calls upon* all States to develop appropriate and effective national risk assessment criteria to facilitate the prevention of the use of arms to commit violence against women and children;

8. *Requests* the relevant United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to assist States, upon request, in promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/61:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: None.

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, which advised the Secretary-General and served as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), held its sixty-first (New York, 5–7 March) and sixty-second (Geneva, 2–4 July) sessions. The Board considered the disarmament and security implications of emerging technologies and verification, with a special focus on new verification technologies. A report of the Secretary-General [A/69/208] summarized the Board’s deliberations.

The Advisory Board recommended that the Secretary-General commission a study to examine

the distinction between armed/military drones and unarmed/peaceful/civilian drones, and such ideas as improving transparency in targeted unmanned aerial vehicle strikes as a confidence-building measure and developing a robust oversight and accountability mechanisms for targeted strikes outside active battlefields. The proposed study should also consider international humanitarian law and how relevant principles, such as distinction, proportionality and military necessity should be applied to avoid excessive injurious or indiscriminate effects. The Secretary-General should include in the study a broader range of emerging technologies that might have an impact on international security and the arms control process, including in the field of outer space; encourage international and regional organizations to engage in and discuss the issue of emerging technologies; encourage Member States to take into account their responsibility and obligation to the wider international community when using such technologies, given the absence of international regulation; encourage States to develop and implement relevant inter-State transparency and confidence-building measures; use his authority to promote the importance of developing new verification technologies for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and encourage States to share such technologies; and encourage Member States to share information derived from national technical means to enhance verification with multilateral organizations.

The Advisory Board recommended that the Secretary-General foster more active and constructive interaction and cooperation among existing organizations based on extensive verification regimes through information- and experience-sharing, and should consider convening a meeting of the relevant organizations to discuss cooperation. The Secretary-General should encourage Member States with the requisite means to assist other States, in particular developing countries, with capacity-building in monitoring and verification; and convene a new Panel of Government experts on verification in all its aspects, with a focus on the role of new verification technologies.

Serving as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, the Advisory Board approved the Institute’s workplan and budget for 2014–2015, as well as the submission to the General Assembly of the report of the Institute’s Director on its activities and financial status.

Nuclear disarmament

In response to General Assembly resolutions 68/40 [YUN 2013, p. 469], 68/42 [ibid., p. 479] and 68/47 [ibid., p. 472], the Secretary-General submitted a July report, with later addendum [A/69/131 & Add.1] on nuclear dis-

armament. He observed that Governments and civil society had carried forward efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, including through major international initiatives to promote the humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament and to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. Mexico hosted the second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Nayarit, 13–14 February), which concluded that beyond the immediate death and destruction caused by a detonation, socioeconomic development would be hampered, the environment damaged and suffering would be widespread, especially for the poor and most vulnerable.

The international community made some progress towards the consolidation and further establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. On 6 May, on the margins of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the nuclear-weapon States (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States) signed the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia [YUN 2006, p. 645], providing legally binding assurance that they would respect the application of the Treaty and neither use, nor threaten to use, nuclear weapons against the parties to the Treaty. The signing of the Protocol marked an important milestone towards the consolidation of the zone. The third preparatory meeting for the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia was held on 7 May in New York.

Nuclear-weapon States continued to implement commitments on nuclear disarmament, principally by promoting greater transparency through multilateral and unilateral means and implementing their treaty obligations. At their fifth conference (Beijing, 14–15 April), the nuclear-weapon States reaffirmed their commitment to the shared goal of nuclear disarmament and to general and complete disarmament, and emphasized the importance of joint efforts in implementing the actions agreed to at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [YUN 2010, p. 531]. They also reviewed their work on specific joint initiatives, such as a glossary of key nuclear terms and a common reporting framework. The Russian Federation and the United States continued to work towards the full implementation of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. [ibid., p. 514]. At the session of the Bilateral Consultative Commission (Geneva, February), the parties reached agreement on additional procedures for inspecting deployed United States Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missiles and on the telemetric information on intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missile launches to be exchanged in 2014. In

April, the United States released newly declassified data, updating annual figures for the first time since 2010, which indicated that its total weapons stockpile consisted of 4,804 warheads as at 30 September 2013. Other States also continued to undertake or initiate new efforts aimed at facilitating the nuclear disarmament process. The members of the Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative issued a ministerial statement of 26 September, urging all nuclear-weapon States and those outside the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to take steps towards the speedy, final and total elimination of their nuclear weapons.

The Secretary-General observed that despite some progress in implementing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements, Member States and civil society expressed growing frustration with the slow pace of progress. While the nuclear-armed States with the largest nuclear arsenals continued to make progress in reducing their deployment of strategic nuclear weapons, the total estimated number of such weapons, deployed and non-deployed, still amounted to several thousand. Moreover, a number of States continued to rely on nuclear weapons in their defence and security policies and many of them continued to pursue programmes for modernizing their nuclear weapons, delivery systems and related infrastructure. Some nuclear-armed States also continued to quantitatively expand their nuclear arsenals. Despite the stalemate plaguing the UN disarmament machinery, the lack of progress towards the total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons had led to a continuing search for new means to carry forward the work of achieving the common goal of a world without nuclear weapons. The Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs continued to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In January, the Secretary-General urged the Conference on Disarmament to live up to the expectations of the international community, lest it be overtaken by events. At the Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague in March, the Secretary-General warned that nuclear security would be jeopardized by the very existence of such weapons and by the vast amounts of weapons-usable nuclear material in stockpiles outside any international regulatory controls.

Included in the report were replies from 10 Member States on measures they had taken to implement resolution 66/42 [YUN 2013, p. 479] concerning the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (see p. 627) on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/40** by recorded vote (124-48-10) [agenda item 96 (x)].

Reducing nuclear danger

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Reaffirming that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war,

Convinced also that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Considering that, until nuclear weapons cease to exist, it is imperative on the part of the nuclear-weapon States to adopt measures that assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering also that the hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, which would have catastrophic consequences for all mankind,

Emphasizing the need to adopt measures to avoid accidental, unauthorized or unexplained incidents arising from computer anomaly or other technical malfunctions,

Conscious that limited steps relating to de-alerting and de-targeting have been taken by the nuclear-weapon States and that further practical, realistic and mutually reinforcing steps are necessary to contribute to the improvement in the international climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful that a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in the security policies of nuclear-weapon States would positively impact on international peace and security and improve the conditions for the further reduction and the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Recalling also the call, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction and the resolve to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

1. *Calls for* a review of nuclear doctrines and, in this context, immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting nuclear weapons;

2. *Requests* the five nuclear-weapon States to take measures towards the implementation of paragraph 1 above;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to take the measures necessary to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of its resolution 68/40 of 5 December 2013;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war, and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Reducing nuclear danger".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/40:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, China, Georgia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Uzbekistan.

Also on the same date [meeting 62], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/42** by recorded vote (166-4-11) [agenda item 96].

Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/36 of 5 December 2007, 63/41 of 2 December 2008, 65/71 of 8 December 2010 and 67/46 of 3 December 2012,

Recalling also that the maintenance of nuclear weapons on high alert was a feature of cold war nuclear postures, and welcoming the increased confidence and transparency since the cessation of the cold war,

Concerned that, notwithstanding the end of the cold war, several thousand nuclear weapons remain on high alert, ready to be launched within minutes,

Noting the continuing engagement in multilateral disarmament forums in support of further reductions to the operational status of nuclear weapons systems,

Recognizing that the maintenance of nuclear weapons systems at a high level of readiness increases the risk of the unintentional or accidental use of such weapons, which would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences,

Recognizing also that reductions in deployments and the lowering of operational status contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as to the process of nuclear disarmament, through the enhancement of confidence-building and transparency measures and a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies,

Welcoming the steps taken by some States in support of nuclear disarmament, including de-targeting initiatives, increasing the amount of preparation time required for deployment and other measures to diminish further the possibility of nuclear launches resulting from accidents, unauthorized actions or misperceptions,

Welcoming also the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including the commitments of the nuclear-weapon States to promptly engage with a view to, inter alia, considering the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in further reducing the operational status of nuclear weapons systems in ways that promote international stability and security,

Acknowledging, in this regard, the continued dialogue among the nuclear-weapon States to advance their nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament commitments under the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference and the potential of this process for leading to deeper engagement on nuclear disarmament and greater mutual confidence,

Taking note of the references to operational readiness in reports of the nuclear-weapon States to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Welcoming all opportunities to address the further reduction of the operational status of nuclear weapons systems as a step leading to nuclear disarmament,

1. *Calls for* further practical steps to be taken to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems, with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status;

2. *Looks forward* to the issue of the lowering of the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems being addressed further at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

3. *Urges* States to update the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/42:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria,

Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Estonia, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Micronesia, Palau, Republic of Korea, Turkey.

Follow-up to General Assembly high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/32 [YUN 2013, p. 471], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/172 & Add.1] containing the replies of 19 Member States to his request for their views on achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/58** by recorded vote (139-24-19) [agenda item 96 (g)].

Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 67/39 of 3 December 2012 and 68/32 of 5 December 2013,

Welcoming the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, on 26 September 2013, and recognizing its contribution to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing the importance of seeking a safer world for all and achieving peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that effective measures of nuclear disarmament have the highest priority, as affirmed at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons are the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Acknowledging the significant contribution made by a number of countries towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament by the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as by voluntary renunciation of nuclear weapon programmes or withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from their territories, and strongly supporting the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Recalling the resolve of the Heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, and also reaffirming the continued importance and relevance of multilateral disarmament machinery as mandated by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament,

Acknowledging the important role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians and the mass media, in advancing the objective of nuclear disarmament,

Sharing the deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 68/32, and welcoming the fact that a large number of Member States contributed their views to this report,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Determined to work collectively towards the realization of nuclear disarmament,

1. *Underlines* the strong support, expressed at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

2. *Calls for* urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament;

3. *Endorses* the wide support expressed at the high-level meeting for a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons;

4. *Calls for* the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction;

5. *Recalls* its decision to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard;

6. *Takes note* of the views provided by Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, as reflected in the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 68/32, and requests that the Secretary-General forward this report to the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission for their early consideration;

7. *Welcomes* the commemoration and promotion of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons devoted to furthering this objective;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States, the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals that developed activities in promotion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to make all the arrangements necessary to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, including by convening an annual meeting of the Assembly to commemorate the International Day and to provide a platform for the promotion of these activities;

10. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, and also to transmit the report to the Conference on Disarmament;

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

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", a sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/58:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica,

Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Conference on Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament discussed agenda items "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters" in informal plenary meetings (21–23 May and 4–6 June) [CD/1978]. The documents presented before the Conference included a note verbale dated 27 January from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), transmitting the proposals made by the National Defence Commission of the DPRK on 16 January [CD/1966]; a note verbale dated 21 February from Cuba transmitting the "Special declaration on nuclear disarmament" and the "Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace", adopted by the Heads of State and Government during the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Havana, 28–29 January) [CD/1972]; a note verbale dated 21 February from Iran, in its capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, transmitting the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Nayarit, Mexico, 13–14 February) [CD/1973]; a note verbale dated 27 March from Mexico transmitting the Chair's Summary of the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico, 13–14 February) [CD/1979]; a note verbale dated 20 May from the United States transmitting the fact sheet on "Transparency in the

United States Nuclear Weapons Stockpile" dated 29 April [CD/1984]; a working paper submitted by Cuba on behalf of G-21 member States on resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament" [CD/1999]; a note verbale dated 3 September from Algeria transmitting the text of the section on disarmament and international security of the final document of the XVII Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (Algiers, Algeria, 26–29 May) [CD/2002]; a letter dated 10 June from the Russian Federation and China transmitting the updated Russian and Chinese texts of the draft treaty on prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects introduced by the Russian Federation and China [CD/1985]; and a note verbale dated 2 September from the United States, transmitting that country's analysis of the 2014 Russian-Chinese draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects [CD/1998].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/48** by recorded vote (121-44-17) [agenda item 96 (cc)].

Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolutions 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, 51/45 O of 10 December 1996, 52/38 L of 9 December 1997, 53/77 X of 4 December 1998, 54/54 P of 1 December 1999, 55/33 T of 20 November 2000, 56/24 R of 29 November 2001, 57/79 of 22 November 2002, 58/56 of 8 December 2003, 59/77 of 3 December 2004, 60/70 of 8 December 2005, 61/78 of 6 December 2006, 62/42 of 5 December 2007, 63/46 of 2 December 2008, 64/53 of 2 December 2009, 65/56 of 8 December 2010, 66/51 of 2 December 2011, 67/60 of 3 December 2012 and 68/47 of 5 December 2013 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972 and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993 have already established legal regimes on the complete prohibition of biological and chemical weapons, respectively, and determined to achieve a nuclear weapons convention on the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, loan, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention at an early date,

Recognizing that there now exist conditions for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons, and stressing the need to take concrete practical steps towards achieving this goal,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time frames, wherever feasible, for the progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Reaffirming the conviction of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that the Treaty is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and the importance of the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the decision on the extension of the Treaty and the resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Stressing the importance of the 13 steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as agreed to by the States parties in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recognizing the important work done at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and affirming its action plan as an impetus to intensify work aimed at beginning negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Reiterating its call for an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,

Noting the entry into force of the new strategic arms reduction treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, in order to achieve further deep cuts in their strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, and stressing that such cuts should be irreversible, verifiable and transparent,

Recalling the entry into force of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions (the Moscow Treaty) as a significant step towards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear weapons, while calling for further irreversible deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals,

Noting the positive statements by nuclear-weapon States of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, while reaffirming the need for urgent concrete actions by nuclear-weapon States to achieve this goal within a specified framework of time, and urging them to take further measures for progress on nuclear disarmament,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament,

and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, issued on 8 July 1996, and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Mindful of paragraph 102 of the Final Document of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana from 27 to 30 April 2009,

Recalling paragraph 157 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012, in which the Conference on Disarmament was called upon to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament and to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time, including a nuclear weapons convention,

Noting the adoption of the programme of work for the 2009 session by the Conference on Disarmament on 29 May 2009, after years of stalemate, while regretting that the Conference has not been able to undertake substantive work on its agenda in 2014,

Welcoming the proposal submitted by the States members of the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013,

Welcoming also the re-establishment of the informal working group with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation by the Conference on Disarmament on 3 March 2014, and the structured and substantive discussions on all agenda items held by the Conference during its 2014 session,

Reaffirming the importance and validity of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, and expressing the need to adopt and implement a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on the basis of its agenda and dealing with, inter alia, four core issues, in accordance with the rules of procedure, and by taking into consideration the security concerns of all States,

Reaffirming also the specific mandate conferred upon the Disarmament Commission by the General Assembly, in its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, to discuss the subject of nuclear disarmament as one of its main substantive agenda items,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

Recalling also the Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament made at the Seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Algiers from 26 to 29 May 2014, in which the ministers reaffirmed the firm commitment of the Movement to the goal of a safer world for all and to achieving peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons, and reiterated their support for the convening, by 2018 at the very latest, of a high-level international conference of the United Nations on nuclear disarmament to review the progress achieved in this regard,

Welcoming the successful convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013,

Welcoming also the commemoration of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/32, devoted to furthering this objective,

Noting the successful convening of the First and Second Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013 and in Nayarit, Mexico, on 13 and 14 February 2014, respectively, as well as the upcoming Third Conference, to be held in Vienna on 8 and 9 December 2014,

Welcoming the signing by the nuclear-weapon States, namely, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, in New York on 6 May 2014,

Welcoming also the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace on 29 January 2014 during the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana on 28 and 29 January 2014,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States should refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in settling their disputes in international relations,

Seized of the danger of the use of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in terrorist acts and the urgent need for concerted international efforts to control and overcome it,

1. *Recognizes* that the time is now opportune for all the nuclear-weapon States to take effective disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of these weapons at the earliest possible time;

2. *Reaffirms* that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that the two processes must go hand in hand and that there is a genuine need for a systematic and progressive process of nuclear disarmament;

3. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of the world, including the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons, on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions

concerned, which is an effective measure for limiting the further spread of nuclear weapons geographically and contributes to the cause of nuclear disarmament;

4. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts between the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the nuclear-weapon States, and encourages the nuclear-weapon States in their early signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone;

5. *Recognizes* that there is a genuine need to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

6. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

7. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures to reduce further the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems, while stressing that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in and the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

8. *Reiterates its call upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to achieving the total elimination of these weapons within a specified framework of time;

9. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on a joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and calls upon all States to conclude an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States;

10. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to commence plurilateral negotiations among themselves at an appropriate stage on further deep reductions of nuclear weapons as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament;

11. *Underlines* the importance of applying the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to the process of nuclear disarmament and to nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures;

12. *Also underlines* the importance of the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty, and the reaffirmation by the States parties that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

13. *Calls for* the full and effective implementation of the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference;

14. *Also calls for* the full implementation of the action plan as set out in the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, particularly the 22-point action plan on nuclear disarmament;

15. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to carry out further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

16. *Calls for* the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein;

17. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to commence as early as possible its substantive work during its 2015 session, while welcoming the re-establishment of the informal working group with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation, on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that takes into consideration all the real and existing priorities in the field of disarmament and arms control, including the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to their conclusion within five years;

18. *Calls for* the conclusion of an international legal instrument or instruments on adequate and unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States;

19. *Also calls for* the early entry into force and strict observance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, while welcoming the recent ratification of the Treaty by the Congo and Niue;

20. *Reiterates its call upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament in 2015 and to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time;

21. *Calls for* the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects at an early date to identify and deal with concrete measures of nuclear disarmament;

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

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/48:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint

Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, India, Ireland, Japan, Malta, Mauritius, Montenegro, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Uzbekistan.

Fissile material

The Conference on Disarmament held informal meetings from 4 to 6 June, during which it discussed, among other things, the ban on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices. Those informal discussions were neither pre-negotiations nor negotiations, and complemented, and in no case replaced, the Conference on Disarmament's on-going activities. The report on the discussion was contained in the reports of the Coordinators on the various substantive agenda items [CD/1995].

Prior to the meeting of the Conference, the Group of Governmental Experts established by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/53 [YUN 2012, p. 478] to develop recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to, but not negotiate, a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices held its first (31 March–11 April) and second (11–22 August) sessions in Geneva.

On 2 December (**decision 69/516**), the Assembly, by recorded vote (177-1-5), welcomed the commencement of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts and the informal discussion of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices that took place in the Conference on Disarmament from 4 to 6 June.

It also decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth (2015) session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices".

Security assurances

The Conference on Disarmament discussed agenda item "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat

of the use of nuclear weapons” (or “negative security assurances”) in informal plenary meetings from 18 to 20 June. The Conference considered the briefing note submitted by Ukraine on 1 March concerning the guarantees of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the territory and frontiers of Ukraine [CD/1975]; a non-paper on violations of Ukraine’s laws in force and of Ukrainian-Russian agreements by military units of the Black Sea fleet of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine [CD/1976]; the address by the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) to the guarantors States of the Security of Ukraine adopted on 11 March [CD/1977]; the reports of the Coordinators on the various substantive agenda items [CD/1995]; and the text of the section on disarmament and international security of the final document of the XVII Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (Algiers, Algeria, 26–29 May) [CD/2002].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/437], adopted **resolution 69/30** by recorded vote (125-0-56) [agenda item 93].

Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Noting that the renewed interest in nuclear disarmament should be translated into concrete actions for the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined to abide strictly by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first

special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, in which it is stated, *inter alia*, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to reaching agreement on this question,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under the item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003, which was reiterated at the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 15 and 16 July 2009, and in Tehran on 30 and 31 August 2012, as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all the nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984(1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994, 50/68 of 12 December 1995, 51/43 of 10 December 1996, 52/36 of 9 December 1997, 53/75 of 4 December 1998, 54/52 of 1 December 1999, 55/31 of 20 November 2000, 56/22 of 29 November 2001, 57/56 of 22 November 2002, 58/35 of 8 December 2003, 59/64 of 3 December 2004, 60/53 of 8 December 2005, 61/57 of 6 December 2006,

62/19 of 5 December 2007, 63/39 of 2 December 2008, 64/27 of 2 December 2009, 65/43 of 8 December 2010, 66/26 of 2 December 2011, 67/29 of 3 December 2012 and 68/28 of 5 December 2013,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties with regard to evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

3. *Appeals* to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. *Recommends* that further intensive efforts be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. *Also recommends* that the Conference on Disarmament actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international agreements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/30:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Status

As at 31 December, the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) adopted by General Assembly resolution 50/245 [YUN 1996, p. 454], had been signed by 183 States and ratified by 163. During the year, instruments of ratification were deposited by Niue and the Congo. Pursuant to article XIV, CTBT would enter into force 180 days after the 44 States possessing nuclear reactors listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty had deposited their instruments of ratification. By year's end, 36 of those States had ratified the Treaty.

Group of Eminent Persons. The Group of Eminent Persons met (Stockholm, Sweden, 11–12 April) to promote the entry into force of the CTBT and reinvigorate international endeavours towards that goal. The Group outlined a strategy to secure ratification by the outstanding Annex 2 States, and agreed to promote the Treaty's entry into force through multi-layered engagement.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 68/68 [YUN 2013, p. 477], the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for CTBT, submitted a July report [A/69/137], covering the period from June 2013 to May 2014, on the efforts of States that had ratified the Treaty towards its universalization and the possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that requested it.

CTBT Ministerial Meeting

The seventh CTBT biennial Ministerial Meeting (New York, 26 September), attended by over 90 CTBT signatories, reaffirmed its commitment to the CTBT as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Participating ministers joined the Secretary-General in urging the eight remaining Annex 2 States to ratify the Treaty without delay in order to achieve its earliest entry into force.

The Meeting adopted a joint ministerial statement calling for the entry into force of CTBT. The ministers acknowledged the importance of the Treaty's entry into force as "a vital step towards the reduction and

eventual elimination of nuclear weapons by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons.” The statement further highlighted the role of the Group of Eminent Persons in assisting in the process of entry into force and stressed the importance of the on-site inspection simulation, the Integrated Field Exercise 2014 in Jordan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/446], adopted **resolution 69/81** by recorded vote (179-1-3) [agenda item 102].

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure, and convinced that this is a meaningful step in the realization of a systematic process for achieving nuclear disarmament,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Stressing that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and that, after more than 15 years, its entry into force is more urgent than ever before,

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by 183 States, including 41 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of the Treaty by 163 States, including 36 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, among which there are 3 nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling its resolution 68/68 of 5 December 2013,

Welcoming the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in which the Conference, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and included specific actions to be taken in support of the entry into force of the Treaty,

Welcoming also the Final Declaration adopted by the eighth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 27 September 2013, convened pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, and recalling the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted at the ministerial meeting held in New York on 26 September 2014,

Noting the establishment of a group of eminent persons to complement efforts to secure ratifications from the remaining Annex 2 countries and to support the article XIV process, and noting also that the group met in Stockholm on 10 and 11 April 2014 and decided to establish three

subgroups to focus on the promotion of ratification by countries whose ratification is needed for the entry into force of the Treaty,

1. *Stresses* the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, in order to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the signatory States to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty;

3. *Underlines* the need to maintain momentum towards completion of all elements of the verification regime;

4. *Urges* all States not to carry out nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, to maintain their moratoriums in this regard and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty;

5. *Shares the grave concern* of the Security Council about the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2013, expressed in Council resolution 2094(2013) of 7 March 2013, recalls Council resolutions 1718(2006) of 14 October 2006 and 1874(2009) of 12 June 2009, calls for full compliance with the obligations under the relevant resolutions, and reaffirms its support for the Six-Party Talks;

6. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;

7. *Urges* all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

8. *Welcomes*, since its previous resolution on the subject, the ratification of the Treaty by the Congo and Niue, since every ratification is a significant step towards the early entry into force of the Treaty;

9. *Also welcomes* the recent expressions from among the remaining States whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to enter into force of their intention to pursue and complete the ratification process;

10. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, to prepare a report on the efforts of States that have ratified the Treaty towards its universalization and on possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that so request it and to submit such a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/81:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Abstaining: India, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic.

Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), established by the signatory States in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 452], held its forty-second session (16–17 June) [CTBT/PC42/2 & Corr.1], a special session (21 August) [CTBT/PC42/2 Add.1 & Corr.1], and its forty-third session (28–30 October) [CTBT/PC-43/2] in Vienna.

Progress made by the Commission included the steady growth of the International Monitoring System (IMS) [YUN 1999, p. 472], which comprised 321 monitoring stations, 16 radionuclide laboratories and 40 noble gas detection systems located in over 90 countries. As at December, 281 facilities and 22 noble gas systems were certified. With three facilities and four noble gas systems certified during the year, the operational capacity of IMS had reached 90 per cent. With the completion of the IMS in sight, future attention would be shifted to maintaining sustainability, cost effectiveness and financial viability of the CTBT verification regime. Two strategic goals, the operation and sustainment of the verification system, and the development of on-site-inspection operational capa-

bilities, were identified in the organization's mid-term strategy through 2017.

Note of Secretary-General. In July, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report [A/69/164] of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for 2013, pursuant to article IV, paragraph 1, of the Agreement to Regulate the Relationship between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for CTBTO, annexed to Assembly resolution 54/280 [YUN 2000, p. 501].

Report of Secretary-General. In his 2014 consolidated report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations [A/69/228-S/2014/560], the Secretary-General indicated that the World Meteorological Organization collaborated with CTBTO, principally in the area of the numerical simulation of atmospheric transport and dispersion, in "backtracking" mode. Nine Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres were currently involved.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/112** [draft: A/69/L.15 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 123 (v)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note also of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization".

Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/47 [YUN 2013, p. 472] regarding the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice that the threat of use of nuclear weapons was contrary to the UN Charter [YUN 1996, p. 461], the Secretary-General presented in July information [A/69/131] from eight Member States (Cuba, Ecuador, Georgia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, Ukraine) on measures they had taken to implement the resolution and towards nuclear disarmament.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/43** by recorded vote (134-23-23) [agenda item 96 (z)].

**Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the
International Court of Justice on the legality
of the threat or use of nuclear weapons**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, 51/45 M of 10 December 1996, 52/38 O of 9 December 1997, 53/77 W of 4 December 1998, 54/54 Q of 1 December 1999, 55/33 X of 20 November 2000, 56/24 S of 29 November 2001, 57/85 of 22 November 2002, 58/46 of 8 December 2003, 59/83 of 3 December 2004, 60/76 of 8 December 2005, 61/83 of 6 December 2006, 62/39 of 5 December 2007, 63/49 of 2 December 2008, 64/55 of 2 December 2009, 65/76 of 8 December 2010, 66/46 of 2 December 2011, 67/33 of 3 December 2012 and 68/42 of 5 December 2013,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to humanity and all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the realization of the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world through the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the unequivocal commitment of nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, agreed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the action points agreed at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as part of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions on nuclear disarmament,

Sharing the deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law,

Calling upon all nuclear-weapon States to undertake concrete disarmament efforts, and stressing that all States need to make special efforts to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons,

Noting the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General, in which he proposes, inter alia, the consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification,

Recalling the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty, the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central

Asia, as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Emphasizing the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Stressing the urgent need for the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the 13 practical steps to implement article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons leading to nuclear disarmament, contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference,

Taking note of the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention that was submitted to the Secretary-General by Costa Rica and Malaysia in 2007 and circulated by the Secretary-General,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, issued on 8 July 1996,

1. *Underlines once again* the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. *Calls once again upon* all States immediately to fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

3. *Requests* all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken with respect to the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its seventieth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/43:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras,

ras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Canada, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Micronesia, Montenegro, Norway, Palau, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons

In 2014, no progress was made on a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, as the Conference on Disarmament was unable to undertake negotiations on the subject, as called for in General Assembly resolution 68/58 [YUN 2013, p. 480]. The Assembly reiterated its request to the Conference to commence negotiations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/441], adopted **resolution 69/69** by recorded vote (125-50-7) [agenda item 97 (d)].

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly it is

stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and which would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653(XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 2014 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 68/58 of 5 December 2013,

1. *Reiterates its request* to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/69:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Armenia, Belarus, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Uzbekistan.

Humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament

The Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico, 13–14 February), attended by delegations from 146 States, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and civil society organizations, discussed global and long-term consequences of nuclear detonation with respect to public health, humanitarian assistance, the economy, development and environmental issues, climate change, food security and risk management, amongst others.

The Chair's summary [CD/1979], transmitted to the Conference on Disarmament, stated that the effects of a nuclear weapon detonation were not constrained by national borders. Beyond the immediate death and destruction caused by a detonation, socioeconomic development would be hampered and the environment damaged. Suffering would be widespread, and the poor and vulnerable would be the most severely affected. Reconstruction of infrastructure and regeneration of economic activities, trade, communications, health facilities, and schools would take several decades, causing profound social and political harm. Radiation exposure could result in short- and long-term negative effects in every organ of the human body and increase cancer risks and future hereditary pathologies. As more countries deployed more nuclear weapons on higher levels of combat readiness, the risks of accidental, mistaken, unauthorized or intentional use of those weapons grew significantly. No State or international organization had the capacity to address or provide the short- and long-term humanitarian assistance and protection needed in case of a nuclear weapon explosion. Moreover, it would not be possible to establish such capacities, even if attempted. The broad-based and comprehensive discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should lead to the commitment of States and civil society to reach new international standards and norms, through a legally binding instrument. The time had come to initiate a diplomatic process conducive to that goal. That process should comprise a specific time-frame, the definition of the most appropriate fora, and a clear and substantive framework, making the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons the essence of disarmament efforts.

Non-proliferation

Non-proliferation treaty

Status

In 2014, the number of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

stood at 190. Regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the Treaty was adopted by the General Assembly in 1968 by resolution 2373(XXIII) [YUN 1968, p. 16], and entered into force in 1970. It was extended indefinitely in 1995 by Assembly resolution 50/70 [YUN 1995, p. 189].

2015 review conference

Following the entry into force of NPT, quinquennial review conferences, as called for under article VIII, paragraph 3 of the Treaty, were held beginning in 1975 [YUN 1975, p. 27], with the most recent in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 531].

Preparatory Committee. In accordance with the decision of NPT parties, as noted in General Assembly resolution 66/33 [YUN 2011, p. 502], the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference held its third and final session (New York, 28 April–9 May) [NPT/CONF.2015/1] to conduct preparatory work for the review of the operation of the Treaty. Among the documents before the Committee were reports submitted under actions 5, 20 and 21 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference on Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by China: [NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/13]; France [NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/14]; the United Kingdom [NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/15]; the United States [NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/16]; and a statement on measures taken by the Russian Federation [NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/17].

At its third session, the Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend to the Conference the draft rules of procedure for the 2015 Review Conference as contained in annex III of its report. It recommended that specialized agencies and international and regional intergovernmental organizations be invited to make oral presentations on a case-by-case basis; and representatives of non-governmental organizations be allowed to attend meetings and address the Conference. It also made decisions on the nomination of the President of the 2015 Review Conference and the chairmanship of its main committees and the drafting committee. The Preparatory Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda of the 2015 Review Conference as contained in annex IV to its report, and the allocation of items as contained in annex V. It decided to refer to the 2015 Review Conference the matter of the Conference's final documents. On 9 May, the Preparatory Committee adopted its final report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/37** by recorded vote (169-7-5) [agenda item 96 (*w*)].

Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1 (I) of 24 January 1946, 67/34 of 3 December 2012 and 68/39 of 5 December 2013,

Reiterating its grave concern at the danger to humanity posed by nuclear weapons, which should inform all deliberations, decisions and actions relating to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation,

Recalling the expression of deep concern by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and its resolve to seek a safer world for all and to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons,

Noting with satisfaction the growing awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in multilateral disarmament forums,

Bearing in mind the discussions held at the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, hosted by Norway on 4 and 5 March 2013 and by Mexico on 13 and 14 February 2014, aimed at understanding and developing a greater awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons detonations, which further reinforce the urgency of nuclear disarmament, and welcoming the announcement by Austria to convene a third meeting on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons on 8 and 9 December 2014,

Emphasizing the evidence presented at the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, which detailed the catastrophic consequences that would result from a nuclear weapon detonation, reaching well beyond national borders, the lack of capacity of States and international organizations to deal with the aftermath, and the risk of an occurrence due to an accident, systems failure or human error,

Recalling the convening, on 26 September 2013, of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament and resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013 on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the Assembly on nuclear disarmament and the decisions contained therein,

Recalling also that the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will take place 20 years after the indefinite extension of the Treaty and 70 years after the use of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, representing a historic opportunity to advance nuclear disarmament,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament Negotiations, which includes the steps already taken by Member States to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations pursuant to resolution 68/46 of 5 December 2013,

Underlining the importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education,

Reaffirming that transparency, verifiability and irreversibility are cardinal principles applying to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, which are mutually reinforcing processes,

Recalling the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

the basis upon which the Treaty was indefinitely extended, and the Final Documents of the 2000 and the 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with commitments made under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Reaffirming the commitment of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of their treaty obligations,

Recalling that the 2010 Review Conference reaffirmed and recognized that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding negative security assurances from nuclear-weapon States pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the continued vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to the advancement of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives, and welcoming the recent ratification of the Treaty by the Congo and Niue,

Reaffirming the conviction that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the establishment and maintenance of nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament, welcoming the third preparatory meeting for the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held in New York on 7 May 2014, and welcoming also the coordination by Indonesia of the third Conference, to be held in 2015,

Welcoming the signing by the nuclear-weapon States of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 6 May 2014, and urging those States to continue to make real progress towards strengthening all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones through, inter alia, the withdrawal or revision of any reservations or interpretative declarations contrary to the object and purpose of the treaties establishing such zones,

Recalling the encouragement expressed at the 2010 Review Conference for the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, reaffirming the expectation that this will be followed by concerted international efforts to create such zones in areas where they do not currently exist, especially in the Middle East, and in that context recognizing the agreement at the 2010 Review Conference on practical steps to fully implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East,

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts towards the full implementation of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, while re-emphasizing the encouragement of the 2010 Review Conference to both States to continue discussions on follow-on measures in order to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals,

Deeply disappointed at the continued absence of progress towards multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, in particular in the Conference on Disarmament, despite intensive efforts during its 2014 session,

Underlining the importance of multilateralism in relation to nuclear disarmament, while recognizing also the value of unilateral, bilateral and regional initiatives and the importance of compliance with the terms of such initiatives,

Recalling the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York from 28 April to 9 May 2014,

Taking note of the reports presented by the nuclear-weapon States to the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference at its third session, pursuant to actions 5, 20 and 21 of the action plan on nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference,

Emphasizing the importance of a successful 2015 Review Conference, which should contribute to strengthening the Treaty and making progress towards achieving its full implementation and universality, and monitor the implementation of commitments made and actions agreed at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences,

1. *Reiterates* that each article of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is binding on the States parties at all times and in all circumstances and that all States parties should be held fully accountable with respect to strict compliance with their obligations under the Treaty, and calls upon all States parties to comply fully with all decisions, resolutions and commitments made at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences;

2. *Also reiterates* the deep concern expressed by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law;

3. *Calls upon* the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in its decisions and follow-on actions, to give due prominence to the humanitarian imperatives which further underpin the need for nuclear disarmament and to the urgency, in the light of those imperatives, of achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons;

4. *Recalls* the reaffirmation of the continued validity of the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including the specific reaffirmation of the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty, recalls the commitment of the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament, and calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to take all steps necessary to accelerate the fulfilment of their commitments;

5. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their commitment to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures;

6. *Underlines* the recognition by the 2010 Review Conference of the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in the constraining by the nuclear-weapon States of the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and their ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, and calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to take steps in this regard;

7. *Encourages* further steps by all nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with the action plan on nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, to ensure the irreversible removal of all fissile material designated by each nuclear-weapon State as no longer required for military purposes, and calls upon all States to support, within the context of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the development of appropriate nuclear disarmament verification capabilities and legally binding verification arrangements, thereby ensuring that such material remains permanently outside military programmes in a verifiable manner;

8. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to work towards the full implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, recognizes the endorsement by the 2010 Review Conference of practical steps in a process leading to the full implementation of the 1995 resolution, and, while noting efforts undertaken to date, expresses its serious concern regarding the lack of implementation of those steps;

9. *Stresses* the fundamental role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and calls upon all States parties to spare no effort to achieve the universality of the Treaty, and in this regard urges India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and without conditions, and to place all of their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

10. *Urges* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its commitments under the Six-Party Talks, including those in the September 2005 joint statement, to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, to return, at an early date, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to adhere to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement, with a view to achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful manner, and reaffirms its firm support for the Six-Party Talks;

11. *Urges* all States to work together to overcome obstacles within the international disarmament machinery that are inhibiting efforts to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament in a multilateral context, and to immediately implement the three specific recommendations of the 2010 Review Conference action plan addressed to the Conference on Disarmament, and once again urges the Conference on Disarmament to commence, without delay, substantive work that advances the agenda of nuclear disarmament, particularly through multilateral negotiations;

12. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to supplement the reports presented to the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference at its third session with concrete and detailed information concerning their implementation of the undertakings set out in action 5 of the action plan

on nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference;

13. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to implement their nuclear disarmament commitments, both qualitative and quantitative, in a manner that enables the States parties to regularly monitor progress, including through a standard detailed reporting format, thereby enhancing confidence and trust not only among the nuclear-weapon States but also between the nuclear-weapon States and the non-nuclear-weapon States and contributing to sustainable nuclear disarmament;

14. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to implement without delay all elements of the 2010 Review Conference action plan so that progress across all of the pillars of the Treaty can be realized;

15. *Urges* Member States to pursue multilateral negotiations without delay and in good faith on effective measures for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world, in keeping with the spirit and purpose of General Assembly resolution 1 (I) and article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to this end urges States parties to the Treaty to explore, during the 2015 Review Conference, options for the elaboration of the effective measures envisaged in and required by article VI of the Treaty;

16. *Calls upon* the 2015 Review Conference to agree on an additional set of measures to build on the commitments made and actions agreed at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences and take forward the aims and purpose of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments” and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/37:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore,

Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Bhutan, China, Micronesia, Pakistan, Palau.

Also on 2 December [meeting 62], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/52** by recorded vote (170-1-14) [agenda item 96 (ff)].

United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling the need for all States to take further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, with a view to achieving a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons, and in this regard confirming the determination of Member States to take united action,

Noting that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling its resolution 68/51 of 5 December 2013,

Expressing deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law, while convinced that every effort should be made to avoid the use of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons should be fully understood by all, and noting in this regard that efforts should be made to increase such understanding,

Reaffirming that the enhancement of international peace and security and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming also that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, which is, inter alia, essential to international peace and security,

Reaffirming further the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of the three pillars of the Treaty, namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Stressing the importance of the decisions and the resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference, held from 3 to 28 May 2010, and reaffirming

the necessity of fully implementing the action plan adopted at the Review Conference,

Noting the deliberations and results of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 2015 being the year of the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and noting also the importance of achieving a successful outcome of the Review Conference,

Noting also the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, convened by the Secretary-General on 24 September 2010, and the plenary meeting of the General Assembly to follow up on the high-level meeting, held from 27 to 29 July 2011,

Welcoming the entry into force on 5 February 2011 of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms and its continuing successful implementation,

Welcoming also the announcements and recent updates on overall stockpiles of nuclear warheads by France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the update of the Russian Federation on its nuclear arsenal, which further enhance transparency and increase mutual confidence,

Expressing deep concern regarding the growing dangers posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, inter alia, nuclear weapons, including that caused by proliferation networks,

Recognizing the importance of the objective of nuclear security, along with the shared goals of Member States of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, welcoming the Nuclear Security Summits, the most recent of which was held in The Hague on 24 and 25 March 2014, and looking forward to the Nuclear Security Summit to be held in the United States of America in 2016,

Condemning in the strongest terms the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, its launches using ballistic missile technology and its continued development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, recognizing the importance of the implementation of the 2005 joint statement of the Six-Party Talks and full compliance with Security Council resolutions 1718(2006) of 14 October 2006, 1874(2009) of 12 June 2009, 2087(2013) of 22 January 2013 and 2094(2013) of 7 March 2013, in particular noting the requirements in those resolutions that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, immediately cease all related activities and not conduct any further nuclear tests, in this respect expressing concern regarding its uranium enrichment and plutonium production programmes and light water reactor construction and its efforts to readjust and restart its nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, including the 5 MW(e) graphite-moderated reactor and uranium enrichment activities, and stressing that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nor would its possession of nuclear weapons be accepted under any circumstances,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons complying with their obligations under all the articles of the Treaty;

2. *Stresses* the importance of an effective process of review of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and calls upon all States parties to the Treaty to work together so that the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty can successfully strengthen the Treaty regime and advance the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference covering all of the three pillars of the Treaty;

3. *Reaffirms* the vital importance of the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and calls upon all States not parties to the Treaty to accede as non-nuclear-weapon States to the Treaty promptly and without any conditions and, pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms and take practical steps in support of the Treaty;

4. *Also reaffirms* the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are committed under article VI thereof;

5. *Calls upon* nuclear-weapon States to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of applying the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

7. *Recognizes* that nuclear disarmament and achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons require openness and cooperation, affirms the importance of enhanced confidence through increased transparency and effective verification, and emphasizes the importance of the commitment made by the nuclear-weapon States at the 2010 Review Conference to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference in a way that promotes international stability, peace and undiminished and increased security;

8. *Welcomes* the regular convening of meetings of the five nuclear-weapon States, most recently in Beijing in April 2014, with the next one to be held in London in early 2015, as a transparency and confidence-building measure and the submission of reports by the nuclear-weapon States and other States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference at its third session, and calls upon the nuclear-weapon States and all other States parties to the Treaty to continue and further enhance their reports on implementation of the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference;

9. *Also welcomes* the ongoing implementation by the Russian Federation and the United States of America of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, and encourages them to continue discussions on follow-on measures in order to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals;

10. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the earliest opportunity, with a view to its early entry into force and universalization, stresses the importance of maintaining existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of the Treaty, and reaffirms the importance of the continued development of the Treaty verification regime, which will be a significant contribution to providing assurance of compliance with the Treaty;

11. *Reiterates its call for* the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and its early conclusion on the basis of document CD/1299 of 24 March 1995 and the mandate contained therein, regrets that negotiations have not yet started, and calls upon all nuclear-weapon States and States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to declare and maintain moratoriums on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices pending the entry into force of the treaty;

12. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to take measures to further reduce the risk of an accidental or unauthorized launch of nuclear weapons in ways that promote international stability and security, while welcoming the measures already taken by several nuclear-weapon States in this regard;

13. *Also calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to promptly engage with a view to further diminishing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies;

14. *Recognizes* the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapon States which could strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime;

15. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 984(1995) of 11 April 1995, noting the unilateral statements by each of the nuclear-weapon States, and calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to fully respect their existing commitments with regard to security assurances;

16. *Encourages* the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned and in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the Disarmament Commission, recognizes that, by signing and ratifying relevant protocols that contain negative security assurances, nuclear-weapon States would undertake individual legally binding commitments with respect to the status of such zones and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States parties to such treaties, and welcomes in this regard the signature of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia by the five nuclear-weapon States on 6 May 2014;

17. *Reaffirms its support for* the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and calls for the earliest possible convening of a successful conference in Helsinki, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on its establishment on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region;

18. *Urges* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not to conduct any further nuclear tests and to comply fully

with its commitments under the joint statement of the Six-Party Talks of 19 September 2005 and its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions;

19. *Calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery and to fully respect and comply with obligations undertaken to forswear nuclear weapons;

20. *Stresses* the importance of the universalization of the comprehensive safeguards agreements of the International Atomic Energy Agency to include States which have not yet adopted and implemented such an agreement, while also strongly reaffirming the follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference encouraging all States which have not done so to conclude and bring into force as soon as possible the Model Protocol Additional to the Agreement(s) between State(s) and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;

21. *Calls upon* all States to fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004;

22. *Encourages* every effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear and radiological material in order to, inter alia, prevent nuclear terrorism, and calls upon all States to work cooperatively as an international community to advance nuclear security, while requesting and providing assistance, including in the field of capacity-building, as necessary;

23. *Encourages* all States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, and to voluntarily share information on efforts they have been undertaking to that end;

24. *Commends and further encourages* the constructive role played by civil society in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and encourages all States to promote, in cooperation with civil society, disarmament and non-proliferation education which, inter alia, contributes to raising public awareness of the tragic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and strengthens the momentum of international efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/52:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic,

Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Abstaining: Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Mauritius, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Compliance and commitments

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/59** by recorded vote (170-1-10) [agenda item 96 (b)].

Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/49 of 2 December 2011 and other relevant resolutions on the question,

Recognizing the abiding concern of all Member States for ensuring respect for the rights and obligations arising from treaties to which they are parties and from other sources of international law,

Convinced that observance by Member States of the Charter of the United Nations and compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements to which they are parties and with other agreed obligations are essential for regional and global peace, security and stability,

Stressing that failure by States parties to comply with such agreements and with other agreed obligations not only adversely affects the security of States parties but also can create security risks for other States relying on the constraints and commitments stipulated in those agreements,

Stressing also that the viability and effectiveness of non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and of other agreed obligations require that those agreements be fully complied with and enforced,

Concerned by non-compliance by some States with their respective obligations,

Noting that verification and compliance, and enforcement in a manner consistent with the Charter, are integrally related,

Recognizing the importance of and support for effective national, regional and international capacities for such verification, compliance and enforcement,

Recognizing also that full compliance by States with all their respective non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and with other agreed obligations they have undertaken contributes to efforts to prevent the development and proliferation, contrary to international obligations, of weapons of mass destruction, related technologies and means of delivery, as well as to efforts to deny non-State actors access to such capabilities,

1. *Underscores* the contribution that compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and with other agreed obligations makes to enhancing confidence and to strengthening international security and stability;

2. *Urges* all States to implement and to comply fully with their respective obligations;

3. *Welcomes* efforts by all States to pursue additional areas of cooperation, as appropriate, that can increase confidence in compliance with existing non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments and reduce the possibility of misinterpretation and misunderstanding;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to encourage and, for those States in a position to do so, to appropriately assist States which request assistance to increase their capacity to implement fully their obligations;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to support efforts aimed at the resolution of compliance questions by means consistent with such agreements and with international law;

6. *Welcomes* the role that the United Nations has played and continues to play in maintaining the integrity of certain arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and in addressing threats to international peace and security;

7. *Calls upon* all concerned States to take concerted action, in a manner consistent with relevant international law, to encourage, through bilateral and multilateral means, the compliance by all States with their respective non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and with other agreed obligations, and to hold those not in compliance with such agreements accountable for their non-compliance in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations;

8. *Urges* those States not currently in compliance with their respective obligations and commitments to make the strategic decision to come back into compliance;

9. *Encourages* efforts by all States, the United Nations and other international organizations, pursuant to their respective mandates, to take action, consistent with the Charter, to prevent serious damage to international security and stability arising from non-compliance by States with their existing non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament obligations;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/59:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria,

Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Abstaining: Belarus, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic.

Missiles

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) held its twenty-eighth plenary meeting (Oslo, Norway, 29 September–3 October). MTCR partners reiterated their commitment to limit the risks of proliferation by controlling transfers that could contribute to delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and appealed to all States to support the non-proliferation aims of the Regime by observing its Guidelines, and establishing appropriate national legislation and law enforcement mechanisms. They welcomed that a number of countries, which were not members of the Regime, had committed to observing the Guidelines in their national export control concerning missile technology. Partners invited countries to declare full adherence to the Guidelines and encouraged relevant regional bodies and institutions to give attention to the role of export controls in preventing the proliferation of missiles capable of carrying WMDs, including the role of export controls. They reaffirmed the critical importance of MTCR ongoing technical work, and underlined that the rapid technological development related to sensitive items and technologies continued to require awareness and effective actions to address those developments.

On 2 December (**decision 69/517**), the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first (2016) session the item entitled "Missiles".

Hague Code of Conduct

The 137 Subscribing States to The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC), adopted in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 504], held their thirteenth regular meeting (Vienna, 29–30 May) to discuss ways to further develop the Code and encourage new subscriptions. Subscribing States reaffirmed that the threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery constituted a serious concern of the international community, particularly in some regions. In that regard, the recent ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were noted. They stressed the ongoing need to stem the proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery and to encourage new subscriptions to the HCOC, particularly by countries with space-launch vehicles and ballistic-missile capabilities. Subscribing States stressed the importance of the full implementation of the Code, in particular with regard to pre-launch notifications and the timely submission of annual declarations, and underlined the importance of further steps in that direction.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/44** by recorded vote (162-1-17) [agenda item 96 (f)].

The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation

The General Assembly,

Concerned about the increasing regional and global security challenges caused, inter alia, by the ongoing proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its role and responsibility in the field of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the significance of regional and international efforts to prevent and curb comprehensively the proliferation of ballistic missile systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, as a contribution to international peace and security,

Welcoming the adoption of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation on 25 November 2002 at The Hague, and convinced that the Code of Conduct will contribute to enhancing transparency and confidence among States,

Recalling its resolutions 59/91 of 3 December 2004, 60/62 of 8 December 2005, 63/64 of 2 December 2008, 65/73 of 8 December 2010 and 67/42 of 3 December 2012 entitled "The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation",

Recalling also that the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, as recognized by the Security Council in its resolution 1540(2004)

of 28 April 2004 and subsequent resolutions, constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

Confirming its commitment to the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, as contained in the annex to its resolution 51/122 of 13 December 1996,

Recognizing that States should not be excluded from utilizing the benefits of space for peaceful purposes, but that in reaping such benefits and in conducting related cooperation they must not contribute to the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction,

Mindful of the need to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that 137 States have so far subscribed to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation as a practical step against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

2. *Also welcomes* the advancement of the universalization process of the Code of Conduct, and underscores the importance of making further efforts, at both the regional and the international levels, towards achieving universalization;

3. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet subscribed to the Code of Conduct, in particular those possessing space launch vehicle and ballistic missile capabilities and those developing corresponding national programmes, to do so;

4. *Encourages* States that have already subscribed to the Code of Conduct to make efforts to increase participation in the Code and to further improve its implementation;

5. *Notes* progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct, which contributes to enhancing transparency and building confidence among States through the submission of pre-launch notifications and annual declarations on space and ballistic missile policies, and underlines the importance of further steps in this direction;

6. *Encourages* the exploration of further ways and means to deal effectively with the problem of the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction and to deepen the relationship between the Code of Conduct and the United Nations;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/44:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia,

Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Iran.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1540(2004)

On 7 May, at the request of the Republic of Korea [S/2014/313], the Security Council held a special session on "commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] and looking ahead." The resolution related to the non-proliferation of WMDs. According to the Republic of Korea, over the past 10 years, significant strides had been made towards the realization of the universal implementation of resolution 1540(2004). Member States had exerted efforts to fulfil their obligations, as evidenced by the fact that 172 of the 193 Member States had voluntarily submitted their national reports to the Committee set up to report on the implementation of the resolution. Global cooperation had also advanced. Despite past achievements, daunting challenges still lay ahead in an operational environment made increasingly complex by the rapid advances in science and technology. Moving forward from a decade of awareness-raising to a decade of full and sustained implementation would require a long-term vision and strategy. The sophisticated deception mechanisms employed by proliferators would require effective multilateralism and a whole-of-society approach. The tenth anniversary also provided the opportunity to strengthen the political will of leaders to ensure full implementation of resolution 1540(2004) and to promote public awareness among civil society throughout the globe on the continuing importance of the resolution in combating the proliferation of WMDs.

The Deputy Secretary-General, speaking before the Council [S/PV.7169], stated that for resolution

1540(2004) to work more effectively, there had to be a global commitment and a global enterprise. It was critical for every country to implement the resolution, as terrorists and traffickers tended to target countries whose customs, borders, trade ports and airports were not well monitored or controlled. The Deputy Secretary-General hoped to see expanded regional cooperation in implementing the resolution, especially since States sharing borders often faced similar challenges. Civil society also had a major role to play in moving the world closer to meeting the goals of resolution 1540(2004). Supporting the implementation of the resolution was a high priority for the United Nations and a key task for the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 7 May [meeting 7169], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2104/7** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council, meeting on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1540(2004), reaffirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

The Council remains gravely concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The Council, recognizing the urgent need for all States to take additional effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, reaffirms that States shall take effective measures to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and to establish domestic controls to prevent their proliferation. The Council calls upon all States to step up their efforts to implement resolution 1540(2004), focusing on areas in which measures taken may be strengthened, with a view to achieving full implementation of the resolution by 2021.

The Council commends the contributions of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) and, recalling resolution 1977(2011), by which it extended the mandate of the Committee for 10 years, reaffirms its continued support for the Committee.

The Council directs the Committee to monitor implementation of resolution 1540(2004) and urges all States to inform the Committee regularly on measures they have taken or intend to take to implement the resolution. In particular, the Council calls upon all States that have not yet presented their first reports on the implementation of resolution 1540(2004) to do so without delay, in line with the Committee's objective of achieving universal reporting.

The Council recommends that the Committee consider developing a strategy towards full implementation of resolution 1540(2004) and incorporating such strategy in the comprehensive review by the Committee

on the status of implementation of resolution 1540(2004), which is to be submitted to the Council before December 2016.

The Council recalls its decision that Member States shall inform the Council immediately of any violation of resolution 1540(2004), including acquisition by non-State actors of chemical weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, in order to take necessary measures.

The Council recognizes that many States continue to require assistance in implementing resolution 1540(2004) and stresses the need for enhanced assistance in this area. The Council encourages and supports national, regional and subregional capacity-building events as a means to support the implementation of resolution 1540(2004).

The Council reiterates the need to continue to enhance ongoing cooperation between the Committee and relevant committees as necessary.

The Council recognizes the importance of countering nuclear, chemical and biological threats in the context of resolution 1540(2004). In this regard, the Council reaffirms the necessity to prevent non-State actors having access to, or assistance and financing for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, related materials and their means of delivery. The Council emphasizes the need for the Committee to coordinate its non-proliferation work with other international, regional and subregional organizations.

The Council notes the Hague Nuclear Security Summit communiqué of 25 March 2014, in which the significant contribution made by the United Nations to strengthening nuclear security was recognized, including the work undertaken by the Committee.

The Council encourages the Committee, at its discretion, to draw on relevant expertise, including in civil society, industry and the private sector, with, as appropriate, the consent of their States.

Security Council Committee on WMDs

Committee report. The Security Council Committee, which was set up to report on the implementation of resolution 1540(2004) regarding the non-proliferation of WMDs and was extended to 25 April 2021 by resolution 1977(2011) [YUN 2011, p. 506], submitted a December report [S/2014/958] on the review of the implementation of resolution 1540(2004) for 2014. The report consisted of a practical summary of activities in the areas of implementation; assistance; cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations; and transparency and outreach, as facilitated by the Committee and its Group of Experts. The report also contained an assessment of progress measured against the Committee's programme of work and an analysis of implementation. As at December, 173 of the 193 Member States had submitted national implementation reports, including two States (Lesotho and Malawi) that had submitted initial reports. In addition, 24 States provided additional information, including information on their

effective national policies, such as those preventing financial institutions from engaging in the financing of proliferation activities and strengthening controls to prevent the illicit trafficking of WMDs and related materials. In 2014, Colombia, Croatia, Mexico, Montenegro, the Niger, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia submitted national implementation action plans, bringing to 14, the total number of such plans received by the Committee. The Committee's working group on monitoring and national implementation considered 68 matrices, 55 of which were approved and sent to States for review. The matrices were being converted into the new matrix template and revised. Although the Committee did not meet the 2014 deadlines for receiving all of the revised matrices, the objective was to complete the revision of all matrices by April 2015, in order to complete the comprehensive review of the implementation of the resolution before December 2016. The Committee's working group also considered the compilation of effective practices, templates and guidance and a possible technical reference guide for resolution 1540(2004). Six States and four international, regional and subregional organizations and others submitted to the Committee information on relevant experiences, lessons learned and effective practices in the areas of concern of resolution 1540(2004).

The Committee's recommendations included preparations for the conduct of the comprehensive review of the implementation of the resolution due to be submitted to the Security Council before December 2016. The Committee should develop a plan identifying the objectives, scope, timing and participants by 31 March 2015, drawing on outside expertise to assist in those efforts, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs and other UN bodies; and, with the assistance of its experts, develop and begin execution of a strategy in line with that plan no later than 30 September 2015. The Group of Experts should prepare a non-paper on the conduct of the comprehensive review by 28 February 2015. The first draft of the report should be in the hands of the Committee by 1 September 2016. The Committee also recommended that the format and style of future annual reviews be revised to provide more analysis of trends in implementation, as well as more insights and data regarding the implementation activities of Member States. During the year, reports on implementation of the resolution were submitted by Azerbaijan [S/AC.44/2014/2], the Czech Republic [S/AC.44/2014/6], Guyana [S/AC.44/2014/7], Lesotho [S/AC.44/2014/3], Malawi [S/AC.44/2014/8], Montenegro [S/AC.44/2014/5], Mongolia [S/AC.44/2014/4], Togo [S/AC.44/2014/9] and Ukraine [S/AC.44/2014/1].

In May [S/2014/369], the Committee submitted its thirteenth programme of work for the period from 1 June 2014 to 31 January 2015.

New types of WMDs

Conference on Disarmament. The issue of radiological weapons, which had been on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament since 1979, was considered in informal plenary meetings on 25 and 26 June, under agenda item 5 on "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons" [CD/2004]. The Conference had before it the reports of the Coordinators on the various substantive agenda items [CD/1995], and the text of the section on disarmament and international security of the final document of the XVII Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (Algiers, Algeria, 26–29 May) [CD/2002]. Delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/433], adopted **resolution 69/27** by recorded vote (174-2-1) [agenda item 89].

Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/37 of 10 December 1996, 54/44 of 1 December 1999, 57/50 of 22 November 2002, 60/46 of 8 December 2005, 63/36 of 2 December 2008 and 66/21 of 2 December 2011 relating to the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recalling further paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,

Noting with appreciation the discussions which have been held in the Conference on Disarmament under the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons",

Noting the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

1. *Reaffirms* that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;

3. *Calls upon* all States, immediately following any recommendations of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/27:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States.

Abstaining: Ukraine.

Terrorism and WMDs

The United Nations continued to promote international action against terrorism through collaborative efforts with Member States and regional and international organizations, and through the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (see p. 142) and the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee (see p. 434).

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/41 [YUN 2013, p. 490], the Secretary-General, in July [A/69/138 & Add.1], presented the views of 18 Member States, the European

Union (EU) and 14 international organizations, including UN agencies, on measures taken to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs, their means of delivery, and related materials and technologies.

IAEA report. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General, in a July report [GOV/2014/36-GC(58)/14] on nuclear security for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, stated that the Agency continued to assist States to build and develop their nuclear security capacity by establishing and providing for the application of nuclear security guidance; facilitating adherence to and implementation of the relevant international legal nuclear security instruments, including facilitating the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment [YUN 2005, p. 602] to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) [YUN 1980, p. 161]; and helping States to establish effective and sustainable national nuclear security infrastructure. One State became party to CPPNM during the reporting period, and nine States adhered to the 2005 Amendment to the Convention, bringing the number of Contracting States to 77.

As at 30 June 2014, 122 States had informed the Agency's Director General of their intention to implement the 2003 Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources [YUN 2003, p. 1033]—a non-binding international legal instrument that provided guidance for ensuring the control of radioactive sources—and 89 States of their intention to implement its supplementary *Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources* [YUN 2005, p. 1563]. The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 59/290 [YUN 2005, p. 1411], gained seven adherents, bringing the number of States Parties to 94 as at 30 June 2014. The Agency continued to facilitate adherence to and implementation of international instruments, not only through its regular activities within its legislative assistance programme, but also by holding a Treaty Event during the fifty-seventh General Conference to promote universal adherence to relevant multilateral treaties. The Agency continued its coordinating role among Member States' programmes dedicated to the security of radioactive sources. The third meeting of the Working Group on Radioactive Source Security held in May, reviewed progress and achievements in multilateral and bilateral initiatives, and provided input with respect to Member States' needs for future training and development of guidance by the Agency. The Border Monitoring Working Group, established to coordinate the activities of the Agency and major donors in border controls, met in June in Ispra, Italy, and its technical subgroup in April, in Washington, D.C. The Working Group continued to facilitate implementation of programmes in Member States through the optimization of international assistance, including the distribution of radiation de-

tection equipment, development of related training programmes, and development of concepts of operation and standard operating procedures in Cambodia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

During the reporting period, two States joined the Agency's Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) Programme, bringing the total number of participants to 126. States reported 149 incidents to ITDB, 14 of which involved illegal possession of and attempts to sell nuclear material or radioactive sources, with four of those involving nuclear material. Forty cases of theft or loss of radioactive sources were reported, four of which involved the theft of Category 1 to 3 radioactive sources. In two of the four incidents, the radioactive sources had not been reported as being recovered. The remaining 97 incidents involved unauthorized activities apparently unrelated to criminal activities. Since the database began in 1995, States had reported a total of 2,556 incidents. The Agency continued to give high priority to the development and implementation of integrated nuclear security support plans, assisting Member States in applying a structured and holistic approach to nuclear security capacity building, and enabling increased coordination between the Agency, the State concerned and potential donors. Seven Member States approved their plans, bringing the total number approved to 54. The Agency also continued to develop the Nuclear Security Information Portal, including its nuclear forensics user group as a single point of resources for Member States on nuclear activities.

Nuclear Security Summit. The third Nuclear Security Summit (The Hague, Netherlands, 24–25 March) chartered the accomplishments of the past four years, identifying which of the objectives set out in the Washington Work Plan of the 2010 Summit [YUN 2010, p. 535] and the Seoul Communiqué of the 2012 Summit [YUN 2012, p. 496] had not been met and proposed ways to achieve them. The Hague Summit's Communiqué reaffirmed the fundamental responsibility of States to maintain at all times effective security of all nuclear and other radioactive materials, including those used in nuclear weapons and facilities under their control. It identified 11 areas for continued attention, such as the need for further strengthening and coordinating international cooperation in nuclear security; a strengthened and comprehensive international nuclear security architecture consisting of legal instruments, international organizations and initiatives, internationally accepted guidance and good practices; voluntary measures that States could consider taking to show they had established effective security of their nuclear materials and facilities while protecting sensitive information; special precautions for handling nuclear materials, which were appropriately secured, consolidated and accounted for; better protection of radioactive sources; nuclear safety measures and nuclear security measures designed and

managed in a coherent and coordinated manner in the specific areas where nuclear security and nuclear safety overlapped; measures to secure nuclear material by nuclear operators; measures to address the growing threat of cyberattacks, including those on critical information infrastructure and control systems; enhancing the security of nuclear and other radioactive materials in domestic and international transport; locating and securing nuclear material out of regulatory control, including through effective export control arrangements and law enforcement mechanisms; and the development of nuclear forensics into an effective tool for determining the origin of nuclear and other radioactive materials and providing evidence for the prosecution of acts of illicit trafficking and other malicious acts.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/50** without vote [agenda item 96 (b)].

Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive sources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/46 of 5 December 2007, 65/74 of 8 December 2010 and 67/51 of 3 December 2012,

Recognizing the essential contribution of radioactive materials and sources to social and economic development, and the benefits drawn from their use for all States,

Recognizing also the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evident in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

Deeply concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that terrorists may acquire, traffic in or use radioactive materials or sources in radiological dispersion or emitting devices,

Deeply concerned also by the potential threat to human health and the environment that would result from the use of such devices by terrorists,

Noting with concern the ongoing occurrence of nuclear and radioactive materials that are outside of regulatory control or being trafficked,

Recalling the importance of international conventions aimed at preventing and suppressing such a risk, in particular the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted on 13 April 2005, and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted on 26 October 1979, as well as its Amendment, adopted on 8 July 2005,

Noting that actions of the international community to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevent access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and related material, notably Security Council resolutions 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004 and 1977(2011) of 20 April 2011, constitute contributions to the protection against terrorism using such materials,

Stressing the importance of the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting and reinforcing the

safety and security of radioactive materials and sources, in particular by establishing technical guidance and supporting States in the improvement of national legal and regulatory infrastructure, and in strengthening coordination and complementarities among various nuclear or radiological security activities,

Noting the organization by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, held in Vienna from 1 to 5 July 2013, as well as the International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Maintaining the Continuous Global Control of Sources throughout their Life Cycle, held in Abu Dhabi from 27 to 31 October 2013,

Stressing the contribution of the International Atomic Energy Agency to preventing illicit trafficking in radioactive materials and facilitating information-sharing on materials out of regulatory control through, inter alia, the Incident and Trafficking Database and its work in the field of nuclear forensics,

Noting the importance of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management with respect to its provisions on the safety of disused sealed sources,

Highlighting the importance of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and of its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources as valuable instruments for enhancing the safety and security of radioactive sources, noting that 123 States members of the International Atomic Energy Agency have made a political commitment to implement the provisions of the Code and 90 States have made a similar commitment to the supplementary Guidance, while recognizing that they are not legally binding, and highlighting the importance of the International Atomic Energy Agency Revised Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its Nuclear Security Plan for 2014–2017, and of the voluntary contributions of Member States to the International Atomic Energy Agency Nuclear Security Fund,

Noting that a number of States have not yet become parties to the pertinent international instruments,

Encouraging Member States to make voluntary contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency Nuclear Security Fund,

Taking note of resolutions GC(58)/RES/10 and GC(58)/RES/11, adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fifty-eighth regular session, which address measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety and measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism, and of the International Atomic Energy Agency Nuclear Security Plan for 2014–2017,

Welcoming the fact that Member States have taken multilateral actions to address this issue, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 68/10 of 6 November 2013,

Noting the various international efforts and partnerships to enhance nuclear and radiological security and to implement measures contributing to nuclear material security in relation to the security of radioactive substances, encouraging the efforts to secure those materials, and noting also in this respect recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency with regard to safe and secure management of radioactive sources,

Taking note of the findings of the International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources of 2013, which, inter alia, call for further assessment of the merits of developing an international convention on the safety and security of radioactive sources so that Member States can make the best-informed decisions on the matter,

Noting that the Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) works with nations to strengthen capabilities to counter nuclear smuggling and prevent terrorists from acquiring nuclear or radiological materials, and that INTERPOL Operation Fail Safe promotes the sharing of sensitive law-enforcement information on known nuclear smugglers,

Welcoming the ongoing individual and collective efforts of Member States to take into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the lack or insufficiency of control over radioactive materials and sources, and recognizing the need for States to take more effective measures to strengthen those controls in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law,

Mindful of the responsibilities of every Member State, in accordance with international obligations, to maintain effective nuclear safety and security, asserting that responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and noting the important contribution of international cooperation in supporting the efforts of States to fulfil their responsibilities,

Mindful also of the urgent need to address, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this rising concern for international security,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to support international efforts to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources and, if necessary, suppress such acts, in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law;

2. *Encourages* all Member States that have not yet done so to become party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism as soon as possible, in accordance with their legal and constitutional processes;

3. *Urges* Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources, as well as terrorist attacks on nuclear plants and facilities which would result in radioactive releases, and, if necessary, to suppress such acts, in particular by taking effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect such facilities, materials and sources in accordance with their international obligations;

4. *Encourages* Member States to enhance their national capacities with appropriate means of detection and related architecture or systems, including through international cooperation and assistance in conformity with international law and regulations, with a view to detecting and preventing illicit trafficking in radioactive materials and sources;

5. *Invites* Member States, in particular those producing and distributing radioactive sources, to support and endorse the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance the safety and security of radioactive sources, as described in General Conference resolution GC(58)/

RES/10 and to enhance the security of radioactive sources as described in the Nuclear Security Plan for 2014–2017;

6. *Urges* all States to work towards following the guidance contained in the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, including, as appropriate, the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, noting that the Guidance is supplementary to the Code, and encourages Member States to notify the Director General of the Agency of their intention to do so pursuant to General Conference resolution GC(58)/RES/10;

7. *Encourages* Member States to work with the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance the non-legally binding international framework for radioactive sources, especially on the safe and secure management of disused radioactive sources, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Agency, in particular with resolutions GC(58)/RES/10 and GC(58)/RES/11;

8. *Recognizes* the value of information exchange on national approaches to controlling radioactive sources, and takes note of the endorsement by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency of a proposal for a formalized process for a voluntary periodic exchange on information and lessons learned and for the evaluation of progress made by States towards implementing the provisions of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources;

9. *Encourages* Member States to participate, on a voluntary basis, in the International Atomic Energy Agency Incident and Trafficking Database programme;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by Member States, including through international cooperation under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to search for, locate, secure and recover unsecured and/or uncontrolled (“orphan”) radioactive sources within their State jurisdiction or territory, and encourages continued efforts in this way;

11. *Encourages* cooperation among and between Member States and through relevant international and, where appropriate, regional organizations aimed at strengthening national capacities in this regard;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive sources”.

Also on the same date [meeting 62], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/39** without vote [agenda item 96 (y)].

Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/41 of 5 December 2013,

Recognizing the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evidenced in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

Deeply concerned by the growing risk of linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and in particular by the fact that terrorists may seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction,

Cognizant of the steps taken by States to implement Security Council resolution 1540(2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, adopted on 28 April 2004,

Welcoming the entry into force on 7 July 2007 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism,

Welcoming also the adoption, by consensus, of amendments to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material by the International Atomic Energy Agency on 8 July 2005,

Noting the support expressed in the Final Document of the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, which was held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012, for measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction,

Noting also that the Group of Eight, the European Union, the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and others have taken into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the likely acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and the need for international cooperation in combating it, and that the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism has been launched jointly by the Russian Federation and the United States of America,

Noting further the holding of the Nuclear Security Summit on 12 and 13 April 2010 in Washington, D.C., on 26 and 27 March 2012 in Seoul and on 24 and 25 March 2014 in The Hague,

Noting the holding of the high-level meeting on countering nuclear terrorism, with a focus on strengthening the legal framework, in New York on 28 September 2012,

Acknowledging the consideration of issues relating to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters,

Noting the holding by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, in Vienna from 1 to 5 July 2013, and taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the Agency at its fifty-eighth regular session,

Noting also the tenth anniversary of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, approved by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency on 8 September 2003,

Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 16 September 2005 and the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 68/41,

Mindful of the urgent need for addressing, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this threat to humanity,

Emphasizing that progress is urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

2. *Appeals to* all Member States to consider early accession to and ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism;

3. *Urges* all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture;

4. *Encourages* cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile a report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to seek the views of Member States on additional relevant measures, including national measures, for tackling the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

Multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/38 [YUN 2013, p. 491], the Secretary-General, in July and September [A/69/118 & Add.1], presented replies received from Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Portugal, Ukraine and the EU regarding their views on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Also in July and September [A/69/154 & Add.1], the Secretary-General, in response to Assembly resolution 68/46 [YUN 2003, p. 492], presented the replies received from 29 Member States conveying their views on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including on steps they had taken towards that end.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/54** by recorded vote (131-5-49) [agenda item 96 (v)].

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

The General Assembly,

Determined to foster strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 56/24 T of 29 November 2001 on multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and global efforts against terrorism and other relevant resolutions, as well as its resolutions 57/63

of 22 November 2002, 58/44 of 8 December 2003, 59/69 of 3 December 2004, 60/59 of 8 December 2005, 61/62 of 6 December 2006, 62/27 of 5 December 2007, 63/50 of 2 December 2008, 64/34 of 2 December 2009, 65/54 of 8 December 2010, 66/32 of 2 December 2011, 67/38 of 3 December 2012 and 68/38 of 5 December 2013 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation,

Recalling also the purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security and, to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace, as enshrined in the Charter,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which it is stated, inter alia, that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally and that, as the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role,

Convinced that, in the globalization era and with the information revolution, arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament problems are more than ever the concern of all countries in the world, which are affected in one way or another by these problems and therefore should have the possibility to participate in the negotiations that arise to tackle them,

Bearing in mind the existence of a broad structure of disarmament and arms regulation agreements resulting from non-discriminatory and transparent multilateral negotiations with the participation of a large number of countries, regardless of their size and power,

Aware of the need to advance further in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations with the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on disarmament,

Recognizing also that the proliferation and development of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are among the most immediate threats to international peace and security which need to be dealt with, with the highest priority,

Considering that the multilateral disarmament agreements provide the mechanism for States parties to consult one another and to cooperate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objective of, or in the application of, the provisions of the agreements and that such consultations and cooperation may also be undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter,

Stressing that international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and confidence-building measures would make an essential contribution to the creation of multilateral and bilateral friendly relations among peoples and nations,

Being concerned at the continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament, and recognizing that a resort to unilateral actions by Member States in resolving their security concerns would jeopardize international peace and security and undermine confidence in the international security system as well as the foundations of the United Nations itself,

Noting that the Seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Algiers from 26 to 29 May 2014, welcomed the adoption of resolution 68/38 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and underlined the fact that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues,

Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and determined to promote multilateralism as an essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations,

1. *Reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope;

2. *Also reaffirms* multilateralism as the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns;

3. *Urges* the participation of all interested States in multilateral negotiations on arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner;

4. *Underlines* the importance of preserving the existing agreements on arms regulation and disarmament, which constitute an expression of the results of international cooperation and multilateral negotiations in response to the challenges facing mankind;

5. *Calls once again upon* all Member States to renew and fulfil their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

6. *Requests* the States parties to the relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction to consult and cooperate among themselves in resolving their concerns with regard to cases of non-compliance as well as on implementation, in accordance with the procedures defined in those instruments, and to refrain from resorting or threatening to resort to unilateral actions or directing unverified non-compliance accusations against one another to resolve their concerns;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the replies of Member States on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, submitted pursuant to resolution 68/38;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/54:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Micronesia, Palau, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine.

On the same date [meeting 62], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/41** by recorded vote (154-5-20) [agenda item 96 (bb)].

Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/46 of 5 December 2013 on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons,

Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons,

Recalling the Declaration of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it is stated, *inter alia*, that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations and that all States have the right to participate in disarmament negotiations,

Reaffirming the role and functions of the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, as set out in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which it is stated, inter alia, that responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally and that, as the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States to secure progress in multilateral disarmament and the support of the Secretary-General for such efforts, and noting in this regard the Secretary-General's five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the outcome, including the action points, of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and determined to promote multilateralism as an essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations,

Recognizing the absence of concrete outcomes of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations within the United Nations framework for more than a decade,

Recognizing also the increased political attention to disarmament and non-proliferation issues and that the international political climate is more conducive to the promotion of multilateral disarmament and moving towards the goal of a world without nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013 pursuant to its resolution 67/39 of 3 December 2012, which highlighted the wish of the international community for progress in this field, and noting its resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013 as a follow-up to this meeting,

Welcoming also the report on the work of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, which was established by the General Assembly by its resolution 67/56 of 3 December 2012 and which met during 2013, reflecting the discussions and proposals made during its deliberations to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing the importance and urgency of substantive progress on priority disarmament and non-proliferation issues,

Recognizing the important contribution that civil society makes to multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes,

Mindful of Article 11 of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the functions and powers of the General Assembly to consider and make recommendations with regard to, inter alia, disarmament,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General containing the views of Member States on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including the steps that Member States have already taken to that end, and requests the Secretary-General to transmit that report to the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission for their consideration;

2. *Recognizes* the value of the contribution that international organizations, civil society, academia and research make to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, as demonstrated during the work of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons;

3. *Emphasizes* that the universal objective of taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations remains the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, and also emphasizes the importance of addressing issues related to nuclear weapons in a comprehensive, interactive and constructive manner, for the advancement of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States, international organizations and civil society to continue to enrich the discussions on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in the United Nations bodies in which disarmament and peace and security are addressed, taking into account the report of the Working Group and the proposals contained therein, as well as the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 68/46;

5. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations and civil society to take into account the report of the Working Group and the proposals contained therein, as well as the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 68/46, in the discussions in other forums in which humanitarian, health, human rights, environmental and development affairs are addressed;

6. *Decides* to review at its seventieth session progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, to take stock of all relevant efforts undertaken and to further explore options for taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including if necessary through the Working Group;

7. *Reaffirms* the urgency of securing substantive progress in multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, and welcomes further efforts in this respect;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/41:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama,

Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Israel, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Belarus, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uzbekistan.

Also on the same date (**decision 69/519**), the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth (2015) session the item entitled “Re-vitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations”.

IAEA safeguards

The verification programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) remained at the core of multilateral efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Agency had an essential verification role under NPT, as well as other treaties, such as those establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. Comprehensive safeguards agreements concluded pursuant to NPT and the Model Additional Protocols to those agreements, which granted the Agency complementary verification authority, were approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 486]. They remained the principal legal instruments strengthening the Agency’s safeguards regime.

According to the IAEA 2014 annual report [GC(59)/7], safeguards were applied during the year for 180 States with safeguards agreements in force with the Agency. States for which both comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols were in force numbered 118. For 65 of those States, the Agency concluded that all nuclear material remained in peaceful activities. For the remaining 53 States, as all the necessary evaluations remained ongoing, the Agency was unable to draw the same conclusion.

For those 53 States and for the 54 with a comprehensive safeguards agreement in force but no additional protocol, the Agency was only able to conclude that declared nuclear material remained in peaceful activities. Integrated safeguards were implemented for 53 States. Safeguards were also implemented with regard to declared nuclear material in selected facilities in the five nuclear-weapon States with voluntary offer agreements. For those five States, the Agency concluded that nuclear material to which safeguards had been applied in selected facilities remained in peaceful activities or had been withdrawn

as provided for in the agreements. For three States in which safeguards were implemented, the Agency concluded that nuclear material, facilities or other items to which safeguards were applied remained in peaceful activities. As at 31 December, the Agency could not draw any safeguards conclusions for 12 NPT non-nuclear-weapon States without safeguards agreements in force.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/7** of 3 November (see p. 1162), took note of the IAEA 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 494].

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

In September, the Director General submitted a report [GOV/2014/42-GC(58)/21] to the IAEA Board of Governors and General Conference on the application of safeguards in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). The report stated that on 30 March, the DPRK Foreign Ministry announced additional actions that the DPRK would consider, including conducting a new form of nuclear test for bolstering up its nuclear deterrence. The DPRK officials reiterated the country’s right to conduct further nuclear tests and stated that the DPRK would simultaneously carry out economic construction and the building of nuclear forces. Since the Director General’s 2013 report, the IAEA had observed ongoing renovation and new construction activities at various locations within the site. Although the purpose of such activities could not be determined through satellite imagery alone, they appeared to be broadly consistent with the DPRK’s statements that it was further developing its nuclear capabilities.

The Director General continued to call upon the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate promptly with the Agency in the full and effective implementation of its NPT Safeguards Agreement and to resolve all outstanding issues, including those that had arisen during the absence of Agency inspectors from the DPRK. The Agency would continue to maintain its readiness to play an essential role in verifying the DPRK nuclear programme.

IAEA General Conference. In a September resolution [GC(58)/RES/15], the IAEA General Conference condemned the three nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK and called on the country to refrain from conducting any further nuclear tests. The Conference deplored all the DPRK ongoing nuclear activities, including the restart of the 5 MW graphite moderated reactor, the operation, extension and further renovation of the uranium enrichment facility, and construction activities at the light water reactor at Yongbyon; and urged it to halt all such activities and any efforts to readjust or expand its nuclear facilities.

(For more information on UN concern with the DPRK nuclear programme and related sanctions, see p. 468.)

Iran

During the year, the Director General submitted four reports [GOV/2014/10, GOV/2014/28, GOV/2014/43, GOV/2014/58 & Corr.1] to the Board of Governors on the implementation of Iran's NPT safeguards agreements and relevant Security Council resolutions. Contrary to the relevant binding resolutions of the Board of Governors and the Security Council, Iran did not implement the provisions of its Additional Protocol or the Subsidiary Arrangements to its comprehensive safeguards agreement. It failed to suspend all enrichment-related activities or to suspend all heavy-water related activities, as well as to resolve the Agency's concerns about possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme. From 20 January, the Agency undertook monitoring and verification in relation to the nuclear-related measures set out in the Joint Plan of Action [YUN 2013, p. 495]. On 24 July, the Plan was extended until 24 November, and further extended until 30 June 2015.

(For more information on UN concern with Iran's nuclear programme and related sanctions, see p. 471.)

Middle East

Report of Director General. In an August report [GOV/2014/45-GC(58)/15] on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, the IAEA Director General noted that all States in the region, except Israel, were parties to NPT and had undertaken to accept comprehensive Agency safeguards. As at 27 June, two States of the region (Djibouti and Somalia) that were parties to NPT had yet to bring into force their comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency. During the reporting period, no additional protocols were brought into force by a State in the region. A long-standing and fundamental difference of views between Israel and the other States of the region remained with regard to the application of comprehensive Agency safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region. All States in the region, except Israel, emphasized that there was no automatic sequence linking the application of comprehensive safeguards to all activities in the Middle East, or the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, to the prior conclusion of a peace settlement. Israel, however, took the view that Agency safeguards, as well as all other regional security issues, could not be addressed in isolation from the creation of stable regional security conditions and that those issues should be addressed in the framework of a regional security and arms control dialogue that could be resumed in the context of a multilateral peace process. The Director General was therefore unable to make further progress in fulfilling his mandate regarding the application of comprehensive Agency safeguards covering all nuclear activities in the Middle East, but would continue consultations regarding the early application

of comprehensive Agency safeguards on all nuclear activities in the region.

IAEA General Conference. In a resolution of 25 September [GC(58)/RES/16], the IAEA General Conference affirmed the need for all States in the region to accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all nuclear activities as an important confidence-building measure towards enhancing peace and security in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. It requested the Director General to continue consultations on the early application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 68/65 [YUN 2013, p. 495], the Secretary-General stated in an October report [A/69/130 (Part II)] that apart from the IAEA resolution on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East (see above), he had not received any additional information since his 2013 report [ibid.].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/443], adopted **resolution 69/78** by recorded vote (161-5-18) [agenda item 99].

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(58)/RES/16, adopted on 25 September 2014,

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the immediate need for placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the Agency,

Recalling the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Recognizing with satisfaction that, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Conference undertook to make determined efforts towards the achievement of the goal of universality of the Treaty, called upon those remaining States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept Agency safeguards on all their nuclear activities, and underlined the necessity

of universal adherence to the Treaty and of strict compliance by all parties with their obligations under the Treaty,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty, and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards,

Noting with satisfaction that, in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Conference emphasized the importance of a process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and decided, inter alia, that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, would convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States,

Expressing regret that the conference was not convened in 2012 as mandated and that little progress has been achieved towards the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,

Taking note with appreciation of the note by the Secretary-General on the letters received from Member States confirming support for declaring the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as contained in document A/68/781,

Recalling that Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty,

Concerned about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region,

Stressing the importance of taking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to enhance peace and security in the region and to consolidate the global non-proliferation regime,

Emphasizing the need for all parties directly concerned to seriously consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, inviting the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty and, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards,

Noting that 183 States have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including a number of States in the region,

1. *Recalls* the conclusions on the Middle East of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and calls for the speedy and full implementation of the commitments contained therein;

2. *Stresses* that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty is an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995;

3. *Reiterates* that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved;

4. *Calls for* immediate steps towards the full implementation of that resolution;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East;

6. *Calls upon* that State to accede to the Treaty without further delay, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/78:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Micronesia, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Lithuania, Monaco, Netherlands, Panama, Poland, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

Syrian Arab Republic

In a September report submitted to the IAEA Board of Governors on the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in the Syrian Arab Republic [GOV/2014/44], the Director General stated that on 17 February and 29 May, Syria indicated its readiness to receive Agency inspectors, and to provide support for the purpose of performing a physical inventory verification at the Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR). As the assessment of the security situation in Syria from the UN Department of Safety and Security had not changed, however, the Agency was not in a position to send inspectors to the country. The Agency continued to monitor, through the review of satellite imagery, the MNSR, the yellowcake storage area at the Homs Phosphoric Acid Pilot Plant and other locations of safeguards relevance to the Agency. Syria had not yet responded to the Director General's call to cooperate fully with the Agency in connection with unresolved issues related to the Dair Alzour site and other locations.

Radioactive waste

As described in the IAEA 2014 annual report [GC(59)/7], the Agency launched a new service aimed at assisting Member States in establishing a global nuclear safety framework. The Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation (ARTEMIS) was a peer review service intended for facility operators and implementing organizations responsible for radioactive waste management, decommissioning of nuclear facilities and remediation of contaminated sites, as well as for regulators, government agencies and national policy/decision makers. In 2014, work began on developing guidelines for ARTEMIS, and initiation of the first review was expected in 2015. The Agency also established a dedicated activity to assist Member States in identifying safe management strategies and practices for large amounts of radioactive waste generated from nuclear or radiological emergencies. As part of the Agency's activities in the area of the safety management of spent fuel, an International Workshop on the Development and Application of a Safety Case for Dual Purpose Casks for Spent Nuclear Fuel was held at Agency Headquarters in May, with 54 participants from 19 States and the European Commission. The workshop enhanced the participants' understanding of dual purpose casks through analyses of current practices and discussions of ways to further improve application of the concept.

The Agency contributed to the safe management of radioactive materials released to the environment

through its work with the International Maritime Organization and through various conventions. During the year, the Agency updated the inventory of human-made radioactive materials at sea and the radiological assessment procedure to ensure that radioactivity levels of candidate materials for dumping were low enough to preclude radiological impact on the marine environment. The Organizational Meeting for the Fifth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (The Joint Convention) [YUN 1997, p. 487], which entered into force in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 487], was also held in May. The meeting discussed the timetable for the Fifth Review Meeting.

On 25 September [GC(58)/RES/10], the IAEA General Conference called upon the secretariat to strengthen and expand its programme of training and education activities, focusing on building institutional, technical and managerial capabilities in Member States, and to continue efforts to preserve its knowledge and institutional memory relating to nuclear safety and the safe disposal of radioactive waste.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

Preparatory meeting for Conference on nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia

The third preparatory meeting for the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia was held (New York, 7 May) on the margins of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. The participants discussed procedural issues relating to the Third Conference, to be held in 2015, and agreed to hold informal meetings in New York to discuss the draft outcome document for the Conference. They stressed the important role nuclear-weapon-free zones played in maintaining international peace and security, and encouraged further cooperation among them in areas of common interest. They reiterated calls for the withdrawal of interpretative declarations and reservations to the protocols to the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties made by the nuclear-weapon States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/66** by recorded vote (176-0-4) [agenda item 96].

Third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, 2015

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to ensure the total absence of

nuclear weapons in their respective territories, as established by article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recalling the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Welcoming the important contribution of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, as well as the Antarctic Treaty, to the achievement of the objectives of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Recalling its resolution 67/52 of 3 December 2012 on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status,

Reaffirming the conviction that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the establishment and maintenance of nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament,

Urging States that have not yet established nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties to accelerate efforts in this direction, particularly in the Middle East, through agreements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the principles adopted by the Disarmament Commission in 1999,

Taking note of paragraph 172 of the Final Document of the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012, in which the Heads of State and Government stated their belief that those nuclear-weapon-free zones were positive steps and important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation,

Welcoming the proclamation of the Latin American and Caribbean region as a Zone of Peace, which was made on the occasion of the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana on 28 and 29 January 2014,

Welcoming also the signing of the legally binding Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia by the nuclear-weapon States in New York on 6 May 2014,

Recalling that concerned States are encouraged to ratify the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and the relevant protocols thereto, and to constructively consult and cooperate to bring about the entry into force of the relevant legally binding protocols to all such nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties, which include negative security assurances, as expressed in the action plan adopted without a vote in 2010 at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recognizing the progress made on increased collaboration within and between zones at the first and second Conferences of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Mexico City from 26 to 28 April 2005 and in New York on 30 April 2010, respectively, at which States reaffirmed their need to cooperate in order to achieve their common objectives,

Welcoming the third preparatory meeting for the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held in New York on 7 May 2014, at which it was agreed to hold a series of informal meetings in New York to discuss the draft outcome document for the third Conference, to be held in 2015,

1. *Decides* to convene the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia as a one-day Conference, in New York in 2015;

2. *Also decides* that the objective of the Conference will be to consider ways and means to enhance consultations and cooperation among States parties and signatories, the treaty agencies and other interested States, with the purpose of promoting coordination and convergence in the implementation of the provisions of the treaties and in strengthening the regime of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

3. *Urges* the States parties and signatories to treaties that have established nuclear-weapon-free zones to develop activities of cooperation and coordination in order to promote their common objectives in the framework of the Conference;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a conference room at United Nations Headquarters for the one-day Conference in 2015, along with the necessary assistance and conference services as may be required for the Conference.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/66:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: France, Israel, United Kingdom, United States.

Africa

The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) [YUN 1995, p. 203], which entered into force in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 533], had been ratified by 39 countries as at 31 December. Angola, and Seychelles ratified it during the year. The third Conference of States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 29 to 30 May.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/432], adopted **resolution 69/26** without vote [agenda item 88].

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and 56/17 of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity and of the African Union,

Recalling also the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) in Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion, in which it was emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996, in which the Council affirmed that the signature of the Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Recalls with satisfaction* the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) on 15 July 2009;

2. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;

3. *Welcomes* the convening of the first Conference of States Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), on 4 November 2010, the second Conference of States Parties, on 12 and 13 November 2012, and the third Conference of States Parties, on 29 and 30 May 2014, all held in Addis Ababa;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols to the Treaty that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols that concern them to do so as soon as possible;

5. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all measures necessary to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

6. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba, and encourages them to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the model protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;

7. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

Asia

Central Asia

The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, which was signed in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 644] by all five Central Asian States comprising the Zone (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), entered into force in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 534].

On 6 May, the nuclear-weapon States (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States) signed the Protocol to the Treaty providing legally binding guarantee that they would not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the parties to the Treaty. As at 31 December, one nuclear-weapon State (France) had ratified the Protocol.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/36** without vote [agenda item 96 (c)].

Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/49 of 8 December 2010 and 67/31 of 3 December 2012,

Convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes to the achievement of general and complete disarmament, and emphasizing the importance of internationally recognized treaties on the establishment of such zones in different regions of the world in the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime,

Considering that the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region, constitutes an important step towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and ensuring regional and international peace and security,

Considering also that the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia is an effective contribution to combating international terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-State actors, primarily terrorists,

Reaffirming the universally recognized role of the United Nations in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Emphasizing the role of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the environmental rehabilitation of territories affected by radioactive contamination, and the importance of stepping up efforts to ensure the safe and reliable storage of radioactive waste in the Central Asian States,

Recognizing the importance of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, and emphasizing its significance in the attainment of peace and security,

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 21 March 2009 of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia;

2. *Also welcomes* the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 6 May 2014 by the nuclear-weapon States, and calls upon them to take measures for its early ratification;

3. *Further welcomes* the submission at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of two working papers, on the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and on the environmental consequences of uranium mining;

4. *Welcomes* the convening of consultative meetings of States parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, on 15 October 2009 in Ashgabat, 15 March 2011 in Tashkent, 12 June 2012 in Astana, 27 June 2013 in Astana and 25 July 2014 in Almaty, which identified joint activities by the Central Asian States to ensure fulfilment of the obligations set out in the Treaty and to develop cooperation on disarmament issues with international bodies, as well as the adoption of an action plan of the States parties to the Treaty to strengthen nuclear security, prevent the proliferation of nuclear materials and counter nuclear terrorism in Central Asia;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia".

Mongolia

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 67/52 [YUN 2012, p. 506], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/69/140] on new developments and UN assistance to Mongolia in its efforts to consolidate the country's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status. Mongolia received assistance from various UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes. As it continued to receive international recognition for its nuclear-weapon-free status, it sought to further institutionalize its nuclear-weapon-free status and promote other nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. In March, Mongolia presented an aide-memoire to the five nuclear-weapon States, propos-

ing that the issue of its nuclear-weapon-free status be addressed prior to the Assembly's sixty-ninth (2014) session. In May, on the margins of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, Mongolia met with the five nuclear-weapon States to exchange views on the issue. They agreed to revert to the issue during the Assembly's sixty-ninth session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 6], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/63** without vote [agenda item 96 (f)].

Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/77 D of 4 December 1998, 55/33 S of 20 November 2000, 57/67 of 22 November 2002, 59/73 of 3 December 2004, 61/87 of 6 December 2006, 63/56 of 2 December 2008, 65/70 of 8 December 2010 and 67/52 of 3 December 2012,

Recalling also the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind its resolution 49/31 of 9 December 1994 on the protection and security of small States,

Proceeding from the fact that nuclear-weapon-free status is one of the means of ensuring the national security of States,

Convinced that the internationally recognized status of Mongolia contributes to enhancing stability and confidence-building in the region and promotes Mongolia's security by strengthening its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders and the preservation of its ecological balance,

Welcoming the declaration by Mongolia regarding its nuclear-weapon-free status of 17 September 2012,

Welcoming also the joint declaration of the five nuclear-weapon States on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status of 17 September 2012,

Noting that the declarations referred to above have been transmitted to the Security Council,

Welcoming the adoption by the Mongolian parliament of legislation defining and regulating Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status as a concrete step towards promoting the aims of nuclear non-proliferation,

Bearing in mind the joint statement of the five nuclear-weapon States on security assurances to Mongolia in connection with its nuclear-weapon-free status as a contribution to the implementation of resolution 53/77 D, as well as their commitment to Mongolia to cooperate in the implementation of the resolution, in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

Mindful of the support expressed for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status by the Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries at the Thirteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and

25 February 2003, the Fourteenth Conference, held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, the Fifteenth Summit Conference, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009, and the Sixteenth Conference, held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012, and by Ministers at the Fifteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 29 and 30 July 2008, the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting, held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011, and the Seventeenth Ministerial Conference, held in Algiers from 26 to 29 May 2014,

Noting that the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba expressed their recognition and full support for Mongolia's international nuclear-weapon-free status at the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005,

Noting also that the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia expressed support for Mongolia's policy at the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held in New York on 30 April 2010,

Noting further other measures taken to implement resolution 67/52 at the national and international levels,

Welcoming Mongolia's active and positive role in developing peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the States of the region and other States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the efforts to implement resolution 67/52;
3. *Welcomes* the declarations of 17 September 2012 by Mongolia and the five nuclear-weapon States on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status as a concrete contribution to nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the enhancement of confidence and predictability in the region;
4. *Welcomes and supports* the measures taken by Mongolia to consolidate and strengthen this status;
5. *Endorses and supports* Mongolia's good-neighbourly and balanced relationship with its neighbours as an important element of strengthening regional peace, security and stability;
6. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Member States to cooperate with Mongolia in implementing resolution 67/52, as well as the progress made in consolidating Mongolia's international security;
7. *Invites* Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the measures necessary to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its independent foreign policy, its economic security and its ecological balance, as well as its nuclear-weapon-free status;
8. *Appeals* to the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region to support Mongolia's efforts to join the relevant regional security and economic arrangements;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the necessary measures mentioned in paragraph 7 above;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status".

Middle East

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/27 [YUN 2013, p. 500], the Secretary-General in July reported [A/69/130 (Part I) & Add.1] on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Efforts intensified at bringing the States of the region together to reach an agreement on the arrangements for the postponed conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other WMDs. The facilitator (Finland) of the conference and the convenors held three rounds of open-ended informal consultations (Glion, Switzerland, 21–22 October, 2013; 25–26 November, 2013; 4–5 February, 2014). Many States expressed support for convening the conference before the end of 2014. Two subsequent rounds of informal consultative meetings were held (Geneva, 14 May; 24–25 June), however, differences among the parties persisted on several important aspects of the conference, including on its agenda and the modalities for the conference.

The report also included the replies on the matter from 12 Member States—Argentina, Australia, Cuba, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Mexico, Portugal, Syria and Ukraine, as well as the League of Arab States and the European Union.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/436], adopted **resolution 69/29** without vote [agenda item 92].

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263(XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474(XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994, 50/66 of 12 December 1995, 51/41 of 10 December 1996, 52/34 of 9 December 1997, 53/74 of 4 December 1998, 54/51 of 1 December 1999, 55/30 of 20 November 2000, 56/21 of 29 November 2001, 57/55 of 22 November 2002, 58/34 of 8 December 2003,

59/63 of 3 December 2004, 60/52 of 8 December 2005, 61/56 of 6 December 2006, 62/18 of 5 December 2007, 63/38 of 2 December 2008, 64/26 of 2 December 2009, 65/42 of 8 December 2010, 66/25 of 2 December 2011, 67/28 of 3 December 2012 and 68/27 of 5 December 2013 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (*d*), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, in which all parties directly concerned are called upon to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Recognizing the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 68/27,

1. *Urges* all parties directly concerned seriously to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

2. *Calls upon* all countries of the region that have not yet done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. *Takes note* of resolution GC(58)/RES/16, adopted on 25 September 2014 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fifty-eighth regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;

4. *Notes* the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

5. *Invites* all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (*d*) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

6. *Also invites* those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

7. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 68/27;

9. *Invites* all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to the report of the Secretary-General of 10 October 1990 or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

South Pacific

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) [YUN 1985, p. 58] remained at 13. China and the Russian Federation had ratified Protocols 2 and 3, and France and the United Kingdom had ratified all three Protocols. Under Protocol 1, the States internationally responsible for territories situated within the zone would apply the relevant prohibitions

of the Treaty to those territories; under Protocol 2, the five nuclear-weapon States would provide security assurances to parties or territories within the zone; and under Protocol 3, the five nuclear-weapon States would not carry out any nuclear tests in the zone.

South hemisphere and adjacent areas

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/35** by recorded vote (173-4-3) [agenda item 96 (m)].

Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 B of 10 December 1996, 52/38 N of 9 December 1997, 53/77 Q of 4 December 1998, 54/54 L of 1 December 1999, 55/33 I of 20 November 2000, 56/24 G of 29 November 2001, 57/73 of 22 November 2002, 58/49 of 8 December 2003, 59/85 of 3 December 2004, 60/58 of 8 December 2005, 61/69 of 6 December 2006, 62/35 of 5 December 2007, 63/65 of 2 December 2008, 64/44 of 2 December 2009, 65/58 of 8 December 2010 and 67/55 of 3 December 2012,

Recalling also the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recalling further the adoption by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session of a text entitled “Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned”,

Determined to pursue the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Determined also to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which reaffirmed the conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament,

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty, *inter alia*, for achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the third preparatory meeting for the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, held in New York on 7 May 2014,

Noting that 115 States are currently parties and signatories to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties,

Underlining the value of enhancing cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty members by means of mechanisms such as joint meetings of States parties, signatories and observers to those treaties,

Reaffirming the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

1. *Reaffirms its conviction* of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and calls for greater progress towards the total elimination of all nuclear weapons;

2. *Welcomes* the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that all nuclear-weapon-free zones in the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas are now in force;

4. *Calls upon* all States concerned to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so, in this regard welcomes the steps taken by the United States of America towards the ratification of the protocols to the Treaty of Pelindaba and to the Treaty of Rarotonga and the signing by the nuclear-weapon States of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, and encourages progress with a view to concluding consultations between the nuclear-weapon States and the parties to the Bangkok Treaty on the Protocol to that Treaty;

5. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to withdraw any reservations or interpretive declarations contrary to the object and purpose of the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones;

6. *Welcomes* the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and calls upon all States to consider all relevant proposals, including those reflected in its resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

7. *Congratulates* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, as well as of Central Asia and Mongolia, for their efforts to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, and calls upon them to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;

8. *Encourages* efforts to reinforce the coordination among nuclear-weapon-free zones with a view to the convening by Indonesia of the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia;

9. *Encourages* the competent authorities of the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to those treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of the goals of the treaties;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/35:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Israel, Micronesia, Palau.

Bacteriological (biological) and chemical weapons

In 2014, Member States continued to focus on strengthening the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention) (BWC) [YUN 1971, p. 19] and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) [YUN 1993, p. 111].

Bacteriological (biological) weapons

Bacteriological (biological) weapons convention

As at 31 December, 169 States had either ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on

Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention) (BWC). During the year, Myanmar became a party.

Meeting of States parties

In accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to BWC [YUN 2011, p. 522], a meeting of those States was convened (Geneva, 1–5 December) [BWC/MSP/2014/5]. It was attended by 110 States parties, 3 signatory States, 2 observer States, the United Nations, including the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the Office of Disarmament Affairs, 3 observer organizations and 15 non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

To further enhance the functioning of the database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation, States parties noted the value of assessing its functionality, strengthening its utilization and improving its operation. They also agreed on the value of actively promoting and featuring more prominently the assistance and cooperation database for use on the main Implementation Support Unit webpage. They noted the value of considering in 2015 reasons for its low usage in order to address potential obstacles. To further strengthen international cooperation and ensure that all States parties had access to the benefits of developments in the life sciences, States parties noted the value of harnessing recent advances, including those in enabling technologies; vaccine development and production; biological production technologies; equipment and technical, practical and theoretical training for maintenance, occupational health and safety for high containment laboratories in order to strengthen the sustainable development of States parties, taking into account the needs of developing countries in meeting health-related challenges. States parties also agreed on the value of continuing in 2015, to explore strengthening the procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance, including information on, and the feasibility of an inventory of the types of assistance that States parties could provide; a data bank containing publicly available information on means of protection against, and responses to, biological and toxin weapons; procedures, or codes of conduct, for the provision of means of protection against, and responses to, the use of biological and toxin weapons to the requesting State party; a fund for assistance to affected States parties; and capacity-building for international regional and sub-regional organizations. States parties took note of the report of the Implementation Support Unit [BWC/MSP/2014/4], which called on them to continue working closely with the Unit in fulfilling its mandate.

Meeting of experts

The Meeting of Experts (Geneva, 4–8 August) [BWC/MSP/2014/MX/3] was attended by 84 States parties, 4 signatory States, 2 observer States, the United

Nations and a number of its bodies and agencies, the European Union and other international and non-governmental organizations. Topics discussed at the Meeting included strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X; reviewing developments in science and technology related to the Convention; and strengthening national implementation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/447], adopted **resolution 69/82** without vote [agenda item 103].

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Stressing that, although there are now 170 States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, including all the permanent members of the Security Council, there is a continuing need to achieve universalization of the Convention,

Reaffirming its call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calling upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at the earliest possible date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the review conferences of the parties to the Convention, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, later amended by the Final Declaration of the Seventh Review Conference, and to provide such information and data in conformity with the standardized procedure to the Implementation Support Unit within the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declarations of the Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Review Conferences that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

Recognizing the importance of ongoing efforts by States parties to enhance international cooperation, assistance and the fullest possible exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, recognizing also that there still remain challenges and obstacles to be overcome in order to enhance international cooperation, and recognizing further the value of building capacity through

international cooperation, in line with the Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference,

Reaffirming the importance of national measures, in accordance with constitutional processes, in strengthening the implementation of the Convention by States parties, in line with the Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference,

Reaffirming also the importance of the review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention,

Noting the decision of the Seventh Review Conference to retain the previous structures from the 2003–2010 intersessional process, consisting of annual meetings of States parties preceded by annual meetings of experts, and to continue to allocate five days to each meeting of States parties and each meeting of experts during the 2012–2015 intersessional process,

Recalling the decision of the Seventh Review Conference that the Eighth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2016,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the successful outcome of and the decisions on all provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction reached at the Seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, and calls upon States parties to the Convention to participate and actively engage in their implementation;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the decision of the Seventh Review Conference that the standing agenda items entitled “Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X”, “Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention” and “Strengthening national implementation” shall be addressed at both the meeting of experts and the meeting of States parties, every year from 2012 to 2015;

3. *Also notes with appreciation* that the Seventh Review Conference decided that the questions of (a) how to enable fuller participation in the confidence-building measures, and (b) how to strengthen implementation of article VII, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation by States parties, shall be discussed in 2012 and 2013 and 2014 and 2015, respectively, during the 2012–2015 intersessional process;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the meeting of States parties and the meeting of experts, held in Geneva from 9 to 13 December 2013 and from 4 to 8 August 2014, respectively, successfully addressed the three standing agenda items and the biennial item on the agenda, and calls upon States parties to the Convention to continue to participate in and contribute to the work of the intersessional process and, in particular, to make the most of the time allotted to consideration of the new biennial agenda item to be discussed in 2014 and 2015 on Article VII in the remaining meetings of experts and meetings of States parties during the current intersessional process;

5. *Appreciates* the information and data on confidence-building measures provided by States parties to date, recalls the discussions on the biennial item on confidence-building measures in 2012 and 2013 and relevant paragraphs of the reports of the meetings of States parties, and calls upon

all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data on confidence-building measures called for in the relevant decisions of the review conferences;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the decision of the Seventh Review Conference on the establishment of a database to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation, and urges States parties to submit to the Implementation Support Unit, on a voluntary basis, requests for and offers of cooperation and assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information regarding the use of biological and toxin agents for peaceful purposes;

7. *Encourages* States parties to provide, at least biannually, appropriate information on their implementation of article X of the Convention and to collaborate to offer assistance or training, upon request, in support of the legislative and other implementation measures of States parties needed to ensure their compliance with the Convention;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the decision of the Seventh Review Conference on the establishment of a sponsorship programme in order to support and increase the participation of developing States parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme, and calls upon States parties in a position to do so to offer voluntary contributions for the programme;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Implementation Support Unit and its contribution to supporting the intersessional process;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention, to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences and to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the remaining meetings of experts and the meetings of States parties during the current intersessional process;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

Chemical weapons

Chemical weapons convention

As at 31 December, the number of States that had either ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction stood at 190. The number of signatories remained at 165. The Convention was adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 64] and entered into force in 1997 [YUN 2007, p. 499].

Nineteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties

The nineteenth session of the Conference of States Parties (The Hague, Netherlands, 1–5 December) [C-19/5] was attended by 132 States parties, 2 signa-

tory States, 6 international organizations, specialized agencies and other international bodies, as well as representatives of the global chemical industry and scientific community.

The Conference expressed concern that the three possessor States parties (Libya, Russian Federation, United States) were unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles, but noted that measures were being implemented towards that end. The Conference noted that measures continued to be undertaken for destruction activities to meet the planned completion date of 31 December 2020 by the Russian Federation; September 2023 by the United States; and December 2016 by Libya. The Conference encouraged the possessor States concerned to include confirmation, in the required reporting to the Executive Council and the Conference, indicating that they remained on schedule to complete destruction activities by their planned completion dates. With regard to the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons by Japan in China, the Conference urged the relevant States parties to continue to make the fullest possible effort to complete the destruction of those weapons as soon as possible.

The Conference considered and approved the report of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (opcw) on the implementation of the Convention in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 506].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/67** by recorded vote (181-0-1) [agenda item 96 (aa)].

Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical weapons, in particular resolution 68/45 of 5 December 2013, adopted without a vote,

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Welcoming the significant progress achieved in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, and noting in particular the completed elimination by 23 June 2014, that is, in the first half of 2014, of all declared chemical weapons material and equipment from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, despite uniquely challenging conditions,

Noting that the following actions remain to be taken:

(a) Destruction of chemical weapons material removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, outside its territory,

(b) Destruction of the 12 remaining declared chemical weapons production facilities,

(c) Inspections of the declared sites that remain to be inspected,

Urging the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Syrian authorities to continue to cooperate through technical discussions on outstanding issues regarding the declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic, with a view to the soonest resolution of questions raised by the Technical Secretariat to further the accuracy and completeness of the declaration,

Commending the invaluable contribution of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations and the personnel of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the progress achieved in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, as well as the assistance and support extended to this endeavour by the States parties, and welcoming the effective coordination between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Joint Mission and the personnel of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

Reaffirming the broad support for the decision of the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to send a mission to establish the facts surrounding the allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, reportedly chlorine, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic, and re-emphasizing its unequivocal support for the decision of the Director-General to continue the mission, while stressing that the safety and security of mission personnel remains the top priority,

Underlining the fact that the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances would be reprehensible and completely contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 8 to 19 April 2013 (the Third Review Conference), including its consensus final report, in which the Conference addressed all aspects of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and made important recommendations on its continued implementation,

Emphasizing that the Third Review Conference welcomed the fact that the Convention is a unique multilateral agreement banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner under strict and effective international control and noted with satisfaction that the Convention continues to be a remarkable success and an example of effective multilateralism,

Convinced that the Convention, 17 years after its entry into force, has reinforced its role as the international norm against chemical weapons, and that it constitutes a major contribution to:

- (a) International peace and security,
- (b) Eliminating chemical weapons and preventing their re-emergence,
- (c) The ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,
- (d) Excluding completely, for the sake of all mankind, the possibility of the use of chemical weapons,
- (e) Promoting international cooperation and exchange in scientific and technical information in the field

of chemical activities among States parties for peaceful purposes in order to enhance the economic and technological development of all States parties,

1. *Emphasizes* that the universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction is essential to achieving its object and purpose and to enhancing the security of States parties, as well as to international peace and security, underlines the fact that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realized as long as there remains even a single State not party to the Convention that could possess or acquire such weapons, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay;

2. *Underlines* the fact that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all articles of the Convention makes a major contribution to international peace and security through the elimination of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons and the prohibition of their acquisition and use, and provides for assistance and protection in the event of use or threat of use of chemical weapons and for international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities;

3. *Notes* the impact of scientific and technological progress on the effective implementation of the Convention and the importance for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its policymaking organs of taking due account of such developments;

4. *Reaffirms* that the obligation of the States parties to complete the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and the destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Annex on Implementation and Verification (Verification Annex) and under the verification of the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is essential for the realization of the object and purpose of the Convention;

5. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

6. *Recalls* that the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention expressed concern regarding the statement made by the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in his report to the Executive Council of the Organization at its sixty-eighth session, provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision C-16/DEC.11 of 1 December 2011 adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its sixteenth session, that three possessor States parties, namely, Libya, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, had been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles, and also expressed determination that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons should be completed in the shortest time possible in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Verification Annex, and with the full application of the relevant decisions that have been taken;

7. *Notes with concern* that, along with the threat of the possible production, acquisition and use of chemical

weapons by States, the international community also faces the danger of the production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, including terrorists, concerns which have highlighted the necessity of achieving universal adherence to the Convention, as well as the high level of readiness of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and stresses that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (article VII) and assistance and protection (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

8. *Notes* that the effective application of the verification system builds confidence in compliance with the Convention by States parties;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

10. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities;

11. *Welcomes* progress made in the national implementation of article VII obligations, commends the States parties and the Technical Secretariat for assisting other States parties, on request, with the implementation of the follow-up to the plan of action regarding article VII obligations, and urges States parties that have not fulfilled their obligations under article VII to do so without further delay, in accordance with their constitutional processes;

12. *Emphasizes* the continuing relevance and importance of the provisions of article X of the Convention, welcomes the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons, supports further efforts by both States parties and the Technical Secretariat to promote a high level of readiness to respond to chemical weapons threats as articulated in article X, and welcomes the effectiveness and efficiency of the increased focus on making full use of regional and subregional capacities and expertise, including taking advantage of established training centres;

13. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information, and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the provisions of article XI of the Convention relating to the economic and technological development of States parties, recalls that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of those provisions contributes to universality, and also reaffirms the undertaking of the States parties to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities of the States parties and the importance of that cooperation and its contribution to the promotion of the Convention as a whole;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties;

16. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons within the framework of the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/67:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Saudi Arabia.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), mandated to oversee the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and provide a forum for consultation [C-20/4], reported that in 2014 it had verified the destruction of 4,084.258 metric tons of chemical weapons—resulting in a total

of 61,444.607 metric tons (78 per cent of the declared global amount) of Category I chemical weapons that were verified as destroyed since the Convention entered into force in 1977 [YUN 1977, p. 499]. During the year, the secretariat conducted 10 inspections regarding abandoned chemical weapons and 5 inspections concerning old chemical weapons. The OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria, established in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 507], completed its operations on 30 September 2014. The OPCW was able to verify the destruction of 98 per cent of chemical weapons declared by Syria, including all Category 1 chemicals. That achievement was the result of the intensive collective effort of the technical secretariat and States parties, amid often dangerous circumstances. In April, the Director General established the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria in response to persistent allegations of use of chlorine gas as a weapon in that country (see p. 596).

The Verification Programme carried out 241 inspections of industrial facilities, the highest number ever conducted in a single year. Three OPCW tools to assist States parties in the identification of scheduled chemicals were updated, and a new communication tool—the Secure Information Exchange System—was launched to provide a direct, electronic channel for the secure exchange of confidential information between the secretariat and States parties. Facility agreements and arrangements were concluded between OPCW and Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Reports of Secretary-General. In July, in a note [A/69/171] on cooperation between the United Nations and OPCW, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the OPCW report for 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 514].

In an August consolidated report [A/69/228-S/2014/560] on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, the Secretary-General stated that OPCW, as a member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and Co-Chair of the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapon of Mass Destruction Attacks, would spearhead a Task Force project aimed at ensuring the interoperability of relevant UN agencies and international partners in the event of a chemical or biological attack or incident. With the support of OPCW, the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific organized a workshop on the national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 November [meeting 48], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/14** [draft: A/69/L.16 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 123 (g)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/8 of 19 November 2012 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

Having received the annual report for 2012 and the draft report for 2013 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2012 and the draft report for 2013 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons submitted on its behalf by its Director General;

2. *Welcomes* the effective and ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, as demonstrated, inter alia, through the work of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, which was brought to a close on 30 September 2014, as well as through the valuable support provided by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, established by the Secretary-General on 21 March 2013;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 8 to 19 April 2013;

4. *Welcomes* the preparations being undertaken by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to mark the 100th anniversary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons in Ieper, Belgium, which falls on 22 April 2015;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”, the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/14:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab

Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Guyana.

1925 Geneva Protocol

The 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (1925 Geneva Protocol), which prohibits the use of chemical and biological weapons in war, entered into force in 1928.

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/35 [YUN 2012, p. 515], the Secretary-General reported in July [A/69/123] that on 21 March the depositary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol (France) had received from Portugal a notice of withdrawal of the remaining reservation it had made at the time of its ratification.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/53** by recorded vote (181-0-2) [agenda item 96 (d)].

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 67/35 of 3 December 2012,

Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons, as well as the continuing support for measures to uphold the authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, as expressed by consensus in many previous resolutions,

Emphasizing the necessity of easing international tension and strengthening trust and confidence between States,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;
2. *Renews its previous call* to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;
3. *Calls upon* those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw them;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/53:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aus-

tralia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel, United States.

Conventional weapons

Arms Trade Treaty

The Arms Trade Treaty was adopted by the General Assembly on 2 April 2013 by resolution 67/234 B [YUN 2013, p. 508]. In an August report [A/69/173], the Secretary-General reported that as at 22 July 2014, 118 States had signed the Treaty and of those States, 41 had deposited their instruments of ratification. In addition, 19 signatory States had declared their intention to provisionally apply articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty, pending its entry into force. In an October update [A/69/173/Add.1], the Secretary-General reported that, as at 9 October, 121 States had signed the Treaty, 53 had ratified it and 21 had indicated their intention to provisionally apply articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty.

As at 31 December, the number of signatories had increased to 130 and the number of parties to 61. The Treaty entered into force on 24 December.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the report of the First Committee [A/69/440],

adopted **resolution 69/49** by recorded vote (154-0-29) [agenda item 96 (p)].

The Arms Trade Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/89 of 6 December 2006, 63/240 of 24 December 2008, 64/48 of 2 December 2009, 67/234 A of 24 December 2012, 67/234 B of 2 April 2013 and 68/31 of 5 December 2013, and its decision 66/518 of 2 December 2011,

1. *Welcomes* the 54 ratifications of the Arms Trade Treaty to date and its forthcoming entry into force on 24 December 2014;

2. *Also welcomes* the offer by Mexico to host the first Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty in 2015;

3. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to sign and, thereafter, according to their respective constitutional processes, ratify, accept or approve the Treaty at the earliest possible date;

4. *Calls upon* those States in a position to do so to provide technical and/or financial assistance to requesting States in order to promote the universalization and effective implementation of the Treaty;

5. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/49:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Small arms

Programme of Action on illicit trade in small arms

The Fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects [YUN 2001, p. 499] (New York, 16–20 June) [A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/2] considered stockpile management, including physical security measures; implementation of the International Tracing Instrument; and international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, training and the transfer of technology and equipment. States also discussed the follow-up to the second Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action [YUN 2012, p. 517] and agreed on topics to be considered at the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts in 2015. Sixty-eight States submitted national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. The Meeting considered a report by the Secretary-General on recent developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons and their implications for the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument [A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/1].

The Meeting agreed to undertake measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. The measures included taking advantage of technological advances to strengthen stockpile management; and considering further developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons and their implications for the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument. The Meeting also urged States and international, regional and subregional organizations to render cooperation and assistance and the transfer of technology and equipment, in line with the needs and priorities of recipient States; and to consider options for developing a comprehensive international assistance framework to provide resources, training, capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries in support of the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument. The Outcome document of the meeting was annexed to its report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the report of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/51** without vote [agenda item 96 (dd)].

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/48 of 5 December 2013, as well as all previous resolutions entitled “The illicit trade in

small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”, including resolution 56/24 V of 24 December 2001,

Emphasizing the importance of the continued and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and recognizing its important contribution to international efforts on this matter,

Emphasizing also the importance of the continued and full implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument),

Mindful of the implementation of the outcomes adopted by the follow-up meetings on the Programme of Action,

Recalling the commitment of States to the Programme of Action as the main framework for measures within the activities of the international community to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

Underlining the need for States to enhance their efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012 (the Second Review Conference), and recalling the endorsement by the General Assembly of the outcome of the Conference,

Welcoming also the successful conclusion of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations and held in New York from 16 to 20 June 2014,

Stressing the importance of voluntary national reporting to follow up on the Programme of Action as a means of assessing overall implementation efforts, including implementation challenges and opportunities, and which could greatly facilitate the rendering of international cooperation and assistance to affected States,

Noting that tools developed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, including the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, and those developed by Member States could be used to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Welcoming the coordinated efforts within the United Nations to implement the Programme of Action, including by developing the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, which forms an integrated clearing house for international cooperation and assistance for capacity-building in the area of small arms and light weapons,

Taking into account the importance of regional approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting with satisfaction regional and subregional efforts being undertaken in support of the implementation of the

Programme of Action, and commending the progress that has already been made in this regard, including tackling both supply and demand factors that are relevant to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

Reaffirming that international cooperation and assistance are an essential aspect of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

Reiterating that illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons is a serious problem that the international community should address urgently,

Highlighting new challenges to effective marking, record-keeping and tracing resulting from developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons, and bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions,

Recognizing the efforts undertaken by non-governmental organizations in the provision of assistance to States for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, which includes an overview of the implementation of resolution 68/48,

Welcoming the inclusion of small arms and light weapons in the scope of the Arms Trade Treaty,

1. *Underlines* the fact that the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects requires concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and that their uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world has a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and poses a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels;

2. *Encourages* all relevant initiatives, including those of the United Nations, other international organizations, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and calls upon all Member States to contribute towards the continued implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels;

3. *Encourages* States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons;

4. *Endorses* the report adopted at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and encourages all States to implement, as appropriate, the measures highlighted in the annex to the report under the sections entitled “Way forward”;

5. *Recalls* its endorsement of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New

York from 27 August to 7 September 2012 (the Second Review Conference);

6. *Also recalls* its decision, pursuant to the schedule of meetings for the period from 2012 to 2018 agreed at the Second Review Conference, to convene, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States, in New York in 2014 and 2016, and a one-week open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015, to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, and decides to hold the next open-ended meeting of governmental experts in New York from 1 to 5 June 2015, the agenda of which will include the topics contained in paragraph 40 of the outcome document of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States;

7. *Further recalls* its decision, in accordance with the decision of the Second Review Conference, to hold the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2018 for a period of two weeks, preceded by a one-week preparatory committee meeting early in 2018;

8. *Emphasizes* the fact that initiatives by the international community with respect to international cooperation and assistance remain essential and complementary to national implementation efforts, as well as to those at the regional and global levels;

9. *Encourages* States to consider ways to enhance cooperation and assistance and to assess their effectiveness in order to ensure the implementation of the Programme of Action;

10. *Recognizes* the necessity for interested States to develop effective coordination mechanisms, where they do not exist, in order to match the needs of States with existing resources to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action and to make international cooperation and assistance more effective, and in this regard encourages States to make use, as appropriate, of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System;

11. *Encourages* States to consider, among other mechanisms, the coherent identification of needs, priorities, national plans and programmes that may require international cooperation and assistance from States and regional and international organizations in a position to do so;

12. *Also encourages* States to take full advantage of the benefits of cooperation with the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with their mandates and consistent with national priorities;

13. *Encourages* all efforts to build national capacity for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including those highlighted in the outcome documents of the Second Review Conference;

14. *Encourages* States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action, notes that States will submit national reports on their implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument), encourages those

States in a position to do so to use the reporting template made available by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, and reaffirms the utility of synchronizing such reports with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means of increasing the submission rate and improving the utility of reports, as well as contributing substantially to meeting discussions;

15. *Also encourages* States, on a voluntary basis, to make increasing use of their national reports as another tool for communicating assistance needs and information on the resources and mechanisms available to address such needs, and encourages States in a position to render such assistance to make use of these national reports;

16. *Encourages* States, relevant international and regional organizations and civil society with the capacity to do so to cooperate with and assist other States, upon request, in the preparation of comprehensive reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action;

17. *Calls upon* all States to implement the International Tracing Instrument by, inter alia, including in their national reports the name and contact information of the national points of contact and information on national marking practices used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable;

18. *Recognizes* the urgent need to maintain and enhance national controls, in accordance with the Programme of Action, to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including their diversion to illicit trade, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, taking into account, inter alia, their adverse humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences for the affected States;

19. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to provide financial assistance, through a voluntary sponsorship fund, that could be distributed, upon request, to States otherwise unable to participate in meetings on the Programme of Action;

20. *Encourages* interested States and relevant international and regional organizations in a position to do so to convene regional meetings to consider and advance the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as the International Tracing Instrument, including in preparation for the meetings on the Programme of Action;

21. *Encourages* civil society and relevant organizations to strengthen their cooperation and work with States at the respective national and regional levels to achieve the implementation of the Programme of Action;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the recommendation made by the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States in paragraph 27 (e) of its outcome document, to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

Assistance to States for curbing illicit small arms traffic

In July, the Secretary-General provided an overview [A/69/132] of the activities undertaken by Member States, the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations to implement General Assembly resolu-

tions 67/50 [YUN 2012, p. 526], 68/34 [YUN 2013, p. 515] and 68/48 [ibid., p. 512].

The number of States parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol) [YUN 2001, p. 1036] increased to 109. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to provide legislative assistance and technical support in strengthening firearms control regimes; building capacity to investigate and prosecute firearms trafficking and related crimes; and promoting regional and international cooperation. UNODC delivered specialized training courses on investigating firearms trafficking to practitioners in Bolivia, Ghana and Senegal and held a regional seminar for the countries of West Africa and the Sahel region to promote legislative harmonization and support implementation of the international and regional instruments on firearms. In coordination with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, it began providing technical assistance for marking firearms through the procurement of marking machines and training to national authorities in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger and Senegal. In cooperation with other partners, UNODC initiated the development of software for registering seized firearms, which States could use to record and analyse data relating to the seizure of firearms. UNODC presented to the second meeting of the Working Group on Firearms (Vienna, 26–28 May) the preliminary findings from its global study on firearms trafficking [YUN 2013, p. 514], which focused on the transnational routes and modus operandi of firearms trafficking, and its links to other cross-border trafficking flows and possible connections to organized crime and terrorism. The Working Group encouraged States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime [YUN 2000, p. 1048] to develop or strengthen coordination among relevant and competent national authorities, with a view to enhancing capacities for statistics and data collection, analysis and information sharing related to illicit firearms trafficking. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs launched the UN SaferGuard quick response mechanism, which allowed ammunition experts to be deployed rapidly to assist States in the urgent management of ammunition stockpiles, including those in the aftermath of unintended explosions of ammunition. The Office organized the inaugural meeting of the UN SaferGuard Board (29–30 April) to oversee the implementation of the international ammunition technical guidelines.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/33** without vote [agenda item 96 (d)].

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/34 of 5 December 2013 on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them,

Deeply concerned by the magnitude of human casualty and suffering, especially among children, caused by the illicit proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons,

Concerned by the negative impact that the illicit proliferation and use of those weapons continue to have on the efforts of States in the Sahelo-Saharan subregion in the areas of poverty eradication, sustainable development and the maintenance of peace, security and stability,

Bearing in mind the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted in Bamako on 1 December 2000,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”, in which he emphasized that States must strive just as hard to eliminate the threat of small arms and light weapons as they do to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction,

Recalling also the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 8 December 2005,

Recalling further the expression of support in the 2005 World Summit Outcome for the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,

Recalling the adoption, on 14 June 2006 in Abuja at the thirtieth ordinary summit of the Economic Community of West African States, of the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, in replacement of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

Recalling also the entry into force of the Convention on 29 September 2009,

Recalling further the decision taken by the Economic Community to establish the Small Arms Unit, responsible for advocating appropriate policies and developing and implementing programmes, as well as the establishment of the Economic Community’s Small Arms Control Programme, launched on 6 June 2006 in Bamako, in replacement of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development,

Taking note of the latest report of the Secretary-General on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures, assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

Recalling, in that regard, the decision of the European Union to significantly support the Economic Community in its efforts to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing the important role that civil society organizations play, by raising public awareness, in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons,

Recalling the reports of the United Nations Conferences to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006 and from 27 August to 7 September 2012,

Welcoming the inclusion of small arms and light weapons in the scope of the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as the inclusion of international assistance in its provisions,

1. *Commends* the United Nations and international, regional and other organizations for their assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons and collecting them in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the African Union;

3. *Encourages* the international community to support the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials;

4. *Encourages* the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan sub-region to facilitate the effective functioning of national commissions to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and in that regard invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible;

5. *Encourages* the collaboration of civil society organizations and associations in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

6. *Encourages* cooperation among State organs, international organizations and civil society in support of programmes and projects aimed at combating the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to take action to help to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them".

Illicit arms brokering

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee

[A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/62** by recorded vote (180-0-2) [agenda item 96 (g)].

Preventing and combating illicit brokering activities

The General Assembly,

Noting the threat to international peace and security posed by illicit brokering activities circumventing the international arms control and non-proliferation framework,

Concerned that, if proper measures are not taken, the illicit brokering of arms in all its aspects will adversely affect the maintenance of international peace and security, and prolong conflicts, and could be an obstacle to sustainable economic and social development and result in illicit transfers of conventional arms and the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors,

Recognizing the need for Member States to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities, which covers not only conventional arms but also materials, equipment and technology that could contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,

Reaffirming that efforts to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities should not hamper the legitimate arms trade and international cooperation with respect to materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004, in particular paragraph 3, in which the Council determined that all States shall develop and maintain appropriate effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat, including through international cooperation when necessary, illicit trafficking in and brokering of materials related to nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/43 of 3 December 2012,

Noting international efforts to prevent and combat illicit arms brokering, in particular in small arms and light weapons, as demonstrated by the adoption in 2001 of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the entry into force in 2005 of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Recognizing the importance of States parties to the Arms Trade Treaty taking measures, pursuant to their national laws, to regulate brokering taking place under their jurisdiction, in accordance with article 10 of the Treaty, which will enter into force on 24 December 2014,

Noting the adoption on 26 September 2013 of Security Council resolution 2117(2013) on small arms and light weapons, in which the Council encourages cooperation and information-sharing on suspect brokering activities to address the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons,

Noting also the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/81 of 8 December 2005 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms

and light weapons as an international initiative within the framework of the United Nations,

Welcoming efforts to implement the Programme of Action, and welcoming also in this regard the outcome document of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action, held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012, including as it relates to illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons,

Underlining the inherent right of Member States to determine the specific scope and content of domestic regulations in accordance with their legislative frameworks and export control systems, consistent with international law,

Welcoming the efforts made by Member States to implement laws and/or administrative measures to regulate arms brokering within their legal systems,

Encouraging cooperation among Member States to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in nuclear materials, and recognizing in this regard existing efforts at all levels, consistent with international law,

Noting the holding of the Nuclear Security Summit on 24 and 25 March 2014 in The Hague,

Encouraging Member States in a position to do so to share their experience and practices in relation to the control of illicit brokering and to further enhance international cooperation to this end,

Noting with satisfaction the activities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in relation to preventing and combating illicit brokering activities,

Acknowledging the constructive role civil society can play in raising awareness and providing practical expertise on the prevention of illicit brokering activities,

1. *Underlines* the commitment of Member States to address the threat posed by illicit brokering activities;

2. *Encourages* Member States to fully implement relevant international treaties, instruments and resolutions to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities, and implement, where appropriate, the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to establish appropriate national laws and/or measures to prevent and combat the illicit brokering of conventional arms and materials, equipment and technology that could contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, in a manner consistent with international law;

4. *Acknowledges* that national efforts to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities can be reinforced by such efforts at the regional and subregional levels;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of international cooperation and assistance, capacity-building and information-sharing in preventing and combating illicit brokering activities, and encourages Member States to take such measures as appropriate and in a manner consistent with international law;

6. *Encourages* Member States to draw, where appropriate, on the relevant expertise of civil society in developing effective measures to prevent and combat illicit brokering activities;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Preventing and combating illicit brokering activities".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/62:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran.

Convention on excessively injurious conventional weapons and Protocols

Status

As at 31 December, the accession of Grenada and Iraq brought to 119 the number of States parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (ccw) and its annexed Protocols on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I) [YUN 1980, p. 76]; on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II) [*ibid.*, p. 77]; and on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) [*ibid.*, p. 78].

Amended Protocol II, which entered into force in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 844], had 102 parties. The 1995 Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) [YUN 1995, p. 221], which took effect in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 530], stood at 104 parties, as Grenada and Iraq became parties during the year. The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V), which was adopted in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 566] and which entered

into force in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 663], had 87 parties, as Greece, Grenada and Iraq became parties during the year. The number of parties to the amendment to article I of the Convention, which entered into force in 2004, increased to 81, as Grenada and Iraq became parties in 2014.

Meeting of High Contracting Parties

The Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention (Geneva, 13–14 November) [CCW/MSP/2014/9] welcomed the report on promoting universality of the Convention and its Protocols [CCW/MSP/2014/8], and reaffirmed its commitment to the Accelerated Plan of Action on Universalization. The Meeting recommended that the UN Secretary-General and the Chairperson-designate of the 2015 Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention exercise their authority to achieve the goal of universality of the Convention and its Protocols. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to the Compliance Mechanism of the Convention and its Protocols; and reiterated the call for all High Contracting Parties to submit national compliance reports in accordance with the decision taken at the Fourth Review Conference [YUN 2011, p. 529] to enhance the implementation of the Compliance Mechanism. The Meeting decided on dates and duration of Convention-related meetings in 2015.

Protocol V on explosive remnants of war

Eighth Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V

States parties met for the Eighth Conference of High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (Geneva, 10–11 November) [CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/10]. Preparations for the Conference were made during the eighth meeting of Experts for Protocol V (Geneva, 3–4 April). The Conference had before it documents on clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war [CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/3]; victim assistance [CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/9 & Corr.1]; cooperation and assistance [CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/4]; national reporting [CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/8]; and generic preventive measures [CCW/P.V/CONF/2014/5].

The Conference decided to consider possible measures for improving mechanisms for the transmission of information under Article 4, and the quality of the information for submission under Article 4, taking into account the impact of international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations with expertise in surveying and clearance of explosive remnants of war. It also decided that all High Contracting Parties should be encouraged to implement Part 3 of the Technical Annex to Protocol V, report on such work in their Protocol V national annual

reports, and implement the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines on a voluntary basis. All High Contracting Parties and observer States should submit national annual reports, using the Protocol V Guide to National Reporting in preparing those reports.

Amended Protocol II on Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices

Meeting of Experts

The Amended Protocol II Meeting of Experts (Geneva, 1–2 April) continued discussions on improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons corresponding to its mandate as contained in paragraph 19 of the final document of the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II [YUN 2013, p. 517]. It made a number of recommendations to the Sixteenth Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II (see below).

Annual Conference of States Parties

The Sixteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II (Geneva, 12 November) [CCW/AP.II/CONF.16/6] issued an appeal to States that had not yet done so to accede to Amended Protocol II. The Conference decided that the Group of Experts should continue to review the operation and status of the Protocol, and consider matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties and development technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines. It also noted the report on the subject [CCW/AP.II/CONF.16/5]. It decided that the Group of Experts should analyse the implementation by the High Contracting Parties of their obligation to submit national annual reports and study their content, and consider the “Guide to reporting” of Form E, in light of the developments and progress achieved in the field of mine action since the adoption of the Protocol.

The Conference also took note of the report by the Coordinators on IEDs [CCW/AP.II/CONF.16/4], and decided that the High Contracting Parties should note the compilation of existing guidelines, best practices and other recommendations for addressing the diversion or illicit use of materials that could be used for IEDs and request that the Implementation Support Unit maintain and update the compilation on an ongoing basis as new guidelines, best practices, recommendations and other comments were published.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/444], adopted **resolution 69/79** without vote [agenda item 100].

**Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions
on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons
Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious
or to Have Indiscriminate Effects**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/66 of 5 December 2013,

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption and entry into force of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its amended article 1, the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and its amended version, the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III), the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V),

Noting the results of the 2013 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva on 14 and 15 November 2013,

Welcoming the results of the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, held in Geneva on 13 November 2013,

Welcoming also the results of the Seventh Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, held in Geneva on 11 and 12 November 2013,

Recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and welcoming the particular efforts of various international, non-governmental and other organizations in raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of various categories of conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the Protocols thereto, as amended, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to these instruments at an early date and so as to ultimately achieve their universality;

2. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocols to the Convention and the amendment extending the scope of the Convention and the Protocols thereto to include armed conflicts of a non-international character;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universalization of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V);

4. *Welcomes* the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as the consents to be bound by the Protocols thereto;

5. *Acknowledges* the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Chair of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, the President of the Seventh Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V and the President of the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, on

behalf of the High Contracting Parties, to achieve the goal of universality;

6. *Recalls* the following decisions by the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention:

(a) The adoption of an accelerated plan of action to promote universality of the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

(b) The adoption of actions to enhance the implementation of the compliance mechanism for the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

(c) The continuation of the Sponsorship Programme within the framework of the Convention; and, with recognition of the value and importance of the Sponsorship Programme, encourages States to contribute to it;

7. *Welcomes* the commitment by States parties to continue to contribute to the further development of international humanitarian law and in this context to keep under review both the development of new weapons and uses of weapons, which may have indiscriminate effects or cause unnecessary suffering;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the decision of the 2013 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to convene in 2014 a four-day informal meeting of experts to discuss the questions related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, and welcomes the informal discussions held from 13 to 16 May 2014 in that regard;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of States parties to Protocol V to the effective and efficient implementation of the Protocol and the implementation of the decisions of the First and Second Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the Protocol establishing a comprehensive framework for the exchange of information and cooperation;

10. *Notes* that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols;

11. *Acknowledges* the work of the Implementation Support Unit within the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, which was established following a decision by the 2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the assistance necessary and to provide such services as may be required for annual conferences and expert meetings of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II and Protocol V, as well as for any continuation of the work after the meetings;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically, by electronic means, of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention, its amended article 1 and the Protocols;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

Cluster munitions

As at 31 December, 88 States were parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which was adopted in 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 623] and entered into force in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 562]. During the year, Belize, the Congo, Guyana and Guinea became parties.

The Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (San Jose, Costa Rica, 2–5 September) welcomed the accession of Belize to the Convention and the ratification by the Congo, noting that the accession of Belize made Central America the first cluster munitions-free region in the world. The Meeting also welcomed the conclusion of an agreement with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining on hosting the Implementation Support Unit and requested its President to finalize the recruitment process for the Director of the Unit. Noting that it was not possible for States parties to agree on a funding model for the Unit, it tasked the Co-Chairs for general status and operations of the Convention with conducting consultations with States parties on a draft funding model. The Meeting further welcomed the San José progress report on the implementation of the 66 concrete steps and goals contained in the 2010 Vientiane Action Plan [ibid.] [CCM/MSP/2014/6, annex I], as well as the working papers submitted by Mauritania and Norway, entitled “Declaration of compliance with article 4.1 (a) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.” [CCM/MSP/2014/WP.2 & 3].

Anti-personnel mines

1997 Convention

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine-Ban Convention), which was adopted in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 503] and entered into force in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 498], increased to 162, with the ratification of Oman.

Third Review Conference

The Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Mine-Ban Convention (Maputo, Mozambique, 23–27 June) [APLC/CONF/2014/4 & Add.1] was convened pursuant to a decision of the thirteenth meeting of States parties [YUN 2013, p. 519]. Representatives of over 90 States parties and observer States, as well as representatives of the United Nations and a number of international, regional and non-governmental organizations participated in the work of the Conference.

During the first five plenary meetings, the Conference reviewed the general status and operation of the Convention, reviewing progress made and challenges that remained in the pursuit of the Convention’s

aims and in the application of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010–2014 [YUN 2009, p. 554]. The Conference adopted the document “Review of the operation and status of the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction: 2009–2014”. With the aim of supporting enhanced implementation and promotion of the Convention, the Conference adopted the Maputo Action Plan 2014–2019, which contained 31 measurable, practical steps aimed at securing sustainable and significant progress in the implementation of the Convention. Those measures covered universalization, stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance, cooperation and assistance, transparency and exchange of information, measures to ensure compliance and implementation support. It also adopted the Maputo+15 Declaration, which contained a renewed political commitment by the States parties to fulfil their obligations to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines, to clear all mined areas and to spare no efforts until the main object and purpose of the Convention were fully materialized; to ensure compliance with the Convention’s comprehensive prohibitions; to promote universal observance of the Convention’s norms and to condemn any use of anti-personnel mines; to strengthen efforts to address the needs of mine victims; and to strengthen national ownership and capacity, enhance cooperation and establish partnerships for completion. It also referred to the aspiration date of 2025 by which all goals of the Convention should be met.

The Conference established the following mechanisms, replacing the five Standing Committees: Committee on Article 5 Implementation; Committee on Cooperative Compliance; Committee on Victim Assistance; and Committee on Enhancing Cooperation and Assistance. The Conference agreed to the purpose, membership and mandates of the mechanism, annexed to its report. It also agreed that, beginning in 2015, a Meeting of the States Parties would be convened each year at the end of November or beginning of December until the end of 2018, and that the Fourth Review Conference would be held at the end of 2019.

The Conference had before it requests for extensions of the deadlines for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines under Article 5. It extended the deadline for Eritrea, until 1 February 2020; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, until 1 January 2021; Yemen, until 1 March 2020; and Zimbabwe, until 1 January 2018.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/34** by recorded vote (164-0-17) [agenda item 96 (o)].

Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/54 B of 1 December 1999, 55/33 V of 20 November 2000, 56/24 M of 29 November 2001, 57/74 of 22 November 2002, 58/53 of 8 December 2003, 59/84 of 3 December 2004, 60/80 of 8 December 2005, 61/84 of 6 December 2006, 62/41 of 5 December 2007, 63/42 of 2 December 2008, 64/56 of 2 December 2009, 65/48 of 8 December 2010, 66/29 of 2 December 2011, 67/32 of 3 December 2012 and 68/30 of 5 December 2013,

Reaffirming its determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill or injure thousands of people—women, girls, boys and men—every year, and which place people living in affected areas at risk and hinder the development of their communities,

Believing it necessary to do the utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to facing the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and to assure their destruction,

Wishing to do the utmost in ensuring assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration, of mine victims,

Noting with satisfaction the work undertaken to implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the substantial progress made towards addressing the global anti-personnel landmine problem,

Recalling the first to thirteenth meetings of the States parties to the Convention, held in Maputo (1999), Geneva (2000), Managua (2001), Geneva (2002), Bangkok (2003), Zagreb (2005), Geneva (2006), the Dead Sea (2007), Geneva (2008 and 2010), Phnom Penh (2011) and Geneva (2012 and 2013), and the First and Second Review Conferences of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Nairobi (2004) and in Cartagena, Colombia (2009),

Recalling also the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Maputo from 23 to 27 June 2014, at which the international community reviewed the implementation of the Convention and the States parties adopted a declaration and an action plan for the period 2014–2019 to support enhanced implementation and promotion of the Convention,

Noting with satisfaction that an additional State has acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of States that have formally accepted the obligations of the Convention to 162,

Emphasizing the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization and norms,

Noting with regret that anti-personnel mines continue to be used in some conflicts around the world, causing human suffering and impeding post-conflict development,

1. *Invites* all States that have not signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction to accede to it without delay;

2. *Urges* the one remaining State that has signed but has not ratified the Convention to ratify it without delay;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention, including through the continued implementation of the action plan for the period 2014–2019;

4. *Urges* all States parties to provide the Secretary-General with complete and timely information as required under article 7 of the Convention in order to promote transparency and compliance with the Convention;

5. *Invites* all States that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to make global mine action efforts more effective;

6. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant parties to work together to promote, support and advance the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims, mine risk education programmes and the removal and destruction of anti-personnel mines placed or stockpiled throughout the world;

7. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Convention through bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral contacts, outreach, seminars and other means;

8. *Reiterates its invitation and encouragement* to all interested States, the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, to be held in Geneva during the week of 30 November to 4 December 2015, and to participate in the future meeting programme of the Convention;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention and, on behalf of the States parties and in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention, to invite States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations, to attend the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties as observers;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/34:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau,

Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United States, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

Practical disarmament

Disarmament Commission. The Disarmament Commission [A/69/42] included in its agenda the item "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons", but was unable to achieve consensus on the matter.

Report of Secretary-General. In his July report [A/69/132] on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament, submitted in response to General Assembly resolutions 67/50 [YUN 2012, p. 526], 68/34 [YUN 2013, p. 515] and 68/48 [ibid., p. 512], the Secretary-General outlined actions taken by Member States, the UN System and other intergovernmental organizations concerning the implementation of the above resolutions with regard to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; the assistance provided to States in that context; and the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures. In his observations and conclusions, the Secretary-General stated that the resolve of the international community to address the perennial issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons was unwavering. The measures that States had identified during the fifth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects [YUN 2001, p. 499] attested to the political will and determination at the international level to address the issue. States were increasingly aware that new technologies could be useful in addressing the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons and were committed to devising appropriate strategies. The entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty [YUN 2013, p. 507] augured well for the fight against the illicit trade in small arms

and light weapons. Once implemented, the Treaty would strengthen and complement the Programme of Action in export assessment, preventing diversion and countering illicit arms brokering. Coordination within the wider UN system was essential for continued support to national and regional efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action. It would also be important to ensure that relevant activities were properly resourced in a timely manner. Lessons learned from UN interventions in peacekeeping operations and special political missions demonstrated greater impact and cost-effectiveness when resources and priorities were incorporated early into planning processes. The strengthening of partnerships with international and regional organizations and with civil society organizations would be critical in that endeavour.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/60** without vote [agenda item 96 (j)].

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 N of 10 December 1996, 52/38 G of 9 December 1997, 53/77 M of 4 December 1998, 54/54 H of 1 December 1999, 55/33 G of 20 November 2000, 56/24 P of 29 November 2001 and 57/81 of 22 November 2002, its decision 58/519 of 8 December 2003, as well as its resolutions 59/82 of 3 December 2004, 61/76 of 6 December 2006, 63/62 of 2 December 2008, 65/67 of 8 December 2010 and 67/50 of 3 December 2012 entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures",

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective post-conflict peacebuilding; such measures include collection and responsible disposal, preferably through destruction, of weapons obtained through illicit trafficking or illicit manufacture as well as of weapons and ammunition declared by competent national authorities to be surplus to requirements, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, unless another form of disposition or use has been officially authorized and provided that such weapons have been duly marked and registered; confidence-building measures; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; demining; and conversion,

Noting with satisfaction that the international community is more than ever aware of the importance of such practical disarmament measures, especially with regard to the growing problems arising from the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, which pose a threat to peace and security and reduce the prospects for economic development in many regions, particularly in post-conflict situations,

Stressing that further efforts are needed in order to develop and effectively implement programmes of practical disarmament in affected areas as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration measures so as to complement, on a case-by-case basis, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on prevention of armed conflict, which, inter alia, refers to the role which the proliferation and the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons play in the context of the build-up and sustaining of conflicts,

Taking note of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 31 August 2001 underlining the importance of practical disarmament measures in the context of armed conflicts, and, with regard to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, emphasizing the importance of measures to contain the security risks stemming from the use of illicit small arms and light weapons,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms and, in particular, the recommendations contained therein, as an important contribution to the consolidation of the peace process through practical disarmament measures,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, which was established by the Secretary-General to bring about a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to this complex and multifaceted global problem,

Recalling the establishment, within the United Nations system, of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, which provides a comprehensive tool to facilitate international cooperation and assistance for the implementation of practical disarmament measures, including the matching of assistance needs with available resources,

Welcoming the reports of the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Biennial Meetings of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which, inter alia, underlined that States are encouraged to build on existing mechanisms, such as the enhanced Programme of Action Implementation Support System, and to consider other ways in which needs and resources can be matched effectively and assistance and cooperation can be more effectively coordinated,

Welcoming in particular the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, reaffirming the support of States and their commitment to the full and effective implementation of all the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, with a view to ending the human suffering caused by the illicit trade in and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons and their diversion into the illicit market,

Welcoming the establishment of the flexible, voluntary United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, pursuant to the Programme of Action and the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference

to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures, submitted pursuant to resolution 67/50, and encourages Member States as well as regional arrangements and agencies to lend their support to the implementation of recommendations contained therein;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design and implications for the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of including in United Nations-mandated peacekeeping missions, as appropriate and with the consent of the host State, practical disarmament measures aimed at addressing the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including through weapons collection, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and through enhancing physical security and stockpile management practices, with a view to promoting an integrated comprehensive and effective weapons management strategy that would contribute to a sustainable peacebuilding process;

4. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Group of States Interested in Practical Disarmament Measures, and invites the Group to continue to promote, on the basis of lessons learned from previous disarmament and peacebuilding projects, new practical disarmament measures to consolidate peace, especially as undertaken or designed by affected States themselves, regional and subregional organizations and United Nations agencies;

5. *Encourages*, in this regard, the Group of Interested States to continue to discuss how recent developments in small arms technology can contribute to the advancement of practical disarmament measures, as well as how relevant tools and technologies can be applied effectively to capacity-building projects in conflict and post-conflict contexts;

6. *Also encourages* the Group of Interested States to continue to function as an informal, open and transparent forum supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in particular to facilitate the exchange of views on issues related to the United Nations small arms process, as well as to continue efforts to facilitate the effective matching of needs and resources in accordance with the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action and the outcome of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action, thus effectively supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat with resources adequate for maintaining the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, thus securing its important role in identifying and communicating information on needs and resources so as to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. *Encourages* Member States, also in the framework of the Group of Interested States, to continue to lend their support to the Secretary-General, relevant international,

regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations in responding to requests by Member States to collect and destroy small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, in post-conflict situations;

9. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to financially contribute to the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation;

10. *Welcomes* the synergies within the multi-stakeholder process, including Governments, the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in support of practical disarmament measures and the Programme of Action;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of practical disarmament measures, taking into consideration the activities of the Group of Interested States;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures”.

Also on 2 December [meeting 62], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/64** without vote [agenda item 96 (i)].

Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the contribution of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms, adopted on the initiative and with the agreement of the States concerned, to the improvement of the overall international peace and security situation,

Convinced that the relationship between the development of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms and the international security environment can also be mutually reinforcing,

Considering the important role that confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms can also play in creating favourable conditions for progress in the field of disarmament,

Recognizing that the exchange of information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms contributes to mutual understanding and confidence among Member States,

Recalling its resolutions 59/92 of 3 December 2004, 60/82 of 8 December 2005, 61/79 of 6 December 2006, 63/57 of 2 December 2008, 65/63 of 8 December 2010 and 67/49 of 3 December 2012,

1. *Welcomes* all confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms already undertaken by Member States, as well as the information on such measures voluntarily provided;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to adopt and apply confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms and to provide information in that regard;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to continue the dialogue on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment and continuing operation of the database containing information provided by Member States, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the database updated and to assist Member States, at their request, in the organization of seminars, courses and workshops aimed at enhancing the knowledge of new developments in this field;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 65/63;

6. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the report, including the importance of tailoring confidence-building measures agreed in regional and subregional or bilateral contexts to the particular security concerns of States within a region and subregion;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms”.

Transparency

Conference on Disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament [A/69/27] held informal plenary meetings (25–26 June) on “Transparency in armaments”. During the general debate, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the issue. The Conference had before it the reports of the Coordinators on the various substantive agenda items, and the text of the section on disarmament and international security of the final document of the XVII Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (Algiers, Algeria, 26–29 May) [CD/2002].

UN Register of Conventional Arms

Reports of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/43 [YUN 2013, p. 521], the Secretary-General reported in July [A/69/124] and September [A/69/124/Add.1] that he had received information from 45 States on the export and import of conventional arms covered by the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms that was established in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 75] to enhance transparency on arms transfer. As at 31 December, 58 reports were received, a significant decrease compared to the previous year. Of the 58 reports received, 1 came from Africa, 9 from Asia and the Pacific, 8 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 19 from Eastern Europe and 21 from Western Europe and other States.

Transparency in military expenditures

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/23 [YUN 2013, p. 524], the Secretary-General presented reports [A/69/135 & Add.1] in July and September from 49 States on their national military expenditures for

the latest fiscal year for which data were available. By year's end, 66 States had submitted reports, which was higher than that for the previous year. Of the 66 reports received, 4 came from Africa, 11 from Asia and the Pacific, 11 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 19 from Eastern Europe, and 21 from Western Europe and other States.

On 2 December (**decision 69/513**), the General Assembly took note of the report of the First Committee [A/69/431] on its consideration of the item entitled "Reduction of military budgets".

Other disarmament issues

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Conference on Disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament discussed the prevention of an arms race in outer space in informal plenary meeting from 11 to 13 March [A/69/27]. The Conference had before it two letters from the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations [CD/1970]; a letter dated 20 June from the Russian Federation and Argentina transmitting the text of the joint statement of not being the first to place weapons of any kind in outer space, signed on 28 May in Moscow [CD/1991]; the reports of the Coordinators on the various substantive agenda items [CD/1995]; a note verbale dated 20 August from the Russian Federation transmitting its comments on the report of the informal meetings prepared by the Coordinator on agenda item 3 entitled "prevention of an arms race in outer space" [CD/1996]; a note verbale dated 2 September from the United States transmitting its analysis of the 2014 Russian-Chinese draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects [CD/1998]; a letter dated 3 September from the Russian Federation and Cuba transmitting the text of the joint statement of not being the first to place weapons of any kind in outer space, signed by their respective Minister of Foreign Affairs on 11 July in Havana [CD/2001]; and a note verbale dated 3 September from Algeria transmitting the text of the section on disarmament and international security of the final document of the XVII Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (Algiers, Algeria, 26–29 May) [CD/2002].

The President, in his summary of the discussion [CD/PV.1283], said that delegations agreed that outer space should be for peaceful uses and that the growing use of space increased the importance of having a better regime and framework. Some delegations pointed out that gaps existed in the legal framework dealing with outer space. Delegations underlined the necessity of space debris mitigation as an urgent issue for the future. Some felt that transparency and confidence-building meas-

ures were useful and could overcome mistrust, while others felt that they should not become a substitute for a legally binding instrument. Some delegates emphasized the primary role played by the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of an international instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/438], adopted **resolution 69/31** by recorded vote (178-0-2) [agenda item 94 (a)].

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling, in this context, its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Conference on Disarmament and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

Noting with satisfaction the constructive, structured and focused debate on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014,

Noting the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects in 2008 and the submission of its updated version in 2014,

Taking note of the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish for its 2009 session a working group to discuss, substantially, without limitation, all issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to establish a working group under its agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" as early as possible during its 2015 session;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/31:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel, United States.

Group of Governmental Experts. In a November note [A/AC.105/1080], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the replies from Germany and the United States to his request for their views on the modalities of making practical use of the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities [YUN 2013, p. 527].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/38** without vote [agenda item 96 (*ee*)].

Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 60/66 of 8 December 2005, 61/75 of 6 December 2006, 62/43 of 5 December 2007, 63/68 of 2 December 2008, 64/49 of 2 December 2009, 65/68 of 8 December 2010 and 68/50 of 5 December 2013, as well as its decision 66/517 of 2 December 2011,

Recalling also the report of the Secretary-General of 15 October 1993 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, the annex to which contains the study by governmental experts on the application of confidence-building measures in outer space,

Reaffirming the right of all countries to explore and use outer space in accordance with international law,

Reaffirming also that preventing an arms race in outer space is in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and is an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recalling, in this context, its resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990 and 48/74 B of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, the General Assembly recognized the need for increased transparency and confirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means of reinforcing the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space,

Noting the constructive debates that the Conference on Disarmament has held on this subject and the views expressed by Member States,

Noting also the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects and the submission of its updated version in 2014,

Noting further that, since 2004, several States have introduced a policy of not being the first State to place weapons in outer space,

Noting the presentation by the European Union of a draft of a non-legally binding international code of conduct for outer space activities,

Recognizing the work that takes place within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee, which makes a significant contribution to the promotion of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities,

Noting the contribution of Member States that have submitted to the Secretary-General concrete proposals on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 61/75, paragraph 2 of resolution 62/43, paragraph 2 of resolution 63/68 and paragraph 2 of resolution 64/49,

Welcoming the work done in 2012 and 2013 by the group of governmental experts convened by the Secretary-General, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to conduct a study on outer space transparency and confidence-building measures,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities, considered by the General Assembly on 5 December 2013;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to review and implement, to the greatest extent practicable, the proposed transparency and confidence-building measures contained in the report, through relevant national mechanisms, on a voluntary basis and in a manner consistent with the national interests of Member States;

3. *Decides*, in order to further advance transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space, to refer the recommendations contained in the report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament for consideration, as appropriate;

4. *Requests* the relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system, to which, in accordance with resolution 68/50, the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities was circulated, to assist in effectively implementing the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;

5. *Encourages* relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system to coordinate, as appropriate, on matters related to the recommendations contained in the report;

6. *Decides* to convene, within existing resources, a joint ad hoc meeting of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability, and to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", a sub-item entitled "Joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability";

7. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities".

Placement of weapons in outer space

Conference on Disarmament. During its discussion of the item on a prevention of an arms race in outer space, the Conference on Disarmament [A/69/27] had before it a 10 June letter from the Russian Federation and China transmitting the updated Russian and Chinese texts of the draft treaty on prevention of the

placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects presented at the 10 June plenary meeting [CD/1985]; and a letter dated 3 September from the Russian Federation and Cuba transmitting the text of the joint statement of not being the first to place weapons of any kind in outer space, signed by their respective Minister of Foreign Affairs on 11 July in Havana [CD/2001].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/438], adopted **resolution 69/32** by recorded vote (126-4-46) [agenda item 94 (b)].

No first placement of weapons in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Conscious that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

Reaffirming that further measures should be examined in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with the existing legal regime providing for the peaceful use of outer space,

Reaffirming its recognition that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee prevention of an arms race in outer space and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime,

Welcoming, in this regard, the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008, and the submission of its updated version in 2014,

Considering that transparency- and confidence-building measures in outer space activities are an integral part of the draft treaty referred to above,

Recalling its previous resolutions, including resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990 and 48/74 B of 16 December 1993, which, inter alia, confirm the importance of transparency- and confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Noting the importance of the political statements made by a number of States that they would not be the first to place weapons in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of the objective to prevent an arms race in outer space and the willingness of States to contribute to reaching this common goal;

2. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement, or agree-

ments, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

3. *Urges* an early start of substantive work based on the updated draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects submitted by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament, under the agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space";

4. *Stresses* that, while such an agreement is not yet concluded, other measures may contribute to ensuring that weapons are not placed in outer space;

5. *Encourages* all States, especially space-faring nations, to consider the possibility of upholding as appropriate a political commitment not to be the first to place weapons in outer space;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/32:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Georgia, Israel, Ukraine, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Observance of environmental norms

In July [A/69/115], responding to General Assembly resolution 68/36 [YUN 2013, p. 528], the Secretary-General provided information from Cuba, Georgia, Iraq, Portugal and Ukraine on measures they had adopted to promote the observance of environmental

norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/55** without vote [agenda item 96 (d)].

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996, 52/38 E of 9 December 1997, 53/77 J of 4 December 1998, 54/54 S of 1 December 1999, 55/33 K of 20 November 2000, 56/24 F of 29 November 2001, 57/64 of 22 November 2002, 58/45 of 8 December 2003, 59/68 of 3 December 2004, 60/60 of 8 December 2005, 61/63 of 6 December 2006, 62/28 of 5 December 2007, 63/51 of 2 December 2008, 64/33 of 2 December 2009, 65/53 of 8 December 2010, 66/31 of 2 December 2011, 67/37 of 3 December 2012 and 68/36 of 5 December 2013,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 68/36,

Noting that the Seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Algiers from 26 to 29 May 2014, welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly, without a vote, of resolution 68/36 on the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;

2. *Calls upon* States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution;

4. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

Effects of depleted uranium

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/37 [YUN 2012, p. 531], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/69/151], transmitted the views of 12 Member States (Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Iraq, Libya, Mexico, Netherlands, Oman, Panama, Spain, Ukraine), the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium on human health and the environment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/57** by recorded vote (150-4-27) [agenda item 96 (e)].

Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international humanitarian law,

Recalling its resolutions 62/30 of 5 December 2007, 63/54 of 2 December 2008, 65/55 of 8 December 2010 and 67/36 of 3 December 2012,

Determined to promote multilateralism as an essential means to carry forward negotiations on arms regulation and disarmament,

Taking note of the opinions expressed by Member States and relevant international organizations on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, as reflected in the reports submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions 62/30, 63/54, 65/55 and 67/36,

Recognizing the importance of implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to mitigate potential hazards to human beings and the environment from the contamination of territories with depleted uranium residues,

Considering that studies conducted so far by relevant international organizations have not provided a detailed enough account of the magnitude of the potential long-term effects on human beings and the environment of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium,

Recalling that the United Nations Environment Programme, in its report to the Secretary-General on the Subject, affirms that major scientific uncertainties persist regarding the long-term environmental impacts of depleted uranium, particularly with respect to long-term groundwater contamination, and calls for a precautionary approach to the use of depleted uranium,

Convinced that, as humankind becomes more aware of the need to take immediate measures to protect the environment, any event that could jeopardize such efforts requires urgent attention to implement the required measures,

Noting that further research should be done to assess the health risks and environmental impact of the use of arms and ammunitions containing depleted uranium in conflict situations,

Taking into consideration the potential harmful effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium on human health and the environment,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Member States and international organizations that submitted their views to the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 67/36 and previous resolutions on the subject;

2. *Invites* Member States and relevant international organizations, particularly those that have not yet done so, to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to request relevant international organizations to update and complete, as appropriate, their studies and research on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium on human health and the environment;

4. *Encourages* Member States, particularly the affected States, as necessary, to facilitate the studies and research referred to in paragraph 3 above;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to follow closely the development of the studies and research referred to in paragraph 3 above;

6. *Invites* Member States that have used armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium in armed conflicts to provide the relevant authorities of affected States, upon request, with information, as detailed as possible, about the location of the areas of use and the amounts used, with the objective of facilitating the assessment of such areas;

7. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to provide assistance to States affected by the use of arms and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, in particular in identifying and managing contaminated sites and material;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an updated report on the subject to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, reflecting the information submitted by Member States and relevant international organizations, including the information submitted pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 above;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/57:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium,

Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Israel, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Micronesia, Monaco, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine.

Science and technology and disarmament

On 2 December (**decision 69/515**), the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth (2015) session the item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

Studies, research and training

UN Institute for Disarmament Research

The Secretary-General in July transmitted the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) [A/69/176 & Corr.1], which covered the Institute's activities from August 2013 to July 2014 and the proposed 2014–2015 programme of work and financial plan, as approved by the UNIDIR Board of Trustees, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. The Institute's programme of work was structured in five categories: weapons of mass destruction (wmds); weapons of societal disruption; security and society; emerging threats; and process and practice. The Director's report contained information on the status of voluntary funds received from Governments and other sources. UNIDIR was actively seeking to expand its donor base as part of its resource mo-

bilization strategy. Contributions earmarked for projects continued to rise slightly, despite the increasing competition for a smaller pool of available funding. Non-earmarked contributions for Institute staff and support, however, continued to decline. The growing gap between institutional support and project funding was unsustainable and had to be addressed.

The Board of Trustees reiterated its concern about the impact on the Institute as a result of the continuing adverse financial situation and the limited size of the subvention from the UN regular budget allocated towards meeting the costs of the Director and the Institute staff. The Board of Trustees made recommendations with a view to ensuring the effectiveness and continuity of the Institute's operations.

In a later note [A/70/177], the Secretary-General forwarded the report of the UNIDIR Director on the activities of the Institute for the period from January to December 2014. During the year, UNIDIR conducted 16 individual projects, held 23 conferences and seminars and issued 17 publications relating to WMDs; conventional weapons; emerging security issues, including code of conduct for outer space activities and Cyber Index tool; as well as security and society.

Total UNIDIR income in 2014 was \$2,447,300; and total expenditure was \$2,788,800.

Disarmament fellowships, training and advisory services

Twenty-five fellows participated in the 2014 UN disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme, which was offered by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). The programme featured a study session in Geneva on 25 August; study visits to international organizations, structures or arrangements related to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation; specific-country visits to Member States; and a study session at the UN Headquarters. The 2014 programme comprised theory-based activities and practical exercises, as well as simulation negotiation exercises, and field visits to a weapons destruction facility, a nuclear reactor, disarmament research laboratories and a chemical weapons on-site inspection simulation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/441], adopted **resolution 69/75** without vote [agenda item 97 (b)].

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the

General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, the second special session devoted to disarmament, including its decision to continue the programme,

Noting that the programme continues to contribute significantly to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, as well as to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in efforts in the field of disarmament at all levels,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has trained a large number of officials from Member States throughout its 36 years of existence, many of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments,

Recognizing the need for Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme,

Recalling all the resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Believing that the forms of assistance available under the programme to Member States, in particular to developing countries, will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. *Reaffirms* its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly and the guidelines approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success, in particular to the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan and Switzerland for continuing extensive and highly educative study visits for the participants in the programme during 2013 and 2014;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, the Asser Institute and the Monterey Institute of International Studies for organizing specific study programmes in the field of disarmament in their respective areas of competence, thereby contributing to the objectives of the programme;

4. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the

Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services”.

Disarmament and non-proliferation education

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/47 [YUN 2012, p. 534], the Secretary-General, in June [A/69/113 & Add.1], reviewed the results of the implementation of the 34 recommendations of 2002 UN study [YUN 2002, p. 544] on disarmament and non-proliferation education and possible new opportunities for promoting such education. Ten Member States (Argentina, Austria, Cuba, El Salvador, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Portugal) submitted information, together with 6 UN entities and other international and regional organizations and 22 civil society and non-governmental organizations.

According to the report, Governments, international organizations and civil society groups continued to increase digital contents and their use of and access to new technologies, such as social media tools, to disseminate information and reach a wider audience. Those new technologies provided a platform for Member States, the United Nations, international and regional organizations, as well as civil society organizations to reach out to youth and promote their understanding of disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Young people around the world had a critical role to play in raising awareness and developing new strategies to reduce the threats from WMDs, small arms and light weapons. It was important to reach out, inform and empower young people to become agents of peace by helping them mobilize, act and promote disarmament ideals throughout their schools, communities and beyond.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/65** without vote [agenda item 96 (b)].

United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/33 E of 20 November 2000, 57/60 of 22 November 2002, 59/93 of 3 December 2004, 61/73 of 6 December 2006, 63/70 of 2 December 2008, 65/77 of 8 December 2010 and 67/47 of 3 December 2012,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education, in which the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, and recalling that 2014 marks the twelfth anniversary of that report,

Recognizing the usefulness of the disarmament and non-proliferation education website “Disarmament education: resources for learning”, which was reorganized and updated in September 2011 by the Office for Disarmament Affairs

of the Secretariat to include the six official languages of the United Nations and a new interactive presentation, and encouraging the use of new communication technologies and social media for the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education,

Recognizing also the launch of the “Disarmament today” series of podcasts, in which experts are interviewed about present-day disarmament issues, such as education, disarmament and non-proliferation in the context of space security, as well as the experiences of the hibakusha, the atomic bomb survivors,

Emphasizing that the Secretary-General concludes in his report that efforts need to be continued to implement the recommendations of the study and follow the good examples of how they are being implemented to stimulate even further long-term results,

Desirous of stressing the urgency of promoting concerted international efforts at disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with a view to strengthening international security and enhancing sustainable economic and social development,

Conscious of the need to combat the negative effects of cultures of violence and complacency in the face of current dangers in this field through long-term programmes of education and training,

Remaining convinced that the need for disarmament and non-proliferation education, particularly among youth, has never been greater, not only on the subject of weapons of mass destruction but also in the field of small arms and light weapons, terrorism and other challenges to international security and the process of disarmament, as well as on the relevance of implementing the recommendations contained in the United Nations study,

Recognizing the importance of the participation of civil society, including academic and non-governmental organizations, which plays an active role in the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, civil society, academic and non-governmental organizations, which, within their purview, implemented the recommendations made in the United Nations study, as discussed in the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the implementation of the recommendations, and encourages them once again to continue applying those recommendations and reporting to the Secretary-General on steps taken to implement them;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

3. *Reiterates* the request to the Secretary-General to utilize electronic means to the fullest extent possible in the dissemination, in as many official languages as feasible, of information related to that report and any other information that the Office for Disarmament Affairs gathers on an ongoing basis in regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to maintain the website “Disarmament education: resources for learning” as well as the “Disarmament today” series of podcasts up-

dated, as an efficient and effective tool to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Disarmament and non-proliferation education”.

Disarmament information programme

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/67 [YUN 2012, p. 535], the Secretary-General in July [A/69/134] reviewed the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by UNODA in the areas of WMDs and conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. During the period under review, the Programme continued to focus on information relating to WMDs, especially nuclear weapons, and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the arms trade. Responding to the higher levels of computer literacy and technological capability among its constituents around the globe, the Programme oriented its publications towards electronic formats. The two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the Occasional Papers series and Office for Disarmament Affairs Update and other publications were available on the UNODA website. E-books were another area where new technologies were being explored to reach new constituencies with mobile information. The UNODA website expanded exponentially in content and specialized websites were developed for major conferences, which served as working tools for participants and disseminators of public information. The Department of Public Information highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of information centres around the world and its outreach capacity. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues continued to be effective. UNODA was grateful for the support it had received from Member States for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and appealed for continued support for its work.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/441], adopted **resolution 69/71** without vote [agenda item 97 (a)].

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,

Bearing in mind its resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, inter alia, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the “United Nations Disarmament Information Programme” and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the “Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme”,

Recalling its resolutions 51/46 A of 10 December 1996, 53/78 E of 4 December 1998, 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, 57/90 of 22 November 2002, 59/103 of 3 December 2004, 61/95 of 6 December 2006, 63/81 of 2 December 2008, 65/81 of 8 December 2010 and 67/67 of 3 December 2012,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating, as widely as possible, information on arms control and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as a significant instrument in enabling all Member States to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies, in assisting them in complying with treaties, as required, and in contributing to agreed mechanisms for transparency;

3. *Commends with satisfaction* the launch of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* for 2012 and 2013, as well as its online editions, by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the cooperation of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and its information centres in pursuit of the objectives of the Programme;

5. *Recommends* that the Programme continue to inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms control and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, and that it focus its efforts:

(a) To continue to publish *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the flagship publication of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in all official languages, as well as its *Occasional Papers*, *Study Series* and other ad hoc information materials in accordance with the current practice;

(b) To continue to update the disarmament website as a part of the United Nations website in as many official languages as feasible;

(c) To promote the use of the Programme as a means to provide information related to progress in the implementation of nuclear disarmament measures;

(d) To continue to intensify United Nations interaction with the public, principally non-governmental organizations and research institutes, to help further an informed debate on topical issues of arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(e) To continue to organize discussions on topics of interest in the field of arms limitation and disarmament with a view to broadening understanding and facilitating an exchange of views and information among Member States and civil society;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of all support extended to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, and once again invites all Member States to make further contributions to the Fund with a view to sustaining a strong outreach programme;

7. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education, which reviews the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2002 study on disarmament and non-proliferation education;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

Regional disarmament

Progress continued towards the consolidation of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the endorsement of the Zone by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean marked a milestone in the cooperation between the two intraregional organizations. Furthermore, the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia was signed by the five nuclear-weapon States. Intensive efforts were made to achieve consensus on the modalities for holding the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other WMDs. The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa promoted disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, and provided technical and other capacity-building assistance on various aspects of the small arms issue, including arms registration, stockpile management, awareness-raising programmes and implementing the Arms Trade Treaty. The Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean assisted States in implementing disarmament and non-proliferation instruments and in complying with international standards and norms. In particular, the Centre provided capacity-building assistance for destroying surplus, obsolete and confiscated weapons; safeguarding stockpiles of small arms and light weapons; and implementing the Arms Trade Treaty. The Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific promoted disarmament and confidence-building through dia-

logue and disarmament education. It assisted in enhancing national capacities for implementing Security Council resolution 1540(2004); the Arms Trade Treaty; the Biological Weapons Convention; the Chemical Weapons Convention; and for combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The Centre also promoted mutual understanding among States on cybersecurity issues, in part through the convening of a conference in Beijing in cooperation with the Government of China and the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association. Both intergovernmental and non-governmental regional organizations continued to be actively engaged in advancing the disarmament agenda within the framework of their respective mandates, backed by significant support from the donor community and various UN organs. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also remained engaged in assisting post-conflict countries with demining issues and other activities related to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, particularly in Africa and the Asia Pacific. In addition, projects and programmes were initiated or continued to be implemented in severely afflicted countries to improve citizen security through local police and community measures for the reduction of armed violence.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/45** without vote [agenda item 96 (gg)].

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994, 50/70 K of 12 December 1995, 51/45 K of 10 December 1996, 52/38 P of 9 December 1997, 53/77 O of 4 December 1998, 54/54 N of 1 December 1999, 55/33 O of 20 November 2000, 56/24 H of 29 November 2001, 57/76 of 22 November 2002, 58/38 of 8 December 2003, 59/89 of 3 December 2004, 60/63 of 8 December 2005, 61/80 of 6 December 2006, 62/38 of 5 December 2007, 63/43 of 2 December 2008, 64/41 of 2 December 2009, 65/45 of 8 December 2010, 66/36 of 2 December 2011, 67/57 of 3 December 2012 and 68/54 of 5 December 2013 on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of all States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. *Stresses* that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. *Affirms* that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. *Calls upon* States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. *Supports and encourages* efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Regional disarmament".

Conventional arms control at regional and subregional levels

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/56 [YUN 2013, p. 531] on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, the Secretary-General submitted in July a report [A/69/139] containing the views of 11 Member States (Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Georgia, Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine) on the issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/47** by recorded vote (181-1-2) [agenda item 96 (ii)].

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of 15 December 1994, 50/70 L of 12 December 1995, 51/45 Q of 10 December 1996, 52/38 Q of 9 December 1997, 53/77 P of 4 December 1998, 54/54 M of 1 December 1999, 55/33 P of 20 November 2000, 56/24 I of 29 November 2001, 57/77 of 22 November 2002, 58/39 of 8 December 2003, 59/88 of 3 December 2004, 60/75 of 8 December 2005, 61/82 of 6 December 2006, 62/44 of 5 December 2007, 63/44 of 2 December 2008, 64/42 of 2 December 2009, 65/46 of 8 December 2010, 66/37 of 2 December 2011, 67/62 of 3 December 2012 and 68/56 of 5 December 2013,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. *Decides* to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the meantime, to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/47:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh,

Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: India.

Abstaining: Bhutan, Russian Federation.

Regional confidence-building measures

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/55 [YUN 2013, p. 531] on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context, the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/116] containing the views of ten Member States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine) on the issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/440], adopted **resolution 69/46** without vote [agenda item 96 (b)].

Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 58/43 of 8 December 2003, 59/87 of 3 December 2004, 60/64 of 8 December 2005, 61/81 of 6 December 2006, 62/45 of 5 December 2007, 63/45 of 2 December 2008, 64/43 of 2 December 2009, 65/47 of 8 December 2010, 66/38 of 2 December 2011, 67/61 of 3 December 2012 and 68/55 of 5 December 2013 on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context,

Recalling also its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, in which the General Assembly calls upon Member States to settle their disputes by peaceful means, as set out in Chapter VI of the Charter, inter alia, by any procedures adopted by the parties,

Recalling further the resolutions and guidelines adopted by consensus by the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission relating to confidence-building measures and their implementation at the global, regional and subregional levels,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the agreement of all States concerned, and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability,

Convinced that resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recognizing the need for meaningful dialogue among States concerned to avert conflict,

Welcoming the peace processes already initiated by States concerned to resolve their disputes through peaceful means bilaterally or through mediation, inter alia, by third parties, regional organizations or the United Nations,

Recognizing that States in some regions have already taken steps towards confidence-building measures at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in the political and military fields, including arms control and disarmament, and noting that such confidence-building measures have improved peace and security in those regions and contributed to progress in the socioeconomic conditions of their people,

Concerned that the continuation of disputes among States, particularly in the absence of an effective mechanism to resolve them through peaceful means, may contribute to the arms race and endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and the efforts of the international community to promote arms control and disarmament,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter, in particular Article 33, which provides for a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means chosen by the parties;

3. *Reaffirms* the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to pursue these ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that may hinder or impair such a dialogue;

5. *Urges* States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they are party;

6. *Emphasizes* that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help to strengthen international peace and security and to be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments;

7. *Encourages* the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context".

Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa held its thirty-seventh meeting in N'Djamena, Chad from 19 to 23 December 2013. The Committee Chairman transmitted the report of that meeting in June 2014 [A/68/908-S/2014/358]. The thirty-eighth meeting was held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 29 July to 2 August 2014.

Report of Secretary-General. In August, the Secretary-General submitted his report [A/69/361] on the activities of the Standing Committee. The Committee continued to review the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa. The special themes of the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings were, respectively, "Central Africa and the terrorist threat" and "Elections in the Central Africa subregion: strengthening elections-related national capacities for the conduct of credible and peaceful electoral processes." The themes were considered particularly relevant as terrorism had become a growing threat for the subregion, while a number of countries were preparing for elections in 2014, 2015 and 2016. In addition, during both meetings, the Committee discussed the political, security, human rights and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic. It also reviewed the regional humanitarian, security, and social and security repercussions of the crisis, particularly in neighbouring countries. At its thirty-seventh session, the Committee adopted the N'Djamena Appeal, by which it called upon national stakeholders to continue political dialogue towards the organization of a national conference. It also called upon bilateral and multilateral partners to provide logistical and financial support to the Central African Republic and to the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic. At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee adopted the Malabo Appeal, in which it urged Central African stakeholders to respect their commitments on the cessation of hostilities and violence. The Committee also discussed progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 Summit of Heads of State

and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea [YUN 2013, p. 532]. The planned inauguration of the Interregional Coordination Centre and the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa in 2014 was welcomed as an important step in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea. The Committee encouraged continued collaboration between the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States and the Gulf of Guinea Commission in the implementation of the decisions taken at the Yaoundé Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the support provided by the United Nations Regional Centre for Africa and the United Nations Regional Office for West Africa.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/441], adopted **resolution 69/73** without vote [agenda item 97 (*b*)].

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 68/62 of 5 December 2013,

Recalling also the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the Central Africa subregion,

Reaffirming that the purpose of the Standing Advisory Committee is to conduct reconstruction and confidence-building activities in Central Africa among its member States, including through confidence-building and arms limitation measures,

Recalling the Sao Tome Declaration on a Central African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty, adopted by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee on 16 March 2011 at their thirty-second ministerial meeting, held in Sao Tome from 12 to 16 March 2011,

Noting the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, held in New York from 2 to 27 July 2012, and noting also the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries,

Welcoming the declaration on a road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa, adopted by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee on 8 December 2011 at their thirty-third ministerial meeting, held in Bangui from 5 to 9 December 2011, and the progress made towards its implementation, including most recently through the holding of the workshop on police and security, in Libreville from 28 to 30 January 2014, and the workshop on customs, immigration, border control and small arms and light weapons for Central African States, in Bujumbura from 22 to 24 April 2014,

Bearing in mind that the implementation of the road map should be compliant with relevant legal and administrative obligations, as set out in Security Council resolutions 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001, 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005 and 1963(2010) of 20 December 2010, as well as with the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken on the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international peace and security,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa, the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196(1998) and 1197(1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998, respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013, and the inauguration in Yaoundé, on 11 September 2014, of the interregional coordination centre for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea,

Welcoming also the outcome of the high-level meetings on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking, held on the margins of the high-level segments of the sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly and hosted by Gabon and Germany,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa, and noting in this regard the concrete conflict prevention initiatives facilitated by the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat,

Welcoming the close cooperation established between the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community of Central African States, as well as the signing of a framework of cooperation agreement between the two entities on 3 May 2012,

Bearing in mind the increased focus of the Standing Advisory Committee on human security questions, such as trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as

an important consideration for subregional peace, stability and conflict prevention,

Expressing concern about the situation in the Central African Republic, and welcoming the efforts of the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States, the adoption of the Kigali Declaration by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee on 23 August 2013 at their thirty-sixth ministerial meeting, held in Kigali from 20 to 23 August 2013, and the adoption of resolutions 2121(2013) of 10 October 2013, 2134(2014) of 28 January 2014 and 2149(2014) of 10 April 2014 by the Security Council,

Welcoming, in this regard, the efforts of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic towards the re-establishment of security in the Central African Republic, and the establishment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic on 10 April 2014 and subsequent rehatting of Support Mission troops into Stabilization Mission peacekeepers on 15 September 2014,

Expressing concern about the increasing impact of cross-border criminality, in particular the activities of armed groups, such as Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army, and incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, on peace, security and development in Central Africa,

Considering the urgent need to prevent the possible movement of illicit weapons, mercenaries and combatants involved in conflicts in the Sahel and in neighbouring countries in the Central African subregion,

1. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and sub-regional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa carried out by the States of the subregion with the support of the United Nations, the African Union and other international partners;

3. *Welcomes* the steps taken by States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa to facilitate the early entry into force of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention), and encourages States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and other interested States to provide financial support for the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to implement the declaration on a road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa, and requests the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the international community to support those measures;

5. *Also encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to carry out the programmes of activities adopted at their ministerial meetings;

6. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to imple-

ment disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

7. *Welcomes* the adoption, during the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013, of the Code of Conduct concerning the Prevention and Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa, which defines the regional maritime security strategy and paves the way for a legally binding instrument, and the decision to establish, in Cameroon, an interregional coordination centre responsible for coordinating the implementation of the regional strategy, and requests the Secretary-General to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit, including through the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa;

8. *Expresses concern* over the negative impact that poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking have on the ecosystem, human development and regional security, and calls upon Member States to take immediate concerted action to counter this phenomenon;

9. *Expresses its full support* for the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and the United Nations in the Central African Republic, and calls upon the international community to support these efforts;

10. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to pursue their discussions on concrete conflict prevention initiatives, and requests the assistance of the Secretary-General in this regard;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, to facilitate the efforts undertaken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular for their execution of the Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention, as adopted on 19 November 2010 at their thirty-first ministerial meeting, held in Brazzaville from 15 to 19 November 2010;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to assist the countries of Central Africa in tackling the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

14. *Reminds* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the commitments they undertook on the adoption of the Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Libreville Declaration) on 8 May 2009, and invites those States members of the Committee that have not already done so to contribute to the Trust Fund;

15. *Urges* other Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee effectively through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

16. *Urges* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in accordance with Security Council resolution

1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, to strengthen the gender component of the various meetings of the Committee relating to disarmament and international security;

17. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support to the Standing Advisory Committee, welcomes the role played by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, and strongly encourages the States members of the Committee and international partners to support the work of the Office, including by ensuring that it has adequate resources to undertake its mandate;

18. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Standing Advisory Committee towards addressing cross-border security threats in Central Africa, including activities of Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army, and acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the fallout from the situation in Libya and the crisis in Mali, and also welcomes the role of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in coordinating those efforts, working closely with the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and all relevant regional and international partners;

19. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support for the revitalization of the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, and requests him to continue to provide the assistance needed to ensure the success of its regular biannual meetings;

20. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

Regional centres for peace and disarmament

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/441], adopted **resolution 69/70** without vote [agenda item 97 (c)].

United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 60/83 of 8 December 2005, 61/90 of 6 December 2006, 62/50 of 5 December 2007, 63/76 of 2 December 2008, 64/58 of 2 December 2009, 65/78 of 8 December 2010, 66/53 of 2 December 2011, 67/63 of 3 December 2012 and 68/57 of 5 December 2013 regarding the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament,

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

Recognizing that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities and posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament, and bearing in mind in this regard that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to understanding and cooperation among States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Noting that, in paragraph 178 of the Final Document of the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 30 and 31 August 1982, the Heads of State or Government emphasized the importance of United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament,

1. *Reiterates* the importance of United Nations activities at the regional level to advance disarmament and to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security and that are aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

3. *Appeals* to Member States in each region that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions in order to strengthen their activities and initiatives;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the activities of the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all support necessary, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

Africa

The Secretary-General submitted a June report [A/69/133] on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in

Africa (Lomé, Togo) from July 2013 to June 2014. The Centre continued to assist Member States and intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote disarmament, peace and security. In the light of the continued instability and conflict in some parts of Africa, in particular in Central Africa and the Sahel, the Centre focused its work on providing assistance to States to combat illicit small arms and light weapons and to reform their security sectors. The Centre supported African Member States in their implementation of international, regional and subregional instruments for combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and provided training to civilian authorities, including national commissions on small arms and light weapons and defence and security forces. The Centre also partnered with civil society organizations to promote the signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty [YUN 2013, p. 507]. It supported Member States in meeting their obligations regarding the implementation of international treaties and other instruments relating to WMDs, including bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons, and Security Council resolution 1540(2004). The support was aimed at strengthening the capacity of national authorities in the region. The Centre continued to provide substantive and technical support relating to disarmament issues to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

As at 31 December 2013, the reserves and fund balance of the Centre's trust fund stood at \$881,989.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/441], adopted **resolution 69/74** without vote [agenda item 97 (g)].

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, in which it is stipulated that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the Regional Centre, the most recent of which is resolution 68/61 of 5 December 2013,

Recalling further its resolution 67/48 of 3 December 2012, in which the General Assembly recognized the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control,

Reaffirming the role of the Regional Centre in promoting disarmament, peace and security at the regional level,

Welcoming the continuing and deepening cooperation between the Regional Centre, the African Union and African subregional organizations, in particular their institutions in the fields of disarmament, peace and security, as well as between the Centre and relevant United Nations bodies and programmes in Africa, and considering the communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 200th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 21 August 2009,

Recalling the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session, held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006, in which the Council called upon member States to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre to maintain its operations,

Recalling also the call by the Secretary-General for continued financial and in-kind support from Member States, which would enable the Regional Centre to discharge its mandate in full and to respond more effectively to requests for assistance from African States,

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

2. *Welcomes* the continental dimension of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in response to the evolving needs of African Member States and the region's new and emerging challenges in the areas of disarmament, peace and security, including maritime security;

3. *Also welcomes* the undertaking by the Regional Centre to provide capacity-building, technical assistance programmes and advisory services to the African Union Commission, subregional organizations and African Member States on the control of small arms and light weapons, including on stockpile management and destruction, the Arms Trade Treaty and issues related to weapons of mass destruction, as detailed in the report of the Secretary-General;

4. *Further welcomes* the contribution of the Regional Centre to continental disarmament, peace and security, in particular its assistance to the African Union Commission in the elaboration and implementation of the African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy and in the elaboration of the African Union Common Position on an Arms Trade Treaty, as well as its assistance to the African Commission on Nuclear Energy in its implementation of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);

5. *Welcomes* efforts by the Regional Centre to promote the role and representation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control activities;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the tangible achievements of the Regional Centre and the impact of the assistance that it provided to Central African States in the elaboration and implementation of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention), as well as the substantive support provided by the Centre to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, to

Central and West African States in the elaboration of their respective common positions on the Arms Trade Treaty, to West Africa on the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials and on security sector reform initiatives, to East Africa on programmes to control brokering of small arms and light weapons and to African Member States in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004 and of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

7. *Commends* the Regional Centre for the support and assistance that it provided to African States, upon request, on the Arms Trade Treaty, including through the organization of subregional and regional seminars and workshops;

8. *Urges* all States, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to enable the Regional Centre to carry out its programmes and activities and meet the needs of the African States;

9. *Urges*, in particular, States members of the African Union to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in conformity with the decision taken by the Executive Council of the African Union in Khartoum in January 2006;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of disarmament, peace and security;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Regional Centre with the support necessary for greater achievements and results;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

Asia and the Pacific

As requested in General Assembly resolution 68/59 [YUN 2013, p. 537], the Secretary-General in July [A/69/127] reported on the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (Kathmandu, Nepal) from July 2013 to June 2014. The Centre continued to promote dialogue and confidence-building in the region and beyond by organizing the twelfth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues in Jeju, Republic of Korea in 2013, which served as an important forum to address key challenges in those fields at both the global and regional levels. The Centre undertook projects to build national capacity to combat

illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Myanmar, and to enhance national implementation of international treaties on biological and chemical weapons in Mongolia and Nepal. It also organized regional seminars to promote the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as regional seminars on information and cybersecurity. Additionally, to strengthen its outreach and advocacy activities, the Centre carried out peace and disarmament education activities. It expanded its communications and outreach efforts, with a view to strengthening its engagement with the full range of stakeholders in the region. The Regional Centre planned to expand its programmes for providing assistance to Member States and other stakeholders in the region in strengthening their capacity to tackle challenges in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

As at 31 December 2013, the reserves and fund balance of the Centre's trust fund stood at \$784,968.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/441], adopted **resolution 69/68** without vote [agenda item 97 (e)].

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters in Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/52 of 5 December 2007,

Recalling the mandate of the Regional Centre to provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, and expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its important work in promoting confidence-building measures through the organization of meetings, conferences and workshops in the region, including the twelfth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues, held on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, on 14 and 15 November 2013; the Second Asia Regional Meeting to Facilitate Dialogue on the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Manila on 26 and 27 November 2013; the workshop on the national implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,

Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, held in Kathmandu on 20 and 21 February 2014; the workshop on the national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, held in Ulaanbaatar on 28 and 29 April 2014; the national capacity-building workshop on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 and 16 May 2014; and the international workshop on information and cybersecurity, held in Beijing on 5 and 6 June 2014,

Appreciating the timely execution by Nepal of its financial commitments for the physical operation of the Regional Centre,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the activities carried out in the past year by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and invites all States of the region to continue to support the activities of the Regional Centre, including by continuing to take part in them, where possible, and by proposing items for inclusion in the programme of activities of the Centre, in order to contribute to the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Nepal for its cooperation and financial support, which has enabled the Regional Centre to operate from Kathmandu;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat for providing necessary support with a view to ensuring the smooth operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu and to enabling the Centre to function effectively;

4. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, to strengthen its programme of activities and the implementation thereof;

5. *Reaffirms its strong support* for the role of the Regional Centre in the promotion of activities of the United Nations at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability and security among its Member States;

6. *Underlines* the importance of the Kathmandu process for the development of the practice of region-wide security and disarmament dialogues;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

Latin America and the Caribbean

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 68/60 [YUN 2013, p. 538], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/136] on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Dis-

armament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru) during the period from July 2013 to June 2014. The Regional Centre supported Member States in the region in their implementation of international disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments, most notably the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, by carrying out 55 assistance activities. The main focus of the Regional Centre's activities was to assist States in their efforts to combat illicit small arms trafficking and to address the negative impact of such illicit trafficking on public security. The Centre supported the destruction of 8,181 weapons and 3.7 tons of ammunition, as well as improvements in the management and safeguarding of weapon stockpiles throughout the region. The Centre trained more than 400 officials from the security sectors of States on various aspects of small arms control. With a view to supporting future implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, the Centre developed an introductory training manual and a model end-user certificate. The Centre also actively promoted public policy dialogue on small arms control and relevant legislative support, reaching out to national authorities throughout the region. With regard to WMDs, the Centre launched its new Caribbean programme aimed at the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544]. The Centre also provided legal assistance with regard to the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and supported the establishment of national implementation entities in the Andean region. The Centre made concerted efforts to promote the participation of women and to enhance their contribution to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control by providing a training course exclusively for female security sector officials in Central America.

As at 31 December 2013, the reserves and fund balance of the Centre's trust fund stood at \$2,191,478.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/441], adopted **resolution 69/72** without vote [agenda item 97 (f)].

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,

Recalling also its resolution 68/60 of 5 December 2013, as well as all previous resolutions entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean",

Recognizing that the Regional Centre has continued to provide substantive support for the implementation of regional and subregional initiatives and has intensified its contribution to the coordination of United Nations efforts towards peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Regional Centre to provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, and expressing its appreciation for the important assistance provided, upon request, by the Regional Centre to several countries in the region, including through capacity-building and technical assistance programmes, as well as outreach activities, to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives, for the development of plans to reduce and prevent armed violence from an arms control perspective, for promoting and supporting the implementation of relevant agreements and treaties and for capacity-building initiatives aimed at bolstering the efforts of the law enforcement community to combat the illicit trade in firearms,

Welcoming the support provided by the Regional Centre to Member States in the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments,

Emphasizing the need for the Regional Centre to develop and strengthen its activities and programmes in a comprehensive and balanced manner, in accordance with its mandate and in line with the requests for assistance by Member States,

Welcoming the ongoing support provided by the Regional Centre to Member States in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,

Welcoming also the assistance provided by the Regional Centre to some States, upon request, in the management and securing of national weapons stockpiles and in the identification and destruction of surplus, obsolete or seized weapons and ammunition, as declared by competent national authorities,

Welcoming further the initiative of the Regional Centre to continue to conduct activities in line with efforts to promote the equitable representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as encouraged in its resolutions 65/69 of 8 December 2010, 67/48 of 3 December 2012 and 68/33 of 5 December 2013,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and Development, referred to in General Assembly resolution 59/78 of 3 December 2004, which is of utmost interest with regard to the role that the Regional Centre plays in promoting the issue in the region in pursuit of its mandate to promote economic and social development related to peace and disarmament,

Noting that security, disarmament and development issues have always been recognized as significant topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first inhabited region in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining the support provided by the Regional Centre for strengthening the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), as well as its efforts in promoting peace and disarmament education,

Bearing in mind the important role of the Regional Centre in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, disarmament and development at the regional level,

Recognizing the importance of information, research, education and training for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

1. *Reiterates its strong support* for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of activities of the United Nations at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace, disarmament, stability, security and development among its Member States;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the activities carried out in the past year by the Regional Centre, and requests the Centre to continue to take into account the proposals to be submitted by the countries of the region for the implementation of the mandate of the Centre in the areas of peace, disarmament and development and for the promotion of, inter alia, nuclear disarmament, the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives, confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, transparency, and the reduction and prevention of armed violence at the regional and subregional levels;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the political support provided by Member States, as well as for the financial contributions made by Member States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to strengthen the Regional Centre, its programme

of activities and the implementation thereof, and encourages them to continue to make and to increase voluntary contributions;

4. *Invites* all States of the region to continue to take part in the activities of the Regional Centre, proposing items for inclusion in its programme of activities and maximizing the potential of the Centre to meet the current challenges facing the international community with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations in the areas of peace, disarmament and development;

5. *Recognizes* that the Regional Centre has an important role in the promotion and development of regional and subregional initiatives agreed upon by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, in the relationship between disarmament and development, in the promotion of the participation of women in this field and in strengthening voluntary confidence-building measures among the countries of the region;

6. *Encourages* the Regional Centre to further develop activities in all countries of the region in the important areas of peace, disarmament and development and to provide, upon request and in accordance with its mandate, support to Member States of the region in the national implementation of relevant instruments, inter alia, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as in the implementation of the Caribbean 1540 programme on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean".

Other political and security questions

In 2014, the United Nations continued to address political and security questions related to its support for regional peace and cooperation, the promotion of decolonization, the peaceful uses of outer space and the Organization's public information activities.

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples reviewed progress in implementing the 1960 Declaration, particularly the exercise of self-determination by the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. In May, the Special Committee organized a Pacific regional seminar in Fiji to identify ways to accelerate decolonization within the framework of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011–2021). In December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/107, in which it reaffirmed its determination to take all necessary steps to bring about the eradication of colonialism and called on all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-seventh session in June, discussed ways and means to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes and to ensure that space-based technology continued to benefit humanity. It took note of the reports of its two subcommittees, one dealing with scientific and technical issues and the other with legal questions. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications continued to promote the use of space technologies and data for sustainable economic and social development in developing countries. In December, the General Assembly recognized the central role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in fostering capacity-building in the use of space science and technology and their applications, and endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2015.

At its sixty-first session in July, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation considered scientific reports on an assessment of the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan and on the effects of radiation exposure on children.

In a December resolution, the Assembly called on Member States to promote consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible strategies to address them.

The Committee on Information reviewed UN information policies and the work of the Department of Public Information (DPI). The Committee considered reports of the Secretary-General on DPI activities promoting the work of the Organization through strategic communication, news services and outreach initiatives. In December, the General Assembly increased the membership of the Committee on Information from 114 to 115.

General aspects of international peace and security

Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Communications. In a 13 August letter addressed to the Secretary-General [A/69/191], Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan requested the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly entitled “Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War”.

On 6 November [A/69/588], Belarus transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of the address by the Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the occasion of “the seventieth anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945”, adopted in Minsk, Belarus, on 10 October.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War remained for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Regional aspects of international peace and security

South Atlantic

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic remained for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Decolonization

The General Assembly's Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples held its annual session in New York in two parts: on 20 February and 1 April (first part); and on 16, 23–24 and 26–27 June (second part). The Special Committee considered various aspects of the implementation of the 1960 Declaration, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 1514(XV) [YUN 1960, p. 49], including general decolonization issues and the situation of individual Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs). The Special Committee recommended nine draft resolutions for adoption by the Assembly. In accordance with resolution 68/97 [YUN 2013, p. 543], the Special Committee reported to the Assembly on its 2014 activities [A/69/23].

Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Pacific regional seminar

The Special Committee on decolonization organized a Pacific regional seminar (Nadi, Fiji, 21–23 May) [A/69/23] to hear the views of representatives of NSGTs, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders who could assist in identifying policy approaches and practical ways in which the UN decolonization process could be pursued. Participants identified a number of issues related to decolonization during the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011–2020) [YUN 2010, p. 587], including the impact of climate change, especially in NSGTs; the global economic and financial crisis; the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness; the role of civil society and women; the empowerment of vulnerable people; and the capacity for full self-governance. They further discussed accelerating action on the implementation of the Third International Decade in the Pacific, the Caribbean and other regions, including follow-up to the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar [YUN 2013, p. 542], and considered the role of the UN system in providing assistance to NSGTs.

Regarding the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, seminar participants reaffirmed that all peoples had the right to self-determination, and to freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development. They also reaffirmed that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country was incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The participants suggested that the Special Committee strengthen its interactions and collaboration with regional and

subregional organizations; seek, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information (DPI), new and innovative ways to promote a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions and decisions on decolonization; and draw up a plan of action for the Third Decade with a view to advancing the decolonization process.

Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/69/462], adopted **resolution 69/107** by recorded vote (173-3-1) [agenda item 59].

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014,

Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 68/97 of 11 December 2013, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, by which it declared the period 2011–2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2011,

Regretting that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, have not been successful,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the continued efforts of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of certain administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Noting that the Pacific regional seminar was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514(XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 65/119, by which it declared the period 2011–2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

6. *Recalls with satisfaction* the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

8. *Recalls* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance, as needed, to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance

to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, President pro tempore of the Special Committee, to meet informally at least once a year with the Chair and the Bureau of the Committee during the intersessional period, in order to explore innovative ways of using his good offices to help to advance the decolonization agenda on a case-by-case basis;

15. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

16. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions;

17. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2014, including the programme of work envisaged for 2015;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Committee.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/107:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: France.

Implementation by international organizations

In February [A/69/66], the Secretary-General reported that he had brought General Assembly resolution 68/89 [YUN 2013, p. 546] to the attention of 35 specialized agencies and organizations, and invited them to submit information regarding their implementation of activities. Replies received from five agencies and organizations were summarized in an April report [E/2014/11] of the Economic and Social Council President on consultations held with the Special Committee. According to the information received, several specialized agencies and other UN system organizations continued to provide support to the peoples of NSGTs pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/25** [draft: E/2014/L.27] by roll-call vote (26-0-21) [agenda item 12].

Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/43 of 25 July 2013,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV),

Welcoming the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the

Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in that regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/97 of 11 December 2013, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council, and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly

resolution 1514(XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples, on a case-by-case basis;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories on a case-by-case basis;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible on a case-by-case basis;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned and on a case-by-case basis, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Recalls* the preparation by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of an

informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its updated online version, and requests that they be disseminated as widely as possible;

13. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

14. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

15. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

16. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis;

17. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 2014 of the Economic and Social Council;

18. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on 16 May 1998 of its resolution 574(XXVII), in which the Commission called for the mechanisms necessary for its associate members, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the special sessions of the Assembly convened to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

19. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chair of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its 2015 session;

21. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

ROLL-CALL VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2014/25:

In favour: Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Panama, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Albania, Austria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Congo, Croatia, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/460], adopted **resolution 69/99** by recorded vote (125-0-53) [agenda item 57].

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the Economic and Social Council on the item,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to the item,

Recalling its resolutions 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolutions 2012/22 of 26 July 2012 and 2013/43 of 25 July 2013,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514(XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming also the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social spheres, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance that they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/89 of 11 December 2013 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;
3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;
4. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of

the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as an important element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), including possible participation at the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

- (a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
- (b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;
- (c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;
- (d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue

to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574(XXVII) of 16 May 1998, calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

14. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the President of the Economic and Social Council;

15. *Recalls* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination;

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

18. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

19. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

21. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the measures necessary to implement it, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/99:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Puerto Rico

In accordance with the Special Committee's 2013 resolution, concerning the self-determination and independence of Puerto Rico [YUN 2013, p. 549], the Special Committee's Rapporteur, in a March

report [A/AC.109/2014/L.13], provided information on Puerto Rico, including political, economic, military and regional developments, as well as UN action. Following its usual practice, the Committee acceded to requests for hearings from representatives of a number of organizations, which presented their views on 23 June [A/AC.109/2014/SR.4 & 5]. The Committee adopted a decision by which it reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence; called on the United States to expedite a process allowing the Puerto Rican people to exercise that right; urged the United States to return the occupied land and installations on Vieques Island and in Ceiba to the people of Puerto Rico and to respect fundamental human rights; and requested the General Assembly to keep the question of Puerto Rico under review. The Rapporteur was requested to report on the resolution's implementation.

Territories under review

Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The Special Committee [A/69/23] considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) on 26 June [A/AC.109/2014/SR.7]. The Committee had before it a Secretariat working paper on the Territory [A/AC.109/2014/15] that addressed constitutional and political developments, economic and social conditions, mine clearance, participation in international organizations and arrangements, and the future status of the Territory. The Committee heard statements from two members of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands, the Foreign Minister of Argentina, and two other petitioners. The Committee adopted a draft resolution [A/AC.109/2014/L.7] requesting Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the process of dialogue and cooperation by resuming negotiations aimed at a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the Territory.

Communications. The Secretary-General received a series of letters from Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [A/68/698, A/68/747, A/68/840, A/68/978, A/69/407]. The letters addressed the anniversary of the occupation of the Islands by the United Kingdom and that country's response; the question of sovereignty over the Islands and the surrounding maritime areas; and the conduct of military exercises by the United Kingdom from 14 to 27 April, including the firing of missiles from the Islands. By a 25 April note [A/68/856], Suriname transmitted to the Secretary-General the Declaration on the Question of the Malvinas Islands, adopted by the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Heads of State and Government of the Union of South American Nations (Paramaribo, Suriname, 30 August).

On 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the agenda item pertaining to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) remained for consideration during the resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Gibraltar

The Special Committee [A/69/23] considered the question of Gibraltar on 16 June [A/AC.109/2014/SR.3]. It had before it a Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2014/12] describing political developments and economic and social conditions in the Territory. The paper also presented the positions of the United Kingdom (the administering Power), Gibraltar and Spain concerning Gibraltar's future status. Spain, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar and the Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group made statements at the meeting.

On 5 December (**decision 69/523**), the General Assembly urged Spain and the United Kingdom, while listening to the legitimate interests and aspirations of Gibraltar, to reach, in the spirit of the 1984 Brussels Declaration [YUN 1984, p. 1075], a definitive solution to the question of Gibraltar in the light of the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and applicable principles, and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. The Assembly took note of the desire of the United Kingdom to continue with the trilateral Forum for Dialogue on Gibraltar, and the position of Spain that the Forum no longer existed and should be replaced with a new mechanism for local cooperation in the interest of social well-being and regional economic development, in which the people of the Campo de Gibraltar and Gibraltar were represented.

Communication. In a 7 July letter [A/AC.109/2014/21] addressed to the Chair of the Special Committee, Spain stated that, during the 16 June meeting of the Special Committee, the representative of the Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group made inappropriate references to "corruption scandals" in Spain. Spain objected to matters within its domestic jurisdiction being raised in a public meeting of the United Nations. It also objected to the Group being allowed to participate in future meetings of the Special Committee.

New Caledonia

The Special Committee [A/69/23] considered the question of New Caledonia on 27 June [A/AC.109/2014/SR.9]. It had before it a Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2014/16 & Add.1] describing the political and socioeconomic conditions and developments in the Territory, and containing the report of the visiting mission of the Special Committee to New Caledonia (see below). Statements were made by France, Papua New Guinea and Nicaragua. Statements were also made by the Leader of the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) in the Congress

of New Caledonia; the Secretary of the International Unit of FLNKS; and the Deputy Secretary-General, Office of the French High Commission in New Caledonia. Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced a draft resolution [A/AC.109/2014/L.12] which the Committee adopted without vote.

Visiting mission. On 20 February, the Special Committee decided to send a visiting mission to New Caledonia to gather information on the implementation of the 1998 Nouméa Accord on the Territory's future status [YUN 1998, p. 574] and take stock of preparations for the May provincial elections. The mission, composed of representatives from Ecuador, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone, as well as three Secretariat staff, visited New Caledonia from 10 to 16 March [A/AC.109/2014/20/Rev.1]. It met with stakeholders in the Territory's three provinces and held discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Overseas Territories of the administering Power (France) in Paris from 17 to 18 March. The mission noted a lack of a unified interpretation of relevant provisions setting out the conditions for inclusion in the special electoral roll, including the 2007 constitutional amendment [YUN 2007, p. 623], which endorsed the "frozen" interpretation of the restricted electorate. It observed that the 1998 electoral roll had not been made available to the special administrative commissions until 2014. The mission considered the situation in New Caledonia to be fragile and stressed the importance of a dialogue among all stakeholders to find common ground and preserve peace. It also stressed the need to enhance the training of high-level executives for the public and private sectors, and urged the administering Power to develop reliable capacity-building programmes to enable New Caledonians to determine their future.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/462], adopted **resolution 69/102** without vote [agenda item 59].

Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to New Caledonia,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in

cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote equitable political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Recalling the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session, held from 12 to 30 September and on 21 October 2011, following his visit to the Territory in February 2011,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region, including through the hosting of New Caledonian delegates in the French diplomatic and consular missions in the region,

Recalling the conclusions of the eighteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit held in Suva on 31 March 2011 and the recommendations for the annual monitoring and assessment of the Nouméa Accord,

Welcoming the exchange of letters between the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group secretariat on the sharing of information on New Caledonia,

Mindful that New Caledonia has entered the most seminal phase of the Nouméa Accord process, a period that requires continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory in order to help the people of New Caledonia to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the objectives set out in the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Welcoming the Charter of the Kanak people, common base of the fundamental values and principles of the Kanak civilization, which was proclaimed in April 2014 by the customary authorities, Great Chiefs, Chiefs, Presidents of District Councils and Presidents of the Clan Chiefs Councils, as the sole traditional custodians of the Kanak people of New Caledonia,

Welcoming also the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia in March 2014,

Having heard the statement of the Chair of the visiting mission,

Having examined the report of the United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia,

Welcoming the cooperation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to New Caledonia and its readiness for and concurrence with the dispatching of the 2014 visiting mission,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the administering Power,

Acknowledging the successful conduct by New Caledonia of municipal and provincial elections in May 2014,

Taking note of the information presented to the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, on the situation in the Territory, including on the issues related to the 2014 elections,

Aware of the challenges encountered in the 2014 provincial electoral process, particularly with regard to the work of the special administrative committees in updating the special electoral roll, the non-existence of the supplementary electoral roll from 1998 and the unavailability of the 1998 general electoral roll prior to 2014, and their potential impact on the referendum on self-determination,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to New Caledonia;

2. *Also approves* the report, observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the United Nations visiting mission to New Caledonia conducted in 2014;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia for the close cooperation and assistance extended to the visiting mission;

4. *Notes* the concerns expressed regarding the challenges encountered in the provincial elections process with respect to the persistent varying interpretations of the restricted electorate provisions and the voter registration appeal process, and encourages the administering Power and the people of New Caledonia to address in an amicable manner the concerns of all stakeholders under the existing relevant laws in the Territory and in France, while also respecting and upholding the spirit and letter of the Nouméa Accord;

5. *Expresses the view* that adequate measures for conducting the upcoming consultations on access to full sovereignty, including a just, fair and transparent electoral roll, as provided in the Nouméa Accord, are essential for the conduct of a free and genuine act of self-determination consistent with United Nations principles and practices;

6. *Calls upon* France, the administering Power, in the light of the observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the visiting mission, to consider developing an education programme to inform the people of New Caledonia about the nature of self-determination so that they may be better prepared to face a future decision on the matter, and requests the Special Committee to provide all available assistance in that regard;

7. *Commends* the observations, conclusions and suggested recommendations of the visiting mission to the Government of France, as the administering Power, and the Government of New Caledonia for appropriate action;

8. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of the people of New Caledonia and within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony in order to continue to promote a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to determine their destiny;

9. *Notes* that, at its eleventh meeting, held on 11 October 2013, the Committee of Signatories of the Nouméa Accord, inter alia:

(a) Examined the transfer of powers undertaken in 2013 and conducted an initial review of the work of the interministerial standing committee responsible for supporting the transfer of powers under way or completed;

(b) Considered proposed amendments to the Organic Law of 19 March 1999 relating to New Caledonia and a

draft law containing various provisions related to overseas territories, including several measures concerning New Caledonia;

(c) Considered the work of the steering committee to assess progress under the Nouméa Accord, welcomed the outcome of the working group established in 2013, and called for its continuation;

(d) Took note of the discussion paper presented by the mission responsible for considering the institutional future of New Caledonia, and agreed that it could be used as a basis for work and debate with a view to preparing for the referendum prescribed by the Nouméa Accord and that it should be widely disseminated;

(e) Discussed the conditions under which preparations would be made for the referendum after the provincial elections in 2014 with the assistance of France, if requested;

(f) Noted the status of the discussions on nickel markets and activities undertaken within the framework of the Conference of Presidents, and reiterated the need to build a coherent, long-term industrial strategic framework, with the participation of all stakeholders, in order to ensure the sustainable future development of mining and metallurgical activities and to maximize their socioeconomic benefits;

(g) Noted with satisfaction the work accomplished by the special congressional commission responsible for adopting a flag that expresses both the Kanak identity and the future to be shared by all;

(h) Examined the work carried out for the establishment of structured mechanisms for the advancement of New Caledonians in the civil service, particularly the sovereign civil service;

10. *Reaffirms* its resolution 68/87 of 11 December 2013, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed that, in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

11. *Notes* the continuing concerns expressed by the Kanak people regarding their underrepresentation in governmental and social structures, incessant migratory flows and the impact of mining on the environment;

12. *Commends* the “Cadres for the future” programme, and encourages further enhancement of the training and capacity-building of high-level executives in the public and private sectors in the Territory, particularly in view of the ongoing transfer of powers from the Government of France to New Caledonia, while ensuring that the transfer of powers is undertaken in a manner consistent with the Nouméa Accord;

13. *Recalls* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, made in the light of relevant international standards, to assist with ongoing efforts to advance the rights of the Kanak people in the context of the implementation of the Nouméa Accord and the United Nations-supported decolonization process;

14. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the economic and social rebalancing initiatives undertaken by the administering Power, and urges its continuation in all areas and

communities of the Territory, especially of the well-being of the Kanak indigenous people;

15. *Encourages* the administering Power, with the cooperation of the Government of New Caledonia, to ensure and enhance safeguards for and guarantees of the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to own, access, use and manage their natural resources, including proprietary rights for their future development;

16. *Recalls* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, and notes the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund;

17. *Welcomes* the accession of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste to the Chair of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the hosting, for the first time in New Caledonia, in June 2013, of the meetings of officials and leaders of the Group and the opening, in February 2013, of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste unit at the headquarters of the Group secretariat in Port Vila;

18. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

19. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

20. *Takes note* of the information shared by participants from New Caledonia at the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action held in Nadi, from 21 to 23 May 2014, including on measured progress made in the social, economic, political and environmental spheres and more focused efforts, particularly on the rebalancing initiatives and electoral roll concerns, necessary for the long-term shared mutual benefit of all New Caledonians, and urges the administering Power and the Government of New Caledonia to devote appropriate attention to addressing these issues;

21. *Welcomes* the peaceful conduct of provincial elections in New Caledonia on 11 May 2014, the preceding municipal elections and the subsequent ongoing efforts to form a new Government of New Caledonia, and encourages constructive engagement by all stakeholders in further developing New Caledonia for all, including by respecting and upholding the Nouméa Accord;

22. *Also welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, particularly the submissions on 4 February and 15 May 2014 on the most recent developments in New Caledonia;

23. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

24. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

25. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

French Polynesia

The Special Committee [A/69/23] considered the question of French Polynesia on 27 June [A/AC.109/2014/SR.9]. It had before it a Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2014/19] that contained information on political developments and economic and social conditions in the Territory. Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone and two representatives of the Union pour la démocratie made statements. The Committee adopted a draft resolution [A/AC.109/2014/L.16] and recommended it for adoption by the General Assembly.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/93 [YUN 2013, p. 550], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/189] on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia. In April, the Secretary-General invited 22 specialized agencies and other international organizations to submit information on the impacts of nuclear testing in the Territory. Responses were received from eight UN entities. Information submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was set out in the report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/103** [draft: A/69/462] without vote [agenda item 59].

Question of French Polynesia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of French Polynesia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to French Polynesia,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with all relevant resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960,

Recalling its resolution 67/265 of 17 May 2013, entitled “Self-determination of French Polynesia”, in which it affirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter and its resolution 1514(XV), recognized that French Polynesia remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter, and declared that an obligation exists under Article 73 *e* of the Charter on the part of the Government of France, as the administering Power of the Territory, to transmit information on French Polynesia,

Taking note of the section related to French Polynesia of the Final Document of the Seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held in Algiers from 26 to 29 May 2014,

Expressing concern that 54 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial

Countries and Peoples, there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, on a case-by-case basis and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514(XV), 1541(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Recognizing also that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Conscious of the responsibility of the administering Power to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of French Polynesia,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, on a case-by-case basis, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories,

Recognizing the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a 30-year period, and recognizing also the concerns in the Territory related to the consequences of those activities for the lives and health of the people, especially children and vulnerable groups, as well as the environment of the region, and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 68/73 of 11 December 2013, entitled "Effects of atomic radiation",

Recognizing also the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of French Polynesia to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of French Polynesia of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541(XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration

and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in French Polynesia, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

4. *Regrets* that the administering Power has not responded to the request to submit information on French Polynesia under article 73 *e* of the Charter;

5. *Reaffirms* that an obligation exists on the part of the administering Power to transmit information under Chapter XI of the Charter, and requests the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General such information on French Polynesia as called for under the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to intensify its dialogue with French Polynesia in order to facilitate rapid progress towards a fair and effective self-determination process, under which the terms and timelines for an act of self-determination would be agreed;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia, prepared pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 68/93 of 11 December 2013;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of French Polynesia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Tokelau

The Special Committee [A/69/23], at its 24 and 27 June meetings [A/AC.109/2014/SR.6 & 9], considered the question of Tokelau (the three atolls of Nukunono, Fakaofu and Atafu in the South Pacific) administered by New Zealand. Before it was a Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2014/2] covering constitutional and political developments, external relations and economic and social conditions in the Territory, and presenting the positions of New Zealand and Tokelau on the Territory's future status. Statements were made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau (titular head of the Territory's government, a position rotated annually among the three leaders of each atoll) and the Administrator of Tokelau. Statements were also made by Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Fiji and New Zealand. The Special Committee adopted a draft resolution [A/AC.109/2014/L.15], which was recommended to the General Assembly for adoption.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/462], adopted **resolution 69/104** without vote [agenda item 59].

Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to Tokelau,

Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 68/94 of 11 December 2013,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting with appreciation also the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Noting also the status of Tokelau as an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Recalling that New Zealand and Tokelau signed on 21 November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two partners,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold in February 2006 a referendum on self-determination on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007, and that the two referendums did not produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change the status of Tokelau from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand,

Noting the holding of free and fair elections in the Territory in January 2014,

Noting also the 2013 constitutional consultations, to be further considered by the Constitution Committee, which were driven by the people of Tokelau and which aimed at developing a model of government structure that is culturally appropriate and sensitive to their current situation, culminating in the approval and ratification of the national symbol of the Territory, along with the constitution, national anthem and national flag,

Bearing in mind the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau at the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, that the self-determination process of the Territory could not be addressed in isolation from the threat of climate change and the rise in sea level, and also bear-

ing in mind the intention of Tokelau to further review the National Strategic Plan in order to determine development and other priorities beyond 2015, including consideration of the issue of self-determination and how it would address a possible referendum on self-determination in cooperation with the administering Power,

Cognizant of the statement made at the seminar by the representative of the Government of New Zealand, as the administering Power, citing the close and cordial cooperation that has existed for nearly 90 years between the Territory and the administering Power, with an emphasis on quality health care and education, telecommunications, renewable energy, support for the fisheries sector and the establishment of transport infrastructure and services, including the ongoing construction of a new purpose-built ferry vessel for the people of Tokelau, to be delivered in 2015,

1. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono in 2008 that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New Zealand and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life and opportunities for the people of Tokelau;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils) since 2004, and notes that further discussion is planned on the recommendations of the report on the devolution review, compiled in 2012;

3. *Notes* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

4. *Recalls* the adoption by Tokelau of its National Strategic Plan for 2010–2015 and that the Joint Commitment for Development between Tokelau and New Zealand 2011–2015 prioritizes four main development pillars, including good governance, infrastructure development, human resources capacity development and sustainable development;

5. *Acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, including the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project and a new shipping charter service, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization;

6. *Commends* the achievement by Tokelau in 2013 of 60 per cent of the objectives of its National Strategic Plan, including the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project with the support of the administering Power and the granting of the Renewable Energy Award to the Government of Tokelau by the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority;

7. *Acknowledges* the need of Tokelau for continued support from the international community and its desire to become part of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the impacts of climate change and the protection of the environment and oceans;

8. *Notes* the intention of Tokelau to further review its National Strategic Plan in order to determine development and other priorities beyond 2015 and include consideration

of the issue of self-determination and how the Territory would address a possible referendum on self-determination in cooperation with the administering Power;

9. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

10. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

11. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

12. *Welcomes* the positive actions taken by the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau;

13. *Also welcomes* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continue to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Western Sahara

The Special Committee [A/69/23] considered the question of Western Sahara on 16 June [A/AC.109/2014/SR.3]. The Committee had before it a Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2014/1] that described the Secretary-General's good offices with the parties concerned and actions taken by the General Assembly and the Security Council (see p. 390). The Committee heard a statement from a representative of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario).

The Special Committee transmitted the relevant documentation to the General Assembly to facilitate the Fourth Committee's consideration of the question, subject to the directives that the Assembly might give to its sixty-ninth (2014) session. In April [S/2014/258], the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council his report on the situation concerning Western Sahara, which covered the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. In August [A/69/344], the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly his report on the question of Western Sahara, which summarized his April report.

By **resolution 69/101** of 5 December (see p. 392), the General Assembly expressed its support for the process of negotiations initiated by the Security

Council in 2007, with a view to achieving a political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara; called on the parties to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross and to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law; and requested the Special Committee to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara and to report to the Assembly's seventieth (2015) session.

Island Territories

On 24 June [A/AC.109/2014/SR.6], the Special Committee [A/69/23] considered working papers on American Samoa [A/AC.109/2014/13], Anguilla [A/AC.109/2014/3], Bermuda [A/AC.109/2014/5], the British Virgin Islands [A/AC.109/2014/6], the Cayman Islands [A/AC.109/2014/8], Guam [A/AC.109/2014/14], Montserrat [A/AC.109/2014/10], Pitcairn [A/AC.109/2014/4], Saint Helena [A/AC.109/2014/7], the Turks and Caicos Islands [A/AC.109/2014/9] and the United States Virgin Islands [A/AC.109/2014/11], describing political developments and economic and social conditions in each of the those 11 island Territories. The United Kingdom and the United States—the administering Powers concerned—did not participate in the Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration. The Committee adopted a draft resolution [A/AC.109/2014/L.8] and recommended it for adoption by the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/462], adopted **resolutions 69/105 A and B** without vote [agenda item 59].

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A

GENERAL

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014,

Recalling all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolutions,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1541(XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that 54 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2020 and the plans of action for the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the stated position of the Government of the United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

Noting also the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through orders in council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

Aware of the importance of the international financial services and tourism sectors for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the

situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time, in consultation with the relevant administering Powers and in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the relevant administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Acknowledging the regular transmission by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General of information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

Aware of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Noting the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and at its regional seminars,

Welcoming the 2014 Pacific regional seminar held by the Special Committee in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess the progress made in the decolonization process and to review the existing working methods of the Committee and renew its momentum in implementing its historic task,

Recognizing the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011–2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and in that connection bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action or outcome documents of all United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social spheres,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies

and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Kingstown from 31 May to 2 June 2011 that all six Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories are active associate members of the Commission,

Aware that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, reviews the status of the self-determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

Recognizing that the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories, as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs to update the present resolutions,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541(XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its

understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

5. *Requests* the administering Powers to continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and, as a priority, to mitigate the effects of the current global financial crisis where possible, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, towards the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories and to provide assistance to those Territories, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

9. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

10. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plans of action for the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the context of the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the various constitutional exercises in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements, and decides to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to collaborate with the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and on the implementation of the present resolutions.

B

INDIVIDUAL TERRITORIES

*The General Assembly,
Referring to resolution A above,*

I

American Samoa

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the Pacific regional seminar held in Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014 that, while the Territory enjoyed a great deal of self-government, its current legal status was seen as an anachronism that exposed the Territory to situations beyond its control and needed to be remedied,

Noting the constitutional amendment, approved in 2014 and to be put to the vote at the end of the year, that would give the Fono, the Territory's legislature, the authority to override the Governor's veto,

Noting also, in that regard, the announcement of a voter education process ahead of the constitutional amendment poll,

Aware that, under United States law, the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,

Recalling the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa at regional seminars inviting the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

Aware of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007 and the creation of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee, as well as the holding in June 2010 of the Territory's fourth Constitutional Convention,

Noting, in that regard, that, in 2013, the Governor recalled the recommendation of the Future Political Status Study Commission that American Samoa continue as an unorganized and unincorporated Territory, and that a process of negotiation with the United States Congress for a permanent political status be initiated,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government, including at the 2014 Pacific regional seminar, that the effects of certain federal laws on the economy of the Territory give serious cause for concern,

Aware that, in July 2012, the United States passed Public Law 112–149, which includes a provision to delay the minimum wage increases in American Samoa, as provided by United States Public Law 110–28, until September 2015,

Aware also that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress and in particular the announcement of a dialogue, to commence in 2015, among the people of American Samoa on the Territory's future political status;

2. *Expresses once again its appreciation* for the invitation extended in 2011 by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the diversification and sustainability of the economy of the Territory and to address employment and cost-of-living issues;

II

Anguilla

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla and other relevant information,

Recalling the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government and made possible by the administering Power, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

Recalling also the statement made by the representative of Anguilla at the Pacific regional seminar held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012 that the people of the Territory are concerned that they are being denied the full range of decolonization options under a drafting exercise that began in 2011,

Aware of the follow-up meeting, held after the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, between the Chair of the Special

Committee and the Chief Minister of Anguilla, who reiterated the urgent need for a visiting mission,

Noting the internal constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power, the decisions taken in 2008 and 2011 to set up a drafting team to prepare a new constitution and present it for public consultation in the Territory and the efforts undertaken in that regard in 2013 and 2014,

Noting also the participation of the Territory as a member in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council and an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Welcomes* the preparations made for a new constitution, and urges that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

4. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

III

Bermuda

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda and other relevant information,

Aware of the statement made by the representative of Bermuda at the Pacific regional seminar held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory, and noting the results of successive surveys by local media, according to which a majority of respondents did not wish to sever ties with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power, and a minority was in favour of independence,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering

Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960 and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

Aware of serious concerns regarding good governance, transparency and accountability in the Territory, including with respect to external election campaign financing originating in a neighbouring country, which led the Premier to resign in May 2014 with a view to maintaining integrity and confidence in the political landscape,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of Bermuda's associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and continues to regret that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Underlines* the need further to strengthen good governance, transparency and accountability in government for the benefit of the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Welcomes* the active participation of Bermuda in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

IV

British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013 that while the Territory's relationship with the administering Power was stable and not problematic, it could be enhanced,

Aware of the negative impact of the global economic slowdown on the growth of the financial and tourism services sectors of the Territory,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, and stresses the importance of continued discussions on constitutional matters, to accord greater responsibility to the territorial Government for the effective implementation of the Constitution and increased levels of education relating to constitutional matters;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach

efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Notes* the holding, in March 2014, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the United States Virgin Islands;

V

Cayman Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands and other relevant information,

Conscious of the statement made by the representative of the territorial Government at the 2010 Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa,

Aware of the work, in accordance with the 2009 Constitution, of the Constitutional Commission, which serves as an advisory body on constitutional matters,

Acknowledging that, in spite of the global economic downturn and unemployment issues, the financial services, tourism and construction sectors of the Territory reportedly grew in 2013,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2009 Constitution of the Cayman Islands, and stresses the importance of the work of the Constitutional Commission, including its work on human rights education;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to continue to implement financial sector management policies, medical and sports tourism initiatives and unemployment alleviation programmes in various economic sectors;

VI

Guam

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Governor of Guam at the Pacific regional seminar held in Nadi, Fiji from 21 to 23 May 2014, presenting an update on the efforts of Guam towards decolonization and on the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in reinforcing public awareness in order to address the limited and distorted understanding of decolonization,

Cognizant of the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization to promote in the Territory the holding of a plebiscite on self-determination, to populate the decolonization registry, as required by public law, to enhance the ability to expediently register those who have not yet been registered and to identify and secure territorial and federal resources for a self-determination education programme,

Aware that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant of the importance of the administering Power continuing to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware of the deep concern expressed by civil society and other parties regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination and its ongoing work on a self-determination vote, as well as its public education efforts;

2. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, including through the funding of the public education campaign, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

VII

Montserrat

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat and other relevant information,

Noting with concern the continuing consequences of the 1995 volcanic eruption which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the population of the Territory to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory and which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continuing assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

Aware that Montserrat continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2011 Constitution of Montserrat and the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward to consolidate the gains provided for in the Constitution;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the Territory's participation in the 2012 inauguration of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Assembly and in the work of that Organization and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII

Pitcairn

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population, area and access,

Aware that the administering Power and the territorial Government have implemented a governance structure to strengthen administrative capacity in the Territory, based on consultations with the people of the Territory, and that Pitcairn continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Cognizant that the administering Power and the territorial Government have developed a five-year strategic development plan that sets out the views and aspirations of the people of the Territory for the socioeconomic development of the Territory,

Aware of the assessment made in 2013 that the population of the Territory needs to be boosted if the Territory is to have a sustainable future and of the approval by the Pitcairn Island Council of an immigration policy designed to promote immigration and repopulation and bring people with the necessary skills and commitment to Pitcairn,

1. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through training of local personnel;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic and environmental security in Pitcairn, including concerning demographic matters;

4. *Welcomes* the work carried out on the preparation of the five-year strategic development plan for the island;

IX

Saint Helena

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of Saint Helena at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

Noting the fact that, in January 2013, following a resolution passed in September 2012 by the Legislative Council to undertake minor adjustments to the 2009 Constitution of Saint Helena, a public consultation process was launched,

Aware that a consultative poll was held in March 2013, with the majority opting for no change to the Constitution, and that, for the first time, a general election based on one constituency was held in July 2013,

Cognizant that Saint Helena continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment and transport and communications infrastructure,

Noting the efforts of the Territory to address demands on its labour market, including through the Labour Market Strategy for the period 2012–2014, the Sustainable Economic Development Plan 2012/13–2021/22 and the new National Strategy for the Development of Statistics,

Noting also the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Saint Helena and, in that regard, the approval of the administering Power of the building of an airport on the island of Saint Helena,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2009 Constitution of the Territory and the further development of democratic and good governance;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development challenges of the Territory;

X

Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 2009 Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis,

Recalling also the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

Aware of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Body, and acknowledging the 2006 Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands agreed upon between the administering Power and the elected territorial Government,

Noting the decision of the administering Power to suspend parts of the 2006 Constitution, the subsequent presentation of a draft constitution for public consultation in 2011 and the introduction of a new constitution for the Territory, as well as the election of a new territorial Government in 2012,

Aware that, in 2013, the Territory established the Constitutional Review Committee, which, following public consultations, is expected to formulate a document on constitutional matters for presentation to the administering Power,

Aware also that, in March 2014, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community received an update on the situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which they will continue to monitor, and that they expressed their support for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory on terms driven by its people,

Acknowledging the impact that the global economic slowdown and other relevant developments have had on tourism and related real estate development, the mainstays of the economy of the Territory, including on construction output during 2012 and 2013, and noting that the Territory has begun a number of fresh economic development programmes,

1. *Expresses its support* for the full restoration of democracy in the Territory and the work of the Constitutional Review Committee in that regard, and notes the efforts of the administering Power to restore good governance, including through the introduction in 2011 of a new constitution and the holding of elections in November 2012, and sound financial management in the Territory;

2. *Notes* the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in support of a democratically elected territorial Government and of the full restoration of democracy in the Territory as decided by its people;

3. *Also notes* the continuing debate on constitutional reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

4. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of its people, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory, including through public-private consultative partnerships and small business development programmes;

XI

United States Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands and other relevant information,

Aware that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,

Aware also of the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as its requests to the administering Power and the United Nations system for assistance to its public education programme,

Cognizant that a draft constitution was proposed in 2009 and subsequently forwarded to the administering Power, which in 2010 requested the Territory to consider its objections to the draft constitution,

Cognizant also that the Fifth Revision Convention, established and convened in 2012, was mandated to ratify and approve the final revised draft constitution,

Noting the holding of elections in the Territory in November 2012,

Aware of the closing of the Hovensia plant, and noting the continuing negative impact on manufacturing and on the employment situation in the Territory,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of a draft constitution emanating from the Territory in 2009, as a result of the work of the United States Virgin Islands Fifth Constitutional Convention, for review by the administering Power, and requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the ongoing internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the proposed territorial constitution in the United States Congress and its implementation, once agreed upon in the Territory;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Expresses its concern* regarding the continuing negative impact of the Hovensia plant closure;

5. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Notes* the holding, in March 2014, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the British Virgin Islands.

Other issues

Economic and other activities affecting NSGTs

On 24 June [A/69/23], the Special Committee considered the issue of economic and other activities affecting the interests of the peoples of NSGTs and adopted a draft resolution [A/AC.109/2014/L.11] for adoption by the General Assembly (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/459], adopted **resolution 69/98** by recorded vote (175-2-2) [agenda item 56].

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled “Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories”,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to the item,

Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991, 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and 65/119 of 10 December 2010,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621(XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514(XV);

12. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/98:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States.

Abstaining: France, United Kingdom.

Visiting missions

The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting missions to NSGTs on 16 June [A/69/23]. It adopted a draft resolution [A/AC.109/2014/L.5/Rev.1], in which the Committee stressed the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to facilitate the full implementation of the 1960 Declaration on decolonization, and called upon the administering Powers to facilitate such missions to the Territories under their administration. It requested the administering Powers to cooperate with the Committee in exploring the possibility of undertaking visiting or special missions in furtherance of the decolonization mandate of the General Assembly. The Committee

also requested its Chair to consult with the administering Powers concerned and report on the results.

Dissemination of information

On 16 June, the Special Committee [A/69/23] held consultations with representatives of the UN Departments of Political Affairs and of Public Information on the dissemination of information on decolonization. It also considered a report of the Secretary-General on the subject, covering the period from April 2013 to March 2014 [A/AC.109/2014/18], and adopted a draft resolution [A/AC.109/2014/L.4] for adoption by the General Assembly (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/462], adopted **resolution 69/106** by recorded vote (173-3-1) [agenda item 59].

Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2014 relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,

Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 68/96 of 11 December 2013,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Recalling the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and recalls with satisfaction the publication, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, of the information leaflet on what the United Nations can do to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization in May 2009, and encourages continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, to this end requests the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all of the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/106:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: France.

Information on Territories

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/87 [YUN 2013, p. 566], the Secretary-General, in March [A/69/69], submitted a report indicating the dates of transmittal of information from the administering Powers on economic, social and educational conditions in NSGTs for 2013, under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/458], adopted **resolution 69/97** by recorded vote (174-0-4) [agenda item 55].

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970(XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Sit-

uation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 68/87 of 11 December 2013, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970(XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970(XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/97:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea,

Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: France, Israel, United Kingdom, United States.

Study and training

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/90 [YUN 2013, p. 567], the Secretary-General, in March [A/69/67], submitted a report on replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities made available to the inhabitants of NSGTs during the period from 18 March 2013 to 5 March 2014. Replies were submitted by Argentina, Australia, Austria, India, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom. Over the years, 61 Member States and one non-member State—the Holy See—had made such scholarships available.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/461], adopted **resolution 69/100** without vote [agenda item 58].

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/90 of 11 December 2013,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General, prepared pursuant to its resolution 845(IX) of 22 November 1954,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Strongly convinced that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;
4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the facilities necessary to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
6. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.

Peaceful uses of outer space

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-seventh session (Vienna, 11–20 June) [A/69/20], discussed ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes; space and sustainable development; the spin-off benefits of space technology; space and water; space and climate change; the use of space technology in the UN system; and the future role of the Committee. It also reviewed the work of its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee.

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-first session (Vienna, 10–21 February) [A/AC.105/1065], considered the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda (see p. 960). It also dealt with matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment; space debris; space-system-based disaster management support; developments in global navigation satellite systems (GNSS); space weather; near-Earth objects; the use of nuclear power sources in outer space; the long-term sustainability of outer space activities; and the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications.

UN Programme on Space Applications

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 37/90 [YUN 1982, p. 163], continued to promote, through international cooperation, the use of space technologies and data for sustainable economic and social development in developing countries by raising awareness of decision makers of the cost-effectiveness and additional benefits to be obtained; establishing and strengthening capacity in developing countries to use space technology; and strengthening outreach activities to disseminate awareness of the benefits obtained. The Programme focused on environmental monitoring, natural resource management, satellite communications for tele-education and telemedicine applications, disaster risk reduction, the use of GNSS, the Basic Space Science Initiative, space law, climate change, the Basic Space Technology Initiative, the Human Space Technology Initiative, and biodiversity and wildlife management.

In December [A/AC.105/1085], the United Nations Expert on Space Applications reported that the Programme continued to support education and training for capacity-building in developing countries through the regional centres for space science and technology education affiliated with the United Nations. The sixth Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific, hosted by Beihang University in Beijing, was formally inaugurated on 17 November. The Programme organized expert meetings, workshops and seminars on advanced space applications and space technology, as well as short- and medium-term training programmes. In 2014, two symposiums [A/AC.105/1082, A/AC.105/1086], one international conference [A/AC.105/1073], three workshops [A/AC.105/1081, A/AC.105/1087, A/AC.105/1089] and one expert meeting [A/AC.105/1069] were conducted.

The Basic Space Science Initiative, launched in 1990 as a long-term effort for the development of astronomy and space science through regional and international cooperation in the field, led to the establishment of planetariums, astronomical telescopes and space weather instrument arrays, particularly in developing countries. In 2014, the Programme organized a symposium to consider the future of the Initiative. The Basic Space Technology Initiative, launched in 2009 to support capacity-building in space technology development focused on small-satellite missions, continued to support space technology development through international conferences on capacity-building in basic space technology, the development of space technology curricula to ensure a common minimum standard of teaching, and a long-term educational fellowship programme. The Human Space Technology Initiative, launched in 2010 to promote international cooperation in spaceflight and space exploration-related activities, conducted its pri-

mary science activity, the Zero-Gravity Instrument Project, and a fellowship programme called the Drop Tower Experiment Series.

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered the January report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications [A/AC.105/1062], which described the Programme's 2013 activities, those scheduled for 2014, and the activities of UN-affiliated regional centres for the 2012–2014 period.

The General Assembly, in resolution 69/85 of 5 December (see p. 729), endorsed the Programme on Space Applications for 2015, as proposed by the Expert and endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Space technology for socioeconomic development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/75 [YUN 2013, p. 572], the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee [A/AC.105/1065] considered the agenda item on space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780] and the post-2015 development agenda. The item was renamed from “Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)” in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 568]. Among the documents before the Subcommittee were a Secretariat note containing the progress report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals [A/AC.105/C.1/2014/CRP.23]; a conference room paper providing an update on recent developments in the context of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda [A/AC.105/C.1/2014/CRP.21]; and a discussion paper submitted by Japan entitled “Draft proposed workplan for a mechanism of cooperative deliberation for ‘space and sustainable development’: bridging the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee” [A/AC.105/C.1/2014/CRP.22]. The Subcommittee's Working Group of the Whole agreed with the overall objective of the draft proposed workplan. On the basis of a proposal by Canada, the Working Group also agreed on the establishment of a focused expert group on space and global health to consider issues related to the use of space technology for public health.

The Committee [A/69/20] endorsed the recommendations and decisions on the item made by the Subcommittee and its Working Group of the Whole.

Scientific and technical issues

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/75, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee [A/AC.105/1065] considered matters relating to remote

sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment. The Subcommittee noted the increased availability of space-based data at little or no cost, including remote sensing data, made available from the China-Brazil Earth resources satellites, the SAC-C international mission, Landsat of the United States, the greenhouse gases observing satellites of Japan, Oceansat-2 of India and the Megha-Tropiques Indian-French joint satellite mission. A growing number of developing countries were deploying their own remote sensing satellite systems and utilizing space-based data to advance socioeconomic development. The Subcommittee also noted the importance of data democracy policies in empowering users in developing countries so that they could make full use of remote sensing applications for the benefit of their own societies.

For its consideration of the issue of space debris, the Subcommittee had before it a report [A/AC.105/C.1/108] containing information from five Member States and three non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with permanent observer status with the Committee on research on space debris, the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to the collision of such space objects with space debris. The Subcommittee expressed concern over the increasing amount of space debris and encouraged States that had not yet done so to consider voluntary implementation of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space [YUN 2007, p. 640]. It agreed that States, particularly spacefaring nations, should pay greater attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources on board. The Subcommittee noted that States had taken action to mitigate space debris, including the improvement of launch vehicles and spacecraft design.

For its review of developments in global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), the Subcommittee had before it the report on the United Nations/Croatia Workshop on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (Baška, Croatia, 21–25 April 2013) [A/AC.105/1055]; a Secretariat note on the Eighth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 9–14 November 2013) [A/AC.105/1059]; and the Secretariat report on activities conducted in the framework of the workplan of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems [A/AC.105/1060].

The following reports, issued in 2014 for consideration by the Subcommittee at its 2015 session, dealt with the Ninth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (Prague, Czech Republic, 10–14 November 2014) [A/AC.105/1083]; the United Nations/Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics Work-

shop on the Use of Global Navigation Satellite Systems for Scientific Applications (Trieste, Italy, 1–5 December) [A/AC.105/1087]; and activities carried out in 2014 in the framework of the workplan of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems [A/AC.105/1084].

In accordance with resolution 68/75, the Subcommittee considered the agenda item on near-Earth objects (NEOs). The Subcommittee noted the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous NEOs, and that effective responses for the mitigation of hazard threats from such objects were best carried out though international cooperation. It noted that the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects, in collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) organized two meetings in 2014 to establish an international asteroid warning network (IAWN) (Cambridge, United States, 13–14 January) and a space mission planning advisory group (SMPAG) (Darmstadt, Germany, 6–7 February). The Subcommittee further noted that the Action Team should continue to support the work of IAWN and SMPAG in the short term to facilitate their interaction with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and Governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that were not participating in those bodies.

The Subcommittee continued its consideration of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. It encouraged States and international intergovernmental organizations to implement the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space [YUN 2009, p. 605]. The Subcommittee reconvened the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and endorsed its report, which was annexed to the Subcommittee's 2014 report.

For its consideration of the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, the Subcommittee had before it a Secretariat note [A/AC.105/1041/Rev.1] containing the compilation of draft guidelines proposed by expert groups as at the fifty-sixth (2013) session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for consideration by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. The Subcommittee reconvened the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and endorsed the Working Group's report, which was annexed to the Subcommittee's report.

In accordance with resolution 68/75, the Subcommittee considered the agenda item "Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs

and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union⁷. The Subcommittee had before it the annual report for 2013 of the Radiocommunication Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union on the use of the geostationary orbit and other orbits, as well as other documents referred to in a 3 February Secretariat note [A/AC.105/C.1/2014/CRP.9].

Space-system-based disaster management support

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, had before it a report [A/AC.105/1057] on the activities carried out in 2013 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), established by the General Assembly in resolution 61/110 [YUN 2006, p. 748]; a Secretariat report on technical advisory support activities carried out in 2013 in the framework of UN-SPIDER [A/AC.105/1056]; a report of the United Nations/Germany Expert Meeting on the Use of Space-based Information in Early Warning Systems (Bonn, Germany, 25–26 June 2013) [A/AC.105/1047]; and a report on the UN International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management (Beijing, 23–25 October 2013) [A/AC.105/1061]. The Subcommittee heard technical presentations by representatives of China and India, as well as the International Society for Photogrammetry and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, and noted progress made regarding planned activities, including the support provided for emergency response efforts following Typhoon Bopha in Palau and the Philippines in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 912], Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 879], and floods in Iraq. The fifth annual meeting of the UN-SPIDER regional support offices (Vienna, 13–14 February 2014) was hosted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to review joint activities implemented in 2013, and to develop a joint workplan for 2014 and the 2014–2015 biennium. The Subcommittee noted the ongoing activities of Member States that were contributing to the use of space-based solutions in support of disaster management.

The following reports, issued in 2014 for consideration by the Subcommittee at its 2015 session, dealt with activities carried out in 2014 in the framework of UN-SPIDER [A/AC.105/1078]; the United Nations/Germany Expert Meeting on the Use of Space-based Information for Flood and Drought Risk Reduction (Bonn, Germany, 5–6 June 2014) [A/AC.105/1074]; the UN-SPIDER knowledge portal [A/AC.105/1075]; the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management: Multi-hazard Disaster Risk Assessment (Beijing, 15–17 September 2014) [A/AC.105/1076]; and joint activities carried out in 2014 by the UN-SPIDER regional support offices [A/AC.105/1079].

Space weather

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/75, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered the agenda item on space weather. It had before it the report on the United Nations/Austria Symposium on Space Weather Data, Instruments and Models: Looking Beyond the International Space Weather Initiative (Graz, Austria, 16–18 September 2013) [A/AC.105/1051]. The Subcommittee heard technical presentations by the representatives of Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Italy, Japan, and the United States, as well as the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics. It noted that progress was made over the previous year in advancing space weather capabilities at the national and international levels. Space weather involved global phenomena driven by large solar eruptions that impacted large areas of the Earth simultaneously. It was therefore important to monitor and understand the drivers of space weather, as well as the impacts on Earth and in space. The Subcommittee further noted that new space missions and ground-based instrumentation would ultimately provide data that could improve space weather predictions.

Legal Subcommittee

The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-third session (Vienna, 24 March–4 April) [A/AC.105/1067], considered the status and application of the five UN treaties on outer space (see below); information on the activities of international intergovernmental organizations and NGOs relating to space law; matters related to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit; national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space; capacity-building in space law; review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space; exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures; exchange of information on non-legally binding UN instruments on outer space; review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space; and proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth (2015) session.

The Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space and its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, and it established the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

The reports of the Working Groups were endorsed by the Subcommittee and annexed to its report.

For its consideration of the agenda item on the activities of international intergovernmental organizations and NGOs relating to space law, the Subcommittee had before it a Secretariat note containing information received from the International Law Association (ILA) [A/AC.105/C.2/104] and a conference room paper containing information received from Intersputnik and the European Centre for Space Law [A/AC.105/C.2/2014/CRP.21]. The Subcommittee noted the contributions of international intergovernmental organizations and NGOs relating to the development and study of space law and agreed that such organizations should be invited to report to the Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth (2015) session on their activities related to space law.

In addressing matters related to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, the Subcommittee had before it Secretariat notes on national legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space [A/AC.105/865/Add.14, 15]; replies from Member States on questions concerning the definition and delimitation of outer space [A/AC.105/889/Add.13, 14]; and questions on suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation [A/AC.105/1039/Add.2, 3].

For its consideration of the item on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, the Subcommittee had before it a Secretariat note on the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities [A/AC.105/C.2/2014/CRP.5] and a conference room paper on the development of a system for legal regulation of space activities of the Russian Federation [A/AC.105/C.2/2014/CRP.14]. The Subcommittee noted the development of the African space policy, within the institutional framework of the African Union, which would guide the African presence in space-related endeavours. It was important to take into account the increased level of commercial and private activities in outer space in the development of a national space-related regulatory framework. The Subcommittee encouraged Member States to continue to submit texts of their national space laws and regulations and to provide updates and inputs for the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities.

For its consideration of the agenda item on capacity-building in space law, the Subcommittee had before it several conference room papers on actions and initiatives adopted by States to build such capacity. The Subcommittee noted the completion of the education curriculum on space law and requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to have it translated into all UN official languages to facilitate its use by the regional centres and developing countries.

The Subcommittee, in response to resolution 68/75, considered the agenda item on the general exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures. It had before it conference room papers containing a compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and international organizations, submitted by Canada, the Czech Republic and Germany [A/AC.105/C.2/2014/CRP.15], and a contribution to the compendium by the United States [A/AC.105/C.2/2014/CRP.15/Add.1]. The Subcommittee agreed that all Member States should be invited to contribute to the compendium.

For its consideration of the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, the Subcommittee had before it a Secretariat note and addenda containing information received from four States and ILA [A/AC.105/C.2/105 & Add.1, 2].

Treaties

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/75 [YUN 2013, p. 572], the Legal Subcommittee considered the status and application of the five UN treaties on outer space. It had before it a document entitled "United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space, related General Assembly resolutions and other documents" [ST/SPACE/61/Rev.1], and Secretariat notes containing questions provided by the chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space [A/AC.105/C.2/2014/CRP.16], responses to such questions received from Germany [A/AC.105/C.2/2014/CRP.17] and the Russian Federation [A/AC.105/C.2/2014/CRP.18 & Corr.1], and the contribution of Turkey to the Subcommittee's fifty-third session [A/AC.105/C.2/2014/CRP.26].

The Subcommittee noted that, as at 1 January, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies [YUN 1966, p. 41] had 103 States parties and had been signed by 25 additional States; the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space [YUN 1967, p. 34] had 94 States parties and had been signed by 24 additional States; the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects [YUN 1971, p. 52] had 91 States parties and had been signed by 22 additional States; the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space [YUN 1974, p. 56] had 60 States parties and had been signed by 4 additional States; and the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies [YUN 1979, p. 111] had 15 States parties and had been signed by 4 additional States.

UN system coordination

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/75 [YUN 2013, p. 572], the Secretary-General issued an April report [A/AC.105/1063] on the coordination of space-related activities within the UN system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2014–2015—addressing the post-2015 development agenda. The report provided information on the use of space-derived information to ensure environmental sustainability; promote inclusive social and economic development; and support sustainable development policies. It also described UN system efforts to build resilience through the streamlined use of space-derived information. The report identified goals that could be considered by Member States and UN entities to ensure that the potential benefits of space technology were harnessed to the fullest extent possible for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The goals included enhancing awareness of the potential contribution of space-derived data and information for development; developing capacities for the discovery of, access to and processing and use of space-derived data and information; strengthening institutional frameworks to facilitate the use of remote sensing data and information; supporting standardization and updating of geospatial information; and promoting international cooperation for increased use of data and information for planning and decision-making processes.

Inter-Agency Meeting. The Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, at its thirty-fourth session (New York, 13–14 May) [A/AC.105/1064], discussed the coordination of UN system plans and programmes in the practical applications of space technology; the preparation of a special report on initiatives and applications for space-related inter-agency cooperation addressing global health; and means of strengthening further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities.

The UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, as the secretariat of UN-Space (the abbreviation for the Inter-Agency Meeting recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 68/75), informed the Meeting about the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, bringing to its attention matters relating to inter-agency coordination. Representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its capacity as executive secretariat of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, and the United Nations Children's Fund, on behalf of the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, reported on their current activities. Meeting participants noted that the Secretary-General's April report

on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system for the period 2014–2015 (see above) constituted a valid basis for reviewing efforts addressing the post-2015 development agenda. They agreed that the next special report should address the theme of space for global health and be submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2015. Participants also agreed that the Meeting's thirty-fifth (2015) session could be held in conjunction with a meeting of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, in view of the synergies between the two inter-agency coordination mechanisms.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/452], adopted **resolution 69/85** without vote [agenda item 49].

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 61/110 and 61/111 of 14 December 2006, 62/101 of 17 December 2007, 62/217 of 22 December 2007, 65/97 of 10 December 2010, 65/271 of 7 April 2011, 66/71 of 9 December 2011, 67/113 of 18 December 2012, 68/50 of 5 December 2013 and 68/74 and 68/75 of 11 December 2013,

Emphasizing the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that has enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary achievements made over the past 50 years in space exploration efforts, including deepening the understanding of the planetary system and the Sun and the Earth itself, in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind and in the development of the international legal regime governing space activities, and recognizing in that regard the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies and assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of all humankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all humankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of arti-

cle IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Deeply concerned about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris which is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in space,

Convinced that space science and technology and their applications, such as satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, and stressing in that regard the need to harness the benefits of space technology towards implementing and monitoring the United Nations Millennium Declaration and contributing to the post-2015 development agenda process,

Seriously concerned about the devastating impact of disasters, and desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Firmly convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as telehealth, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection, natural resources management and climate monitoring contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

Deeply concerned about the devastating effects of infectious diseases, in particular Ebola virus disease, to the detriment of human life, society and development, and urging the international community, in particular scientific and academic institutions, to undertake studies on the role of tele-epidemiology in monitoring, preparedness and response activities,

Recalling, in that regard, the fact that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, recognized the important role that space science and technology play in promoting sustainable development,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its fifty-seventh session,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its fifty-seventh session;

2. *Agrees* that the Committee, at its fifty-eighth session, should consider the substantive items recom-

mended at its fifty-seventh session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

3. *Notes* that, at its fifty-third session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/75;

4. *Agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fourth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

5. *Urges* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties in accordance with their national law, as well as incorporating them into their national legislation;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the conclusion by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of a space law curriculum, which could encourage further studies within States;

7. *Notes* that, at its fifty-first session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/75;

8. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-second session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

9. *Notes* the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous near-Earth objects to ensure that all countries, in particular developing countries with limited capacity in predicting and mitigating a near-Earth object impact, are aware of potential threats, emphasizes the need for capacity-building for effective emergency response and disaster management in the event of a near-Earth object impact, and recalls in that regard the recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat, endorsed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fiftieth session and by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session;

10. *Notes with satisfaction* that progress on establishing an international asteroid warning network and a space mission planning advisory group to implement the recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat would be reported to the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session;

11. *Notes with appreciation* that some States are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/217, and invites other States to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

12. *Considers* that it is essential that States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, especially those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation

of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

13. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

14. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, and agrees that during its consideration of the matter the Committee could continue to consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation and the role that space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

15. *Welcomes* the fact that the Committee, at its fifty-seventh session, agreed to consider, under the item entitled "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes", the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, and to identify effective tools that could potentially provide the Committee with new guidance, in a pragmatic manner and without prejudice to the mandate of other intergovernmental forums, and notes with satisfaction that, in that regard, and in line with resolution 68/50, the Committee agreed to consider at its fifty-eighth session, in 2015, the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, with a view to identifying those recommendations that could, to the extent practicable, be adapted to and instrumental in ensuring the safety of space operations and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities in general;

16. *Recognizes* the central role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in fostering capacity-building in the use of space science and technology and their applications for the benefit of all countries, in particular developing countries, and urges all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Programme on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in order to enhance the capacity of the Office to provide technical and legal advisory services in its priority thematic areas;

17. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2015, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications and endorsed by the Committee;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* the significant achievements made and the advisory support provided to more than 30 Member States within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), with the valuable contributions of its network of regional support

offices, and encourages Member States, on a voluntary basis, to provide the programme with the additional resources necessary to address the increasing demand for support successfully and in a timely manner;

19. *Also notes with satisfaction* the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its capacity as executive secretariat of the International Committee, towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, and notes with appreciation that the International Committee held its ninth meeting in Prague from 10 to 14 November 2014;

20. *Notes with appreciation* that the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, namely, the African regional centres for space science and technology education in the French and English languages, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, located in India, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, with campuses located in Brazil and Mexico, and the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia, located in Jordan, have continued their education programmes in 2014, encourages the regional centres to continue to promote greater participation of women in their education programmes, and agrees that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on their activities;

21. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress on the establishment of a new regional centre for space science and technology education in Asia and the Pacific located at Beihang University in Beijing;

22. *Emphasizes* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to that end requests relevant regional organizations and their groups of experts to offer the assistance necessary so that countries can carry out the recommendations of regional conferences, and in that regard notes the importance of the equal participation of women in all fields of science and technology;

23. *Recognizes*, in that regard, the important role played by conferences and other mechanisms in strengthening regional and international cooperation among States, such as the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the Space Conference of the Americas, a process that should not be interrupted, and the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization;

24. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including strengthening sustainable spatial data infrastructure at the regional and national levels and

building resilience to reduce the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

25. *Reiterates* the need to promote the benefits of space technology and its applications in the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields, and recognizes that the fundamental significance of space science and technology and their applications for global, regional, national and local sustainable development processes should be promoted in the formulation of policies and programmes of action and their implementation, including through efforts towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits, including implementing the Millennium Declaration and contributing to the post-2015 development agenda process;

26. *Encourages* Member States, to that end, to promote the inclusion in those conferences, summits and processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data;

27. *Encourages* the Office for Outer Space Affairs to take active part in those conferences, summits and processes, including the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the summit on the post-2015 development agenda, both to be held in 2015, as appropriate and within existing resources;

28. *Urges* the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), under the leadership of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to continue to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to implementing the Millennium Declaration and to the post-2015 development agenda process, and encourages entities of the United Nations system to participate, as appropriate, in UN-Space coordination efforts;

29. *Notes* that, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-sixth session on the measures relating to the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, on the basis of the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, the Asia-Pacific States, the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and other States have nominated their candidates for the offices of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, First Vice-Chair of the Committee, Chair of the Legal Subcommittee and Chair of the Committee, respectively, for the period 2016–2017;

30. *Urges* the African States to nominate their candidate for the office of Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee for the period 2016–2017 before the next session of the Committee;

31. *Agrees* that, upon the nomination of the candidate of the African States, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, at their respective sessions in 2016, should elect their officers nominated for the period 2016–2017;

32. *Decides* that Luxembourg shall become a member of the Committee;

33. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment;

34. *Encourages* the regional groups to promote active participation in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies by the States members of the Committee that are also members of the respective regional groups.

Effects of atomic radiation

Report of Scientific Committee. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, at its sixty-first session (Vienna, 21–25 July) [A/69/46], considered two scientific reports that had been published since its sixtieth (2013) session, the process for finalizing them and their impact. The first report presented the results of an assessment of the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan [YUN 2011, p. 587]. It was presented to the media on 2 April 2014, and an advance copy of a Japanese translation of the main text was presented to Fukushima Prefecture on 27 May. The second report, on the effects of radiation exposure on children, was published in October 2013.

The Committee addressed radiation exposures from electricity generation and an updated methodology for estimating human exposures due to radioactive discharges; biological effects from selected internal emitters; cancer epidemiology of exposures at low dose-rates due to environmental radiation; the collection of data on radiation exposures, in particular for an evaluation of medical exposures; and outreach activities.

The Committee discussed two draft scientific annexes, one on radiation exposures from electricity generation and the other on updating the Committee's methodology for estimating human exposures to radioactive discharges into the environment. The Committee noted that the update of the existing methodology and the associated document were advanced. It expected that the document would be ready for approval at its sixty-second (2015) session. Progress on the draft annex on radiation exposures from electricity generation was limited by large gaps in the available data, however, it was but expected to be ready for consideration in 2015.

The Committee also discussed progress on evaluations of the biological effects of exposure to selected internal emitters, addressing two specific radionuclides: tritium and uranium. It noted that an updated version of the document on tritium could be presented for the Committee's approval in 2015 but that additional revision work would be needed for the evaluation on uranium. The Committee noted that there could be merit in conducting similar evaluations for caesium and iodine.

The Committee agreed to focus on completing evaluations that had been delayed by the finalization of the two studies, particularly the study on the Fukushima Daiichi accident. It decided to set out, at its sixty-second session, long-term strategic directions beyond the period covered by its 2014–2019 strategic plan. The Committee confirmed the Governing Prin-

ciples for its work and agreed to hold its sixty-second session in Vienna from 1 to 5 June 2015.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 66/70 [YUN 2011, p. 587], by which the Assembly increased the membership of the Scientific Committee from 21 to 27 States, the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/69/350] on the impact of the increase in the membership and possible approaches to further increases. The period considered (2012–2014) was too short to allow firm conclusions to be drawn on the impact of the increase on the Committee's effectiveness and work quality in the long term. Moreover, the number of States members of the Committee had almost doubled since its creation, while the geographical distribution had essentially remained stable. Because of its scientific nature, the Committee needed experts of worldwide standing; enlargement of the Committee was therefore not the most pertinent means of enhancing its work. What mattered more was whether the Committee had access to the data and expertise that institutions in UN Member States could provide. Changes to the Committee's management and organization involving more specialized scientists and institutions from many Member States could contribute to the Committee's work.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/451], adopted **resolution 69/84** without vote [agenda item 48].

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913(X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment, and conscious also of the increased volume, complexity and diversity of that information,

Acknowledging the concerns about the radiological consequences of nuclear accidents, which were renewed by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan,

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work, and welcoming the increased commitment of States members of the Committee,

Emphasizing the vital need for sufficient, assured and predictable funding, as well as efficient management, of the work of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee to ar-

range the annual sessions and coordinate the development of documents based on scientific reviews of the sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment,

Recognizing the increasing importance of the scientific work of the Scientific Committee and the need to carry out unforeseen additional work in cases such as the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station,

Recognizing also the importance of voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support the work of the Scientific Committee,

Considering that the high quality of the work and the scientific rigour of the Scientific Committee need to be maintained in the future,

Recognizing the importance of disseminating results from the work of the Scientific Committee and widely publicizing scientific knowledge about atomic radiation, and recalling, in that context, principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution that it has been making since its inception to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Scientific Committee, and takes note of the report on its sixty-first session, including the confirmation of the Governing Principles for its work and the adoption of terms of reference for its Bureau;

4. *Appreciates* the publication in 2014 of the complete report on the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident after the 2011 great east-Japan earthquake and tsunami, and encourages the secretariat of the Scientific Committee to continue to disseminate the findings to the public;

5. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

6. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for conducting its programme of work of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly, in particular its next Global Survey of Medical Radiation Usage and Exposures, to be conducted in close cooperation with other relevant organizations, and its assessments of levels of ionizing radiation exposure from electrical energy production, and requests the Committee to submit plans for its ongoing and future programme of work to the Assembly at its seventieth session;

7. *Welcomes* developments in streamlining procedures for publishing the reports of the Scientific Committee electronically on its official website and as sales publications, and calls upon the secretariat to monitor the timely publication of those reports and to continue to strive to publish them within the same calendar year as their approval;

8. *Re-emphasizes* the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular sessions on an annual basis so that its report can reflect the latest developments and findings in the

field of ionizing radiation and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States;

9. *Invites* the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports, and requests the secretariat to facilitate such consultations;

10. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the levels and effects of ionizing radiation, and invites the Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

11. *Recalls* the strategy of the Scientific Committee to improve data collection, encourages in this regard Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about levels, effects and risks of radiation exposure from various sources, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Committee to the General Assembly, and encourages the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations to further collaborate with the secretariat to establish and coordinate the arrangements for periodic exchange of data on radiation exposures of workers, the general public and, in particular, patients;

12. *Welcomes* the development by the secretariat of an online platform for collecting data on medical exposures, and encourages Member States to take part in the Scientific Committee's Global Survey of Medical Radiation Usage and Exposures and to nominate a national contact person to facilitate coordination of data collection and submission within their country;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue, within existing resources, to actively support the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

14. *Takes note*, in this regard, of the Scientific Committee's outreach strategy for the coming years, in particular the enhancement of the website of the Committee and the publication of informative leaflets and posters in all the official languages of the United Nations, and encourages consideration to be given to publishing the website in all those languages;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to maintain appropriate funding for the Scientific Committee, pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 68/73 of 11 December 2013;

16. *Encourages* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and also to make contributions in kind in order to support the work of the Scientific Committee;

17. *Recalls* paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 66/70 of 9 December 2011, notes the expression of interest by Member States in membership in the Scientific Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the Assembly at its seventy-second session with a list of the Member States that have expressed their particular interest in membership in the Committee between the sixty-sixth and seventy-second sessions, for consideration pursuant to the above-mentioned paragraph.

Information security

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/243 [YUN 2013, p. 577], the Secretary-General, in June [A/69/112 & Add.1], issued a report transmitting the views of 16 Member States on their general appreciation of the issues of information security; national efforts to strengthen information security and promote international cooperation in that field; international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems; and possible measures the international community could take to strengthen information security at the global level.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee [A/69/435], adopted **resolution 69/28** without vote [agenda item 91].

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001, 57/53 of 22 November 2002, 58/32 of 8 December 2003, 59/61 of 3 December 2004, 60/45 of 8 December 2005, 61/54 of 6 December 2006, 62/17 of 5 December 2007, 63/37 of 2 December 2008, 64/25 of 2 December 2009, 65/41 of 8 December 2010, 66/24 of 2 December 2011, 67/27 of 3 December 2012 and 68/243 of 27 December 2013,

Recalling also its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of humankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Recalling, in this connection, the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held in Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Bearing in mind the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and the recommendations that were made,

Bearing in mind also the results of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 (first phase) and in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005 (second phase),

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields,

Considering that it is necessary to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

Noting the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies,

Noting also the contribution of those Member States that have submitted their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolutions 53/70, 54/49, 55/28, 56/19, 57/53, 58/32, 59/61, 60/45, 61/54, 62/17, 63/37, 64/25, 65/41, 66/24, 67/27 and 68/243,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening international meetings of experts in Geneva in August 1999 and April 2008 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, as well as the results of those meetings,

Considering that the assessments of Member States contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the international meetings of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security and related notions,

Bearing in mind that the Secretary-General, in fulfilment of resolution 66/24, established in 2012, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, a group of governmental experts, which, in accordance with its mandate, considered existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-building measures in information space, and conducted a study on relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems,

Welcoming the effective work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security and the relevant outcome report transmitted by the Secretary-General,

Taking note of the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible strategies to address the threats emerging in this field, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information;

2. *Considers* that the purpose of such strategies could be served through further examination of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;

3. *Invites* all Member States, taking into account the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(a) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

(b) Efforts taken at the national level to strengthen information security and to promote international cooperation in this field;

(c) The content of the concepts mentioned in paragraph 2 above;

(d) Possible measures that could be taken by the international community to strengthen information security at the global level;

4. *Welcomes* the commencement of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts, and authorizes the Group, taking into account the assessments and recommendations contained in the above-mentioned report, to continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-building measures, the issues of the use of information and communications technologies in conflicts and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, as well as the concepts referred to in paragraph 2 above, and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the results of the study;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

Public information

Committee on Information

The General Assembly's Committee on Information, at its thirty-sixth session (New York, 28 April–9 May) [A/69/21], continued to review UN public information policies and activities, and to evaluate and follow up on efforts made and progress achieved by the UN system in information and communications.

The Committee had before it three reports of the Secretary-General on activities of the Department of Public Information (DPI) from September 2013 to February 2014, which addressed strategic communications services [A/AC.198/2014/2], news services [A/AC.198/2014/3]; and outreach and knowledge services [A/AC.198/2014/4].

The Committee held its general debate on 28 and 29 April. It adopted two draft resolutions and a draft decision that were submitted to the General Assembly for consideration (see below). The Committee also took note of the proposed strategic framework for the 2016–2017 period [A/69/6 (Prog. 24) & Corr.1].

The Assembly, by **decision 69/522** of 5 December, increased the membership of the Committee on Information from 114 to 115 and appointed Iraq as a member.

DPI activities

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/86 B [YUN 2013, p. 580], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/310] on questions relating to information, covering activities undertaken by DPI from March to September through its three subprogrammes: strategic communications, news, and outreach and knowledge services. The report highlighted recent communication campaigns, the Department's traditional media-related products and services, the growth of the UN social media presence, progress made with regard to the multimedia website of DPI, and the activities of the United Nations News Centre. It provided an update on the Department's outreach services and relations with the creative community and NGOs. The report also reviewed the activities of the network of United Nations information centres (UNICs); summarized the Department's partnerships with institutions of higher learning and research through the United Nations Academic Impact initiative; and described efforts to maintain a culture of evaluation within DPI.

Strategic communications services

The United Nations Communications Group task force, convened by DPI, played a key role in coordinating messaging and outreach plans on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the post-2015 development agenda and climate change. DPI launched the "Time for Global Action" campaign as the umbrella for UN system initiatives during the 2014–2015 period. The launch of the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2014* (see p. 960) by the Secretary-General at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (New York, 7 July) was complemented by more than a dozen regional and national launches organized by UNICs, as well as by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nordic Representation Office. DPI issued press materials in the six official languages; coordinated media outreach, events and interviews; and produced infographics and videos on the MDGs for social media.

As part of its Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine, DPI held its annual International Media Seminar on Peace on the Middle East (Tokyo, Japan, 9–10 June), organized in cooperation with Japan and hosted by Sophia University. For the twentieth annual commemoration of the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda (7 April), the Department, in cooperation with Rwanda, held a series of events at Headquarters under the theme "Kwibuka: Remember, Unite, Renew", including a panel discussion and a symposium. For the obser-

vance of Nelson Mandela International Day (18 July), DPI worked with South Africa and the Office of the President of the General Assembly in planning events at Headquarters, including an informal meeting of the Assembly. On 29 May, DPI collaborated with the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Field Support (DFS) to mark the 2014 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (29 May) under the theme "United Nations Peacekeeping: A Force for Peace, A Force for Change, A Force for the Future".

The Department continued to raise global awareness of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development through its magazine, *Africa Renewal*, and the Africa Renewal Online website, offered in both English and French. From March through June, DPI placed 20 articles, which were published 585 times in English and French in 160 media outlets in more than 30 countries.

DPI launched a series of simultaneous online events and briefings at UNICs worldwide to increase interaction among geographically dispersed offices. In promoting action for the environment, UNICs promoted "A wish for the planet", an international writing and drawing competition co-organized with the estate of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and the International Organization of la Francophonie. Many UNICs organized events in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May. The UNIC in Antananarivo, Madagascar, in cooperation with the World Wildlife Fund and the Ministry of Information of Madagascar, held a debate on "The obstacles to the professionalism of current Malagasy journalists". The UNIC in Beirut, Lebanon, organized prime-time talk shows with three local television stations, featuring UN officials and other participants.

News services

United Nations social media grew dramatically across multiple platforms in 2014, and DPI tailored its social media approach to regional and language audiences. A coordinated effort with UNDP on the Weibo website yielded strong interest in the Secretary-General's visit to China in May. The UN posts on the Weibo site were viewed 1.18 billion times and were reposted and cited by hundreds of traditional news media outlets. The United Nations Weibo site reached more than 6 million followers in June.

DPI also increased its collaborative work across social media accounts. The United Nations News Centre drew on the Twitter account of the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General and on the main UN account to supplement information being distributed to different audiences. During the year, the Twitter and Facebook accounts of the English news portal grew by over 100 per cent, to almost 110,000 followers and 300,000 fans. The number of video views on the UN channel on YouTube in all languages exceeded

10 million, and the number of subscribers to the channel grew to more than 52,000. About 380,000 videos were viewed on the YouTube channel in French, and the Spanish-language YouTube account was expected to have more than half a million views by September. The newly created YouTube account in Arabic helped profile UN activities in Arabic-speaking countries.

The growth of the audience accessing UN information online grew from 154 million page views in the 2010–2012 period to 280 million views in the 2013–2014 period in all languages. The dramatic increase in page views was due, in part, to an upswing in the use of the Russian-language websites beginning in March. Spanish language websites also registered an increase, with some 6 million page views between March and June.

Integrated editorial planning and coordination between the Department's news and media producers working across platforms led to a high number of interviews, news and features by the United Nations News Centre and Radio teams, with increased profiles on the UN website of senior officials speaking on issues related to Iraq, Ukraine, the Syrian Arab Republic and chemical weapons, the situation in the Central African Republic, and South Sudan, among other matters. United Nations Radio initiated creative partnerships to harness the power of joint collaborations. The Chinese Unit approached China National Radio to link up with their live prime-time news programme on issues of common interest, including statements of the Secretary-General and Security Council meetings. A partnership with the call-to-listen platform AudioNow provided displaced and hard-to-reach ethnic audiences around the world with free access to United Nations Radio and other UN audio content. In 2014, listeners in Brazil, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United States could dial in to UN news, features and live coverage in eight languages.

United Nations Television worked with partners to produce video products on priority issues, including a series of eight stories highlighting the MDGs. The monthly flagship programme, *21st Century*, was produced in language versions with subtitles, rather than being dubbed, in line with current media standards. Successful partnerships continued with TV5 Monde and the China Business Network for French and Chinese language versions, respectively; partners were being sought for the other official languages. DPI continued to produce *UN in Action*, a series of three- to five-minute features in the six official languages. An abridged series of two-minute video pieces entitled *UN Stories* was also produced for the web in the six official languages. UNifeed, the flagship daily television newswire service, distributed 531 stories to hundreds of television networks around the world through the Associated Press, Eurovision and Reuters from March to mid-June. The stories reached approximately 200 broadcast users per month through the UNifeed web-

site. Half of the news stories originated from United Nations Television in New York and Geneva, with the remaining half contributed by over 30 agencies, funds, programmes and peacekeeping missions.

DPI continued to improve and expand the ability of the Organization's live and on-demand webcast services to reach a global audience in all six official languages on multiple web platforms, including wireless mobile devices. Through its website, the Department facilitated coverage of the meetings of the Human Rights Council and press briefings at the United Nations Office at Geneva. DPI also provided webcast coverage for major UN conferences, including the World Urban Forum, organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in Medellin, Colombia, in April; the sixth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Bali, Indonesia, in August; and the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa in September.

Between 1 March and the end of September, the Meetings Coverage Section produced 2,284 press releases (8,382 pages) in English and French. Between March and June, United Nations Photo covered close to 900 events at Headquarters, as well as the official travel of the Secretary-General. United Nations Photo had over 8.6 million accumulated views on Flickr, over 73,000 "likes" on Facebook, and more than 45,000 followers on Twitter. The new United Nations Instagram platform already had close to 58,000 followers. The Photo Library handled over 3,300 requests from Member States, the media, publishers and the general public.

Communication. In a 6 June letter addressed to the Secretary-General [A/68/935], Argentina, on behalf of the Group of Friends of Spanish at the United Nations, recognized the efforts made by DPI to strengthen multilingualism and promote linguistic parity among the six official UN languages. Annexed to the letter was the report compiled by DPI at the Group's request concerning statistics on the use of official languages on the UN websites and social networks.

Outreach and knowledge services

In collaboration with the Caribbean Community and the African Union, DPI organized a series of activities to mark the annual observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The theme of the 2014 commemoration, "Victory over Slavery: Haiti and Beyond", paid tribute to the fight against slavery in nations around the world, marking 210 years since the establishment of Haiti as an independent State. Campaign products were available in the six official languages, as well as in Haitian Creole, Kiswahili and Portuguese.

On 28 April, the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme, in partnership with

Israel and the World Jewish Congress, organized a panel discussion to examine ways to illustrate the universal lessons of the Holocaust through art. On 2 June, in partnership with the Department's model United Nations programme and the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, the Programme expanded its outreach to youth by organizing the first model UN simulation on the Holocaust and genocide prevention at the Bronx High School of Science in New York.

The United Nations Academic Impact initiative hosted several outreach programmes, including "Classroom Conversations", in cooperation with the State University of New York, on 19 June; "Let's Skype It" on employment opportunities at the United Nations, with the European School of Management and Technology on 16 May; a "CFR@UNAI" talk on fracking, with the United States Council on Foreign Relations on 16 July. DPI published 174 titles and acquired publications in the six official languages in both print and digital formats. An Arabic version of *Basic Facts about the United Nations 2014* was published in September through a financial contribution from the United Arab Emirates.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library supported the Permanent Missions to the United Nations through training and customized information and research support. While most UN documents published since 1993 were available digitally, the Library, in partnership with the United Nations Library in Geneva, continued to digitize millions of documents that remained in paper form. It was also developing a digital repository to preserve UN knowledge and make it accessible in digital formats.

The Visitor's Services section arranged 372 briefings in English, Chinese, French, German, Japanese and Russian between March and September, reaching some 27,900 participants. The Public Inquiries Unit responded to 4,200 communications and distributed 200 educational kits.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/457], adopted **resolutions 69/96 A and B** without vote [agenda item 54].

Questions relating to information

A

INFORMATION IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General,

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming

their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process":

(a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communications infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communications policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communications capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communications technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communications systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communications technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

- (iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;
- (iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communications technology available on the open market;
- (f) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

B

UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing that the Committee on Information is its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat,

Reaffirming its resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, in which the General Assembly established the Department of Public Information, with a view to promoting to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world, and all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly related to the activities of the Department,

Emphasizing that the contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications and transparency should permeate all levels of the Organization as a means of fully informing the peoples of the world of the aims and activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations,

Stressing that the primary mission of the Department of Public Information is to provide, through its outreach activities, accurate, impartial, comprehensive, balanced, timely, relevant and multilingual information to the public on the tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization with the greatest transparency,

Recalling its resolution 68/86 B of 11 December 2013, which provided an opportunity to take due steps to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information and to maximize the use of its resources,

Expressing its concern that the gap in information and communications technology between the developed and the developing countries has continued to widen and that vast segments of the population in developing countries are not benefiting from the information and communications technologies that are currently available, and in this regard underlining the necessity of rectifying the imbalances in the present development of information and communications technologies in order to make it more just, equitable and effective,

Recognizing that developments in information and communications technologies open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, and at the same time emphasizing that the

development of these technologies poses challenges and risks and could lead to the further widening of disparities between and within countries,

Recalling its resolution 67/292 of 24 July 2013 on multilingualism, and emphasizing the importance of making appropriate use of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department of Public Information, including in coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, as well as the importance of ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all the activities of the Department,

I

Introduction

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in respect of the public information policies and activities of the United Nations, to continue to implement fully the recommendations contained in relevant resolutions;

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations remains the indispensable foundation of a peaceful and just world and that its voice must be heard in a clear and effective manner, and emphasizes the essential role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in this context;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the provision of clear, timely, accurate and comprehensive information by the Secretariat to Member States, upon their request, within the framework of existing mandates and procedures;

4. *Also stresses* that Member States should abstain from using information and communications technologies in contravention of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Reaffirms* the central role of the Committee on Information in United Nations public information policies and activities, including the prioritization of those activities, and decides that recommendations relating to the programme of the Department of Public Information shall originate, to the extent possible, in the Committee and shall be considered by the Committee;

6. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, following the priorities set out by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/236 of 24 December 2012, and recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, to pay particular attention to peace and security, development and human rights and to major issues such as the eradication of poverty, including the global food crisis, conflict prevention, sustainable development, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and the needs of the African continent;

7. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to pay particular attention to progress in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, including on the elaboration of sustainable development goals, and the outcomes of the major related United Nations summits and conferences in carrying out its activities, and calls upon the Department to play an active role in raising public awareness of the after-effects and ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, including the achievement of the Millennium

Development Goals, financing for development, and the discussion of options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, and of the global challenge of climate change, in particular the actions taken in accordance with the objective, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, especially in the context of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, particularly in the context of the Conference of the Parties and of the Meetings of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

II

General activities of the Department of Public Information

8. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information;

9. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to maintain its commitment to a culture of evaluation, to continue to evaluate its products and activities with the objective of enhancing their effectiveness, and to continue to cooperate and coordinate with Member States and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of more effective coordination between the Department of Public Information and the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure consistency in the messages of the Organization;

11. *Notes* the efforts of the Department of Public Information to continue to publicize the work and decisions of the General Assembly, and requests the Department to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

12. *Encourages* continued collaboration between the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of culture and in the fields of education and communication, bridging the existing gap between the developed and the developing countries;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Department of Public Information to work at the local level with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to enhance the coordination of their communications activities, urges the Department to encourage the United Nations Communications Group to promote linguistic diversity in its work, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session on progress achieved in this regard;

14. *Reaffirms* that the Department of Public Information must prioritize its work programme, while respecting existing mandates and in line with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, to focus its message and better concentrate its efforts and to match its programmes with the needs of its target audiences, including the linguistic dimension, on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to exert all efforts to ensure that publications and other information services of the Secretariat, including the United Nations website and the United Nations News Service,

contain comprehensive, balanced, objective and equitable information in all official languages about the issues before the Organization and that they maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

16. *Underlines* the critical need to address violations of the relevant international rules and regulations that govern the area of broadcasting, including television, radio and satellite broadcasting, in the most appropriate manner;

17. *Reiterates its request* to the Department of Public Information and content-providing offices of the Secretariat to ensure that United Nations publications are produced in all six official languages, as well as in an environmentally friendly and cost-neutral manner, and to continue to coordinate closely with all other entities, including all other departments of the Secretariat and funds and programmes of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, in order to avoid duplication in the issuance of United Nations publications;

18. *Encourages*, in this regard, the Department of Public Information and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to consult on opportunities for merging their publishing activities and to develop new collaborative arrangements to enhance multilingualism in other outputs in a cost-neutral manner, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session;

19. *Emphasizes* that the Department of Public Information should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest to developing countries and, where appropriate, other countries with special needs, and that the activities of the Department should contribute to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications;

20. *Reiterates its growing concern* that the issuance of daily press releases has not been expanded to all official languages, as requested in previous resolutions and in full respect of the principle of parity of all six official languages, recalls the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information, and requests the Department, as a matter of priority, to design a strategy to deliver daily press releases in all six official languages through creative schemes, in a cost-neutral manner and in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, at the latest by the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on Information, and to report thereon to the Committee at that session;

Multilingualism and public information

21. *Underlines* the responsibility of the Secretariat in mainstreaming multilingualism into all its communication and information activities, within existing resources on an equitable basis, calls upon the Department of Public Information to continue to work with the Coordinator for Multilingualism on best practices throughout the Secretariat to fulfil this responsibility, and requests the Secretary-General to report on such best practices and their implementation in his upcoming report to the Committee on Information;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations, ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of all divi-

sions and offices of the Department of Public Information with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, in this regard reaffirms its request that the Secretary-General ensure that the Department has the necessary capacity in all the official languages to undertake all of its activities, and requests that this aspect be included in future programme budget proposals for the Department, bearing in mind the principle of parity of all six official languages, while respecting the workload in each official language;

23. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to enhance multilingualism in all its activities, stresses the importance of ensuring that the texts of all new public United Nations documents in all six official languages, information materials and all older United Nations documents are made available through the United Nations websites and are accessible to Member States without delay, and further stresses the importance of fully implementing its resolution 67/292;

24. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information to continue to use other languages in addition to the official languages, when appropriate, according to the targeted audience, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all corners of the world in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization;

25. *Notes* the proposal by the Chair of the Committee on Information to establish a group of friends of the Chair on multilingualism;

Bridging the digital divide

26. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to contribute to raising the awareness of the international community of the importance of the implementation of the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society and of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide, including by commemorating World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on 17 May;

Network of United Nations information centres

27. *Emphasizes* the importance of the network of United Nations information centres in enhancing the public image of the United Nations, in disseminating messages on the United Nations to local populations, especially in developing countries, bearing in mind that information in local languages has the strongest impact on local populations, and in mobilizing support for the work of the United Nations at the local level;

28. *Welcomes* the work done by the network of United Nations information centres, including the United Nations Regional Information Centre, in favour of the publication of United Nations information materials and the translation of important documents into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations, encourages the network of information centres to continue their important multilingual activities in the interactive and proactive aspects of their work and to develop web pages in local languages, and the Department of Public Information to provide necessary resources and technical facilities, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all corners

of the world, in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization, and encourages the continuation of efforts in this regard;

29. *Stresses* the importance of rationalizing the network of United Nations information centres, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to make proposals in this direction, including through the redeployment of resources where necessary, and to report to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

30. *Reaffirms* that the rationalization of United Nations information centres must be carried out on a case-by-case basis in consultation with all concerned Member States in which existing information centres are located, the countries served by those information centres and other interested countries in the region, taking into consideration the distinctive characteristics of each region;

31. *Recognizes* that the network of United Nations information centres, especially in developing countries, should continue to enhance its impact and activities, including through strategic communications support, and calls upon the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this approach to the Committee on Information at its successive sessions;

32. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres, to strengthen its cooperation with all other United Nations entities at the country level and in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in order to enhance coherence in communications and to avoid duplication of work;

33. *Stresses* the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing countries in the field of information and communications technology for the effective flow of information in those countries;

34. *Also stresses* the importance of efforts to strengthen the outreach activities of the United Nations to those Member States remaining outside the network of United Nations information centres, and encourages the Secretary-General, within the context of rationalization, to extend the services of the network of information centres to those Member States;

35. *Further stresses* that the Department of Public Information should continue to review the allocation of both staff and financial resources to the United Nations information centres in developing countries, taking into account the specific needs of the least developed countries;

36. *Welcomes* the support of some Member States, including developing countries, in offering, inter alia, rent-free premises for the United Nations information centres because of lack of funding, bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for the information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

37. *Notes* the concern of many Member States regarding the measures taken by the Secretariat in relation to the information centres in Mexico City, Pretoria and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, expresses the hope that these measures will not have an adverse impact on the ability of the centres to act as bridges between the United Nations and local audiences, and therefore requests the Secretary-General to report on the impact of these measures and to explore ways to strengthen the United Nations information centres in Cairo, Mexico City, Pretoria and Rio de Janeiro, keeping in

mind the need to do so within existing resources, and encourages the Secretary-General to explore the strengthening of other centres, especially in Africa, in cooperation with the Member States concerned and in a cost-neutral manner;

38. *Recalls* its resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations information centre in Luanda as a contribution towards addressing the needs of Portuguese-speaking African countries, reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Government of Angola, to take the measures necessary for the prompt establishment of the information centre, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session on the progress made in this regard;

III

Strategic communications services

39. *Reaffirms* the role of the strategic communications services in devising and disseminating United Nations messages by developing communications strategies, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in full compliance with their legislative mandates;

Promotional campaigns

40. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Department of Public Information in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, such as the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the progress made in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, and discussions on the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, United Nations reform, the eradication of poverty, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, sustainable development, culture and development, culture and sustainable development, disarmament, decolonization, human rights, including the rights of women and children, persons with disabilities and migrant workers, strategic coordination in humanitarian relief, especially in natural disasters and other crises, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases and other diseases, the needs of the African continent, the nature of the critical economic and social situation in Africa and the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the special needs of the least developed countries, the establishment of the permanent memorial to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, dialogue among civilizations, the culture of peace and tolerance and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as prevention of genocide, and requests the Department, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of all these issues;

41. *Requests* the Secretariat, especially the Department of Public Information, to contribute to the observance of International Mother Language Day on 21 February, as proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery

and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on 25 March, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July, in accordance with Assembly resolution 64/13 of 10 November 2009, and the International Day of Nowruz on 21 March, in accordance with Assembly resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, and to play a role in raising awareness and promoting these events in a cost-neutral manner, where appropriate;

42. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to raise awareness of all high-level meetings mandated by the General Assembly, to widely disseminate information on the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia, from 1 to 4 September 2014, including the media coverage already provided for in Assembly resolution 68/238 of 27 December 2013, on the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, on the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015 in accordance with Assembly resolution 67/209 of 21 December 2012, and on the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in New York in April and May 2015, and to continue to promote the processes in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June 2012, as well as the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, held on 23 September 2013, and the high-level meeting of the Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013;

43. *Notes* the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Group of 77 and China, and acknowledges the support provided by the Department of Public Information in publicizing within existing resources the summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 on a new world order for living well, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 14 and 15 June 2014;

44. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to raise awareness of and disseminate information, in a cost-neutral manner, on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010;

45. *Notes* that 2015 marks the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the end of the Second World War, further notes the work already undertaken by the Secretariat on planning activities in that regard, and requests the Department of Public Information to raise awareness of and disseminate information on this anniversary and to ensure that multilingualism is mainstreamed into those activities, in a cost-neutral manner;

46. *Recalls* its resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013 on the International Decade for People of African Descent, and requests the Department of Public Information and its network of United Nations information centres to raise awareness of and disseminate information on the International Decade, in accordance with the programme for the implementation of the International Decade adopted by the General Assembly, in a cost-neutral manner;

47. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information to develop partnerships with the private sector in a cost-

neutral manner and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session, and in this regard notes the partnership with airlines that provide to their customers in-flight programmes featuring United Nations activities;

Role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding

48. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure the active involvement of the Department of Public Information from the planning stage and in all stages of future peacekeeping operations through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, in particular with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support;

49. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to continue their cooperation in raising awareness of the new realities, far-reaching successes and challenges faced by peacekeeping operations, especially multidimensional and complex ones, and the recent surge in United Nations peacekeeping activities, and continues to call upon the three Departments to develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy on current challenges facing United Nations peacekeeping;

50. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information in the field of peacekeeping operations and its role, in close cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, in the process of selecting public information staff for United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions, and in this regard invites the Department of Public Information to second public information staff who have the skills necessary to fulfil the tasks of the operations or missions, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with Chapter XV, Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter, and to consider views expressed, especially by host countries, when appropriate, in this regard;

51. *Emphasizes* the importance of the peacekeeping gateway on the United Nations website, and requests the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts in supporting the peacekeeping missions to further develop and maintain their websites;

52. *Requests* the Department of Public Information and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to cooperate in implementing an effective outreach programme to explain the zero-tolerance policy of the Organization regarding sexual exploitation and abuse and to inform the public of the outcome of all such cases involving peacekeeping personnel, including cases where allegations are ultimately found to be legally unproven, and also to inform the public of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel;

53. *Notes* the importance of communication and information activities relating to peacebuilding efforts, in particular those of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Secretariat and the

Peacebuilding Fund, and requests the Department of Public Information to cooperate with these entities in that regard, with a view to widening outreach of their important work;

Role of the Department of Public Information in strengthening dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace as means of enhancing understanding among nations

54. *Recalls* its resolutions on dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, and requests the Department of Public Information, while ensuring the pertinence and relevance of subjects for promotional campaigns on this issue, to continue to provide the support necessary for the dissemination of information pertaining to dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace, as well as the initiative on the Alliance of Civilizations, and to take due steps in fostering the culture of dialogue among civilizations, promoting a world against violence and violent extremism in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/127 of 18 December 2013, and promoting cultural understanding, tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion or belief and effective enjoyment by all of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;

55. *Invites* the United Nations system, especially the Department of Public Information, to continue to encourage and facilitate dialogue among civilizations and to formulate ways and means to promote dialogue among civilizations in the activities of the United Nations in various fields, taking into account the Programme of Action of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, and in this regard reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly at its seventieth session the report requested by the Assembly in its resolution 60/4 of 20 October 2005;

56. *Recalls* its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009, in which it acknowledged the achievements of the Alliance of Civilizations and the efforts of the High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations, and welcomes the discussion, at the sixth Alliance of Civilizations Forum, held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, on 29 and 30 August 2014, on strategic and practical measures that generate and sustain common values and a shared sense of responsibility among all stakeholders, and the continuing support of the Department of Public Information for the work of the Alliance of Civilizations, including its ongoing projects;

**IV
News services**

57. *Stresses* that the central objective of the news services implemented by the Department of Public Information is the timely delivery of accurate, objective and balanced news and information emanating from the United Nations system in all four mass media, namely, print, radio, television and the Internet, to the media and other audiences worldwide, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, and reiterates its request to the Department to ensure that all breaking news stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of bias;

58. *Recognizes* the important role of television and video services provided by the Department of Public Information, and notes the recent efforts in making available online broadcast-quality video that can be

streamed or downloaded by smaller broadcast outlets that do not have access to satellite feeds;

Traditional means of communication

59. *Welcomes* the sustained efforts of United Nations Radio, which remains one of the most effective and far-reaching traditional media available to the Department of Public Information and an important instrument in United Nations activities, to enhance the timeliness, presentation and thematic focus of its multilingual programmes on United Nations activities and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of its programming to media outlets using the most suitable platforms and formats, pre-recorded or live, requests the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to achieve parity in the six official languages in United Nations Radio productions, reiterates the important role of the 15-minute daily programmes created pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/82 B of 6 December 1999, and requests the Department to continue the production and dissemination of the programmes, in accordance with client needs;

60. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts being made by the Department of Public Information to disseminate programmes directly to broadcasting stations all over the world in the six official languages, with the addition of Portuguese and Kiswahili, as well as in other languages where possible, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his upcoming report to the Committee on Information detailed information about such partnerships with broadcasting stations as well as statistics about their multiplying impacts on potential audiences;

61. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue to build partnerships with local, national and regional broadcasters to extend the United Nations message to all corners of the world in an accurate and impartial way, and requests the News and Media Division of the Department to continue to take full advantage of the technological infrastructure made available in recent years;

62. *Welcomes* the completion of an inventory of 67 years of United Nations audiovisual history, and, recognizing the importance of the audiovisual archives of the United Nations, stresses the urgency of digitization in order to prevent further deterioration of these unique historical archives, and encourages the Department of Public Information to prioritize the development of collaborative arrangements for the digitization of these archives while preserving their multilingual character in a cost-neutral manner and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session;

63. *Notes* the efforts made by the Department of Public Information and other stakeholders to plan, procure, implement, test and deploy a media assets management system solution for file-based production and for the management of the United Nations multimedia digital archives, calls upon the Department to continue to explore alternative and feasible solutions for the digitization, preservation, quality assurance and technical processing of the audiovisual archive materials based on international standards and best practices, including in the context of the construction work of the capital master plan within the overall budget for the plan, and encourages the Department to seek the support of public and private institutions for its work in digitizing, storing and managing these multilingual archives and

to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session;

64. *Notes*, in this regard, the proposed strategy for the digitization of the United Nations audiovisual archive materials for long-term preservation, access and sustainable management, and requests the Department of Public Information to submit for consideration by the relevant bodies both a detailed proposal for the mass digitization of the audiovisual collections, within existing resources, and plans to solicit voluntary contributions to fund the digitization and storage of the audiovisual archives;

United Nations website

65. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations website is an essential tool for the media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, Member States and the general public, and in this regard reiterates the continued need for strengthened efforts by the Department of Public Information to maintain and improve it;

66. *Welcomes* the opening of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters, recognizes the efforts made by the Secretariat to implement the basic accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities to gain access to and take part in the work of the United Nations in person or online, calls upon the Department of Public Information to continue to work towards compliance with accessibility requirements on all new and updated pages of the website, with the aim of ensuring its accessibility for persons with different kinds of disabilities, and in this regard encourages the Department of Public Information and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to further cooperate and identify potential synergies;

67. *Reaffirms* the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites, and urges the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to develop, maintain and update multilingual United Nations websites and the web page of the Secretary-General in all the official languages of the United Nations, from within existing resources and on an equitable basis;

68. *Notes with concern* that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations website in certain official languages has improved at a much slower rate than expected, and in this regard urges the Department of Public Information, in coordination with content-providing offices, to advance actions taken to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations website;

69. *Recalls* paragraph 22 of its resolution 67/292 on multilingualism, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders, including the Department of Public Information, content-providing offices and departments and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat, to enhance their collaboration so as to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites developed and maintained by the Secretariat, by making every effort to translate materials currently available only in English and by providing offices and departments with technological solutions that comply with the principle of parity, from within existing resources;

70. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, while maintaining an up-to-date and accurate website, the equitable distribution of financial and human resources within the Department of Public Information allocated to

the United Nations website among all official languages, with full respect for the needs and the specificities of all six official languages;

71. *Welcomes* the cooperative arrangements undertaken by the Department of Public Information with academic institutions to increase the number of web pages available in official and non-official languages, and requests the Secretary-General, in coordination with content-providing offices, to extend such cooperative arrangements, in a cost-effective manner, to all the official languages of the United Nations, bearing in mind the necessity of adherence to United Nations standards and guidelines;

72. *Also welcomes* the fact that live webcasts of open, formal meetings of the General Assembly and of the Security Council with interpretation services have been provided as from the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, and requests the Secretariat to make every effort to provide full access to archived videos in all official languages of all past open formal United Nations meetings with interpretation services in strict observance of the principle of full parity of the six official languages of the United Nations;

73. *Acknowledges* the importance of the *Yearbook of the United Nations* as an authoritative reference work, welcomes the work of the Department of Public Information in expanding the content and the functions of the website of the *Yearbook*, and requests the Department to assess the readership of the *Yearbook* in order to evaluate its impact and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session;

74. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the technological infrastructure of the Department of Public Information on a continuous basis in order to widen the outreach of the Department and to continue to improve the United Nations website in a cost-neutral manner;

75. *Recognizes* that some official languages use non-Latin and bidirectional scripts and that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations are based on Latin script, which leads to difficulties in processing non-Latin and bidirectional scripts, and urges the Office of Information and Communications Technology to further collaborate with the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts in order to enhance the equality of all official languages on the United Nations website;

76. *Underlines* the importance, in the implementation of new communication tools such as social networks, of taking into account the linguistic dimension in order to ensure full parity among the official languages of the Organization;

77. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 67/292, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in his upcoming report on multilingualism a comprehensive review of the United Nations websites, presenting the status of content in non-official languages, as well as identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-neutral measures to reinforce the broader multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations websites, as appropriate;

78. *Notes* the uneven development of social media among the official languages of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee

on Information at its thirty-seventh session on the strategy of the Department of Public Information to ensure, by a more balanced use of all six official languages, that social media contribute to raising awareness of and support for the activities of the Organization;

V Library services

79. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of its 2011 working group on library improvement;

80. *Commends* the steps taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the other member libraries of the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries to align their activities, services and outputs more closely with the goals, objectives and operational priorities of the Organization, and calls upon the Dag Hammarskjöld Library to work with the other member libraries to devise a new statement of strategy for library services and to replace the former Steering Committee with the Steering Committee for Libraries of the United Nations focused on practical cooperation among the library services;

81. *Reiterates* the need to maintain a multilingual collection of books, periodicals and other materials in both hard copy and electronic formats, accessible to Member States and others, as specified in paragraph 83 of the present resolution, ensuring that the Dag Hammarskjöld Library continues to be a broadly accessible resource for information about the United Nations and its activities, including through a multilingual home page, from within existing resources;

82. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, in its capacity as the focal point, to expand the scope of the regional training and knowledge-sharing workshops organized for the depository libraries in developing countries to include outreach in their activities;

83. *Acknowledges* the role of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in enhancing knowledge-sharing and networking activities to ensure access to the vast store of United Nations knowledge for delegates, permanent missions of Member States, the Secretariat, researchers and depository libraries worldwide;

84. *Notes* the efforts of the iSeek team, through the intranet, to raise awareness among staff members of new initiatives and developments in different departments of the Secretariat, and reiterates its request to the Department of Public Information to work out, as a matter of priority, a strategy for Member States to also benefit from these new developments;

VI Outreach services

85. *Stresses* that the central objective of the outreach and knowledge services implemented by the Department of Public Information is to promote awareness of the role and work of the United Nations by fostering dialogue with global constituencies, such as academia, civil society, educators, students and youth, with the overall emphasis on multilingualism from the planning stage, in close collaboration with the substantive departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations;

86. *Notes with serious concern* that many outreach and knowledge services are not yet available in all official languages, and in this regard urges the Department of Public Information, as a matter of priority, to mainstream multilingualism into all outreach and knowledge services, bearing in mind the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations and ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of the Department, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages;

87. *Encourages* the United Nations Academic Impact to take effective steps to facilitate exchanges between the United Nations and institutions of higher education in all regions to support the common principles and goals of the United Nations, while recognizing the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its constitution;

88. *Notes* the continued growth of the United Nations Academic Impact, calls upon the Department of Public Information to promote global awareness of the Academic Impact in order to encourage balanced participation among Member States and their continued support for the initiative, within existing resources, and encourages Member States to promote the initiative among their academic institutions with a view to their joining it, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/234 of 20 December 2013;

89. *Welcomes* the educational outreach activities of the Department of Public Information, through the Global Teaching and Learning Project, and requests the Department to continue to reach educators and young people worldwide through a range of multilingual multimedia platforms;

90. *Notes* the importance of the continued implementation by the Department of Public Information of the ongoing Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as mandated by the General Assembly, and requests the Department to consider how best to maximize the benefits derived from the Programme by extending, inter alia, its duration and the number of its participants;

91. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information to make the *UN Chronicle* available in paperless editions only, with a view to expanding the service to all six official languages within existing resources, and requests the Department to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session on progress in this matter;

92. *Welcomes* the movement towards educational outreach and the orientation of the *UN Chronicle*, and to this end encourages the *UN Chronicle* to continue to develop partnerships and collaborative educational activities and events with civil society organizations and institutions of higher learning;

93. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that, in view of their income-generating nature, guided tours at United Nations Headquarters are consistently available in all six official languages of the United Nations;

94. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to also offer guided tours at United Nations Headquarters in non-official languages;

95. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to strengthen its role as a focal point

for two-way interaction with civil society relating to the priorities and concerns of the Organization identified by Member States, and also notes in this regard the increasing involvement of civil society in United Nations activities, including the outreach activities directed at youth representatives and young journalists;

96. *Recalls* its resolution 41/68 D of 3 December 1986, commends the World Federation of United Nations Associations and its more than 100 national United Nations associations for the valuable contributions they have made during the past 68 years through their global activities in the mobilization of popular support for the United Nations, and calls for continued collaboration between the World Federation and the Department of Public Information in support of their complementary objectives;

97. *Commends*, in a spirit of cooperation, the United Nations Correspondents Association for its ongoing activities and for its Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund, which sponsors journalists from developing countries to come to United Nations Headquarters and report on the activities during the sessions of the General Assembly, and further encourages the international community to continue its financial support for the Fund;

98. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts and contribution of United Nations Messengers of Peace, Goodwill Ambassadors and other advocates to promote the work of the United Nations and to enhance international public awareness of its priorities and concerns, and calls upon the Department of Public Information to continue to involve them in its global communications and media strategies and outreach activities;

VII

Final remarks

99. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-seventh session and to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of all recommendations and requests contained in the present resolution;

100. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that the level of services provided by the Department of Public Information is maintained throughout the period of the implementation of the capital master plan;

101. *Notes* the initiative taken by the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security and the Protocol and Liaison Service of the Secretariat, during the annual general debate of the General Assembly, to issue special identification stickers to press officers of Member States to enable them to escort media covering the visits of high-level officials to restricted areas, and strongly urges the Secretary-General to continue to improve this practice by acceding to the request by Member States to provide the needed number of additional passes to press officers of Member States to allow their access to all areas that are deemed restricted, in order to effectively and comprehensively report on high-level meetings that include officials of delegations of Member States;

102. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

103. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

PART TWO

Human rights

Promotion of human rights

In 2014, the United Nations continued efforts to promote human rights worldwide. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allowed individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two protocols, entered into force on 14 April, and in November, the General Assembly convened a high-level meeting on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention. In other activities, an initiative of the Secretary-General, Human Rights Up Front, aimed at strengthening prevention of serious violations, was beginning to identify potential problems earlier.

The Human Rights Council examined the human rights record of 42 Member States through the universal periodic review mechanism, designed to assess the human rights record of all States every four years. During the year, the Council held three regular sessions (twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh). The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, which provided expertise to the Council, held its twelfth and thirteenth sessions and made 13 recommendations, while the Council's complaint procedure, which consisted of the Working Group on Communications and the Working Group on Situations, addressed consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested human rights violations around the world.

In June, the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General's appointment of Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan) as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and he began his four-year term on 1 September. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights continued to provide support to the work of the Council and its mechanisms, including the treaty bodies and special procedures, while strengthening its country engagement and expanding its presence at the country and regional levels. A notable trend was the continued and growing demand for the Office to deliver on multiple fronts.

During the year, the Council adopted the plan of action for the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2015–2019). The General Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) and proclaimed 13 June as "International Albinism Awareness Day".

UN machinery

Human Rights Council

Council sessions

During the year the Human Rights Council held its twenty-fifth (3–28 March) [A/HRC/25/2], twenty-sixth (10–27 June) [A/HRC/26/2] and twenty-seventh (8–26 September) [A/HRC/27/2] regular sessions. The Council also held three special sessions: its twentieth (20 January) [A/HRC/S-20/2], on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic and technical assistance in the field of human rights (see p. 893); twenty-first (23 July) [A/HRC/S-21/2], on ensuring respect for international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (see p. 929); and twenty-second (1 September) [A/HRC/S-22/4], on the human rights situation in Iraq in the light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups (see p. 915). All sessions were held in Geneva.

The Council adopted 105 resolutions, 47 decisions and six President's statements, and brought to the attention of the General Assembly six resolutions for its consideration and possible action. The resolutions, decisions and statements adopted during the Council's 2014 sessions were contained in its reports to the Assembly [A/69/53 & Add.1 & Corr.1, 2].

On 15 September (**decision 68/668**), the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of Human Rights Council resolution 24/24 [YUN 2013, p. 591] until its sixty-ninth (2014) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/483], adopted **resolution 69/155** by recorded vote (125-2-56) [agenda item 63].

Report of the Human Rights Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006, by which it established the Human Rights Council, and 65/281 of 17 June 2011 on the review of the Council,

Recalling also its resolutions 62/219 of 22 December 2007, 63/160 of 18 December 2008, 64/143 of 18 Decem-

ber 2009, 65/195 of 21 December 2010, 66/136 of 19 December 2011, 67/151 of 20 December 2012 and 68/144 of 18 December 2013,

Having considered the recommendations contained in the report of the Human Rights Council,

Takes note of the report of the Human Rights Council, including the addendum thereto, and its recommendations.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/155:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Belarus, Israel.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Election of Council members

On 21 October, by **decision 69/403**, the General Assembly, pursuant to resolutions 60/251 [YUN 2006, p. 757] and 65/281 [YUN 2011, p. 607], elected the following 15 countries as members of the Human Rights Council for a three-year term of office beginning 1 January 2015: Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, the Congo, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Latvia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Paraguay, Portugal and Qatar. They would fill the vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of Austria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, Peru, the Philippines and Romania. The Council comprised 47 members.

Universal Periodic Review

The Human Rights Council established the universal periodic review (UPR) [YUN 2007, p. 663] as an instrument for assessing every four years the human rights records of all Member States. Each review, conducted by the UPR Working Group, was facilitated by groups of three States, or "troikas", acting as rapporteurs.

Working Group sessions. The UPR Working Group, made up of the 47 Council members, held its eighteenth (27 January–7 February) [A/HRC/26/2], nineteenth (28 April–9 May) [A/HRC/27/2] and twentieth (27 October–7 November) [A/HRC/28/2] sessions in Geneva. It reviewed 42 countries in the order of consideration determined by the Council in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 663]. As provided for in Council resolution 5/1 [ibid.], the review was based on a national report prepared by the State under review; a compilation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of information about the human rights situation in the State concerned, as reported by treaty bodies and special procedures; and a summary by OHCHR of credible information from other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

At its eighteenth session, the Working Group considered and adopted reports on New Zealand [A/HRC/26/3], Afghanistan [A/HRC/26/4], Chile [A/HRC/26/5], Viet Nam [A/HRC/26/6], Uruguay [A/HRC/26/7], Yemen [A/HRC/26/8], Vanuatu [A/HRC/26/9], Macedonia [A/HRC/26/10], the Comoros [A/HRC/26/11], Slovakia [A/HRC/26/12], Eritrea [A/HRC/26/13], Cyprus [A/HRC/26/14], the Dominican Republic [A/HRC/26/15 & Corr.1] and Cambodia [A/HRC/26/16]. The reports summarized the presentation by the State under review; the interactive dialogue in the Working Group between State and Council; the response by the State; and the conclusions on, and/or recommendations to, the State under review. The outcome of the review comprised the report of the Working Group and the views of the State under review about the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue.

Responses were submitted by New Zealand [A/HRC/26/3/Add.1], Afghanistan [A/HRC/26/4/Add.1], Chile [A/HRC/26/5/Add.1], Viet Nam [A/HRC/26/6/Add.1], Uruguay [A/HRC/26/7/Add.1], Vanuatu [A/HRC/26/9/Add.1], Macedonia [A/HRC/26/10/Add.1], the Comoros [A/HRC/26/11/Add.1], Slovakia [A/HRC/26/12/Add.1], Eritrea [A/HRC/26/13/Add.1], Cyprus [A/HRC/26/14/Add.1], the Dominican Republic [A/HRC/26/15/Add.1] and Cambodia [A/HRC/26/16/Add.1].

At its nineteenth session, the Working Group considered and adopted reports on Norway [A/HRC/27/3], Albania [A/HRC/27/4], the Democratic Republic of the Congo [A/HRC/27/5], Côte d'Ivoire [A/HRC/27/6], Portugal [A/HRC/27/7], Bhutan [A/HRC/27/8], Dominica [A/HRC/27/9], the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[A/HRC/27/10], Brunei Darussalam [A/HRC/27/11], Costa Rica [A/HRC/27/12], Equatorial Guinea [A/HRC/27/13], Ethiopia [A/HRC/27/14], Qatar [A/HRC/27/15] and Nicaragua [A/HRC/27/16].

Responses were submitted by Norway [A/HRC/27/3/Add.1], Albania [A/HRC/27/4/Add.1], Côte d'Ivoire [A/HRC/27/6/Add.1], Portugal [A/HRC/27/7/Add.1], Bhutan [A/HRC/27/8/Add.1], the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [A/HRC/27/10/Add.1], Brunei Darussalam [A/HRC/27/11/Add.1], Costa Rica [A/HRC/27/12/Add.1], Equatorial Guinea [A/HRC/27/13/Add.1], Ethiopia [A/HRC/27/14/Add.1], Qatar [A/HRC/27/15/Add.1] and Nicaragua [A/HRC/27/16/Add.1].

At its twentieth session, the Working Group considered and adopted reports on Italy [A/HRC/28/4], El Salvador [A/HRC/28/5], the Gambia [A/HRC/28/6], Bolivia [A/HRC/28/7], Fiji [A/HRC/28/8], San Marino [A/HRC/28/9], Kazakhstan [A/HRC/28/10], Angola [A/HRC/28/11], Iran [A/HRC/28/12], Madagascar [A/HRC/28/13], Iraq [A/HRC/28/14], Slovenia [A/HRC/28/15], Egypt [A/HRC/28/16] and Bosnia and Herzegovina [A/HRC/28/17].

Responses were submitted by Italy [A/HRC/28/4/Add.1], El Salvador [A/HRC/28/5/Add.1], the Gambia [A/HRC/28/6/Add.1], Bolivia [A/HRC/28/7/Add.1], Fiji [A/HRC/28/8/Add.1], San Marino [A/HRC/28/9/Add.1], Kazakhstan [A/HRC/28/10/Add.1], Angola [A/HRC/28/11/Add.1], Iran [A/HRC/28/12/Add.1], Madagascar [A/HRC/28/13/Add.1], Iraq [A/HRC/28/14/Add.1], Slovenia [A/HRC/28/15/Add.1], Egypt [A/HRC/28/16/Add.1] and Bosnia and Herzegovina [A/HRC/28/17/Add.1].

Human Rights Council action. At its twenty-fifth session [A/HRC/25/2], the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the seventeenth session of the Working Group [YUN 2013, p. 593]. The Council adopted, through standardized decisions, the outcomes of the reviews on Saudi Arabia [dec. 25/101], Senegal [dec. 25/102], Nigeria [dec. 25/103], Mexico [dec. 25/104], Mauritius [dec. 25/105], Jordan [dec. 25/106], Malaysia [dec. 25/107], the Central African Republic [dec. 25/108], Belize [dec. 25/109], Chad [dec. 25/110], China [dec. 25/111], Monaco [dec. 25/112], the Congo [dec. 25/113], Malta [dec. 25/114] and Israel [dec. 25/115].

At its twenty-sixth session [A/HRC/26/2], the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the eighteenth session of the Working Group. The Council adopted the outcomes of the reviews on New Zealand [dec. 26/101], Afghanistan [dec. 26/102], Chile [dec. 26/103], Uruguay [dec. 26/104], Yemen [dec. 26/105], Vanuatu [dec. 26/106], Macedonia [dec. 26/107], Comoros [dec. 26/108], Slovakia [dec. 26/109], Eritrea [dec. 26/110], Cyprus [dec. 26/111], the Dominican Republic [dec. 26/112], Viet Nam [dec. 26/113] and Cambodia [dec. 26/114].

At its twenty-seventh session [A/HRC/27/2], the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the nineteenth session of the Working Group. The Council adopted the outcomes of the

reviews on Norway [dec. 27/101], Albania [dec. 27/102], the Democratic Republic of the Congo [dec. 27/103], Côte d'Ivoire [dec. 27/104], Portugal [dec. 27/105], Bhutan [dec. 27/106], Dominica [dec. 27/107], the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [dec. 27/108], Brunei Darussalam [dec. 27/109], Costa Rica [dec. 27/110], Equatorial Guinea [dec. 27/111], Ethiopia [dec. 27/112], Qatar [dec. 27/113] and Nicaragua [dec. 27/114].

Reports of High Commissioner. In her annual report [A/69/36], the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay (South Africa), noted that the second cycle of the UPR continued with a 100 per cent rate of participation during 2013 and 2014 with an average of 120 recommendations issued per country. As at July 2014, more than 20,000 recommendations had been indexed.

In a December report [A/HRC/28/3], the newly appointed High Commissioner, Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan) (see p. 753), noted that the UPR had reached the middle of its second cycle in November, and all 112 States scheduled for consideration had participated, most at a high level. The review focused on progress made since the first cycle. The challenge was to follow up on the growing number of recommendations and keeping the overall objective of bringing about impact on the ground.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/29)], the Council encouraged States to promote the involvement of parliaments in all stages of the UPR reporting process; welcomed the growing practice by States under review of including parliamentarians in their national delegations to the UPR and encouraged States to continue that practice; and invited the High Commissioner to provide the Council with regular updates on the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on parliamentary capacity-building, as well as on its activities with regard to the work of the Council and its UPR.

Voluntary funds

OHCHR reports. In April [A/HRC/26/54], OHCHR, in accordance with Council decision 17/119 [YUN 2011, p. 613], provided an update on the operations of the Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the UPR [YUN 2007, p. 663], established to be administered jointly with the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR [ibid.] (see below) to provide assistance to help countries implement recommendations emanating from the UPR. The report reviewed contributions and expenditures as at 31 December 2013, provided a description of action taken since the previous report [YUN 2013, p. 594] to operationalize the Fund and described activities to be funded during 2014. In 2012 and 2013, the Fund received voluntary contributions from four countries totalling \$1,722,332, while expenditures amounted to \$1,169,271. The balance of the fund as at 31 December 2013 was \$1,813,869.

In March [A/HRC/25/36], in accordance with Council resolution 16/22 [YUN 2011, p. 638], OHCHR provided an update on the operations of the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR and on resources available to it as at 31 December 2013. In 2013, the Fund received voluntary contributions from five countries totalling \$338,993, while expenditures amounted to \$209,733. The balance of the fund as at 31 December 2013 stood at \$2,166,128.

Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, a think-tank for the Council composed of 18 experts serving in their personal capacity, held its twelfth (24–28 February [A/HRC/AC/12/2] and thirteenth (11–15 August) [A/HRC/AC/13/2 & Corr.1] sessions in Geneva. At its twelfth session, the Committee requested an extension of time to submit a progress and final report on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations, respectively, to the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/1]; and to submit an interim and final report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/3]. The Committee also requested its relevant drafting group to submit the progress report on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights to the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) session [rec. 12/2], and to submit to the Committee's thirteenth (2014) session draft progress reports on: promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal [rec. 12/4]; the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights [rec. 12/5] (see below); the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights [rec. 12/6]; and the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism [rec. 12/7]. Follow-up to reports of the Committee submitted to the Council dealt with the right to food, and promotion of the right of peoples to peace.

At its thirteenth session, the Committee requested its relevant drafting group to finalize and submit to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session, the reports on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations [rec. 13/1]; the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights [rec. 13/2]; the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights [rec. 13/5]; and the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism [rec. 13/6]. It also recommended that the Council request the Committee to submit final reports on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal [rec. 13/3] and on the role of local government in the promotion and protection

of human rights [rec. 13/4] to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session. The Committee submitted research proposals on: the impact of settler colonialism on human rights; whistle-blowing and human rights; the activities of vulture funds and human rights; preserving international watercourses to protect the right to life and food; and unaccompanied child migration and human rights [rec. 13/7]. It resubmitted research proposals on: the possibility of establishing a universal human rights court; citizens' security and human rights; and youth and human rights. The Committee also adopted decisions on its methods of work [rec. 13/8]. Follow-up reports of the Committee submitted to the Council dealt with the right to food and the promotion of the right of peoples to peace.

In September, the Advisory Committee submitted a progress report [A/HRC/27/59] on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, which contained a preliminary analysis of the issues relating to the topic.

Secretariat note. By a 25 June note [A/HRC/27/62], the secretariat advised that the annual report of the Advisory Committee, consisting of the reports of the Committee on its twelfth and thirteenth (2014) sessions, would be considered at the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session and would be the subject of an interactive dialogue with the Committee Chairperson.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/4)], the Council requested the Committee to continue its research and to submit at the Council's thirtieth (2015) session a final report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the main challenges faced by local governments in that context, and to make recommendations on tackling those challenges based on best practices in human rights mainstreaming in local administration and public services.

By a President's statement of 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (PRST/27/2)], the Council took note of the reports of the Advisory Committee on its twelfth and thirteenth (2014) sessions and noted that the Committee had made certain research proposals.

Complaint procedure

The complaint procedure of the Human Rights Council comprised of the Working Group on Communications, which examined communications of alleged violations and assessed their merits, and the Working Group on Situations, which, on the recommendation of the Working Group on Communications, reported to the Council on consistent patterns of gross violations and recommended a course of action.

Working Group on Communications. The five-member Working Group on Communications held its fourteenth (28 April–2 May) [A/HRC/WG.5/14/R.2],

and fifteenth (18–22 August) [A/HRC/WG.5/15/R.2] sessions in Geneva.

At its fourteenth session, the Working Group on Communications considered 10 communications relating to eight States, including seven new communications regarding seven countries. In addition to the new communications, the Working Group also had before it three communications that had been kept pending at its thirteenth session [YUN 2013, p. 595]. The Working Group received Government replies in relation to all 10 communications. Additional information was received from two complainants and a national human rights institution in relation to three communications.

The Working Group adopted 10 decisions. Decisions were taken on all seven new files, as well as on three files kept under review. The Working Group decided to transmit two files relating to two countries to the Working Group on Situations (Kazakhstan, Mexico), and to keep under review until its next session seven files relating to six States (Belgium, Chad, China, India, Turkey, United States of America), requesting further information from those Governments. It discontinued its consideration of one file relating to one country (United States of America).

At its fifteenth session, the Working Group had before it 11 communications relating to 10 States, including three communications deemed admissible related to three countries (Oman, Sri Lanka, Ukraine); one additional communication concerning one country (Lebanon); and seven communications on six countries (Belgium, Chad, China, India, Turkey, United States of America). The Working Group received Government replies in relation to seven communications. Additional information was received from two authors in relation to two communications. The Working Group adopted 11 decisions. It decided to transmit to the Working Group on Situations one file relating to one country (Sri Lanka) and to keep under review until its next session seven files relating to seven States (Chad, China, India, Lebanon, Oman, Ukraine, United States of America), requesting some Governments and complainants for further information. It discontinued three communications relating to two countries (Belgium, Turkey).

Working Group on Situations. The five-member Working Group on Situations held its thirteenth (10–13 February) [A/HRC/WG.1/13/R.2 & Corr.1] and fourteenth (30 June–4 July) [A/HRC/WG.1/14/R.2] sessions in Geneva.

At its thirteenth session, the Working Group had before it dossiers relating to the human rights situations in Cameroon, Colombia, Pakistan, the United States of America and Viet Nam. The material consisted of texts of communications, with Government replies, as well as UPR documents and concluding observations of treaty bodies relating to the States

concerned. The Working Group referred the case regarding Cameroon to the Council's twenty-fifth (2014) session. It decided to keep under review until its next session cases concerning Colombia, Pakistan, the United States of America and Viet Nam.

At its fourteenth session, the Working Group had before it dossiers relating to Colombia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Pakistan, the United States of America and Viet Nam. The Working Group did not refer any cases to the Council. It decided to keep under review until its next session the cases of Kazakhstan and Viet Nam, and dismissed the cases on Colombia, Mexico, Pakistan and the United States of America.

Human Rights Council action. In March [A/HRC/25/2] and September [A/HRC/27/2], the Council held closed meetings of the complaint procedure and examined the human rights situation in Cameroon. In September, it decided to discontinue the consideration of the situation in Cameroon.

Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights

Appointment. On 16 June, the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General's appointment of Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini (Jordan) as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a four-year term, beginning on 1 September 2014 (**decision 68/420**).

Reports of High Commissioner. In her final annual report to the General Assembly [A/69/36], covering activities since the previous report [YUN 2013, p. 595], the High Commissioner, Navanethem Pillay, noted that the period under review confirmed the positive trends featured in previous reports, notably the steadily increasing attention to human rights in the context of peace, security and development by a growing number of States and intergovernmental bodies, as well as the determination within the United Nations to mainstream human rights throughout the work of the Organization, as illustrated by the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front plan of action, and his policies on the human rights due diligence and human rights screening of UN personnel. Another trend was the continued and growing demand for OHCHR to deliver on multiple fronts. On the other hand, long-lasting challenges hampered the protection of human rights, including prolonged or chronic violence and conflicts; persistent economic and social crises, poverty and deprivation; discrimination, inequality and intolerance on many grounds; and restrictions and attacks on civil society, human rights defenders and whistle-blowers in all regions. The Office continued to implement its six thematic priorities for 2014–2017: strengthening international human rights mechanisms; enhancing equality and countering discrimination; combating

impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law; integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere; early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity; and a new thematic priority for OHCHR, widening the democratic space.

In his first annual report to the Council [A/HRC/28/3], covering 2014, the newly appointed High Commissioner, Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, stated that the Office conducted monitoring missions, issued public reports on human rights developments in various States, and deployed teams to provide advice on human rights responses in crisis situations. It also delivered a considerable number of technical assistance activities upon the request of States. He highlighted the growing trend of requests for OHCHR support, which had continued with the creation of new mandates from intergovernmental bodies, calls for technical assistance from States, and intensified engagement within the UN system in the security, development and humanitarian contexts, including with respect to the Human Rights Up Front plan of action. With regard to the plan of action, which was in its infancy, the United Nations was beginning to identify potential problems earlier, and in severe situations, human rights were given more system-wide attention. Noting the significant gap between the increasing demands and the capacity available, the High Commissioner called for renewed political and financial support for States. As at November, OHCHR supported 67 field presences: 13 country/stand-alone offices, 14 human rights components of UN peace missions, 12 regional offices/centres and 28 human rights advisers with UN country teams.

Composition of staff

Report of High Commissioner. As requested by the Human Rights Council in resolution 22/2 [YUN 2013, p. 596], the High Commissioner in June reported [A/HRC/27/18] on the composition of OHCHR staff and on further efforts to correct the imbalance and achieve equitable geographical representation. As at 31 December 2013, OHCHR had 579 staff members in the Professional category and above, of whom 503 were considered regular staff; 49 per cent from Western Europe and other States, 15.8 per cent from Africa, 14 per cent from Asia, 13 per cent from Latin America and the Caribbean and 8.2 per cent from Eastern Europe. Nationals from 117 countries were represented in the Professional and above workforce, in both geographical and non-geographical posts. Of those 117 nationalities, 14 were underrepresented, 81 were considered within range and 22 were overrepresented. Women accounted for 54.6 per cent of all staff at the Professional and above level.

Secretariat note. By a 25 June note [A/HRC/27/19], the secretariat advised that the follow-up review of

OHCHR management and administration, in particular with regard to its recruitment policies and the composition of the staff, which was mandated by Council resolution 22/2, had been included in the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) 2014 programme of work and was well under way. Due to JIU procedural requirements, however, it was not feasible for the Unit to submit the results of the review to the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session, and that it would do so at the twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Other aspects

Good governance

Report of High Commissioner. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 19/20 [YUN 2012, p. 598], the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/25/27] on the role of the public service as an essential component of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, which highlighted the major challenges and presented a compilation of good practices based on submissions received from States, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, an NGO and an observer to the United Nations. The report concluded with a number of practical measures that could be adopted to further the implementation of a human rights approach to public services. It also highlighted the need for human rights-based policy coherence and coordination to support public service improvements globally and for better synergy between international financial institutions and UN mechanisms.

Advisory Committee report. Pursuant to Council resolution 23/9 [YUN 2013, p. 596], the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, in May, submitted a progress report [A/HRC/26/42] on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, which provided an update on its preparation, including responses received from various stakeholders to a questionnaire that had been circulated and discussions on the preliminary research-based report [A/HRC/AC/12/CRP.3] at the Committee's twelfth (2014) session (see p. 752). The Committee was encouraged to continue its work on the draft report.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/8)], the Human Rights Council requested the High Commissioner to organize, at its thirtieth (2015) session, a panel discussion on a human rights-based approach to good governance in the public service and to present a summary report at its thirty-first (2015) session.

On 26 June [A/69/53 (dec. 26/115)], the Council, noting the Advisory Committee's request at its twelfth (2014) session to extend the time schedule for the research-based report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to allow for analysis of the numerous responses received

to the questionnaire and for better informed work, requested the Committee to submit the final report at the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Role of prevention

OHCHR report. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/16 [YUN 2013, p. 597], OHCHR convened at the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session a panel discussion on the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights (Geneva, 18 September) and submitted a summary report [A/HRC/28/30] on its outcome. Participants agreed that, while there were mechanisms and tools for prevention at the national and international levels, their implementation was patchy and needed to be improved. There was general support for the idea to further develop the concept of prevention through evidence-based research. In addition to accountability and action to combat impunity and implement the rule of law, other conditions highlighted for the effective prevention of human rights violations included tackling risk factors and providing good governance and a democratic system.

Human rights instruments

In 2014, nine UN human rights instruments were in force with expert bodies monitoring their implementation. Those instruments and their treaty bodies were: the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination [YUN 1965, p. 440, GA res. 2106 A (XX)] (Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination); the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto [YUN 1966, p. 423, GA res. 2200 A (XXI)] and the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty [YUN 1989, p. 484, GA res. 44/128] (Human Rights Committee); the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights [YUN 1966, p. 419, GA res. 2200 A (XXI)] and the Optional Protocol thereto [YUN 2008, p. 729, GA res. 63/117] (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights); the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [YUN 1979, p. 895, GA res. 34/180] and Optional Protocol thereto [YUN 1999, p. 1100, GA res. 54/4] (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women); the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment [YUN 1984, p. 813, GA res. 39/46] and the Optional Protocol thereto [YUN 2002, p. 631, GA res. 57/199] (Committee against Torture and Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture); the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child [YUN 1989, p. 560, GA res. 44/25] and the Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the

sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography [YUN 2000, pp. 616 & 618, GA res. 54/263] (Committee on the Rights of the Child); the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families [YUN 1990, p. 594, GA res. 45/158] (Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families); the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto [YUN 2006, p. 785, GA res. 61/106] (Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities); and the 2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance [ibid., p. 800, GA res. 61/177] (Committee on Enforced Disappearances).

The 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide [YUN 1948–49, p. 959, GA res. 260 A (III)] did not establish a treaty body, but the mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide [YUN 2004, p. 730] included collecting information on situations where there might be a risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; alerting relevant actors where such a risk existed; and advocating and mobilizing for appropriate action.

Effective implementation of international human rights instruments

Secretariat note. By a 9 December note [A/HRC/28/21], the secretariat advised that due to overlapping reporting obligations resulting from a request in resolution 68/268 (see p. 756), submission of the Secretary-General's report on the effective implementation of international human rights instruments, pursuant to Council resolution 9/8 [YUN 2008, p. 725], was postponed until the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session.

Report of Third Committee. On 3 December [A/69/488/Add.1], the Third Committee of the General Assembly reported on the implementation of human rights instruments.

On 18 December, the General Assembly took note of the report (**decision 69/534**).

Intergovernmental process

Open-ended intergovernmental process. In April, the General Assembly President transmitted a report [A/68/832] of the co-facilitators on the open-ended intergovernmental process to conduct open, transparent and inclusive negotiations on how to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. The co-facilitators—Greta Gunnarsdottir (Iceland) and Mohamed Khaled Khiari (Tunisia)—reported on their activities during the resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session of the General Assembly, including informal

meetings, bilateral consultations and discussions and continued engagement with the Chairs of treaty bodies. The process was concluded on 11 February when the co-facilitators submitted the final text to the Assembly President. The report provided an overview of the 34 issues discussed in the intergovernmental process. The narrative on each issue reflected the proposal put to the intergovernmental process, and was followed by a conclusion that was based on the views of the co-facilitators after their consultations with States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 April [meeting 81], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/268** [draft: A/68/L.37] without vote [agenda item 125].

Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments,

Underlining the obligation that States have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights, including under international human rights treaties,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985,

Recalling also its resolution 66/254 of 23 February 2012, by which it launched the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, and its resolutions 66/295 of 17 September 2012 and 68/2 of 20 September 2013, by which it extended the intergovernmental process,

Recalling further its relevant resolutions on the human rights treaty bodies,

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of international human rights instruments by States parties is of major importance for the efforts of the United Nations to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

Recognizing the important, valuable and unique role and contribution of each of the human rights treaty bodies in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through their examination of the progress made by States parties to the respective human rights treaties in fulfilling their relevant obligations and their provision of recommendations to States parties on the implementation of such treaties,

Reaffirming the importance of the independence of the human rights treaty bodies,

Reaffirming also that the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies is essential for

the performance of their duties and responsibilities in line with the respective treaties, and recalling the requirement that they be individuals of high moral standing serving in their personal capacity,

Recognizing that States have a legal obligation under the international human rights treaties to which they are party to periodically submit to the relevant human rights treaty bodies reports on the measures they have taken to give effect to the provisions of the relevant treaties, and noting the need to increase the level of compliance in this regard,

Recognizing also that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and be aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Emphasizing the importance of multilingualism in the activities of the United Nations, including those linked to the promotion and protection of human rights, and reaffirming the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations for the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies,

Recognizing that the current allocation of resources has not allowed the human rights treaty body system to work in a sustainable and effective manner, and in this regard also recognizing the importance of providing, under the existing procedures of the General Assembly, adequate funding to the human rights treaty body system from the regular budget of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the importance of continued efforts to improve the efficiency of the working methods of the human rights treaty body system,

Recognizing further the importance and added value of capacity-building and technical assistance provided in consultation with and with the consent of the States parties concerned to ensure the full and effective implementation of and compliance with the international human rights treaties,

Recalling that certain international human rights instruments include provisions regarding the venue of the meetings of the committees, and mindful of the importance of the full engagement of all States parties in the interactive dialogue with the human rights treaty bodies,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on measures to improve further the effectiveness, harmonization and reform of the human rights treaty body system,

Noting with appreciation the initiative and efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the form of a multi-stakeholder consultation approach for reflecting on how to streamline and strengthen the human rights treaty body system,

Noting that the multi-stakeholder approach consisted of a number of meetings involving representatives of Member States, human rights treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and academia, including events hosted by a number of Member States,

Taking note of the report of the High Commissioner on strengthening the United Nations human rights treaty body system, which includes recommendations addressed to different stakeholders,

Taking note also of the report of the co-facilitators on the open-ended intergovernmental process on how to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the President of the General Assembly and the co-facilitators in the framework of the intergovernmental process,

Noting the participation and contributions of Member States in the intergovernmental process, as well as experts of the human rights treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and non-governmental organizations,

Emphasizing that strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system is a common goal shared by stakeholders who have different legal competencies in accordance with the Charter and the international human rights instruments establishing treaty bodies, and recognizing in this regard the ongoing efforts of different treaty bodies towards strengthening and enhancing their effective functioning,

1. *Encourages* the human rights treaty bodies to offer to States parties for their consideration the simplified reporting procedure and to set a limit on the number of the questions included;

2. *Encourages* States parties to consider the possibility of using the simplified reporting procedure, when offered, to facilitate the preparation of their reports and the interactive dialogue on the implementation of their treaty obligations;

3. *Also encourages* States parties to consider submitting a common core document and updating it as appropriate, as a comprehensive document or in the form of an addendum to the original document, bearing in mind the most recent developments in the particular State party, and in this regard encourages the human rights treaty bodies to further elaborate their existing guidelines on the common core document in a clear and consistent manner;

4. *Decides*, without prejudice to the formulation of the annual report of each human rights treaty body as laid out in the respective treaty, that the annual reports of treaty bodies are not to contain documents published separately and referenced therein;

5. *Encourages* the human rights treaty bodies to collaborate towards the elaboration of an aligned methodology for their constructive dialogue with the States parties, bearing in mind the views of States parties as well as the specificity of the respective committees and of their mandates, with the aim of making the dialogue more effective, maximizing the use of the time available and allowing for a more interactive and productive dialogue with States parties;

6. *Also encourages* the human rights treaty bodies to adopt short, focused and concrete concluding observations, including the recommendations therein, that reflect the dialogue with the relevant State party, and to this end further encourages them to develop common guidelines for the elaboration of such concluding observations, bearing in mind the specificity of the respective committees and of their mandates, as well as the views of States parties;

7. *Recommends* the more efficient and effective use of the meetings of States parties, inter alia, by proposing and organizing discussions on matters related to the implementation of each treaty;

8. *Strongly condemns* all acts of intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups for their contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies, and urges States to take all appropriate action, consistent with the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individ-

uals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and all other relevant human rights instruments, to prevent and eliminate such human rights violations;

9. *Encourages* the human rights treaty bodies to continue to enhance their efforts towards achieving greater efficiency, transparency, effectiveness and harmonization through their working methods, within their respective mandates, and in this regard encourages the treaty bodies to continue to review good practices regarding the application of rules of procedure and working methods in their ongoing efforts towards strengthening and enhancing their effective functioning, bearing in mind that these activities should fall under the provisions of the respective treaties, thus not creating new obligations for States parties;

10. *Encourages* States parties to continue their efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty, and, as appropriate, to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies;

11. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council consider replacing the existing procedure for the election of experts to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with a meeting of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, while preserving the current structure, organization and administrative arrangement of the Committee as set forth in Council resolution 1985/17;

12. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to include in the documentation prepared for elections of members of human rights treaty bodies at meetings of States parties an information note on the current situation with respect to the composition of the treaty body, reflecting the balance in terms of geographical distribution and gender representation, professional background and different legal systems, as well as the tenure of current members;

13. *Encourages* States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies;

14. *Encourages* the human rights treaty bodies to develop an aligned consultation process for the elaboration of general comments that provides for consultation with States parties in particular and bears in mind the views of other stakeholders during the elaboration of new general comments;

15. *Decides*, in line with established practice with respect to other United Nations documentation, to establish a limit of 10,700 words for each document produced by the human rights treaty bodies, and further recommends that word limits also be applied for relevant stakeholders;

16. *Also decides* to establish word limits for all State party documentation submitted to the human rights treaty body system, including State party reports, of 31,800 words for initial reports, 21,200 words for subsequent periodic reports and 42,400 words for common core documents, as endorsed by the human rights treaty bodies, and calls upon

the treaty bodies to set a limit on the number of questions posed, focusing on areas seen as priority issues to ensure the ability of States parties to meet the aforementioned word limits;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office of the High Commissioner, to support States parties in building the capacity to implement their treaty obligations and to provide in this regard advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, in line with the mandate of the Office, in consultation with and with the consent of the State concerned, by:

(a) Deploying a dedicated human rights capacity-building officer in every regional office of the Office of the High Commissioner, as required;

(b) Strengthening cooperation with relevant regional human rights mechanisms within regional organizations to provide technical assistance to States in reporting to human rights treaty bodies, including through the training of trainers;

(c) Developing a roster of experts on treaty body reporting, reflecting geographical distribution and gender representation, professional background and different legal systems;

(d) Providing direct assistance to States parties at the national level by building and developing institutional capacity for reporting and strengthening technical knowledge through ad hoc training on reporting guidelines at the national level;

(e) Facilitating the sharing of best practices among States parties;

18. *Underlines* the need to provide further support to States parties through, inter alia, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and in conjunction with the provision of technical assistance, with a focus on measures to build sustainable capacity in their activities to fulfil their treaty obligations, and encourages all Member States to contribute to the Fund;

19. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and United Nations country teams, in line with their respective mandates and at the request of States parties, to assist States parties in fulfilling their obligations under international human rights treaties through:

(a) The provision of advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building to States parties for the preparation of reports to human rights treaty bodies;

(b) The development of programmatic responses, in close coordination with the relevant States parties, to support their compliance with treaty obligations;

20. *Recognizes* that some States parties consider that they would benefit from improved coordination of reporting at the national level, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to include among its technical assistance activities relevant assistance in this regard, at the request of a State party, based on best practices;

21. *Encourages* Member States to provide voluntary funds to facilitate the engagement of States parties, in particular those without representation in Geneva, with the human rights treaty bodies;

22. *Decides*, in principle, with the aim of enhancing the accessibility and visibility of the human rights treaty bodies and in line with the report of the Committee on

Information on its thirty-fifth session, to webcast, as soon as feasible, the public meetings of the treaty bodies, and requests the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to report on the feasibility of providing, in all of the official languages used in the respective committees, live webcasts and video archives that are available, accessible, searchable and secure, including from cyberattacks, of relevant meetings of the treaty bodies;

23. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, with the assistance of United Nations country teams through their existing videoconferencing facilities, as appropriate, to provide, at the request of a State party, the opportunity for members of its official delegation not present at the meeting to participate in the consideration of the report of that State party by means of videoconference in order to facilitate wider participation in the dialogue;

24. *Underlines* the need for summary records of the dialogue of human rights treaty bodies with States parties, and in this regard decides to issue summary records in one of the working languages of the United Nations and not to translate the pending backlog of summary records, taking into account that these measures will not constitute a precedent, given the special nature of the treaty bodies, and bearing in mind the aim of providing, through alternative methods, verbatim records of the meetings of the treaty bodies in all of the official languages of the United Nations;

25. *Decides* that a summary record of a meeting of a State party with a treaty body, at the request of any State party, shall be translated into the official language of the United Nations used by that State party;

26. *Also decides* that the allocation of meeting time to the treaty bodies will be identified in the following manner, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the corresponding financial and human resources:

(a) An allocation of the number of weeks that each treaty body requires to review the reports of States parties it can expect annually, using the average number of reports received per committee during the period from 2009 to 2012, on the basis of an assumed attainable rate of review of at least 2.5 reports per week and where relevant at least 5 reports under the Optional Protocols to the human rights treaties per week;

(b) A further allocation of two weeks of meeting time per committee to allow for mandated activities, plus an allocation of additional meeting time to those committees dealing with individual communications, on the basis of each such communication requiring 1.3 hours of meeting time for review and the average number of such communications received per year by those committees;

(c) An additional margin to prevent the recurrence of backlogs is established as a target 5 per cent increase in reporting compliance allocated among the committees to address their expected workload, at the beginning of each biennium, with a temporary target increase of 15 per cent for the period from 2015 to 2017;

(d) An adequate allocation of financial and human resources to those treaty bodies whose main mandated role is to carry out field visits;

27. *Further decides* that the amount of meeting time allocated will be reviewed biennially on the basis of actual reporting during the previous four years and will be amended on this basis at the request of the Secretary-General in line with established budgetary procedures, and

decides that the number of weeks allocated to a committee on a permanent basis prior to the adoption of the present resolution will not be reduced;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General accordingly to take into account the meeting time needed in relation to the increased capacity of States parties to submit reports under the respective human rights instruments and the situation in terms of ratifications and the number of individual communications considered, based on paragraphs 26 and 27 above, in his future biennial programme budget for the human rights treaty body system, including the specific requirements for field visits by treaty bodies mandated to conduct such visits;

29. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the progressive implementation of relevant accessibility standards with regard to the human rights treaty body system, as appropriate, particularly in connection with the strategic heritage plan being developed for the United Nations Office at Geneva, and to provide reasonable accommodation for treaty body experts with disabilities to ensure their full and effective participation;

30. *Decides* to allocate a maximum of three official working languages for the work of the human rights treaty bodies, with the inclusion, on an exceptional basis, of a fourth official language, when necessary to facilitate communication among the members, as determined by the committee concerned, taking into account that these measures will not constitute a precedent, given the special nature of the treaty bodies, and without prejudice to the right of each State party to interact with the treaty bodies in any of the six official languages of the United Nations;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve the efficiency of the current arrangement with regard to the travel of treaty body experts in line with section VI of resolution 67/254 A of 12 April 2013;

32. *Invites* States parties, as applicable and as an exceptional measure, with a view to achieving greater compliance with reporting obligations by States parties and eliminating the backlog of reports and in agreement with the relevant treaty body, to submit one combined report to satisfy its reporting obligations to the treaty body for the entire period for which reports to that treaty body are outstanding at the time of the adoption of the present resolution;

33. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies, as an exceptional measure, and with a view to eliminating the current backlog of reports, without prejudice to the existing practices of the human rights treaty bodies or to the right of a State party to provide, or a treaty body to request, a short addendum for the purpose of reflecting significant and relevant recent national developments, to consider all State party reports which at the date of the present resolution have been submitted and are awaiting consideration to satisfy the reporting obligation of the State party concerned to the relevant treaty body until the completion of a reporting cycle starting from the time of the consideration of the report of the State party concerned;

34. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner, within their respective mandates, to continue to work to increase coordination and predictability in the reporting process, including through cooperation with States parties, with the aim of achieving a clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States parties;

35. *Reaffirms* the importance of the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies, and underlines the importance of all stakeholders of the treaty body system, as well as the Secretariat, respecting fully the independence of treaty body members and the importance of avoiding any act that would interfere with the exercise of their functions;

36. *Notes* the adoption, at the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, held in Addis Ababa from 25 to 29 June 2012, of the guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines), which are aimed at ensuring objectivity, impartiality and accountability within the treaty body system, in full respect for the independence of the treaty bodies, and in this regard encourages the treaty bodies to implement the guidelines in accordance with their mandates;

37. *Encourages* the human rights treaty bodies to continue to consider and review the Addis Ababa guidelines, inter alia, by seeking the views of States parties and other stakeholders on their development, and in this regard invites the Chairs of the treaty bodies to keep States parties updated on their implementation;

38. *Also encourages* the human rights treaty bodies, with a view to accelerating the harmonization of the treaty body system, to continue to enhance the role of their Chairs in relation to procedural matters, including with respect to formulating conclusions on issues related to working methods and procedural matters, promptly generalizing good practices and methodologies among all treaty bodies, ensuring coherence across the treaty bodies and standardizing working methods;

39. *Further encourages* the human rights treaty bodies to strengthen the possibilities for interaction during the annual meetings of the Chairs of the treaty bodies with States parties to all human rights treaties, held in Geneva and New York, with a view to ensuring a forum for an open and formal interactive dialogue in which all issues, including those related to the independence and impartiality of treaty body members, may be raised by States parties in a constructive manner;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, on a biennial basis, a comprehensive report on the status of the human rights treaty body system and the progress achieved by the human rights treaty bodies in realizing greater efficiency and effectiveness in their work, including the number of reports submitted and reviewed by the committees, the visits undertaken and the individual communications received and reviewed, where applicable, the state of the backlog, capacity-building efforts and the results achieved, as well as the situation in terms of ratifications, increased reporting and the allocation of meeting time and proposals on measures, including on the basis of information and observations from Member States, to enhance the engagement of all States parties in the dialogue with the treaty bodies;

41. *Decides* to consider the state of the human rights treaty body system no later than six years from the date of adoption of the present resolution, to review the effectiveness of the measures taken in order to ensure their sustainability, and, if appropriate, to decide on further action to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system.

Convention against racial discrimination

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2106 A (XX) [YUN 1965, p. 440], stood at 177, with the State of Palestine becoming party during the year.

The amendment to article 8 of the Convention, regarding the financing of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination [YUN 1992, p. 714], had been accepted by 45 States parties as at 31 December. The amendment would enter into force when accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties, comprising approximately 118 of the 177 States parties to the Convention. The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention as at 1 August [A/69/329].

In August, the Secretary-General reported [A/69/328] that outstanding States parties' arrears to the Committee, as at 31 July, totalled \$105,791. A number of States parties were in arrears as a result of the non-payment of previous assessments. Financing for the annual sessions of the Committee in 2013 and 2014 was provided from the regular budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/111 [YUN 1992, p. 769].

Implementation

Monitoring body. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, established under article 8 of the Convention, held its eighty-fourth (3–21 February) [A/69/18] and eighty-fifth (11–29 August) [A/70/18] sessions in Geneva. It considered reports submitted by 15 countries (Belgium, Cameroon, El Salvador, Estonia, Honduras, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Peru, Poland, Switzerland, United States of America, Uzbekistan) and adopted concluding observations on them.

With regard to the Convention's implementation by States parties whose reports were seriously overdue, the Committee noted that 30 States were at least 10 years late in submitting their reports, and 27 States were at least five years late.

Under article 14 of the Convention, the Committee considered communications from individuals or groups claiming violations by a State party of their rights as enumerated in the Convention. Fifty-seven States parties had recognized the competence of the Committee to do so.

Pursuant to article 15 of the Convention, which empowered the Committee to consider petitions, reports and other information relating to trust and non-self-governing territories, the Committee noted, as it had done in the past, that it was difficult to fulfil its functions comprehensively owing to the fact that

the copies of the reports received contained only scant information directly relating to the principles and objectives of the Convention. It further noted that there was significant ethnic diversity in a number of the non-self-governing territories, warranting a close watch on incidents or trends that reflected racial discrimination and violations of rights guaranteed in the Convention.

The Committee considered a number of situations under its early warning and urgent action procedure, including situations in Guyana, India and Kenya.

(For information on the Organization's activities to combat racial discrimination, see also p. 788.)

Complementary standards

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards, established by the Council in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 774], held its sixth session (Geneva, 7–17 October) [A/HRC/28/81]. Substantive discussions took place on the topics of xenophobia; prevention and awareness-raising; the OHCHR questionnaire conducted pursuant to Council resolution 21/30 [YUN 2012, p. 603]; special measures to prevent, combat and eradicate all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; establishment, designation or maintaining of national mechanisms with competences to protect against and prevent all forms and manifestations of racism; and procedural gaps with regard to the Convention.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/486], adopted **resolution 69/161** without vote [agenda item 66 (a)].

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/156 of 20 December 2012,

Recalling also its resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and invites the Secretary-General to follow up with States parties that are in arrears, as articulated in the report, to fulfil their outstanding financial obligations under article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention;

3. *Further takes note* of the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its eighty-first and eighty-second and its eighty-third and eighty-fourth sessions;

4. *Reiterates*, in the run-up to the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, its call for the universal ratification and effective implementation of the Convention by all States parties to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination;

5. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-first session under the item entitled “Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”;

6. *Decides* to consider, at its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”, the reports of the Committee on its eighty-fifth and eighty-sixth and its eighty-seventh and eighty-eighth sessions, the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee, should the financial situation of the Committee change, and the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention.

Covenant on civil and political rights and optional protocols

Accessions and ratification

As at 31 December, the parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2200 A (XXI) [YUN 1966, p. 418], stood at 168 and 115, respectively. The State of Palestine became party to the Covenant during the year.

The Second Optional Protocol, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty and adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 44/128 [YUN 1989, p. 484], was acceded to by El Salvador and Gabon, and ratified by Poland during the year, bringing the number of States parties to 81.

Implementation

Monitoring body. The Human Rights Committee, established under article 28 of the Covenant, held three sessions in 2014: its 110th (10–28 March) [A/69/40 (Vol. I)], 111th (8–25 July) and 112th (7–31 October) [A/70/40] in Geneva. It considered reports submitted under article 40 from 18 States (Burundi, Chad, Chile, Georgia, Haiti, Israel, Ireland, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Malawi, Malta, Montenegro, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United States of America), and adopted concluding observations on them.

The Committee adopted views on communications from individuals alleging violations of their rights under the Covenant, and decided that other such communications were inadmissible. Those views and decisions were accessible through the treaty body database on the OHCHR.

During its 110th session, the Committee adopted a note on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on

new communications and interim measures. Under article 36 of the Covenant, the Committee reaffirmed its grave concern over the lack of sufficient staff resources and translation services, which hampered its activities.

Pursuant to article 4 of the Covenant, certain States parties notified other States parties, through the intermediary of the Secretary-General, of the derogations of certain obligations under the Covenants due to public emergency. All such notifications were available on the website of the Office of Legal Affairs.

The General Assembly, on 18 December (**decision 69/536**) took note of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its 108th, 109th [YUN 2013, p. 600] and 110th sessions.

(On the Organization’s efforts to protect civil and political rights, see also p. 788.)

Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights and optional protocol

Accessions and ratification

As at 31 December, there were 162 parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2200 A (XXI) [YUN 1966, p. 418]. The State of Palestine acceded to the Covenant during the year.

The Optional Protocol to the Covenant, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 63/117 [YUN 2008, p. 729], established a procedure of individual communications for cases of alleged violations of economic, social and cultural rights. During the year, Belgium, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Finland, Gabon and the Niger became States parties to the treaty, bringing the total to 17.

Implementation

Monitoring Body. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights held its fifty-second (28 April–23 May) and fifty-third (10–28 November) sessions [E/2015/22] in Geneva. Its pre-sessional working group met in Geneva from 26 to 30 May and from 1 to 5 December to identify additional issues to be discussed with reporting States. The Committee examined reports submitted under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant by Armenia, China, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Indonesia, Lithuania, Monaco, Montenegro, Nepal, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam, and adopted concluding observations on them.

The Committee decided to offer the option of a simplified reporting procedure to States parties who were scheduled to submit their third or later periodic report in 2017; and pursuant to its decision on the proposed guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (Addis Ababa guidelines) [YUN 2012, p. 619] adopted

at its fifty-first session, the Committee adopted guidelines which were annexed to the report.

The Economic and Social Council on 17 November took note of the reports of the Committee on its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions [YUN 2013, p. 600] (**decision 2014/253**).

(On the Organization's efforts to protect economic, social and cultural rights, see also p. 841.)

Convention on elimination of discrimination against women and optional protocol

(On the status of the Convention and Optional Protocol, see p. 1298. On the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, see p. 872.)

Convention against torture

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, 156 States were parties to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 39/46 [YUN 1984, p. 813]. Eritrea and the State of Palestine became parties to the treaty during the year.

States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention establishing an international inspection system for places of detention, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 57/199 [YUN 2002, p. 631] and entering into force in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 776], stood at 76, with Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Morocco, Mozambique and the Niger becoming parties during the year.

As at 23 May, 58 parties had made the required declarations under articles 21 and 22, which recognized the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive and consider communications by which a State party claimed that another party was not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, and from or on behalf of individuals who claimed to be victims of a violation of the Convention's provisions by a State party. Sixty-two parties had made the declaration under article 21, concerning inter-States communications, and 66 had made the declaration under article 22, concerning individual communications.

Amendments to articles 17 and 18, adopted in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 736], had been accepted by 30 States parties at year's end.

Implementation

Monitoring body. During the year, the Committee against Torture held its fifty-second (28 April–23 May) [A/69/44] and fifty-third (3–28 November) [A/70/44] sessions in Geneva. Under article 19 of the Convention, it considered reports submitted

by 16 countries (Australia, Burundi, Croatia, Cyprus, Guinea, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela) and adopted concluding observations on them.

The Committee continued, in accordance with article 20, to study reliable information that appeared to contain well-founded indications that torture was systematically practiced in a State party. Under article 22, the Committee considered communications submitted by individuals claiming that their rights under the Convention had been violated by a State party.

The General Assembly, on 18 December (**decision 69/536**), took note of the report of the Committee against Torture on its fifty-first [YUN 2013, p. 601] and fifty-second sessions.

Subcommittee on prevention. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Subcommittee on Prevention), established in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 776] to carry out the functions laid down in the Optional Protocol to the Convention adopted by resolution 57/199, held its twenty-second (24–28 February), twenty-third (2–6 June) and twenty-fourth (17–21 November) sessions in Geneva. The mandate of the Subcommittee was to visit places where persons were or might be deprived of liberty and make recommendations to States parties on their protection; assist States parties in establishing national preventative mechanisms; provide support to such mechanisms; and cooperate with UN and other bodies in preventing ill-treatment.

The eighth annual report of the Subcommittee [CAT/C/54/2], covering its activities in 2014, reviewed developments relating to the Optional Protocol to the Convention; highlighted areas of cooperation between the Subcommittee and other international and regional bodies and civil society; provided information on developments in the Subcommittee's working practices; set out the Subcommittee's views on pretrial detention and the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment; and reflected on the Subcommittee's programme of work for 2015.

In 2014, the Subcommittee visited Nigeria (1–3 April), Nicaragua (7–16 May), Ecuador (1–4 September) [CAT/OP/ECU/2], Malta (6–9 October) [CAT/OP/MLT/1], Togo (1–10 December) [CAT/OP/TGO/1], Maldives (8–11 December) and Azerbaijan (8–14 September), with the visit to the latter country being suspended due to the Subcommittee's inability to enjoy unfettered access to all places of deprivation of liberty. It would resume its suspended Azerbaijan visit when it was possible for the visit to be completed in accordance with the Subcommittee's mandate. The visits were followed by the submission of a confidential report to the respective Governments that included recommendations. Recipients were requested to pro-

vide a reply to a visit report within six months, giving a full account of actions taken to implement the recommendations it contained. At the end of 2014, the Subcommittee had received 12 replies from States parties. Replies from Cambodia, Gabon, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Maldives, Mali and Peru were considered to be overdue.

Special Fund. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/156 [YUN 2013, p. 673], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/289] on the operations of the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention to help finance the implementation of the recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Prevention following visits to States parties, as well as education programmes of national preventive mechanisms. During 2014, the Fund received contributions of \$10,000 from Argentina and \$218,878.25 from Germany.

The General Assembly, on 18 December (**decision 69/536**) took note of the report.

In a December note [A/HRC/28/24], the Secretary-General reported that total grants for 2014 had amounted to \$232,984 for seven projects. The Fund, however, struggled to secure a sustainable donor base and would only be able to fund seven or eight projects of \$35,000 each in 2015. Based on current trends, it was estimated that the Fund reserves accumulated over the past three years would be entirely depleted by the end of 2015.

Convention on the rights of the child

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 44/25 [YUN 1989, p. 560], stood at 194, with the State of Palestine acceding to the treaty during the year.

States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict, adopted by General Assembly resolution 54/263 [YUN 2000, p. 615], rose to 159, with the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Saint Lucia and the State of Palestine becoming parties during the year.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, also adopted by resolution 54/263, had 169 States parties, with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia and Haiti becoming parties during the year.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure, adopted by resolution 66/138 [YUN 2011, p. 623], which allowed children to submit complaints regarding violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two protocols, en-

tered into force on 14 April 2014. As at 31 December, it had 14 States parties, with Andorra, Belgium, Costa Rica, Ireland and Monaco becoming parties during the year.

The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention and its Optional Protocols as at 1 July 2014 [A/69/260].

The General Assembly, on 18 December (**decision 69/532**), took note of the report.

Implementation

Monitoring body. In 2014, the Committee on the Rights of the Child held its sixty-fifth (13–31 January) [A/69/41], sixty-sixth (26 May–13 June) and sixty-seventh (1–19 September) sessions [A/71/41] in Geneva.

Under article 44 of the Convention, the Committee considered initial and periodic reports submitted by 15 countries (Congo, Croatia, Fiji, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Venezuela, Yemen) and the Holy See, and adopted concluding observations on them.

At its sixty-seventh session, the Committee adopted the joint general comment No. 18 on harmful practices, developed together with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In other activities, on 24 September, the Committee celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention at an online event with conversations between 28 children, from 14 countries around the world, and Committee members.

Twenty-fifth anniversary

In 2014, the General Assembly considered the item on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and convened a high-level meeting on the topic on 20 November (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 May [meeting 87], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/273** [draft: A/68/L.46 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 65 (a)].

High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and, bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

Welcoming the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the human rights treaty with the most ratifications in history, and acknowledging that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children,

Recognizing that, while progress has been made, the situation of children is critical in many parts of the world and many challenges remain to ensure the full realization of their rights, and that in this regard the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention is an occasion for States to reflect on implementation gaps and to undertake additional measures to ensure children's rights,

1. *Decides* to convene a high-level meeting on 20 November 2014 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that the high-level meeting will comprise an opening plenary meeting and an interactive panel discussion with the meaningful participation of children;

2. *Also decides* that, in addition to the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and Member States speaking on behalf of regional groups, will address the high-level meeting at its opening meeting;

3. *Further decides* that the interactive panel discussion will be chaired by two Member States, at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly, after consultations with regional groups;

4. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in a transparent manner and in consultation with Member States, with support from the United Nations Children's Fund, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, including identification of the theme and panellists for the interactive panel discussion, with due regard given to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, as well as the meaningful participation of children;

5. *Encourages* all Member and observer States and observers to be represented at the high-level meeting at the highest possible level and to include children and young persons in their delegations;

6. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations to participate in the high-level meeting at the highest possible level;

7. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of interested representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who may participate in the high-level meeting;

8. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly, in a timely manner, to draw up a list of representatives of non-governmental organizations accredited to or in a collaborative relationship or partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations,

academic institutions and the private sector, who may participate in the high-level meeting, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, for submission to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis, and to bring the list to the attention of the General Assembly;

9. *Further requests* the President of the General Assembly, with support from the United Nations Children's Fund, to prepare a summary of the high-level meeting and to bring the summary to the attention of Member States, relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders.

High-level meeting. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/273 (see above), a high-level meeting of the Assembly was convened on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention (New York, 20 November 2014) [A/69/PV.56]. An interactive panel discussion on the same date examined if the world was a better place for children, which was the topic of a UNICEF report entitled *25 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

In his address to the Assembly, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake asked the question: "What do Dr. Seuss, the beloved author of children's books, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child have in common?" The answer was that they both believed, as Dr. Seuss had written, that "A person's a person, no matter how small". He noted that since the adoption of the Convention, millions more children were surviving beyond their fifth birthdays, receiving vaccinations against preventable diseases, and enjoying improved access to education, sanitation, water, nutrition and protection from all manner of abuses. On the other hand, for millions of children, life was not better. In closing, he stressed the importance of preparing today's children to become tomorrow's adults and leaders, and to do so by extending the Convention's promise to those millions of children being left behind.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/484], adopted **resolution 69/157** without vote [agenda item 64 (a)].

Rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution 68/147 of 18 December 2013, and in particular recognizing the importance of resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, in which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and welcoming the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption in 2014,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, and calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for all actions concerning children,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007, as well as the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014,

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”, and recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, the Declaration on the Right to Development, the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, the outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and the outcome document of the third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and recalling the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, in Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001 and in Rio de Janeiro from 25 to 28 November 2008,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly resolution 68/147, as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of the child,

Acknowledging the important role played by national governmental structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in the best interests of the child, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Noting with appreciation the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, by relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations and by relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socioeconomic context,

Profoundly concerned also that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, climate change, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, violence, terrorism, abuse, trafficking in children and their organs, all forms of exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, neglect, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, gender inequality, disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Expressing deep concern that, despite the recognition of the right of the child to express his or her views freely on all matters affecting him or her, with his or her views given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, children are still seldom seriously consulted and involved in such matters owing to a variety of constraints and impediments and that the full implementation of this right in many parts of the world has yet to be fully realized,

Deeply concerned that children disproportionately suffer the consequences of discrimination, exclusion, inequality and poverty,

Deeply concerned also that more than 6,300,000 children under the age of 5 die each year, mostly from preventable and treatable causes, owing to inadequate or lack of access to integrated and quality maternal, newborn and child health care and services, to early childbearing, as well as to health determinants, such as safe drinking water and

sanitation, safe and adequate food and nutrition, and that mortality remains highest among children belonging to the poorest and most marginalized communities,

Recognizing that a strong focus is needed on poverty, deprivation and inequality to prevent and protect children from violence and to promote the resilience of children, their families and communities,

Recognizing also the large and growing number of migrant children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents or primary caregivers, and especially those who find themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents,

Taking into special consideration the situation of child refugees and child asylum seekers, in particular those unaccompanied or separated from their parents,

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto

1. *Welcomes* the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the human rights treaty with the largest number of ratifications, and acknowledges that the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children;

2. *Recognizes* that, while progress has been made, many challenges remain, and that, in this regard, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on 20 November 2014, was an occasion for States to reflect on implementation gaps and to undertake additional measures to ensure that the rights of children are fully realized;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the entry into force on 14 April 2014 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, and encourages States to consider its accession, ratification and implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 1 to 10 of its resolution 68/147, and urges States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority and to implement them effectively and fully;

5. *Urges* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

6. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, taking into account the adoption of its general comments, and its actions to follow up on its concluding observations on the implementation of the Convention and recommendations, and calls upon all States to strengthen their cooperation with the Committee, to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and to take into account its recommendations, observations and general comments on the implementation of the Convention;

II

Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

Non-discrimination

7. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 11 to 14 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights without discrimination of any kind;

8. *Notes with concern* the large number of children belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrant children, refugee or asylum-seeking children, internally displaced children, and children of indigenous origin who are victims of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stresses the need to incorporate special measures, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for his or her views and the child's gender-specific needs, including children with special needs, in education programmes and programmes to combat these practices, and calls upon States to provide special support and to ensure equal access to services for those children;

9. *Urges* all States to respect and promote the right of girls and boys to express themselves freely, and their right to be heard, to ensure that their views are given due weight, in accordance with their age and maturity, in all matters affecting them, and to involve children, including children with special needs, in decision-making processes, taking into account the evolving capacities of children and the importance of involving children's organizations and child-led initiatives;

10. *Recognizes* that discrimination against any child on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, and expresses grave concern that children with disabilities face violations of their human rights, as well as discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community;

Registration, family relations, adoption and alternative care

11. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 15 to 19 of its resolution 68/147, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children in matters relating to registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, and, in cases of international parental or familial child abduction, encourages States to engage in bilateral and, when appropriate, multilateral cooperation to resolve those cases, and in this regard to consider accession to or ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and to facilitate, inter alia, the return of the child to the country in which he or she resided immediately before the removal or retention, while taking into consideration the principle of the best interests of the child;

Economic and social well-being of children

12. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 20 to 29 of its resolution 68/147, paragraphs 42 to 52 of its resolution 61/146 of 19 December 2006 on children and poverty and paragraphs 37 to 42 of its resolution 60/231 of 23 December 2005 on children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and calls upon all States and the international community

to create an environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field and by implementing their previous commitments relating to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals, the right to education, including equal access to quality education, and measures to promote human rights education, including the safe and beneficial use of the Internet as a tool for the advancement of the child's social and educational well-being, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including efforts to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age and to address the situation of children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and, through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking water and sanitation, the right to food for all and the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing and clothing;

13. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards poverty eradication and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach based on the rights and well-being of children;

14. *Strongly underlines* the importance of giving due consideration to the inclusion of the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of children in the post-2015 development agenda, including by ending extreme poverty, reducing inequalities and eliminating all forms of violence against children, including harmful practices;

Child labour

15. *Calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective eradication of child labour that is likely to be hazardous, to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour and to promote education as a key strategy in this regard;

16. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying both the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) of the International Labour Organization;

17. *Recognizes* that poverty and social exclusion, labour mobility, discrimination and lack of adequate social protection and educational opportunity as well as lack of birth registrations all influence child labour;

Prevention and elimination of violence against children

18. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 39 of its resolution 68/147 and paragraphs 47 to 62 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007 on the elimination of violence against children, condemns all forms of violence against children, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 34 of its resolution 68/147 and:

(a) To take effective and appropriate legislative and other measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings, including harmful practices in all situations, and to strengthen international, national and local cooperation and mutual assistance in this regard;

(b) To exercise due diligence, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against all children and end impunity, and provide protection as well as universal access to comprehensive social, physical and mental health and legal services and counselling for all victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society and, bearing in mind the importance for all children to live free from violence, to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against all children through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation;

(c) To address the gender dimension of all forms of violence against children and incorporate a gender perspective in all policies adopted and actions taken to protect children against all forms of violence, acknowledging that girls and boys face varying risks from different forms of violence at different ages and in different situations;

19. *Also reaffirms* that violence against children is never justifiable and that it is the duty of States to protect children, including those in conflict with the law, from all forms of violence and human rights violations and to exercise due diligence to prohibit, prevent and investigate acts of violence against children, eliminate impunity and provide assistance to the victims, including preventing revictimization;

20. *Strongly condemns* the abduction of children, and calls upon all States to take all the appropriate measures to secure their unconditional release, rehabilitation and reintegration and their reunification with their families;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to advance the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children and to continue to promote the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, including through her regional and thematic consultations and field missions, and to continue the effective and independent performance of her mandate set out in resolution 62/141, as well as thematic reports addressing emerging concerns, such as the risks associated with information and communications technologies for the protection of children from violence;

22. *Also notes with appreciation* the adoption of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, encourages States to take effective measures for their dissemination and implementation, as appropriate, and invites relevant United Nations actors to support Member States, where appropriate, to this end through concerted efforts;

Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations

23. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 40 to 48 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to promote and protect all human rights of all children, to implement evidence-based programmes and measures that provide them with special protection and assistance, including access to health care and inclusive and quality education and social services, to consider implementing voluntary repatriation, reintegration where appropriate and feasible, family tracing and family reunification, in particular for children who are unaccompanied, and to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration;

24. *Calls upon* all States to ensure, for children belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, including migrant children and indigenous children, the enjoyment of all human rights, as well as access to health care, social services and education, on an equal basis with others and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive appropriate protection and assistance;

Migrant children

25. *Reaffirms* the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrant children, regardless of their migration status, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrant children, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

26. *Expresses the commitment* to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, and to provide for their health, education and psychosocial development, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in policies of integration, return and family reunification;

Children and the administration of justice

27. *Encourages* continued regional and cross-regional efforts, the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice, and notes in this regard the initiative to convene a world congress on juvenile justice in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015;

28. *Takes note with appreciation* of Human Rights Council resolution 25/6 of 27 March 2014 on the rights of the child: access to justice for children, and recalls in this regard the thematic report entitled "Promoting restorative justice for children", issued by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in 2013;

29. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 49 to 57 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to respect and protect the rights of children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law, as well as children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law;

30. *Encourages* States to develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy to protect and address the needs of children in contact with the law, with a view to promoting, inter alia, crime prevention programmes, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion, restorative justice and community-based programmes that focus on the rehabilitation and reintegration of the child, and ensuring compliance with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

31. *Reaffirms* paragraph 58 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish all forms of sale and trafficking of children, including for the purposes of removal of organs of the child for

profit, child slavery, sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating those practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the rights and needs of victims effectively and take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

Children affected by armed conflict

32. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 59 to 70 of its resolution 68/147, and condemns in the strongest terms all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, including humanitarian law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, acknowledging that sexual violence in these situations disproportionately affects girls, and in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end them;

33. *Recalls*, in accordance with international humanitarian law, that indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including children, are prohibited and that civilians shall not be the object of attack, including by way of reprisal or disproportionate attacks, condemns such practices resulting in the killing and maiming of children, and demands that all parties immediately put an end to such attacks;

34. *Urges* States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to give serious attention to, and to protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the First to Fourth Geneva Conventions;

35. *Calls upon* States to protect children affected by armed conflict, in particular from violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and to ensure that they receive timely, effective humanitarian assistance, noting the efforts taken to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators, and calls upon the international community to hold those responsible for violations accountable, inter alia, through the International Criminal Court;

36. *Remains deeply concerned*, however, over the lack of progress on the ground in some situations where parties to armed conflict continue to violate with impunity the relevant provisions of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict;

37. *Expresses deep concern* about attacks, as well as threats of attacks, in contravention of applicable international law against schools and/or hospitals, and protected persons in relation to them, welcomes the publication of the guidance note on Security Council resolution 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011 on attacks on schools and hospitals by the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and notes the adoption of Security Council resolution 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014;

38. *Welcomes* in this regard the “Children, not soldiers” campaign initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Children’s Fund, in collaboration with other United Nations partners, aimed at ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children by the armed forces concerned by 2016, and requests the Special Representative to report on progress in her next report to the General Assembly;

III

Progress achieved and challenges in protecting children from discrimination and overcoming inequalities in the light of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

39. *Reaffirms* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention;

40. *Recognizes* that the full realization of children’s rights requires the adoption and implementation of comprehensive laws, policies and programmes for all children, taking into account the right of the child to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting him or her, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with his or her age and maturity;

41. *Also recognizes* that financial and material poverty, or conditions directly and uniquely imputable to such poverty, should never be the only justification for the removal of a child from the care of his or her parents or primary caregivers, for receiving a child into alternative care or for preventing his or her reintegration, but should be seen as a signal for the need to provide appropriate support to the family;

42. *Expresses its concern* that children with disabilities, particularly girls, are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, including sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and maltreatment or exploitation;

43. *Calls upon* States parties to respect and ensure the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto and to take all appropriate measures to ensure that all children are protected against all forms of discrimination, violence, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation and traditional, customary harmful practices, which can be harmful to the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development;

44. *Calls upon* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to safeguard the realization of the rights of the child in a manner conducive to his or her fullest possible social inclusion and individual development;

45. *Encourages* States to consider the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes to implement the post-2015 development agenda;

46. *Recognizes* that, in order to further the positive impacts achieved through the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Millennium

Development Goals, the post-2015 development agenda will need to consider people living in poverty and in vulnerable situations as well as the most marginalized and excluded populations, including children, which are most at risk and in need of protection;

47. *Also recognizes* that children may face additional barriers in accessing justice, and reaffirms the duty of States to respect and ensure an effective remedy and access to justice for each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind;

48. *Calls upon* all States to include the relevant provisions to protect children from discrimination and overcome inequalities and, in particular:

(a) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination motivated by intolerance or prejudice of any kind;

(b) To incorporate special measures in formal and non-formal education and other programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance affecting children;

(c) To address the root causes of inequality and remove barriers that prevent children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations in society, from accessing education, health care, adequate nutritious food, sanitation, clean water, protection and other services necessary for their survival, growth and development;

(d) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, rape, sexual abuse, forced sterilization and harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, by enacting and enforcing legislation and, where appropriate, by formulating comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to protect girls, as well as by promoting awareness-raising and social mobilization initiatives for the protection of their rights;

(e) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and to take measures to address stereotyped gender roles and other prejudices based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes, and to mainstream in this context a gender perspective in all development and human rights policies and programmes related to children and those specific to the girl child;

(f) To take measures to collect and disaggregate relevant information, including statistical and research data, as appropriate, in order to identify the barriers faced by children, especially those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations, in exercising their rights;

(g) To develop and strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of data for national statistics on children as far as possible and to use data disaggregated by relevant factors that may lead to disparities and other statistical indicators at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to develop and assess social and other policies and programmes so that economic and social resources are used efficiently and effectively for the full realization of the rights of the child;

(h) To take steps to design and implement preventive and comprehensive anti-bullying measures, including in educational settings, that address bullying and peer-

directed aggression against children, which could include the training of educators and family members and also raising awareness of this matter among children;

(i) To take all necessary measures to ensure universal access to birth registration of all children immediately after birth, including those living in remote areas, by, inter alia, removing barriers that impede their registration, moving towards the provision of free birth registration, ensuring the existence of a simple, effective, expeditious and accessible birth registration system, including late birth registration, ensuring the right of every child to a name and the right to acquire a nationality, respecting the selection by parents of a name of their own choosing, respecting the child's preservation of his or her identity and, as far as possible, protecting the child's knowing and being cared for by his or her parents;

(j) In accordance with article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to continuously raise awareness of the importance of birth registration at the national, regional and local levels, to ensure free or low-fee late birth registration, to ensure that all legal and procedural impediments to the registration of children who reside in a State party are addressed and to ensure that children who have not been registered enjoy their human rights and have access without discrimination to health care, quality education, protection from violence, safe drinking water and sanitation and other basic services;

(k) To design and implement programmes to provide pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers with education, including access to quality education, social services and support, to enable them to continue and complete their education and protect them from discrimination, as well as to ensure a healthy and safe pregnancy;

(l) To develop and implement educational programmes and teaching materials, including comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the involvement of children, adolescents, youth and communities, and in coordination with women's, youth and specialized non-governmental organizations, in order to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, to eliminate prejudices and to promote and build decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills for the development of respectful relationships based on gender equality and human rights, as well as teacher education and training programmes for both formal and non-formal education;

(m) To take all measures necessary to ensure that children enjoy the right to the highest attainable standard of health, in keeping with existing obligations, including by ensuring that all children and adolescents have access to quality, free or affordable, gender-sensitive, appropriate health-care services, including age-appropriate health-care programmes in the area of sexual and reproductive health, taking into account the needs and evolving capacities of the child;

(n) To adopt legislative and other appropriate measures, including cross-sectoral approaches, to ensure the full realization by all children of the right to education, including their access to quality education, on the basis of equal opportunity, in a manner conducive to their fullest possible social inclusion and individual development, including through the provision of compulsory primary education that

is available free to all and to take all appropriate measures to make all other levels and all forms of education available and accessible to all children without discrimination;

(o) To take all appropriate measures to ensure protection and safety for all children, including the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, during and after situations of risk, situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, by adopting and implementing prevention and response programmes, including those related to the recruitment of children by armed forces and armed groups in contravention of applicable international law, to ensure the physical and psychological recovery, family reunification and social reintegration of these children and ensure that such recovery, reintegration and rehabilitation take place in an environment which fosters the well-being, health, self-respect and dignity of the child;

49. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the United Nations system, to strengthen international cooperation to ensure the realization of the rights of the child, including the most marginalized and excluded children, inter alia, by supporting national initiatives that give more emphasis to the development of the most marginalized and excluded children, as appropriate, and by reinforcing international cooperation measures in fields of research or on the transfer of technology such as assistive technologies;

50. *Calls upon* the relevant entities, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and invites the international financial and donor institutions and bilateral donors, to support, when requested, national initiatives, including development programmes, for the most marginalized and excluded children, financially and technically, as well as to enhance effective international cooperation and partnerships to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, with particular attention to policy development, programme development, research and professional training;

IV

Follow-up

51. *Recognizes* the work of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, its increased level of activity and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, and, bearing in mind its resolution 63/241 of 24 December 2008 and paragraphs 35 to 37 of its resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, recommends that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative for a further period of three years;

52. *Decides*:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on the right to education;

(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(c) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, consistent with paragraphs 58 and 59 of its resolution 62/141, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda, and, in accordance with paragraph 39 of its resolution 68/147, to ensure that the effective performance and the sustainability of the core activities of the mandate of the Special Representative are maintained;

(d) To invite the Secretary-General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty, funded through voluntary contributions and conducted in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and offices, including but not limited to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, as well as the Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile Justice, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, academia and children, and to include good practices and recommendations for action to effectively realize all relevant rights of the child, including supporting the implementation of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites the Secretary-General to submit the conclusions of the study to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

(e) To request the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography agenda;

(f) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

(g) To continue its consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", focusing section III of the resolution entitled "Rights of the child" on the theme "Right to education".

Convention on migrant workers

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 45/158 [YUN 1990, p. 594] and which entered into force in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 676], remained at 47.

Implementation

Monitoring body. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families held its twentieth (31 March–11 April) [A/69/48] and twenty-first (1–5 September) [A/70/48] sessions in Geneva. Under article 74 of the Convention, the Committee considered reports of Ghana, Uruguay, El Salvador, Mali and the Philippines and adopted concluding observations on them. The Committee also considered the situation in Belize, in the absence of a report, as well as in the absence of a delegation, and adopted concluding observations on the State party.

At its twentieth session, the Committee held a general discussion on workplace exploitation and workplace protection, which highlighted the various forms of abuse experienced by migrant workers, particularly those in temporary or seasonal employment, and those in an irregular or undocumented situation. At its twenty-first session, the Committee decided that it would develop a general comment on the human rights of children in the context of migration.

(On the Organization's efforts to protect the rights of migrants, see also p. 797.)

Convention on rights of persons with disabilities

Accessions and ratification

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 61/106 [YUN 2006, p. 785], rose to 151, with Andorra, Angola, Burundi, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Japan, the State of Palestine and Switzerland becoming parties during the year.

The Optional Protocol, which established an individual complaints mechanism, had 85 States parties by year's end, with Andorra, Angola, Burundi, the Congo, Denmark and Gabon becoming parties.

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 67/160 [YUN 2012, p. 616], the Secretary-General, in August, submitted a report [A/69/284] on the status of the Convention, the work of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, the activities of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (see below), and an overview of the progress made by UN system entities and civil society organizations to implement the Convention.

The General Assembly took note of the report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Implementation

Monitoring body. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held its eleventh

(31 March–11 April) [CRPD/C/11/2] and twelfth (15 September–3 October) [CRPD/C/12/2] sessions in Geneva. The Committee considered initial reports, under article 35 of the Convention of Azerbaijan, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Sweden and adopted concluding observations on them. The Committee adopted its general comments No. 1 on equal recognition before the law and No. 2 on accessibility at its eleventh session; and decided to establish a working group to prepare a draft general comment on independent living and on education at its twelfth session.

The Committee submitted to the General Assembly its third biennial report [A/70/55] covering activities from its ninth and tenth [YUN 2013, p. 612], and eleventh and twelfth sessions.

(On the Organization's efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities see also p. 884.)

Convention for protection from enforced disappearance

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 61/177 [YUN 2006, p. 800], rose to 44, with Portugal, Slovakia and Togo becoming parties during the year.

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/166 [YUN 2013, p. 612], the Secretary-General, in July, submitted a report [A/69/214] on the status of the Convention, communications from States parties and activities to implement the resolution.

Implementation

Monitoring Body. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances held its sixth (17–28 March) [A/69/56] and seventh (15–26 September) [A/70/56] sessions in Geneva. The Committee considered reports, under article 29 of the Convention, of Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Paraguay and adopted concluding observations on them. At its sixth session, the Committee decided to entrust the Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations to remind States parties, between sessions, of the requirement to submit, within one year, information on the measures taken to implement the concluding observations that the Committee considered a priority. It also held a public thematic discussion on enforced disappearance and military justice. At its seventh session, the Committee adopted a document entitled: "The relationship of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances with national human rights institutions"; a guidance note on the conduct of the dialogues; and a framework for

the concluding observations. It also decided to give precedence to the examination of the report on Iraq given the seriousness of the situation in the country; appoint a co-rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations; and use English, Spanish and French as its working languages and use Arabic when necessary.

In October, the Rapporteurs for follow-up to concluding observations submitted their annual report [CED/C/7/2] to the Committee.

(On the Organization's efforts to combat enforced or involuntary disappearances, see also p. 830.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/169** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,

Recalling its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

Recalling also all its other resolutions on the matter, including resolution 68/166 of 18 December 2013, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution 27/1 of 25 September 2014,

Recalling further its resolution 68/165 of 18 December 2013 on the right to the truth, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 27/3 of 25 September 2014 on the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence,

Recalling its resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system,

Recalling also that no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance,

Recalling further that no exceptional circumstance whatsoever may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance,

Recalling that no one shall be held in secret detention,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

Recalling that the Convention sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person, and sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard,

Recalling also that the Convention defines the victim of enforced disappearance as the disappeared person and any individual who has suffered harm as the direct result of an enforced disappearance,

Acknowledging that the widespread and systematic practice of enforced disappearance is recognized in the Convention as a crime against humanity, as defined in applicable international law,

Stressing the importance of the work of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances,

Acknowledging the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law in this field,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the ratification and the implementation of which will be a significant contribution to ending impunity and to promoting and protecting all human rights for all;

2. *Welcomes* the fact that 94 States have signed the Convention and 44 have ratified or acceded to it, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances;

3. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase their intensive efforts to assist States in becoming parties to the Convention, including by supporting the actions of States to ratify the Convention, providing technical and capacity-building assistance to States and civil society and raising awareness about the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

5. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to continue making efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote understanding of it and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument;

6. *Welcomes* the work achieved by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and encourages all States parties to the Convention to submit their reports, to support and promote the work of the Committee and to implement its recommendations;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States designed to punish enforced disappearances, to prevent their commission and to help victims of such acts and their families to seek fair, prompt and adequate reparation;

8. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Working Group and the Committee, within the framework of their respective mandates, and encourages further cooperation in the future;

9. *Takes note with interest* of all the general comments of the Working Group, including the most recent comments on children and women affected by enforced disappearances, and recognizes in this regard that enforced disappearances have special consequences for women and vulnerable groups, especially children, as they most often bear the serious economic hardships that usually accompany

such disappearances and, when subjected to enforced disappearances themselves, may become particularly vulnerable to sexual and other forms of violence;

10. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee and the Chair of the Working Group to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights";

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

Convention on genocide

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, 146 States were parties to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 260 A (III) [YUN 1948–1949, p. 959], with Malta and the State of Palestine becoming parties during the year.

Genocide prevention

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/22 [YUN 2013, p. 613], a high-level panel discussion dedicated to the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Convention (Geneva, 7 March) was convened at the Council's twenty-fifth (2014) session and the High Commissioner submitted a summary [A/HRC/27/24] report on its outcome. In addressing the issue of preventing genocide, particularly in connection with early warning signs, the panellists highlighted the importance of using existing mechanisms, establishing a national architecture with focal points for atrocity crimes, and strengthening national capacity. They also recommended that the Council should consider using the Analysis Framework on the prevention of genocide, developed by the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect [YUN 2009, p. 644], in its prevention works and in conducting appropriate assessments of critical situations.

General aspects

Human rights treaty body system

Meeting of Chairs. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/202 [YUN 2002, p. 623], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the report [A/69/285] on the twenty-sixth meeting of the Chairs of the UN human rights treaty bodies (Geneva, 23–27 June), which was held to consider the implementation of Assembly resolution 68/268 (see p. 756) on strengthening the functioning of the human rights treaty body system, as well as follow-up to the recommendations of the twenty-fifth meeting [YUN 2013, p. 613]. In the context of the intergovernmental pro-

cess on treaty body strengthening, the Chairs met with States parties, civil society organizations and the International Coordinating Committee of national human rights institutions. Other topics discussed included reprisals against individuals and groups engaging or seeking to engage with the treaty bodies; complementarity between the work of the treaty bodies and the universal periodic review (UPR); harmonization of working methods through simplified reporting procedures [HRI/MC/2014/4]; constructive dialogue between treaty bodies and States parties [HRI/MC/2014/3]; and concluding observations [HRI/MC/2014/2]. The Chairs' decisions and recommendations were contained in section VII of the report.

The General Assembly, on 18 December (**decision 69/536**) took note of the report.

Secretariat note. By a July note [A/HRC/27/61], the secretariat advised that the twenty-first meeting of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council was rescheduled (see below) due to the decision of the Council to postpone the appointments of a number of new special procedures mandate holders until 8 May.

Meeting of Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and chairpersons. The High Commissioner transmitted to the Council the report [A/HRC/28/41] on the twenty-first meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of working groups of special procedures of the Council (Geneva, 29 September–3 October), which focused on the special procedure system. Mandate holders exchanged views with the High Commissioner and the Council President and met with various stakeholders. Discussions addressed methods of work, engagement with stakeholders, challenges confronting the system, and thematic issues, including women's human rights and protection of the family, sustainable development goals and climate change. During 2014, the Council established three new mandates: on the rights of persons with disabilities, on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights.

Other activities

Strengthening action to promote human rights

International cooperation in the field of human rights

Advisory Committee report. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/3 [YUN 2013, p. 616], the Advisory Committee submitted a research-based report [A/HRC/26/41] on the ways and means

to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights, which discussed key challenges to international cooperation, the involvement of civil society and of national human rights institutions, efforts to realize the right to development, South-South cooperation in the human rights area, human rights education, human rights across the global institutional system, and the global infrastructure for human rights cooperation, the voluntary funds, and human rights cooperation in the field of migration. The report concluded with a series of suggestions aimed at forming the basis for immediate action by the Council.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/3)], the Council urged States to take measures to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises—such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters—on the full enjoyment of human rights. It also re-emphasized its request to the Advisory Committee to prepare a more focused and in-depth study on the ways and means to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights [YUN 2013, p. 616] and to submit a progress report to the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/179** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to promoting international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993 for enhancing genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Recalling its adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000 and its resolution 68/160 of 18 December 2013, Human Rights Council resolution 25/3 of 27 March 2014 and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recalling also the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and their role in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recognizing also that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

Emphasizing the need for further progress in the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation,

Underlining the fact that mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation, transparency and confidence-building are important elements in all activities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the adoption of resolution 2000/22 of 18 August 2000, on the promotion of dialogue on human rights issues, by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-second session,

1. *Reaffirms* that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and the responsibility of all Member States to promote, protect and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation;

2. *Recognizes* that, in addition to their separate responsibilities to their individual societies, States have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;

3. *Reaffirms* that dialogue among cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity, and welcomes in this regard the holding of conferences and meetings at the national, regional and international levels on dialogue among civilizations;

4. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Considers* that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, cooperation and genuine dialogue, objectivity

and transparency, in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for a cooperative approach on the part of all stakeholders to resolving human rights issues in international forums;

9. *Also emphasizes* the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts and in increasing the capacities of Member States in the field of human rights through, inter alia, the enhancement of their cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned;

10. *Calls upon* Member States, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

11. *Urges* States to take measures necessary to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises, such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters, on the full enjoyment of human rights;

12. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

13. *Recalls* the seminar on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights held in 2013, with the participation of States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other stakeholders, including academic experts and civil society;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means, as well as on obstacles and challenges and possible proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of international cooperation and genuine dialogue in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Human Rights Council;

15. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventieth session.

National policies and human rights

OHCHR report. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/19 [YUN 2013, p. 618], OHCHR submitted a July report [A/HRC/27/41] on technical assistance and capacity-building options for integrating human rights into national policies, which provided information on worldwide practices undertaken by States, with OHCHR support, in developing and applying methodologies to integrate human rights into national policies and programmes. The report was based on research undertaken by OHCHR on national and regional experiences in integrating human rights into public policies and programmes, taking into account national legislative frameworks and regional and international human rights instruments.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/26)], the Council recommended that States integrate a human rights perspective into their national policies; decided to convene at its twenty-eighth (2015) session a panel discussion on the issue of national policies and human rights, with a particular focus on the findings of the OHCHR report on technical assistance (see above), identifying challenges, further development and good practices in mainstreaming human rights in national policies and programmes; and requested the High Commissioner to submit a summary report on the outcome before the Council's thirtieth (2015) session.

Advisory services and technical cooperation

Voluntary fund

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 18/18 [YUN 2011, p. 641], the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights submitted a report [A/HRC/29/48] on the Board's work in 2014, including activities since the previous report [YUN 2013, p. 618].

The Board held its thirty-ninth (Mexico, 17–21 February) [A/HRC/26/51] and fortieth (Geneva, 14–16 October) [A/HRC/29/48] sessions. In 2014, the Fund provided resources for technical cooperation to build strong national human rights frameworks in 30 regions, countries and territories. That included support for 16 human rights advisers in 16 countries, 8 human rights components of peace missions and 6 country/stand-alone offices. The activities conducted under the Fund had resulted in efforts made at the country level to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices; the establishment of national capacities to adhere to those standards; strengthened administration of justice; the development of human rights education programmes; increased capacities with regard to gender equality and women's rights; and the establishment of responsive national human rights institutions. The Fund's balance as at 31 December was \$12,984,588. Income amounted to \$18,052,071 and expenditures to \$20,201,720.

OHCHR report. Pursuant to Council resolution 24/31 [YUN 2013, p. 618], OHCHR submitted a report [A/HRC/26/24] on activities undertaken to support efforts by States to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in their national legislations, policies and programmes. The report served as a basis for the thematic panel discussion on "Technical cooperation and capacity-building in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities through legal and institutional frameworks, including public-private partnerships", convened during the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) session (Geneva, 25 June) [A/HRC/26/2].

The Deputy High Commissioner opened the panel discussion with an overview of successes, best practices and challenges in OHCHR technical assistance and capacity building efforts and five panellists made statements.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/20)], the Council decided that the theme for the annual thematic panel discussion during its twenty-eighth (2015) session should be "Technical cooperation to support inclusive and participatory development and poverty eradication at the national level". It requested the High Commissioner to report on OHCHR technical assistance to support inclusive and participatory development at the national level to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session, to serve as a basis for the thematic panel discussion.

Regional arrangements

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/19 [YUN 2013, p. 619], the High Commissioner organized a workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (Geneva, 8–9 October) [A/HRC/28/31]. Participants agreed on a number of proposals and recommendations aimed at enhancing cooperation between UN and regional human rights mechanisms with regard to mainstreaming economic, social and cultural rights, in particular those of persons with disabilities and of women. The report contained a summary of the discussions held during the workshop, as well as its conclusions and recommendations.

South-West Asia and the Arab Region

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/241 [YUN 2013, p. 620], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/333] on the activities, from August 2013 to July 2014, of the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, established by Assembly resolution 60/153 [YUN 2005, p. 754]. The Secretary-General concluded that the Centre, located in Doha, Qatar, continued to establish itself as a key partner in the region, and had demonstrated its capacity to implement a wide range of training and documentation activities in the field of human rights. The increasing demand placed on the Centre by States and other stakeholders revealed a growing recognition of the Centre's role and impact on strengthening human rights capacities in the region.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/171** by recorded vote (182-1-3) [agenda item 68 (b)].

**United Nations Human Rights Training
and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia
and the Arab Region**

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993, which reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and 51/102 of 12 December 1996 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling further its resolutions 60/153 of 16 December 2005, 67/162 of 20 December 2012 and 68/241 of 27 December 2013 on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming that regional cooperation plays a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Noting that the developments in the Middle East and North Africa have generated growing demand for the services of the Centre, and recognizing that the report of the Secretary-General indicates that regular budget resources have been allocated to reinforce the staffing capacity of the Centre, thereby enabling it to better respond to training and documentation demands in a more timely and adequate manner, and to help to fill the gaps in terms of expertise and relevant Arabic-language training materials,

Mindful of the vastness and the diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within South-West Asia and the Arab region, and taking into account the need for appropriate and sustainable funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the successful assistance that the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region has provided through human rights capacity-building activities, technical assistance programmes and training programmes on combating human trafficking, human rights and media, human rights and diplomacy, human rights education and police training on human rights, as well as support to national human rights institutions and regional consultations on the topics of United Nations human rights mechanisms;

3. *Underlines* the Centre's role as a source for regional expertise and the need to meet an increasing number of requests for training and documentation, including in the Arabic language;

4. *Notes* that the increasing demand that has been placed on the Centre by Member States and other stake-

holders reveals a growing recognition of its role and impact on strengthening human rights capacities in the region;

5. *Encourages* the continued engagement of the Centre to work with other United Nations regional offices to strengthen its work and to avoid duplication;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report, in accordance with existing rules and procedures, on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/171:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against: Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining: Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe.

National human rights institutions

Reports of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/17 [YUN 2013, p. 621], the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/HRC/27/39] covering activities undertaken by OHCHR from April 2013 to August 2014 to establish and strengthen national human rights institutions, cooperation between those institutions and the international human rights system, and OHCHR support to the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and relevant regional networks. The Secretary-General concluded the report with recommendations to States and to

national institutions. He encouraged States to establish a national human rights institution where none existed and to strengthen existing ones; and to ensure that national human rights institutions were provided with a broad mandate to protect and promote all human rights and with adequate human and financial resources. National human rights institutions were encouraged to continue to develop protective measures and mechanisms for human rights defenders, engage with the international human rights system, and advocate for their independent participation in the meetings of UN human rights bodies.

The Secretary-General also submitted a report [A/HRC/27/40] covering the activities carried out from May 2013 to March 2014 by the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in considering and reviewing applications for accreditation and re-accreditation of national human rights institutions. The report highlighted improvements in the accreditation process and concluded with recommendations. An annex to the report listed 71 national institutions that were compliant with the Paris Principles, adopted by General Assembly resolution 48/134 [YUN 1993, p. 898]; 25 institutions not fully compliant; 10 institutions that were non-compliant; and one institution that had been suspended.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/18)], the Council invited national human rights institutions to include in their cooperation activities the exchange of best practices on strengthening the liaison role between civil society and their Governments; noted the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the International Coordinating Committee (Geneva, 12–14 March); and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council's thirty-third (2016) session on the implementation of the resolution and on the activities of the Committee in accrediting national institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

Role of the Ombudsman and other national institutions

By an 8 August note [A/69/287], the Secretary-General advised that the information on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/163 [YUN 2012, p. 623] on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights was contained in his report on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights [A/HRC/27/39] (see above). In that report, the Secretary-General summarized various activities of ombudsmen, including in the areas of capacity-building, legal advice and support to regional meetings.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/168** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

The role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, in which the Conference reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming its resolutions 65/207 of 21 December 2010 and 67/163 of 20 December 2012 on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993 and annexed thereto,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular resolutions 66/169 of 19 December 2011 and 68/171 of 18 December 2013, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions 23/17 of 13 June 2013 and 27/18 of 25 September 2014,

Welcoming the rapidly growing interest throughout the world in the creation and strengthening of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, and recognizing the important role that these institutions can play, in accordance with their mandate, in support of national complaint resolution,

Recognizing the role of the existing Ombudsman, whether a male or female, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Underlining the importance of the autonomy and independence of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, where they exist, in order to enable them to consider all issues related to their fields of competence,

Considering the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in promoting good governance in public administrations, as well as improving their relations with citizens, and in strengthening the delivery of public services,

Considering also the important role of the existing Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in contributing to the effective realization of the rule of law and respect for the principles of justice and equality,

Stressing that these institutions, where they exist, can play an important role in advising Governments with re-

spect to bringing national legislation and national practices into line with their international human rights obligations,

Stressing also the importance of international cooperation in the field of human rights, and recalling the role played by regional and international associations of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in promoting cooperation and sharing best practices,

Noting with satisfaction the active work of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen and the active continuing work of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen, the Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of la Francophonie, the Asian Ombudsman Association, the African Ombudsman and Mediators Association, the Arab Ombudsman Network, the European Mediation Network Initiative, the International Ombudsman Institute and other active ombudsman and mediator associations and networks,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General, in which he refers the General Assembly to his report on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session, in September 2014, and regrets that no specific report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/163 was prepared, as requested in that resolution;

2. *Encourages* Member States:

(a) To consider the creation or the strengthening of independent and autonomous ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions at the national and, where applicable, the local level;

(b) To endow ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, where they exist, with an adequate constitutional and legislative framework, as well as financial and all other appropriate means in order to ensure the efficient and independent exercise of their mandate and to strengthen the legitimacy and credibility of their actions as mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights;

(c) To develop and conduct, as appropriate, outreach activities at the national level, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, in order to raise awareness of the important role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions;

(d) To share and exchange best practices on the work and functioning of their Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and other international and regional ombudsman organizations;

3. *Recognizes* that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, it is the right of each State to choose the framework for national institutions, including the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, which is best suited to its particular needs at the national level, in order to promote human rights in accordance with international human rights instruments;

4. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Office of the High Commissioner in all international and regional meetings of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions;

5. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, through its advisory services, to develop and support activities dedicated to the existing Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions and to strengthen their role within national systems for human rights protection;

6. *Encourages* the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, where they exist:

(a) To operate, as appropriate, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and other relevant international instruments, in order to strengthen their independence and autonomy and to enhance their capacity to assist Member States in the promotion and protection of human rights;

(b) To request, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, their accreditation by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in order to enable them to interact effectively with the relevant human rights bodies of the United Nations system;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the obstacles encountered by States in this regard, as well as on best practices in the work and functioning of ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions.

Human rights education

World Programme for Human Rights Education

OHCHR report. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/15 [YUN 2013, p. 624], OHCHR submitted an August report [A/HRC/27/28 & Corr.1] on the plan of action for the third phase (2015–2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 59/113 [YUN 2004, p. 678]. The aim of the third phase was to promote human rights training for media professionals and journalists and to strengthen implementation of the first (2005–2009) [YUN 2005, p. 745] and second (2010–2014) [YUN 2010, p. 661] phases of the World Programme, respectively, on human rights education in the primary and secondary school systems; and on human rights education in higher education and human rights training for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel at all levels. In April and May, the draft plan of action was submitted for review to States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, including UNESCO, national human rights institutions and civil society. OHCHR received 30 replies with comments, which were taken into consideration in the final text.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/12)], the Council adopted the plan of action for the third phase (2015–2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education; called upon national human rights institutions to assist

in the implementation of human rights education programmes consistent with the plan; requested OHCHR to submit reports on implementation of the second and third phases of the World Programme, respectively, at the Council's thirtieth (2015) and thirty-sixth (2017) sessions; and decided to follow up on the implementation of the World Programme in 2017.

International Decade for People of African Descent

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/33)], the Human Rights Council noted the proclamation by the General Assembly in resolution 68/237 [YUN 2013, p. 625] of the International Decade for People of African Descent, effective from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2024. It requested the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to elaborate a programme of activities for the implementation of the Decade at the Working Group's twelfth (2014) session (see p. 788) and present its final report to the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) session for adoption and transmission to the General Assembly.

On 18 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/1)], the Council decided to transmit to the Assembly the report of the Working Group containing the draft programme of activities [A/HRC/26/55].

On 30 June, by **decision 68/556**, the General Assembly decided to extend the informal intergovernmental process on a programme for the implementation of the International Decade in order to finalize the elaboration of a programme for adoption by the Assembly. On 9 September, by **decision 68/558**, the Assembly decided to defer consideration of and action on the draft resolution on the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade until its sixty-ninth session in order to allow time for further consultations on the programme budget implications of the proposal.

On 18 November, by resolution 69/16 (see below), the Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the Decade, which were annexed to the resolution. The theme of the Decade was "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 November [meeting 55], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/16** [draft: A/69/L.3] without vote [agenda item 66 (b)].

Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and

ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development", to be officially launched immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and to this end emphasizing the opportunity for achieving important synergy in the combating of all the scourges of racism through the effective observance of the Decade, and in this regard contributing to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling also its resolution 64/169 of 18 December 2009, by which it proclaimed 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent, bearing in mind the primacy of building on the gains achieved during the implementation of the programme of activities for the Year, and to this end recalling paragraph 61 of its resolution 66/144 of 19 December 2011, by which it encouraged the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to develop a programme of action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, with a view to proclaiming the International Decade for People of African Descent before the end of 2013,

Recalling further its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, by which it decided to convene the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and its resolutions 56/266 of 27 March 2002, 57/195 of 18 December 2002, 58/160 of 22 December 2003, 59/177 of 20 December 2004 and 60/144 of 16 December 2005, which guided the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Cognizant of its resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, by which it designated 25 March as the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

Committed to upholding human dignity and equality for the victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, in particular people of African descent in the African diaspora,

Welcoming the work undertaken by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on the elaboration of a draft programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent,

Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the elaboration of a draft programme of activities for the implementation of the Decade,

1. *Adopts* the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Urges* States to ensure that activities and objectives for the Decade are planned and implemented in accordance with paragraph 10 of the programme of activities for the implementation of the Decade on the basis of full consultation and collaboration with people of African descent;

3. *Decides* to appoint the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to act as coordinator of the Decade in order to follow up on the implementation of activities in the framework of the Decade;

4. *Requests* States and encourages relevant human rights bodies, organs and mechanisms of the United Nations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, international, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations, including organizations of people of African

descent, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders to develop and implement specific action-oriented activities in their areas of competence;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit annually a progress report on the implementation of the activities of the Decade;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to allocate predictable funding from the regular budget of the United Nations for the effective implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for this purpose;

7. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene a midterm review to take stock of the progress made and decide on further necessary actions before the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a final assessment of the Decade, to take place within the framework of a high-level international event, marking the closure of the Decade;

9. *Decides* to officially launch the Decade in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/237 immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, with the requisite global visibility and appropriate profile, whose modalities shall be coordinated by the President of the Assembly in consultation with Member States.

Annex

Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent

I. Introduction

A. Background

1. The International Decade for People of African Descent, to be observed from 2015 to 2024, constitutes an auspicious period of history when the United Nations, Member States, civil society and all other relevant actors will join together with people of African descent and take effective measures for the implementation of the programme of activities in the spirit of recognition, justice and development. The programme of activities recognizes that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action is a comprehensive United Nations framework and a solid foundation for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and represents a new stage in the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to restore the rights and dignity of people of African descent.

2. The implementation of the programme of activities for the International Decade is an integral part of the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and in compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as the principal international instruments for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Important synergies should therefore be achieved through the International Decade in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

3. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action acknowledged that people of African descent were victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, and continue to be victims of their consequences. The Durban process raised the visibility of people of African descent and contributed to a substantive advancement in the promotion

and protection of their rights as a result of concrete actions taken by States, the United Nations, other international and regional bodies and civil society.

4. Regrettably, despite the above-mentioned advances, racism and racial discrimination, both direct and indirect, *de facto* and *de jure*, continue to manifest themselves in inequality and disadvantage. People of African descent throughout the world, whether as descendants of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade or as more recent migrants, constitute some of the poorest and most marginalized groups. Studies and findings by international and national bodies demonstrate that people of African descent still have limited access to quality education, health services, housing and social security. In many cases, their situation remains largely invisible, and insufficient recognition and respect has been given to the efforts of people of African descent to seek redress for their present condition. They all too often experience discrimination in their access to justice, and face alarmingly high rates of police violence, together with racial profiling. Furthermore, their degree of political participation is often low, both in voting and in occupying political positions.

5. People of African descent can suffer from multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as age, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

6. The promotion and protection of human rights of people of African descent should be a priority concern for the United Nations. In this regard, the International Decade for People of African Descent is a timely and important initiative, a unique opportunity to underline the important contribution made by people of African descent to our societies and to propose concrete measures to promote their full inclusion and to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

B. Theme of the International Decade

7. As proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/237, the theme of the International Decade is "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development".

C. Objectives of the International Decade

8. Non-discrimination and equality before and of the law constitute fundamental principles of international human rights law, and underpin the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the main international human rights treaties and instruments. As such, the main objective of the International Decade should be to promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This main objective can be achieved through the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference and the political declaration commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and through the universal accession to or ratification of and full implementation of the obligations arising under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant international and regional human rights instruments.

9. The International Decade shall focus on the following specific objectives:

(a) To strengthen national, regional and international action and cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society;

(b) To promote a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies;

(c) To adopt and strengthen national, regional and international legal frameworks in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and to ensure their full and effective implementation.

II. Activities to be conducted during the International Decade

A. National level

10. States should take concrete and practical steps through the adoption and effective implementation of national and international legal frameworks, policies and programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by people of African descent, taking into account the particular situation of women, girls and young males, by, inter alia, the activities described below.

1. Recognition

(a) *Right to equality and non-discrimination*

11. States should:

(a) Remove all obstacles that prevent their equal enjoyment of all human rights, economic, social, cultural, civil and political, including the right to development;

(b) Promote the effective implementation of national and international legal frameworks;

(c) Withdraw reservations contrary to the object and purpose of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and consider withdrawing other reservations;

(d) Undertake a comprehensive review of domestic legislation with a view to identifying and abolishing provisions that entail direct or indirect discrimination;

(e) Adopt or strengthen comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and ensure its effective implementation;

(f) Provide effective protection for people of African descent, and review and repeal all laws that have a discriminatory effect on people of African descent facing multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination;

(g) Adopt, strengthen and implement action-oriented policies, programmes and projects to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance designed to ensure full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent; States are also encouraged to elaborate national plans of action to promote diversity, equality, equity, social justice, equality of opportunity and the participation of all;

(h) Establish and/or strengthen national mechanisms or institutions with a view to formulating, monitoring and implementing policies to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and promoting racial equality, with the participation of representatives of civil society;

(i) As appropriate, establish and/or strengthen independent national human rights institutions, in conformity with the Paris Principles, and/or similar mechanisms with the participation of civil society, and provide them with adequate financial resources, competence and capacity for protection, promotion and monitoring to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

(b) *Education on equality and awareness-raising*

12. States should:

(a) Celebrate the launch of the International Decade at the national level, and develop national programmes of action and activities for the full and effective implementation of the Decade;

(b) Organize national conferences and other events aimed at triggering an open debate and raising awareness on the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including government, civil society representatives and individuals or groups of individuals who are victims;

(c) Promote greater knowledge and recognition of and respect for the culture, history and heritage of people of African descent, including through research and education, and promote full and accurate inclusion of the history and contribution of people of African descent in educational curricula;

(d) Promote the positive role that political leaders and political parties, leaders of religious communities and the media could further play in fighting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by, inter alia, publicly recognizing and respecting the culture, history and heritage of people of African descent;

(e) Raise awareness through information and education measures with a view to restoring the dignity of people of African descent, and consider making available the support for such activities to non-governmental organizations;

(f) Support education and training initiatives for non-governmental organizations and people of African descent in the use of the tools provided by international human rights instruments relating to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(g) Ensure that textbooks and other educational materials reflect historical facts accurately as they relate to past tragedies and atrocities, in particular slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism, so as to avoid stereotypes and the distortion or falsification of these historical facts, which may lead to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the role of respective countries therein, by:

(i) Supporting research and educational initiatives;

(ii) Giving recognition to the victims and their descendants through the establishment of memorial sites in countries that profited from and/or were responsible for slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism and past tragedies where there is none, as well as at departure, arrival and relocation points, and by protecting related cultural sites.

(c) *Information-gathering*

13. In accordance with paragraph 92 of the Durban Programme of Action, States should collect, compile, analyse, disseminate and publish reliable statistical data

at the national and local levels and take all other related measures necessary to assess regularly the situation of people of African descent who are victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

14. Such statistical data should be disaggregated in accordance with national legislation, upholding the right to privacy and the principle of self-identification.

15. The information should be collected to monitor the situation of people of African descent, assess progress made, increase their visibility and identify social gaps. It should also be used to assess and guide the formulation of policies and actions to prevent, combat and eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

(d) Participation and inclusion

16. States should adopt measures to enable the full, equal and effective participation of people of African descent in public and political affairs without discrimination, in accordance with international human rights law.

2. Justice

(a) Access to justice

17. States should take further measures, by:

(a) Introducing measures to ensure equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the right to equal treatment before the tribunals and all other organs administering justice;

(b) Designing, implementing and enforcing effective measures to eliminate the phenomenon popularly known as “racial profiling”;

(c) Eliminating institutionalized stereotypes concerning people of African descent and applying appropriate sanctions against law enforcement officials who act on the basis of racial profiling;

(d) Ensuring that people of African descent have full access to effective protection and remedies through the competent national tribunals and other State institutions against any acts of racial discrimination, and the right to seek from such tribunals just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for any damage suffered as a result of such discrimination;

(e) Adopting effective and appropriate measures, including legal measures as appropriate, to combat all acts of racism, in particular the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial hatred, violence or incitement to racial violence, as well as racist propaganda activities and participation in racist organizations; States are also encouraged to ensure that such motivations are considered an aggravating factor for the purpose of sentencing;

(f) Facilitating access to justice for people of African descent who are victims of racism by providing the requisite legal information about their rights, and providing legal assistance when appropriate;

(g) Preventing and punishing all human rights violations affecting people of African descent, including violence, acts of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, including those committed by State officials;

(h) Ensuring that people of African descent, like all other persons, enjoy all the guarantees of a fair trial and equality before the law as enshrined in relevant international human rights instruments, and specifically the right to the

presumption of innocence, the right to assistance of counsel and to an interpreter, the right to an independent and impartial tribunal, guarantees of justice, and all the rights to which prisoners are entitled;

(i) Acknowledging and profoundly regretting the untold suffering and evils inflicted on millions of men, women and children as a result of slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, genocide and past tragedies, noting that some States have taken the initiative to apologize and have paid reparation, where appropriate, for grave and massive violations committed, and calling upon those that have not yet expressed remorse or presented apologies to find some way to contribute to the restoration of the dignity of victims;

(j) Inviting the international community and its members to honour the memory of the victims of these tragedies with a view to closing those dark chapters in history and as a means of reconciliation and healing; further noting that some have taken the initiative of regretting or expressing remorse or presenting apologies, and calling upon all those that have not yet contributed to restoring the dignity of the victims to find appropriate ways to do so and, to this end, appreciating those countries that have done so;

(k) Calling upon all States concerned to take appropriate and effective measures to halt and reverse the lasting consequences of those practices, bearing in mind their moral obligations.

(b) Special measures

18. The adoption of special measures, such as affirmative action, where appropriate, is essential to alleviating and remedying disparities in the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms affecting people of African descent, protecting them from discrimination and overcoming persistent or structural disparities and de facto inequalities resulting from historical circumstances. As such, States should develop or elaborate national plans of action to promote diversity, equality, social justice, equality of opportunity and the participation of all. By means of, inter alia, affirmative or positive actions and strategies, these plans should aim at creating conditions for all to participate effectively in decision-making and to realize civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights in all spheres of life on the basis of non-discrimination.

3. Development

(a) Right to development and measures against poverty

19. Consistent with the Declaration on the Right to Development, States should adopt measures aimed at guaranteeing active, free and meaningful participation by all individuals, including people of African descent, in development and decision-making related thereto and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom.

20. Recognizing that poverty is both a cause and a consequence of discrimination, States should, as appropriate, adopt or strengthen national programmes for eradicating poverty and reducing social exclusion that take account of the specific needs and experiences of people of African descent, and should also expand their efforts to foster bilateral, regional and international cooperation in implementing those programmes.

21. States should implement actions to protect ancestral groups of people of African descent.

(b) Education

22. States should take all necessary measures to give effect to the right of people of African descent, particularly children and young people, to free primary education and access to all levels and forms of quality public education without discrimination. States should:

(a) Ensure that quality education is accessible and available in areas where communities of African descent live, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, with attention to improving the quality of public education;

(b) Take measures to ensure that public and private education systems do not discriminate against or exclude children of African descent, and that they are protected from direct or indirect discrimination, negative stereotyping, stigmatization and violence from peers or teachers; to this end, training and sensitization should be provided to teachers and measures should be taken to increase the number of teachers of African descent working in educational institutions.

(c) Employment

23. States should take concrete measures to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the workplace against all workers, in particular people of African descent, including migrants, and ensure the full equality of all before the law, including labour law, and eliminate barriers, where appropriate, to participation in vocational training, collective bargaining, employment, contracts and trade union activity; access to judicial and administrative tribunals dealing with grievances; seeking employment in different parts of their country of residence; and working in safe and healthy conditions.

(d) Health

24. States should take measures to improve access to quality health services for people of African descent.

(e) Housing

25. Recognizing the poor and insecure housing conditions in which many people of African descent live, States should develop and implement policies and projects as appropriate aimed at, inter alia, ensuring that they gain and sustain a safe and secure home and community in which to live in peace and dignity.

4. Multiple or aggravated discrimination

26. States should adopt and implement policies and programmes that provide effective protection for, and review and repeal all policies and laws that could discriminate against, people of African descent facing multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

27. States should mainstream a gender perspective when designing and monitoring public policies, taking into account the specific needs and realities of women and girls of African descent, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and ensure adequate access to maternal health care.

B. Regional and international levels**1. Steps to be taken by the international community and international and regional organizations**

28. The international community, international and regional organizations, in particular relevant United Nations programmes, funds, specialized agencies and other bodies, international financial and development institutions, and other international mechanisms within their areas of competence should give high priority to programmes and projects specifically tailored for combating racism and racial discrimination against people of African descent, taking fully into account the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and should, inter alia:

(a) Take measures to raise awareness about the International Decade, including through awareness-raising campaigns, and organizing and supporting other activities, bearing in mind the theme of the Decade;

(b) Continue to disseminate widely the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(c) Continue to raise awareness about the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

(d) Assist States in the full and effective implementation of the obligations arising under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and in ratifying or acceding to the Convention, with a view to attaining its universal ratification;

(e) Assist States in the full and effective implementation of their commitments under the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(f) Incorporate human rights into development programmes, including in the areas of access to and enjoyment of the rights to education, employment, health, housing, land and labour;

(g) Assign particular priority to the projects devoted to the collection of statistical data;

(h) Support initiatives and projects aimed at honouring and preserving the historical memory of people of African descent;

(i) Use the Decade as an opportunity to engage with people of African descent on appropriate and effective measures to halt and reverse the lasting consequences of slavery, the slave trade and the transatlantic slave trade in captured African people and, to this end, ensure the participation of and consultation with non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders and civil society at large;

(j) In planning activities for the Decade, examine how existing programmes and resources might be utilized to benefit people of African descent more effectively;

(k) Give due consideration to the goals and objectives aimed at the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against people of African descent in the discussions held by the United Nations on the post-2015 development agenda.

2. Steps and measures to be taken by the General Assembly

29. The General Assembly should:

(a) Appoint the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to act as coordinator of the Decade in order to follow up on the implementation of activities in the framework of the Decade;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to submit an annual progress report on the implementation of activities of the Decade, taking into account information and views provided by States, relevant human rights bodies, organs and mechanisms of the United Nations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, international, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations, including organizations of people of African descent, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders;

(c) Request the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and regional and subregional organizations, to launch an awareness-raising campaign to inform the general public of the history, contributions, including to global development, challenges, contemporary experiences and situation of human rights of people of African descent;

(d) Encourage the issuance of a stamp by the United Nations postal administration on the International Decade for People of African Descent;

(e) Invite regional and subregional organizations, specialized agencies, and United Nations programmes, funds and offices to develop studies in their respective areas of competence and expertise and to report on the themes of the Decade; such studies could be used to inform a midterm review of the Decade to monitor the progress made, share learning practices among key actors and inform plans and policies for the remaining five years of the Decade and beyond;

(f) Request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue and strengthen its fellowship programme for people of African descent during the Decade;

(g) Request the Office of the High Commissioner to include a section on the anti-discrimination database on the International Decade for People of African Descent;

(h) Request States to consider adopting measures to further promote and protect the human rights of people of African descent as enshrined in international human rights instruments, including through the elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent;

(i) Decide to establish a forum to serve as a consultation mechanism, to be provided by one of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms such as the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent or the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and in this regard requests the Human Rights Council to allocate two or three days of the annual sessions of one of these mechanisms that shall be devoted to this purpose and that would ensure the inclusive participation of all States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, civil society organizations of people of African descent and all other relevant stakeholders;

(j) Request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to further increase and strengthen support for the relevant mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the context of the Decade;

(k) Encourage all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions and individuals, as well as other donors in a position to do so, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination with a view to contributing to the successful implementation of the programme;

(l) Request the Secretary-General to accord high priority to executing the programme of activities for the International Decade, and to allocate predictable funding from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations to the effective implementation of the programme of action and activities of the Decade;

(m) Keep the Decade under review, and convene a midterm review to take stock of the progress made and decide on further necessary actions;

(n) Convene a final assessment of the Decade, to be held within the framework of a high-level international event, marking the closure of the International Decade for People of African Descent;

(o) Ensure the completion of the construction and the inauguration, before the midterm review in 2020, of a permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters to honour the memory of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

International Albinism Awareness Day

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/10)], the Human Rights Council took note of the OHCHR preliminary report on persons with albinism [YUN 2013, p. 705]; recommended that the General Assembly proclaim 13 June as “International Albinism Awareness Day” and invited States, UN system entities and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including NGOs and individuals, to observe the Day; and urged the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Council to continue to give attention to the situation of persons with albinism. It also requested the High Commissioner to keep the Council informed at its twenty-ninth (2015) session of initiatives taken to raise awareness and protect the rights of persons with albinism; and to bring the resolution to the attention of all States and UN organizations.

On 18 December, by resolution 69/170 (see below), the General Assembly proclaimed 13 June as “International Albinism Awareness Day”, with effect from 2015.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/170** by recorded vote (171-0-16) [agenda item 68 (b)].

International Albinism Awareness Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 23/13 of 13 June 2013 on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, 24/33 of 27 September 2013 on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism and 26/10 of 26 June 2014 on International Albinism Awareness Day,

Taking note of the preliminary report on persons with albinism submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,

Taking note also of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolution 263 of 5 November 2013 on the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism,

Expressing concern at the attacks against persons with albinism, including women and children, which are often committed with impunity,

Welcoming the efforts by States to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against persons with albinism,

Welcoming also the increased international attention to the human rights situation of persons with albinism, including the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

Encouraging Member States to continue their efforts to protect and preserve the rights of persons with albinism to life, dignity and security, as well as their right not to be subject to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to continue their efforts to ensure equal access for persons with albinism to employment, education, justice and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health,

Emphasizing the imperative need to enhance the promotion and protection of all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, as a matter of priority for the international community,

Noting that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the human rights situation of persons with albinism remains limited, and recognizing the importance of increasing awareness and understanding of albinism in order to fight against global discrimination and stigma against persons with albinism,

Welcoming the observance by civil society actors of 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day,

Taking note of the recommendation by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 26/10 that the General Assembly proclaim 13 June International Albinism Awareness Day,

Recalling its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

1. *Decides* to proclaim, with effect from 2015, 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe International Albinism Awareness Day in an appropriate manner;

3. *Invites* Member States to provide the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with information on

the initiatives taken to promote and protect the human rights of persons with albinism, including efforts to increase awareness of the human rights situation of persons with albinism and understanding of albinism;

4. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Human Rights Council to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to the situation of persons with albinism;

5. *Recalls* the request to the High Commissioner to inform the Human Rights Council at its twenty-ninth session of the initiatives taken to raise awareness and promote the protection of the rights of persons with albinism;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/170:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Fiji, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Follow-up to the 1993 World Conference

Report of Third Committee. On 1 December, the Third Committee of the General Assembly reported [A/69/488/Add.4] on the implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

On 18 December, the General Assembly took note of the report (**decision 69/535**).

Protection of human rights

In 2014, the United Nations remained engaged in protecting human rights through its main organs—the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council—and the Human Rights Council, which carried out its task as the central UN intergovernmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide. The Council addressed violations, worked to prevent abuses, provided overall policy guidance, monitored the observance of human rights around the world and assisted States in fulfilling their human rights obligations.

The special procedures mandate holders—special rapporteurs, independent experts, working groups and representatives of the Secretary-General—monitored, examined, advised and publicly reported on human rights situations in specific countries or on major human rights violations worldwide. At the end of 2014, there were 53 special procedures (39 thematic mandates and 14 country- or territory-related mandates) with 77 mandate holders.

In 2014, special procedures submitted 135 reports to the Human Rights Council, including 64 on country visits, and 36 reports to the General Assembly. They sent 553 communications to 116 States; 82 per cent of those communications were sent jointly by more than one mandate holder. Communications covered at least 1,061 individuals, 16.9 per cent of whom were women. Mandate holders followed up on 24 per cent of communications, and Governments replied to 42.9 per cent of communications. Some 379 news releases and public statements on situations of concern were issued, individually or jointly, by mandate holders.

Special procedures conducted 80 country visits to 60 States. The number of countries that had extended a standing invitation to special procedures rose to 110 as at 31 December.

The Council in 2014 established two thematic mandates: Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. It also established a country mandate on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights.

Economic, social and cultural rights continued to be a major focus of activity. The General Assembly highlighted the right to development, and Special Rapporteurs advocated for the rights to food, safe

water and sanitation, health, adequate housing, education and a life free from poverty.

In other developments, the Permanent Memorial Committee entered into an agreement with an architect for the construction of a permanent memorial at UN Headquarters in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, to be completed in 2015. In September, the first World Conference on Indigenous People, convened as a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, adopted an action-oriented document on the realization of indigenous rights.

Special procedures

Report of High Commissioner. In her annual report to the Human Rights Council [A/HRC/28/3], the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, noted that the expertise of special procedures helped to draw attention to emerging issues such as the use of drones in extraterritorial lethal counter-terrorism operations; mass digital surveillance for counter-terrorism purposes; the implications of States' surveillance of communications on the rights to privacy and to freedom of opinion and expression; and the implementation of the right to social security through the universal adoption of social protection floors. From January to October, special procedures mandate holders conducted 63 country visits to 43 States and issued 427 communications. Some 109 States issued standing invitations for special procedures visits, although they were not always honoured. The Council established two new thematic mandates: on the rights of persons with disabilities and on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. In all there were 53 special procedures (39 thematic and 14 geographically related).

Report of Secretary-General. In response to a Human Rights Council decision [YUN 2006, p. 760], the Secretary-General in December submitted a report [A/HRC/28/19] indicating that the special procedures' conclusions and recommendations contained in their 2014 reports to the Council's twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions were available on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Reports of special procedures. In accordance with the decisions made by special procedures mandate holders at their sixteenth [YUN 2009, p. 645]

and seventeenth [YUN 2010, p. 656] annual meetings, mandate holders issued, on 24 February [A/HRC/25/74], 2 June [A/HRC/26/21] and 20 August [A/HRC/27/72], joint communications reports containing summaries of communications and statistical information. The reports covered urgent appeals, letters of allegations and other letters sent by mandate holders from 1 June 2013 to 31 May 2014 and replies received between 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2014, including replies relating to communications sent prior to 1 June 2013.

Reprisals for cooperation with human rights bodies

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2009, p. 668], the Secretary-General in August [A/HRC/27/38] submitted a compilation and analysis of information on alleged reprisals against individuals or groups who had cooperated or sought to cooperate with representatives of UN human rights bodies, as well as recommendations on how to address cases of intimidation and reprisals. The report contained information gathered from 16 June 2013 to 31 May 2014, pertaining to cases in Algeria, Cameroon, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam. It also provided follow-up information on cases included in previous reports on India, Morocco, the Russian Federation, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. The report noted that the cases included represented only the tip of the iceberg: some cases had not been included because of concern that the alleged victims might be subjected to further reprisals if their complaints were published. Reprisals against persons cooperating with the United Nations and its human rights mechanisms and representatives ranged from threats, harassment, smear campaigns, fines, travel bans, the forced closure of organizations, arbitrary arrests, prosecution and lengthy prison sentences to torture and death. The Secretary-General recommended that States prevent and refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisal against individuals and groups; adopt specific legislation and policies; investigate alleged acts of reprisal or intimidation to bring perpetrators to justice; and consider establishing a national focal point to address acts of intimidation and reprisal.

On 15 September, the General Assembly deferred until its sixty-ninth (2014) session consideration of the report of the Human Rights Council as it pertained to Council resolution 24/24 [YUN 2013, p. 640] on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, and on intimidation or reprisals against individuals and groups who had cooperated or sought to cooperate with the United Nations (**decision 68/668**).

On 29 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the report of the Human Rights Council would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Civil and political rights

Racism and racial discrimination

Follow-up to 2001 World Conference

During the year, efforts continued to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) adopted by the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance [YUN 2001, p. 615].

Intergovernmental Working Group. The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the DDPA, at its twelfth session (Geneva, 7–17 April) [A/HRC/26/55], identified, on the basis of contributions by Member States and other stakeholders, objectives and national, regional and international activities to be conducted during the International Decade for People of African Descent, 2015–2024 (see p. 780).

A 10 April secretariat note [A/HRC/25/68/Rev.1] informed the Human Rights Council that the report of the Working Group's eleventh session [YUN 2013, p. 628] would be submitted to the Council's twenty-fifth (2014) session.

Report of independent experts. The five independent eminent experts appointed by the Secretary-General in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 662] to follow up on implementation of DDPA provisions, following their first [YUN 2003, p. 698] and second [YUN 2005, p. 757] meetings, held their third meeting in private (Geneva, 4 February 2014) [A/HRC/26/56]. The experts discussed their previous work and related challenges, mandate and working methods, including suggestions for follow-up actions. They agreed to submit information on individually undertaken activities and new developments in their regions since 2005, which would be compiled and circulated by OHCHR. Such inputs would include proposals for topics on which the experts would work, individually and as a group. The experts emphasized that the group's mandate should be reviewed and amended to reflect what could be realistically achieved; agreed to elaborate and adopt working methods to facilitate their work and increase efficiency; requested OHCHR to assist with the drafting of those methods; and proposed a December 2014 deadline for adoption of the working methods.

On 21 March, by **decision 68/552**, the General Assembly decided, without setting a precedent, to invite Gay McDougall (United States), first United Nations Independent Expert on minority issues, former expert member of the Committee on the

Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Special Rapporteur of the former Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, to make a statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/151 [YUN 2013, p. 629], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/354] on global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the DDPA. The report summarized contributions received from 14 countries and four national human rights institutions or national equality bodies and provided an update on activities undertaken by OHCHR. It concluded that despite progress made in combating racism and related phenomena, stronger political will and urgent measures were needed to reverse the recent trends of increasingly hostile racist and xenophobic attitudes and violence. States were encouraged to develop and implement national action plans to combat racial discrimination and related intolerance.

The General Assembly took note of the report on 18 December (**decision 69/533**).

Working Group on people of African descent. At its fourteenth session (Geneva, 31 March–4 April) [A/HRC/27/68], the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent focused on the theme of “People of African descent: access to justice”. The Working Group acknowledged that, despite guarantees in international and national law, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance affected people of African descent in a unique fashion, to the point that many of them were unable to obtain remedies for wrongful acts through their domestic institutions. It urged States to develop a national atlas mapping injustices and to adopt national action plans against racial discrimination, which should include special measures to address structural discrimination against people of African descent. It reiterated its recommendation that national, regional and international activities should be developed during the International Decade for People of African Descent.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/151, the Chair of the Working Group in August reported [A/69/318] on the Working Group’s activities between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014.

Mission reports. Following its mission to the Netherlands (26 June–4 July) [A/HRC/30/56/Add.1], the Working Group concluded that the country had a long tradition of tolerance and openness and valued diversity, yet it had for a long time denied the existence of racism and racist practices, thus obscuring the existence of structural and institutional racism. Recognizing the complex history of people of African descent was a necessary step towards eliminating bar-

riers affecting their ability to enjoy their fundamental rights. The Working Group recommended the adoption of policies targeting people of African descent and tailored to their situation.

Following a visit to Sweden (1–5 December) [A/HRC/30/56/Add.2], the Working Group noted the need to address Afrophobia as a serious phenomenon. Despite advances in the protection of some vulnerable groups, it was only recently that the Government had recognized Afro-Swedes and people of African descent as a specific group requiring focused attention. According to statistics, Afro-Swedes were most exposed to hate crimes, and reports of Afrophobic hate crimes had increased by 24 per cent since 2008. The police faced knowledge, security and capacity gaps in dealing with Afrophobic hate crimes. The Working Group made recommendations to assist Sweden in its efforts to tackle Afrophobia and combat all forms of racism and related intolerance faced by Afro-Swedes and Africans.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/25)], the Council extended the mandate of the Working Group on people of African descent for three years; decided that the Working Group should undertake a minimum of two country visits per year; and requested the Working Group to report annually to the Council, as well as to the General Assembly in the context of the International Decade for People of African Descent (see p. 780).

OHCHR report. In response to Assembly resolution 68/151, OHCHR in July submitted a report [A/69/186] which provided clarification on the establishment, name and activities of the OHCHR Anti-Racial Discrimination Section. In accordance with the established UN structure of departments, the Anti-Discrimination “Unit” fell within the category of a section and was placed in the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch of OHCHR. The High Commissioner aligned the name of the section with its actual OHCHR role, changing the name to the Anti-Racial Discrimination Section. The section focused on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The General Assembly took note of the report on 18 December (**decision 69/533**).

Sports and combating discrimination

Advisory Committee report. As requested by the Human Rights Council [YUN 2013, p. 629], the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee in August submitted a progress report [A/HRC/27/58] on the study on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights. The purpose of the study was to help stakeholders to assess the general factors relating to modern human rights policy in sport and provide insights for its development and improvement. As at August 2014, responses to a March 2014 questionnaire on the topic had been received from 22

States, 5 national human rights institutions, 8 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society representatives, an international organization and a special procedure mandate holder. The report included recommendations with regard to national legislation and executive practice, programme support, and combating discriminatory practices in sport, the media and education.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/8)], the Council called on States to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote human rights. It requested the Advisory Committee to finalize the study on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights and to report to Council before its thirtieth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/486], adopted **resolution 69/162** by recorded vote (134-10-42) [agenda item 66 (b)].

A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference, and in this regard underlining the imperative need for their full and effective implementation,

Stressing that the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance has the same status as the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions in the human rights and social fields, and that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action remains a solid basis and the only instructive outcome of the World Conference, which prescribes comprehensive measures for combating all the scourges of racism and adequate remedies for victims,

Recalling the three Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination previously declared by the General Assembly, and regretting that the Programmes of Action for those Decades were not fully implemented and that their objectives are yet to be attained,

Reiterating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races,

Underlining the intensity, magnitude and organized nature of slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, and the associated historical injustices, as well as the untold suffering caused by colonialism and apartheid, and that Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and indigenous peoples continue to be victims of the cascading effects of those legacies,

Acknowledging the efforts and initiatives undertaken by States to prohibit racial discrimination and racial segregation and to engender the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights,

Emphasizing that, despite efforts in this regard, millions of human beings continue to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary forms and manifestations, some of which manifest in violent forms,

Welcoming the efforts made by civil society in support of the follow-up mechanisms in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling the appointment of the five independent eminent experts on 16 June 2003 by the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/266 of 27 March 2002, with the mandate to follow up on the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to make appropriate recommendations thereon, and in this regard underlining the role played and still to be played by those independent eminent experts in mobilizing global political will for concrete action for the total elimination of all the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Underlining the primacy of the political will, international cooperation and adequate funding at the national, regional and international levels needed to address all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance for the successful implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling its resolution 2142(XXI) of 26 October 1966, in which it proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

Recalling also its resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, in which it designated 25 March as an annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

Recalling further the suffering of the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the need to honour their memory,

Noting that 2016 will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and looking forward to its commemoration,

Recognizing and affirming that the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations is a matter of priority for the international community,

I

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

1. *Reaffirms* the paramount importance of universal adherence to and the full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted by the General

Assembly in its resolution 2106 A(XX) of 21 December 1965, in addressing the scourges of racism and racial discrimination;

2. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider acceding to the Convention, and States parties to make the declaration under article 14 of the Convention, as a matter of urgency;

3. *Underlines*, in the above context, that the provisions of the Convention do not respond effectively to contemporary manifestations of racial discrimination, in particular in relation to xenophobia and related intolerance, which is recognized as the rationale behind the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001;

4. *Takes note* of the acknowledgement by the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary structures of the existence of both procedural and substantive gaps in the aforementioned Convention, which must be filled as a matter of urgency, necessity and priority;

5. *Invites* the Human Rights Council, in conjunction with its Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the execution of its mandate, to continue to elaborate complementary standards in order to fill existing gaps in the Convention, in the form of new normative standards aimed at combating all forms of contemporary and resurgent racism, and in this regard, areas such as xenophobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and incitement to national or ethnic and religious hatred that have been identified as constituting substantive gaps;

II

International Decade for People of African Descent

6. *Welcomes* the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, as contained in its resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, and the celebratory launch of the Decade on 10 December 2014;

7. *Also welcomes* the adoption of the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent;

8. *Requests* the Human Rights Council, through the Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, to submit a report on the work of the Working Group to the General Assembly, and in this regard invites the Chair of the Working Group to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly under the item entitled "Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" at its seventieth session;

III

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

9. *Welcomes* the positive response by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the requests made by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 6/22 of 28 September 2007, and by the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/151 of 18 December 2013, to realign the work and the name of the erstwhile Anti-Discrimination Unit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and also welcomes its renaming as the Anti-Racial Discrimination Section and the realignment of its operational activities to focus exclu-

sively on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Durban Declaration;

10. *Also welcomes* the inclusion of the historic and landmark World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of 2001 among the 20 major achievements of the Office of the High Commissioner since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the High Commissioner to provide the resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandates of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards;

IV

Group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

12. *Reiterates its requests* to the Secretary-General, pursuant to its resolution 68/151, to revitalize and reactivate the operational activities of the group of independent eminent experts;

13. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Human Rights Council, pursuant to paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 68/151, to ensure the visibility, effective participation and optimal utilization of the vast knowledge and experience of the group of independent eminent experts within its subsidiary structures, charged with the mandate of and responsibility for the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and in this regard requests the Council to submit a progress report to the Assembly at its seventieth session;

V

Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

14. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General, in 1973, of the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as a funding mechanism that has been utilized for the implementation of the activities of the three Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination declared by the General Assembly, and in this regard appreciates the fact that the Trust Fund has also been utilized for the subsequent programmes and operational activities transcending the three Decades;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, a section outlining the progress in the implementation of paragraph 18 of its resolution 68/151, regarding the revitalization of the Trust Fund for the purpose of ensuring the successful implementation of the activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent and enhancing the effectiveness of the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference

against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

16. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals as well as other donors in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions;

VI

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

17. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and encourages the Special Rapporteur, within his mandate, to continue to focus on the issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and incitement to hatred, which impede peaceful coexistence and harmony within societies, and to submit reports in this regard to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

18. *Reiterates* the invitation to the Special Rapporteur to consider examining national models of mechanisms that measure racial equality and their added value in the eradication of racial discrimination and to report on such challenges, successes and best practices in his next report;

VII

Follow-up and implementation activities

19. *Reiterates its request* to the Human Rights Council to develop and adopt a multi-year programme of activities to provide for the renewed and strengthened outreach activities needed to inform and mobilize the global public in support of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to strengthen awareness of the contribution that it has made in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

20. *Calls upon* the Human Rights Council to commence preparations for the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including through the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

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

22. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Human Rights Council to continue convening annual commemorative meetings of the Assembly and the Council during the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, with the appropriate focus and themes, and to hold a debate on the state of racial discrimination worldwide, with the participation of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this context encourages the participation of eminent personalities active in the field

of racial discrimination, Member States and civil society organizations in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly and the Council, respectively;

23. *Decides* to remain seized of this priority matter at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/162:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Israel, Marshall Islands, Palau, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Ukraine.

Contemporary forms of racism

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In April, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/150 [YUN 2013, p. 632], the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mutuma Ruteere (Kenya), submitted a report [A/HRC/26/50] on the implementation of that resolution, addressing the human rights and democratic challenges posed by extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis, skinhead groups and similar extremist ideological movements. He examined the main areas of concern where further efforts were required, including with regard to the protection of vulnerable groups against racist and xenophobic crimes and the protection and

consolidation of democracy and human rights. He also identified good practices developed by States and various stakeholders.

Pursuant to the same resolution, in August the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly another report [A/69/334] of the Special Rapporteur on the implementation of resolution 68/150, which dealt with combating the glorification of Nazism and other practices that contributed to fuelling contemporary forms of racism and related phenomena. The report summarized contributions from 11 States and views sent by three intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The Rapporteur encouraged States to adopt legislation to combat racism; bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes with racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic or homophobic motivation and combat impunity; and ensure implementation of measures protecting members of minority groups, people of African descent, Roma, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. He recommended that States invest in education in order to transform attitudes and correct ideas of racial hierarchies and superiority promoted by extremist political parties, movements and groups and counter their negative influence.

In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 660], the Special Rapporteur in May submitted a report [A/HRC/26/49 & Corr.1] examining the context, trends and manifestations of racism on the Internet and social media, and reviewing the legal and policy frameworks and the measures taken at international, regional and national levels. The Rapporteur concluded that combating the use of the Internet and social media to propagate racial, ethnic and xenophobic content and incitement to violence required a multi-stakeholder approach. The role of the private sector, in particular Internet service providers and social media platforms and other industry players, was crucial. He highlighted some of the measures taken by the private sector to address the issue and pointed out the positive contribution made by such initiatives. He encouraged States to use the unique educational potential of the Internet and social media networks to combat manifestations of racism and related phenomena in cyberspace.

In August, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/151 [YUN 2013, p. 629], the Special Rapporteur submitted a report [A/69/340] focusing on the issue of racism and sports. He referred to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in sports; illustrated some manifestations of racism in team and individual sports; discussed the applicable legislation and standards; and presented initiatives of sports federations and civil society that focused on preventing and combating racism in sports. The Rapporteur recommended that stakeholders support existing initiatives while creating environments that fostered the debate on racism and intolerance and raised awareness of patterns of discrimination.

Mission report. Following his visit to the Republic of Korea (29 September–6 October) [A/HRC/29/46/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur examined challenges in the fight against racism, including issues related to the situation of migrants, foreign seafarers and workers in the agriculture sector. He noted that as the country had consolidated its rapid economic development and industrialization, it had been faced with the arrival of foreigners and migrant workers, provoking an essential debate on multiculturalism, racism and xenophobia. It was important that efforts undertaken by all stakeholders, including the Government, to combat racism be continued. He made recommendations on the legal and institutional framework; migrant workers; marriage migrants and multicultural families; racism and xenophobic discourse promoted by private actors; racism in the media; and refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.

In June, Mauritania submitted its comments [A/HRC/26/49/Add.2] on the Special Rapporteur's 2013 mission to the country [YUN 2013, p. 632].

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/32)], the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a three-year period and requested him to report annually to the Council and to the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/486], adopted **resolution 69/160** by recorded vote (133-4-51) [agenda item 66 (a)].

Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling the provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2004/16 of 16 April 2004 and 2005/5 of 14 April 2005 and relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 7/34 of 28 March 2008, 18/15 of 29 September 2011 and 21/33 of 28 September 2012, as well as General Assembly resolutions 60/143 of 16 December 2005, 61/147 of 19 December 2006, 62/142 of 18 December 2007, 63/162 of 18 December 2008, 64/147 of 18 December 2009, 65/199 of 21 December 2010, 66/143 of 19 December 2011, 67/154 of 20 December 2012 and 68/150 of 18 December 2013 on this issue and its resolutions 61/149 of 19 December 2006, 62/220 of 22 December 2007, 63/242 of 24 December 2008, 64/148 of 18 December 2009, 65/240 of 24 December 2010, 66/144 of 19 December 2011, 67/155 of 20 December 2012 and 68/151 of 18 December 2013, entitled

“Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”,

Acknowledging other important initiatives of the General Assembly aimed at raising awareness about the suffering of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including in the historical perspective, in particular regarding commemoration of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

Recalling the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and the Judgement of the Tribunal, which recognized as criminal, inter alia, the SS organization and all its integral parts, including the Waffen SS, through its officially accepted members implicated in or with knowledge of the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity connected with the Second World War, as well as other relevant provisions of the Charter and the Judgement,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001, in particular paragraph 2 of the Declaration and paragraph 86 of the Programme of Action, as well as the relevant provisions of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference of 24 April 2009, in particular paragraphs 11 and 54,

Alarmed, in this regard, at the spread in many parts of the world of various extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, as well as racist extremist movements and ideologies,

Deeply concerned by all recent manifestations of violence and terrorism incited by violent nationalism, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling that in 2015 the international community will celebrate the seventieth anniversary of victory over Nazism in the Second World War, and looking forward in this regard to the initiative to hold a special solemn meeting at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, in which States condemned the persistence and resurgence of neo-Nazism, neo-Fascism and violent nationalist ideologies based on racial and national prejudice and stated that those phenomena could never be justified in any instance or in any circumstances;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, prepared in accordance with the request contained in General Assembly resolution 68/150;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office for their efforts to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the maintenance by the Office of the database on practical means to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

4. *Expresses deep concern* about the glorification, in any form, of the Nazi movement, neo-Nazism and former members of the Waffen SS organization, including by erecting monuments and memorials and holding public demonstrations in the name of the glorification of the Nazi past, the Nazi movement and neo-Nazism, as well as by declaring or attempting to declare such members and those who

fought against the anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement participants in national liberation movements;

5. *Calls for* the universal ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and encourages those States parties that have not yet done so to consider making the declaration under its article 14, thus providing the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with the competence to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within their jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation by a State party of any of the rights set forth in the Convention;

6. *Emphasizes* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur that “any commemorative celebration of the Nazi regime, its allies and related organizations, whether official or unofficial, should be prohibited by States”, and stresses in this regard that it is important that States take measures, in accordance with international human rights law, to counteract any celebration of the Nazi SS organization and all its integral parts, including the Waffen SS;

7. *Expresses concern* about recurring attempts to desecrate or demolish monuments erected in remembrance of those who fought against Nazism during the Second World War, as well as to unlawfully exhume or remove the remains of such persons, and in this regard urges States to fully comply with their relevant obligations, inter alia, under article 34 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949;

8. *Notes with concern* the increase in the number of racist incidents worldwide, including the rise of skinhead groups, which have been responsible for many of these incidents, as well as the resurgence of racist and xenophobic violence targeting, inter alia, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities;

9. *Reaffirms* that such acts may be qualified to fall within the scope of the Convention, that they may not be justified when they fall outside the scope of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association as well as the rights to freedom of expression and that they may fall within the scope of article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and may be subject to certain restrictions, as set out in articles 19, 21 and 22 of the Covenant;

10. *Condemns without reservation* any denial or attempt to deny the Holocaust;

11. *Welcomes* the call of the Special Rapporteur for the active preservation of those Holocaust sites that served as Nazi death camps, concentration and forced labour camps and prisons, as well as his encouragement of States to take measures, including legislative, law enforcement and educational measures, to put an end to all forms of Holocaust denial;

12. *Calls upon* States to continue to take adequate steps, including through national legislation, in accordance with international human rights law, aimed at the prevention of hate speech and incitement to violence against persons belonging to vulnerable groups;

13. *Expresses deep concern* about attempts at commercial advertising aimed at exploiting the sufferings of the victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Second World War by the Nazi regime;

14. *Stresses* that the practices described above do injustice to the memory of the countless victims of crimes against humanity committed in the Second World War,

in particular those committed by the SS organization and by those who fought against the anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement, and may negatively influence children and young people, and that failure by States to effectively address such practices is incompatible with the obligations of States Members of the United Nations under its Charter, including those related to the purposes and principles of the Organization;

15. *Also stresses* that such practices fuel contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and contribute to the spread and multiplication of various extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and in this regard calls for increased vigilance;

16. *Expresses concern* that the human rights and democratic challenges posed by extremist political parties, movements and groups are universal and no country is immune to them;

17. *Emphasizes* the need to take the measures necessary to put an end to the practices described above, and calls upon States to take more effective measures in accordance with international human rights law to combat those phenomena and extremist movements, which pose a real threat to democratic values;

18. *Encourages* States to adopt further measures to provide training for the police and other law enforcement bodies on the ideologies of extremist political parties, movements and groups whose advocacy constitutes incitement to racist and xenophobic violence, to strengthen their capacity to address racist and xenophobic crimes, to fulfil their responsibility of bringing to justice the perpetrators of such crimes and to combat impunity;

19. *Notes* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur regarding the responsibility of political leaders and parties in relation to messages that incite racial discrimination or xenophobia;

20. *Expresses concern* that ethnic profiling and police violence against vulnerable groups discourage victims from seeking redress owing to distrust of the legal system, and in this regard encourages States to improve diversity within law enforcement agencies and impose appropriate sanctions against those within the public service found guilty of racially motivated violence or of using hate speech;

21. *Recalls* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to introduce into national criminal law a provision according to which committing an offence with racist or xenophobic motivations or aims constitutes an aggravating circumstance, allowing for enhanced penalties, and encourages those States whose legislation does not contain such provisions to consider that recommendation;

22. *Underlines* that the roots of extremism are multifaceted and must be addressed through adequate measures such as education, awareness-raising and the promotion of dialogue, and in this regard recommends the increase of measures to raise awareness among young people of the dangers of the ideologies and activities of extremist political parties, movements and groups;

23. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, the particular importance of all forms of education, including human rights education, as a complement to legislative measures, as outlined by the Special Rapporteur;

24. *Emphasizes* the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur presented at the sixty-fourth session of the

General Assembly, in which he emphasized the importance of history classes in teaching the dramatic events and human suffering which arose out of the adoption of ideologies such as Nazism and Fascism;

25. *Stresses* the importance of other positive measures and initiatives aimed at bringing communities together and providing them with space for genuine dialogue, such as round tables, working groups and seminars, including training seminars for State agents and media professionals, as well as awareness-raising activities, especially those initiated by civil society representatives, which require continued State support;

26. *Calls upon* States to continue to invest in education, in both conventional and non-conventional curricula, inter alia, in order to transform attitudes and correct ideas of racial hierarchies and superiority promoted by extremist political parties, movements and groups and counter their negative influence;

27. *Underlines* the positive role that relevant United Nations entities and programmes, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, can play in the aforementioned areas;

28. *Reaffirms* article 4 of the Convention, according to which States parties to that instrument condemn all propaganda and all organizations that are based on ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin, or that attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form, and undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination and, to that end, with due regard to the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights expressly set forth in article 5 of the Convention, inter alia:

(a) Shall declare an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, and incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and also the provision of any assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof;

(b) Shall declare illegal and prohibit organizations, and organized and all other propaganda activities, that promote and incite racial discrimination, and shall recognize participation in such organizations or activities as an offence punishable by law;

(c) Shall not permit public authorities or public institutions, national or local, to promote or incite racial discrimination;

29. *Also reaffirms* that, as underlined in paragraph 13 of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence should be prohibited by law, that all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, or incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts, shall be declared offences punishable by law, in accordance with the international obligations of States, and that these prohibitions are consistent with freedom of opinion and expression;

30. *Recognizes* the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, as well as full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart

information, including through the Internet, can play in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

31. *Expresses concern* about the use of the Internet to propagate racism, racial hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance, and in this regard calls upon States parties to the Covenant to implement fully articles 19 and 20 thereof, which guarantee the right to freedom of expression and outline the grounds on which the exercise of this right can be legitimately restricted;

32. *Recognizes* the need to promote the use of new information and communications technologies, including the Internet, to contribute to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

33. *Also recognizes* the positive role that the media can play in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, promoting a culture of tolerance and representing the diversity of a multicultural society;

34. *Encourages* States, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to use all opportunities, including those provided by the Internet and social media, to counter, in accordance with international human rights law, the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred and to promote the values of equality, non-discrimination, diversity and democracy;

35. *Encourages* those States that have made reservations to article 4 of the Convention to give serious consideration to withdrawing such reservations as a matter of priority, as stressed by the Special Rapporteur;

36. *Notes* the importance of strengthening cooperation at the regional and international levels with the aim of countering all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular regarding issues raised in the present resolution;

37. *Stresses* the importance of cooperating closely with civil society and international and regional human rights mechanisms in order to counter effectively all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and other similar extremist ideological movements that incite racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

38. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to ensure that their legislation incorporates the provisions of the Convention, including those of article 4;

39. *Encourages* States to adopt the legislation necessary to combat racism while ensuring that the definition of racial discrimination set out therein complies with article 1 of the Convention;

40. *Recalls* that any legislative or constitutional measures adopted with a view to countering extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and similar extremist ideological movements should be in conformity with the relevant international human rights norms, in particular articles 4 and 5 of the Convention and articles 19 to 22 of the Covenant;

41. *Also recalls* the request of the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2005/5, that the Special Rapporteur continue to reflect on this issue, make relevant recommendations in his future reports and seek and take into account in this regard the views of Governments and non-governmental organizations;

42. *Encourages* States to consider including in their reports for the universal periodic review and to relevant treaty bodies information on the steps taken to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including with the aim of implementing the provisions of the present resolution;

43. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to prepare, for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-ninth session, reports on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular regarding paragraphs 4, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 24 and 25 above, based on the views collected in accordance with the request of the Commission, as recalled in paragraph 41 above;

44. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that have provided information to the Special Rapporteur in the course of the preparation of his reports to the General Assembly;

45. *Stresses* that such information is important for the sharing of experiences and best practices in the fight against extremist political parties, movements and groups, including neo-Nazis and skinhead groups, and other extremist ideological movements that incite racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

46. *Encourages* Governments and non-governmental organizations to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the exercise of the tasks outlined in paragraph 43 above;

47. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and relevant actors to disseminate, as widely as possible, information regarding the contents of and the principles outlined in the present resolution, including through the media, but not limited to it;

48. *Decides* to remain seized of the issue.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/160:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Palau, Ukraine, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia,

Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Human rights defenders

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In his first report to the General Assembly [A/69/259], submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 66/164 [YUN 2011, p. 664], the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst (France), who was appointed by the Council on 8 May, analysed the terms of his mandate, described its working methods and the techniques used, and reviewed the activities undertaken during the first weeks of his mandate. The report focused on the manner in which he intended to perform the mandate and on the priorities he would pursue, including identifying the challenges to which human rights defenders were most exposed, strengthening his cooperation with other mandate holders and regional mechanisms, ensuring better follow-up to communications and country visits, and contributing to the development and distribution of good practices among States, stakeholders and the defenders themselves. He also intended to ensure widespread awareness and ownership of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms [YUN 1998, p. 607].

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

A March addendum [A/HRC/25/55/Add.3] to the December 2013 report of the former Special Rapporteur [YUN 2013, p. 636] contained observations by the Rapporteur on communications to 78 States and other actors sent between 1 December 2012 and 30 November 2013, and responses received from States until 31 January 2014.

Mission report. Following his visit to Burundi (14–25 November) [A/HRC/31/55/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur analysed the main challenges faced by human rights defenders, in particular impunity for violations committed against them and the lack of protection against such violations, illegitimate restrictions on the exercise of fundamental rights, criminalization, the capacity of civil society actors and coordination among them and stigmatization. He concluded that overall, human rights defenders were able to operate freely, but in an environment that was not always sufficiently enabling. He noted that some defenders were subjected to physical assaults, threats and defamation and were forced to live in a difficult environment. He made recommendations addressed

to the Government, human rights defenders and the international community.

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/18)], the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a three-year period and requested him to report regularly to the Council and the General Assembly.

Protection of migrants

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In response to a request by the Human Rights Council [YUN 2011, p. 667], the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, François Crépeau (Canada), in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/35] covering his activities from 1 June 2013 to 31 March 2014, including reflections on the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development [YUN 2013, p. 1025]. The report focused on labour exploitation of migrants, covering some of the most common manifestations of such exploitation, groups of migrants who were specifically at risk, and access to remedy. The Rapporteur noted that certain categories of migrants were more vulnerable to exploitation, including temporary migrant workers, migrant domestic workers, women, children and migrants in an irregular situation. Much of the labour exploitation that migrants suffered was linked to recruitment agencies, which extorted high recruitment fees and deceived prospective migrants on their prospective salaries, job descriptions, working hours, overtime, days off, lodging and social protection. The Rapporteur stressed the need for Governments to regulate the recruitment industry and for comprehensive national migration policies. He made recommendations for States to combat discrimination and violence against migrant workers; ensure that workers received a contract in a language they understood; ensure that migrant workers received their salaries, in full, in a bank account; and guarantee that migrant workers had an adequate standard of living.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/179 [YUN 2013, p. 641], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Special Rapporteur's annual report [A/69/302] to the Assembly, covering his activities and focusing on including the human rights of migrants in the post-2015 development agenda (see p. 960). The Rapporteur provided guidelines, conclusions and recommendations on how to incorporate the human rights of migrants within key development goals, targets and indicators, in addition to recommendations on how to better monitor and gather data from marginalized groups such as migrants.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission reports. Following his mission to Sri Lanka (19–26 May) [A/HRC/29/36/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur focused on labour migration from the

country and related recruitment practices. He welcomed efforts by the authorities to regulate labour migration and protect the rights of its citizens who migrated abroad, but noted the need to implement a human rights approach. The Rapporteur also noted the need to regulate and monitor the detention of migrants in Sri Lanka and to revise constitutional provisions which discriminated against them. He made recommendations to the Government on the normative and institutional framework to protect migrants' human rights, the recruitment process and women migrants and domestic workers, as well as recommendations to destination States.

Following his mission to Italy (2–6 December) [A/HRC/29/36/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur noted that despite a challenging economic and political climate, Italy had taken bold initiatives to address the unprecedented number of migrants and asylum seekers arriving by boat. He stated that European Union (EU) member States must collectively support front-line States such as Italy in order to provide a sustainable response that ensured full respect for migrants' human rights. In that regard, in addition to his recommendations to the Government on the normative and institutional framework to protect migrants' rights, border management, bilateral agreements on migration issues, detention and reception of migrants and access to justice, the Rapporteur also addressed recommendations to the EU.

Following his mission to Malta (6–10 December) [A/HRC/29/36/Add.3], the Special Rapporteur noted that the country must develop programmes to cope with the unprecedented number of migrants and asylum seekers arriving by boat. Those programmes should offer immediate assistance, legal safeguards and alternatives to detention, as well as integration programmes for migrants and asylum seekers who arrived irregularly. Stating that EU member States must collectively provide technical, financial and human resources to support States such as Malta in developing rights-based migration policy, the Rapporteur concluded the report with recommendations to the Government and to the EU.

In June [A/HRC/26/35/Add.2], Qatar submitted its comments on the Special Rapporteur's 2013 mission to the country [YUN 2013, p. 640].

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/179, the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/277] on the implementation of that resolution, which summarized submissions received from States, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. The report analysed ways and means to promote and protect the human rights of migrant children, including unaccompanied children or those separated from their families, with a focus on the risks faced by adolescents. It also addressed the challenges to and recent good practices in protecting the migrants' human rights at international borders.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/19)], the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a three-year period and requested him to report regularly to the Council and to the General Assembly.

On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/21)], the Council encouraged States to promote equitable access to health services, disease prevention and care for migrants and ensure that their immigration policies were consistent with their obligations under international human rights law. It also requested the Rapporteur to continue to report on practical solutions to enhance the protection of migrants' human rights.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/167** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

Protection of migrants

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the protection of migrants, the most recent of which is resolution 68/179 of 18 December 2013, and recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 26/21 of 27 June 2014,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race,

Reaffirming also that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State and the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country,

Recalling all relevant international instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

Acknowledging the relevant contribution of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to the international system for the protection of migrants,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in which States are called upon to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and respon-

sibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability,

Recalling also the provisions concerning migrants contained in the outcome documents of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

Recalling further Commission on Population and Development resolutions 2006/2 of 10 May 2006 and 2009/1 of 3 April 2009, and its resolution 2013/1 of 26 April 2013 on new trends in migration: demographic aspects,

Taking note of advisory opinion OC 16/99 of 1 October 1999 on the Right to Information on Consular Assistance in the Framework of the Guarantees of the Due Process of Law and advisory opinion OC 18/03 of 17 September 2003 on the Juridical Condition and Rights of Undocumented Migrants, issued by the Inter American Court of Human Rights,

Taking note also of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 31 March 2004 in the case concerning *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals* and the Judgment of the Court of 19 January 2009 regarding the request for interpretation of the *Avena* Judgment, and recalling the obligations of States reaffirmed in both decisions,

Underlining the importance of the Human Rights Council in promoting respect for the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including migrants,

Recognizing that women represent almost half of all international migrants, and in this regard recognizing also that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development in countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

Recognizing also the importance of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 3 and 4 October 2013, which recognized the important contribution of migration in realizing the Millennium Development Goals and recognized that human mobility is a key factor for sustainable development, which should receive due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agendas,

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the seventh meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Sweden in May 2014, focused on the theme “Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development”, which stressed the positive economic, social and cultural contributions of migrants to the development of the countries of origin and destination, and reiterated the importance of respect for the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status,

Recognizing the cultural and economic contributions made by migrants to receiving societies and their communities of origin, as well as the need to identify appropriate means of maximizing development benefits and responding to the challenges that migration poses to countries of origin, transit and destination, especially in the light of the impact of the financial and economic crisis, and committing to ensuring dignified, humane treatment with applicable protections and to strengthening mechanisms for international cooperation,

Emphasizing the multidimensional character of the migratory phenomenon, the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in this regard, as appropriate, and the need to protect the human rights of all migrants, particularly at a time in which migration flows have increased in the globalized economy and take place in a context of continued security concerns,

Acknowledging the complexity of migratory flows and that international migration movements also occur within the same geographical regions, and in this context calling for a better understanding of migration patterns across and within regions,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States under international law, as applicable, to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes against migrants and to investigate and punish perpetrators, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims,

Affirming that migrant smuggling and crimes against migrants, including trafficking in persons, continue to pose a serious challenge and require a concerted international assessment and response and genuine multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for their eradication,

Bearing in mind that policies and initiatives on the issue of migration, including those that refer to the orderly management of migration, should promote holistic approaches that take into account the causes and consequences of the phenomenon, as well as full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants,

Stressing the importance of regulations and laws regarding irregular migration, at all levels of government, being in accordance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights law,

Stressing also the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants regardless of their migration status, including when implementing their specific migration and border security policies, and expressing its concern at measures which, including in the context of policies aimed at reducing irregular migration, treat irregular migration as a criminal rather than an administrative offence, where the effect of doing so is to deny migrants the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard recalling that sanctions and the treatment given to irregular migrants should be commensurate with their offences,

Aware that, as criminals take advantage of migratory flows and attempt to circumvent restrictive immigration policies, migrants become more vulnerable to, inter alia, kidnapping, extortion, forced labour, sexual exploitation, physical assault, debt servitude and abandonment,

Recognizing the contributions of young migrants to countries of origin and destination, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants,

Concerned about the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, who place themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents, and recognizing the obligation of States to respect the human rights of those migrants,

Recognizing the obligations of countries of origin, transit and destination under international human rights law,

Underlining the importance for States, in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, workers' organizations and the private sector, among other relevant stakeholders, to undertake information campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, risks and rights in the event of migration in order to enable everyone to make informed decisions and to prevent anyone from utilizing dangerous means to cross international borders,

1. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

2. *Expresses its concern* about the impact of financial and economic crises and natural disasters on international migration and migrants, and in that regard urges Governments to combat unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrants, in particular migrant workers and their families;

3. *Reaffirms* the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States under the International Covenants on Human Rights, and in this regard:

(a) Strongly condemns the acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urges States to apply and, where needed, to reinforce the existing laws when hate crimes, xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants occur in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit those acts and, where appropriate, to provide effective remedy to the victims;

(b) Encourages States to establish or, when appropriate, strengthen mechanisms which allow migrants to report alleged cases of abuse by relevant authorities and employers without fear of reprisals, and that allow for such complaints to be addressed fairly;

(c) Expresses concern about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

(d) Calls upon States to ensure that their laws and policies, including in the areas of counter-terrorism and combating transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, fully respect the human rights of migrants;

(e) Calls upon States that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of

priority, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Convention;

(f) Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its nineteenth and twentieth sessions;

4. *Also reaffirms* the duty of States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international instruments to which they are party, and therefore:

(a) Calls upon all States to respect the human rights and inherent dignity of migrants, to put an end to arbitrary arrest and detention and, in order to avoid excessive detention of irregular migrants, to review, where necessary, detention periods and to use alternatives to detention, where appropriate, including measures that have been successfully implemented by some States;

(b) Encourages States to put in place, if they have not yet done so, appropriate systems and procedures in order to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all actions or decisions concerning migrant children, regardless of their migration status, and to use, when applicable, alternatives to the detention of migrant children;

(c) Encourages States to cooperate and to take appropriate measures to prevent, combat and address the smuggling of migrants, including strengthening laws, policies, information sharing and joint operational functions, enhancing capacities and support opportunities for migration in a well-managed, safe and dignified manner and strengthening legislative methods for criminalizing acts of smuggling migrants;

(d) Urges all States to adopt effective measures to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of liberty of migrants by individuals or groups;

(e) Requests States to adopt concrete measures to prevent the violation of the human rights of migrants while in transit, including in ports and airports and at borders and migration checkpoints, and to adequately train public officials who work in those facilities and in border areas to treat migrants respectfully and in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law;

(f) Calls upon States to prosecute, in conformity with applicable law, acts of violation of the human rights of migrants and their families, such as arbitrary detention, torture and violations of the right to life, including extrajudicial executions, during their transit from the country of origin to the country of destination and vice versa, including transit across national borders;

(g) Recognizes the particular vulnerability of migrants in transit situations, including through national borders, and the need to ensure full respect for their human rights also in these circumstances;

(h) Also recognizes the importance of coordinated efforts of the international community to assist and support migrants stranded in vulnerable situations;

(i) Underlines the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recalls that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received;

(j) Reaffirms emphatically the duty of States parties to ensure full respect for and observance of the Vienna

Convention on Consular Relations, in particular with regard to the right of all foreign nationals, regardless of their migration status, to communicate with a consular official of the sending State in case of arrest, imprisonment, custody or detention, and the obligation of the receiving State to inform the foreign national without delay of his or her rights under the Convention;

(k) Requests all States, in conformity with national legislation and applicable international legal instruments to which they are party, to enforce labour law effectively, including by addressing violations of such law, with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

(l) Invites Member States to consider ratifying relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, including Convention No. 189 on decent work for domestic workers;

(m) Encourages all States to remove unlawful obstacles, where they exist, that may prevent the safe, transparent, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances, earnings, assets and pensions of migrants to their country of origin or to any other countries, in conformity with applicable legislation and agreements, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede such transfers;

(n) Recalls that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted to him or her;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting persons in vulnerable situations, and in this regard:

(a) Expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized crime entities and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law and contrary to international standards;

(b) Also expresses its concern about the high level of impunity enjoyed by traffickers and their accomplices as well as other members of organized crime entities and, in this context, the denial of rights and justice to migrants who have suffered from abuse;

(c) Welcomes immigration programmes, adopted by some countries, that allow migrants to integrate fully into the host countries, facilitate family reunification and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages States to consider the possibility of adopting these types of programmes;

(d) Calls upon States that have not already done so to provide for the protection of the human rights of women migrant workers, to promote fair labour conditions and to ensure that all women, including care workers, are legally protected against violence and exploitation;

(e) Encourages States to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, to provide safe and legal channels that recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers and, as appropriate, to facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology;

(f) Encourages all States to develop international migration policies and programmes that include a gender perspective, in order to adopt the necessary measures to better protect women and girls against dangers and abuse during migration;

(g) Calls upon States to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their policies of integration, return and family reunification;

(h) Encourages all States to prevent and eliminate discriminatory policies and legislation at all levels of government that deny migrant children access to education and, while taking into account the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, to foster the successful integration of migrant children into the education system and the removal of barriers to their education in host countries and countries of origin;

(i) Urges States to ensure that repatriation mechanisms allow for the identification and special protection of persons in vulnerable situations, including unaccompanied children and persons with disabilities, and take into account, in conformity with their international obligations and commitments, the principle of the best interests of the child, clarity about reception and care arrangements and family reunification;

(j) Urges States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto to implement them fully, and calls upon States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them as a matter of priority;

6. *Encourages* States to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the study of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration when designing and implementing their migration policies;

7. *Also encourages* States to protect migrant victims of national and transnational organized crime, including kidnapping and trafficking and, in some instances, smuggling, including through the implementation of programmes and policies that guarantee protection and access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, where appropriate;

8. *Encourages* Member States that have not already done so to enact national legislation and to take further effective measures to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, recognizing that these crimes may endanger the lives of migrants or subject them to harm, servitude, exploitation, debt bondage, slavery, sexual exploitation or forced labour, and also encourages Member States to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, investigate and combat such trafficking in persons and smuggling;

9. *Stresses* the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation in the protection of the human rights of migrants, and therefore:

(a) Requests all States, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to take into account in their policies and initiatives on migration issues the global character of the migratory phenomenon and to give due consideration to international, regional and bilateral cooperation in this field, including by undertaking dialogues on migration that include countries of origin, transit and destination, as well

as civil society, including migrants, with a view to addressing, in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, its causes and consequences and the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, granting priority to the protection of the human rights of migrants;

(b) Encourages States to take the measures necessary to achieve policy coherence on migration at the national, regional and international levels, including by ensuring coordinated child protection policies and systems across borders that are in full compliance with international human rights law;

(c) Also encourages States to cooperate effectively in protecting witnesses in cases of smuggling of migrants, regardless of their migration status;

(d) Further encourages States to cooperate effectively in protecting witnesses and victims in cases of trafficking in persons, regardless of their migration status;

(e) Calls upon the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

10. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the issue of migration and development in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda through, inter alia, integrating a human rights perspective and mainstreaming a gender perspective, and therefore:

(a) Requests Member States, the United Nations system, international organizations, civil society and all relevant stakeholders, especially the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development and the International Organization for Migration and other members of the Global Migration Group, to give due consideration to international migration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

(b) Recognizes the importance of the contribution of the High Commissioner, the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Special Rapporteur, as well as other key actors, to the discussion on international migration;

11. *Encourages* States, relevant international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to continue and to enhance their dialogue in relevant international meetings with a view to strengthening and making more inclusive public policies aimed at promoting and respecting human rights, including those of migrants;

12. *Requests* Governments and international organizations to take appropriate measures to give due consideration to the declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held on 3 and 4 October 2013;

13. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Promo-

tion and protection of human rights”, as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

14. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur to submit his report to the General Assembly and to engage in an interactive dialogue at its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”;

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in accordance with resolution 68/179;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion and protection of human rights, including ways and means to promote the human rights of migrants, and notes the recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights referenced therein;

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

Also on 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/187** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

Migrant children and adolescents

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization,

Taking into account general comment No. 6 (2005) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, and taking note of the general discussion of the Committee in 2012 on the rights of all children in the context of international migration,

Recalling all previous resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the protection of the human rights of migrants and Commission on Population and Development resolution 2013/1 of 26 April 2013, entitled “New trends in migration: demographic aspects”, as well as the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, adopted on 3 October 2013,

Recognizing the serious humanitarian situation in some regions related to mass migration of accompanied and unaccompanied children, including adolescents, defined as those under 18 years of age, or those separated from their parents, who face vulnerable situations by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents,

Concerned by the fact that migrant children, including adolescents, in particular those in an irregular situation, may be exposed to serious human rights violations and abuses at various points in their journey, which can threaten their physical, emotional and psychological well-being in the countries of origin, transit and destination, and that many irregular migrant children, including adolescents, may not be aware of their rights and may be exposed to crimes and human rights abuses committed by transnational criminal organizations and common criminals, including theft, kidnapping, extortion, threats, trafficking in persons, including forced labour, child labour, sexual abuse and exploitation, physical harm and death,

Underlining the importance for States, in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, workers' organizations and the private sector, among other relevant stakeholders, to undertake information campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, risks and rights in the context of migration in order to enable everyone to make informed decisions and to prevent anyone from utilizing dangerous means to cross international borders,

Aware that the migration of accompanied and unaccompanied children, including adolescents, may be the result of diverse causes and factors, such as poverty, crisis situations, lack of social and economic opportunities in their communities of origin, the death of one or both parents, the search for family reunification, all forms of violence and lack of personal safety,

Recognizing that undocumented and unaccompanied migrant children, including adolescents, should be promptly placed in the least restrictive setting, for the shortest possible period of time, that is in the best interest of the child and respects their human rights,

Encouraging States to adopt alternatives to detention that take into account the best interests of the child, as a primary consideration, and respect the human rights of migrant children, including adolescents,

Reaffirming that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migration and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect of the human rights of migrant children, including adolescents,

Reaffirming also the fact that all migrant children, including adolescents, are entitled to equal protection by the law and that all persons, regardless of their migration status, are equal before the courts and tribunals and, in the determination of their rights and obligations in a suit at law, are entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law,

Aware that the risks related to irregular migration faced by children, including adolescents, can have a negative impact on the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights, as well as their political and civil rights and their rights as set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recognizing that States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, are responsible for promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, including accompanied and unaccompanied children, including adolescents, within their territorial jurisdiction, and encouraging States to promote national child and adolescent protection systems, in consultation with all sectors of society, including migrant communities, civil society organizations and other relevant actors,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion and protection of human rights, including ways and means to promote the human rights of migrants, and notes the recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights referenced therein;

2. *Calls upon* countries of origin, transit and destination to facilitate family reunification as an important objective in order to promote the welfare and the best interest of migrant children, including adolescents, as applicable under national law, due process and the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, and to comply with the consular notification and access obligations set forth in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations so that States may provide child-friendly consular assistance, as appropriate, including legal assistance;

3. *Underlines* that children, including adolescents, should not be subject to arbitrary arrest or detention based solely on their migration status and that the deprivation of liberty of migrant children and adolescents should be a measure of last resort, under conditions that respect the human rights of each child and in a manner that takes into account, as a primary consideration, the best interest of the child;

4. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with their national laws and their obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, to promote and protect the rights of every child to be registered immediately after birth, to have a name from birth, to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by his or her parents, in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrant children, including adolescents, regardless of their migration status, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of migrant children, including adolescents, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

6. *Calls upon* States, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to address the irregular migration of children, including adolescents, from a human rights and a humanitarian perspective, taking into account the principle of the best interest of the child while promoting and protecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and calls upon States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to adopt measures to give effect to the rights enshrined therein;

7. *Urges* all States to intensify cooperation with relevant stakeholders in different areas in order to jointly identify positive alternatives to reduce, mitigate and eliminate the causes and structural factors that lead to irregular migration, so as to prevent minors from feeling compelled to migrate from their communities;

8. *Encourages* all States to address the irregular migration of children, including adolescents, as a multi-causal phenomenon, giving priority at all times to the personal safety and physical, emotional and psychological integrity of migrant children, including adolescents, keeping in mind the different needs of boys and girls and adolescent women and men in these situations;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of coordinating efforts among countries of origin, transit and destination, while also recognizing their roles and their responsibilities to address the irregular migration of unaccompanied children, including adolescents, and to safeguard their human rights, with due consideration for the protection of the best interest of the child;

10. *Encourages* States to protect and provide assistance to migrant children, including adolescents, within their jurisdiction, including victims of national and transnational organized crime, including through the implementation of gender-responsive programmes and policies that provide for protection and access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, as necessary, and urges them to prosecute perpetrators and abusers;

11. *Recognizes* the need for international cooperation to address, in a holistic and comprehensive manner, the challenges of irregular migration of children, including adolescents, so as to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, with full respect for human rights;

12. *Requests* States and all relevant stakeholders to strengthen cooperation mechanisms that foster joint cooperation, dialogue and consensus at all times in order to promote migration policies and practices based on respect for human rights, sustainable development, gender equality and multiculturalism, recognizing the interdependent roles of the international community, State institutions and civil society;

13. *Underlines* that the principle of the best interest of the child should guide legislation, policies and practices relating to children, regardless of their status, including in the context of migration, and calls upon States to carry out individualized, comprehensive assessments of the status and protection needs of migrant children, including adolescents, as well as to carry out early and prompt assessments of victims of violence who may qualify for refugee status or other forms of protection;

14. *Calls upon* States to recognize that human mobility has become an integral part of the current social, economic and environmental situation, recognizes, in the process of elaborating future sustainable development goals, the importance of considering the reality of migration and its multiple direct impacts on the development prospects of migrants, their families and communities and on the development of countries of origin and destination, and encourages the international community to work so that aspects related to children and to migration being considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda can also be applicable in the case of accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children;

15. *Encourages* States to establish effective safeguards, where applicable, between public service providers, such as providers of child services and other social services, and immigration enforcement authorities in order to better ensure the human rights of migrant children, including adolescents;

16. *Calls upon* States to strengthen their public policies and programmes, especially in the social and economic fields, aimed at the most vulnerable sectors of the population in order to help reduce irregular migration push factors, and in this regard calls upon States and all other relevant stakeholders to join these efforts in a systematic way, promoting investment and economic exchange, as well as cooperation, at all levels;

17. *Also calls upon* States to combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination of any kind against migrants, specifically children, including adolescents, and further calls upon States to take appropriate measures to prevent, investigate and punish all human rights violations and abuses experienced by migrants within their territory and to take appropriate steps to help facilitate such measures in response to abuses outside their territory, in cooperation with other States and all other relevant stakeholders, according to their international commitments and their national legislation;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report on the situation of accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children, including adolescents, and to include information on the implementation of the present resolution in his report on the protection of migrants requested for its seventieth session;

19. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Migrants at sea

Human Rights Council action. In a 26 September statement [A/69/53/Add.1 (PRST/27/3)], the Council President expressed alarm at the reports of the sinking of boats that had resulted in the death of hundreds of people and concern at the persistent vulnerability of migrants; expressed deep sorrow at the massive loss of innocent lives of migrants, including at sea; noted that the protection of the human rights of migrants at sea required a holistic analysis and assessment, as well as a concerted international response; called on States to assist persons in distress at sea; and urged States to protect migrants' human rights and to address the root causes that drove persons to make such dangerous journeys. The President called on the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and other special procedures to pay particular attention to the protection of the rights of migrants at sea.

Discrimination against minorities

Report of Independent Expert. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 671], the Independent Expert on minority issues, Rita Izsák (Hungary), in her annual report to the Council [A/HRC/25/56], summarized her activities since her previous report [YUN 2013, p. 645], provided an update on

the work of the Forum on Minority Issues following its sixth session [ibid.] and addressed the inclusion of minority issues in post-2015 development agendas. She noted that minority issues remained poorly reflected in the emerging discussions, both internationally and nationally, and identified the need for the new global development agenda to include specific goals addressing inequality and promoting social inclusion. Minorities should be among the first targets of development strategies, yet frequently they were among the last. Lack of attention to the situations of minorities constituted one of the most serious deficiencies in the Millennium Development Goals process. The Expert recommended that States establish specific targets on the inclusion of minorities and specific indicators upon which to monitor progress. She urged States to establish independent monitoring bodies, with civil society and public participation, to ensure that the next global round of commitments was fulfilled for minorities.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/5)], the Council extended the mandate of the Independent Expert as the Special Rapporteur on minority issues for a three-year period, and requested the Rapporteur to guide the work of the Forum on Minority Issues (see below) and to report annually to the Council and to the General Assembly.

Report of Special Rapporteur. In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/172 [YUN 2013, p. 646], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/266] to the Assembly, which focused on preventing and addressing violence and atrocities against minorities. The Rapporteur concluded that strategies to better prevent and address violence against minorities should involve the adoption of measures to foster unity among different population groups, the implementation of minority rights and the establishment or strengthening of institutional and policy frameworks for the protection of such rights. At the national level, good and inclusive governance were key prevention prerequisites.

Mission reports. Following her mission to Nigeria (17–28 February) [A/HRC/28/64/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur noted that in most of the country, harmonious and peaceful inter-ethnic relations prevailed, yet Nigeria had seen violent intercommunal clashes in some states, particularly in the North and Middle Belt regions, which had left thousands of victims. The root causes of violence involved factors such as the issue of indigenous inhabitants versus settlers, competition for resources, poverty, good governance deficits, impunity and polarization of ethnic and religious characteristics. Other concerns included environmental degradation due to frequent oil spills in some regions and the need to safeguard Nigeria's hundreds of minority languages, several of which were under threat. Noting that Nigeria's hundreds of ethnic groups and languages posed challenges to manage

and address intercommunal and minority issues, the Rapporteur made recommendations on a wide range of topics.

Following her mission to Ukraine (7–14 April) [A/HRC/28/64/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur noted that minority issues had become highly politicized as political and social unrest had emerged in some regions since February 2014, threatening to widen fractures along national, ethnic and linguistic lines. While there were challenges relating to minority issues, some radical elements were intent on promoting and inciting disunity. It was essential to establish a national and regional dialogue to understand the concerns and issues of all minority communities and ensure that they were addressed. Measures were required to reinforce the minority rights infrastructure and to build confidence that minority rights would be protected in law and in practice. Such measures should include strengthening of legal protection, enhancing institutional attention to minority issues and instituting stronger consultation mechanisms.

Forum on Minority Issues. The seventh session of the Forum on Minority Issues (Geneva, 25–26 November) [A/HRC/28/77] focused on preventing and addressing violence and atrocity crimes targeted against minorities. The approximately 570 participants included representatives of Governments and of minority communities, NGOs, UN specialized agencies, regional and intergovernmental bodies and national human rights institutions. The Forum recommended that States comply with international standards of minority rights protection, equality and non-discrimination; adopt legislation prohibiting and punishing discrimination on the ground of nationality, ethnicity, religion and language; pay particular attention to the situation of persons belonging to minority groups who might face the most severe and entrenched forms of discrimination and exclusion; identify and implement early warning indicators to assess the existence of factors that could lead to violence; collect disaggregated data; and adopt holistic, inclusive and proactive security and policing strategies.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/5)], the Council welcomed the establishment of the special fund for the participation of civil society and other stakeholders in, inter alia, the Forum on Minority Issues.

On 26 June [res. 26/4], the Council recognized the need to carry out a comprehensive study of the human rights situation of Roma worldwide, with a particular focus on the phenomenon of anti-Gypsyism; and invited the Special Rapporteur to submit the study, with recommendations, to the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 13/12 [YUN 2010, p. 680] and 22/4 [YUN 2013, p. 646], the High Commis-

sioner in December submitted a report [A/HRC/28/27] on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, which presented activities undertaken by OHCHR, the UN network on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities, human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the universal periodic review to contribute to the promotion of, and respect for the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities [YUN 1992, p. 722].

Freedom of religion or belief

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 650], the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt (Germany), submitted a report [A/HRC/25/58] that reviewed his activities and focused on the root causes of collective religious hatred. Factors that increased the likelihood of such hatred included endemic corruption, an authoritarian political atmosphere and the harnessing of religion for purposes of national identity politics. He noted that policies intended to counter manifestations of religious hatred must invest in trust-building based on universal respect. In that regard, he recommended trust-building activities, such as establishing trustworthy public institutions and promoting meaningful communication, particularly among different religious or belief communities. Recommendations included calling on States to implement the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constituted incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence [YUN 2013, p. 650].

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/170 [YUN 2013, p. 650], the Secretary-General in August [A/69/261] transmitted to the Assembly the Special Rapporteur's report, which reviewed activities since the previous report [YUN 2013, p. 649] and focused on means to eliminate religious intolerance and discrimination in the workplace. Given the enormous significance of the workplace, in which many people spent a large share of their daily lives, he noted that the issue of religious discrimination in the area of employment had received comparatively little attention. The Rapporteur argued that "reasonable accommodation"—modifications and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate burden on others to ensure the enjoyment of human rights—should be adopted to eliminate discrimination based on religion or belief in the workplace. He provided conclusions and recommendations addressed to State institutions, public and private employers as well as other stakeholders.

Mission reports. Following his visit to Kazakhstan (25 March–4 April) [A/HRC/28/66/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur, while acknowledging a general

appreciation of religious diversity, noticed adverse attitudes towards some non-traditional religious communities. The State monitored religious activities strictly to prevent extremism and to combat "sects" deemed destructive to people's well-being. Many of the measures adopted for that purpose were not in line with international standards of freedom of religion or belief. Moreover, the mandatory registration of religious communities, in conjunction with tightly knit stipulations, hampered free religious practice. The Rapporteur recommended a public debate on the meaning of secularism to overcome the predominant restrictive interpretation, reform of the 2011 Law on Religious Activity and Religious Associations, further development of the programmes on religious information for students and discontinuation of the Government's anti-sect campaigns that stoked negative stereotypes against new religious movements.

Following his mission to Viet Nam (21–31 July) [A/HRC/28/66/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur identified positive developments as well as serious problems; mainly the lack of clarity in the legal provisions that tended to give broad leeway to regulate, restrict or forbid the exercise of freedom of religion or belief in the interest of "national unity and public order". Other challenges originated from the Government's tight control of religious communities. The autonomy and activities of unrecognized communities remained restricted and unsafe, with the rights to freedom of religion or belief of such communities grossly violated in the face of constant surveillance, intimidation, harassment and persecution. The Rapporteur saw the need for improvements and shared his recommendations to maintain a constructive dialogue and cooperation with the Government.

In February, Jordan [A/HRC/25/58/Add.4] and Sierra Leone [A/HRC/25/58/Add.3] submitted comments on the Special Rapporteur's 2013 mission to those countries [YUN 2013, pp. 650 & 649].

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/12)], the Council urged States to promote and protect freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and to make use of the potential of education for the eradication of prejudices against and stereotypes of individuals on the basis of their religion or belief. It requested the Special Rapporteur to report annually to the Council and to the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/175** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

Freedom of religion or belief

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of

All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling also article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights provisions,

Recalling further its previous resolutions on freedom of religion or belief and on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, including resolution 68/170 of 18 December 2013, and Human Rights Council resolution 25/12 of 27 March 2014,

Recognizing the important work carried out by the Human Rights Committee in providing guidance with respect to the scope of freedom of religion or belief,

Noting the conclusions and recommendations of the expert workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and contained in the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, adopted in Rabat on 5 October 2012,

Considering that religion or belief, for those who profess either, is one of the fundamental elements in their conception of life and that freedom of religion or belief, as a universal human right, should be fully respected and guaranteed,

Seriously concerned at continuing acts of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals, including against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities around the world, and at the increasing number and intensity of such incidents, which are often of a criminal nature and may have international characteristics,

Deeply concerned at the limited progress that has been made in the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, and believing that further intensified efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as noted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, as well as at the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009,

Recalling that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

Concerned that official authorities sometimes tolerate or encourage acts of violence, or credible threats of violence, against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities,

Concerned also at the increasing number of laws and regulations that limit the freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and at the implementation of existing laws in a discriminatory manner,

Convinced of the need to urgently address the rapid rise in various parts of the world of religious extremism that affects the rights of individuals, in particular persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities, the situations of violence and discrimination that affect many individuals, particularly women and children, on the basis or in the name of religion or belief or in accordance with

cultural and traditional practices, and the misuse of religion or belief for ends inconsistent with the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and in other relevant instruments of the United Nations,

Seriously concerned about all attacks on religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

Emphasizing that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, the media and civil society as a whole have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

Underlining the importance of education, including human rights education, in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of, and its respect for, diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining also the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. *Stresses* that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have or not to have, or to adopt, a religion or belief of one's own choice and the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance, including the right to change one's religion or belief;

2. *Also stresses* that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief applies equally to all persons, regardless of their religion or belief and without any discrimination as to their equal protection by the law;

3. *Strongly condemns* violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief as well as all forms of intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief;

4. *Recognizes with deep concern* the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia and prejudices against persons of other religions or beliefs;

5. *Reaffirms* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion or belief as this may have adverse consequences on the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief of all members of the religious communities concerned;

6. *Strongly condemns* violence and acts of terrorism, which are increasing in number and intensity, targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief;

7. *Recalls* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against persons belonging to religious minorities, regardless of the perpetrator, and that failure to do so may constitute a human rights violation;

8. *Emphasizes* that freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and stresses the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief;

9. *Strongly condemns* any advocacy of hatred based on religion or belief that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

10. *Expresses concern* at the persistence of institutionalized social intolerance and discrimination practised against many on the grounds of religion or belief, and emphasizes that legal procedures pertaining to religious or belief-based groups and places of worship are not a prerequisite for the exercise of the right to manifest one's religion or belief and that such procedures, when legally required at the national or local level, should be non-discriminatory in order to contribute to the effective protection of the right of all persons to practise their religion or belief, either individually or in community with others and in public or private;

11. *Recognizes with concern* the situation of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons deprived of their liberty, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, children, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and migrants, as regards their ability to freely exercise their right to freedom of religion or belief;

12. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, are non-discriminatory and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;

13. *Expresses deep concern* at continued obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief as well as the increasing number of instances of intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief, including:

(a) Acts of violence and intolerance directed against individuals based on their religion or belief, including religious persons and persons belonging to religious minorities and other communities in various parts of the world;

(b) The rise of religious extremism in various parts of the world that affects the human rights of individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities;

(c) Incidents of hatred, discrimination, intolerance and violence based on religion or belief, which may be associated with or manifested by the derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief;

(d) Attacks on or destruction of religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, as they have more than material significance for the dignity and lives of persons holding spiritual or religious beliefs;

(e) Instances, both in law and practice, that constitute violations of the human right to freedom of religion or belief, including of the individual right to publicly express one's spiritual and religious beliefs, taking into account the relevant articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as other international instruments;

(f) Constitutional and legislative systems that fail to provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction;

14. *Urges* States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to this end:

(a) To ensure that their constitutional and legislative systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction by, inter alia, providing access to justice, including by facilitating legal assistance and effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief or the right to freely choose and practise one's religion is violated, paying particular attention to persons belonging to religious minorities;

(b) To implement all accepted universal periodic review recommendations related to the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief;

(c) To ensure that no one within their jurisdiction is deprived of the right to life, liberty and security of person because of religion or belief, to provide adequate protection to persons at risk of violent attack on the grounds of their religion or belief, to ensure that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or arbitrary arrest or detention on that account and to bring to justice all perpetrators of violations of these rights;

(d) To end violations of the human rights of women and to devote particular attention to appropriate measures modifying or abolishing existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that discriminate against women, including in the exercise of their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to foster practical ways to ensure equality between men and women;

(e) To ensure that existing legislation is not implemented in a discriminatory manner or does not result in discrimination based on religion or belief, that no one is discriminated against on the basis of his or her religion or belief when accessing, inter alia, education, medical care, employment, humanitarian assistance or social benefits and that everyone has the right and the opportunity to have access, on general terms of equality, to public services in their country, without any discrimination based on religion or belief;

(f) To review, whenever relevant, existing registration practices in order to ensure that such practices do not limit the right of all persons to manifest their religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private;

(g) To ensure that no official documents are withheld from the individual on the grounds of religion or belief and that everyone has the right to refrain from disclosing information concerning their religious affiliation in such documents against their will;

(h) To ensure, in particular, the right of all persons to worship, assemble or teach in connection with a religion or belief, their right to establish and maintain places for these purposes and the right of all persons to seek, receive and impart information and ideas in these areas;

(i) To ensure that, in accordance with appropriate national legislation and in conformity with international human rights law, the freedom of all persons and members of groups to establish and maintain religious, charitable or humanitarian institutions is fully respected and protected;

(j) To ensure that all public officials and civil servants, including members of law enforcement bodies, and personnel of detention facilities, the military and educators, in the course of fulfilling their official duties, respect freedom of

religion or belief and do not discriminate for reasons based on religion or belief, and that they receive all necessary and appropriate awareness-raising, education or training on respect for freedom of religion or belief;

(k) To take all necessary and appropriate action, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to combat hatred, discrimination, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by intolerance based on religion or belief, as well as incitement to hostility and violence, with particular regard to persons belonging to religious minorities in all parts of the world;

(l) To promote, through education and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in society at large, a wider knowledge of the diversity of religions and beliefs and of the history, traditions, languages and cultures of the various religious minorities existing within their jurisdiction;

(m) To prevent any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief that impairs the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis and to detect signs of intolerance that may lead to discrimination based on religion or belief;

15. *Welcomes and encourages* initiatives by the media to promote tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, and stresses the importance of unhindered participation in the media and in public discourse for all persons, regardless of their religion or belief;

16. *Stresses* the importance of a continued and strengthened dialogue in all its forms, including among and within religions or beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding, and welcomes different initiatives in this regard, including the Alliance of Civilizations initiative and the programmes led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

17. *Welcomes and encourages* the continuing efforts of all actors in society, including non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, and further encourages their work in promoting freedom of religion or belief, in highlighting cases of religious intolerance, discrimination and persecution and in promoting religious tolerance;

18. *Recommends* that States, the United Nations and other actors, including non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, ensure the widest possible dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief in as many different languages as possible, and promote its implementation;

19. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on freedom of religion or belief on tackling religious intolerance and discrimination in the workplace;

20. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, to respond favourably to his requests

to visit their countries and to provide all information and follow-up necessary for the effective fulfilment of his mandate;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the resources necessary to fully discharge his mandate;

22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

23. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and incitement to violence

Report of High Commissioner. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 22/31 [YUN 2013, p. 653], the High Commissioner in April submitted a report [A/HRC/25/34] on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief. The report summarized information received from 24 States on efforts and measures taken to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect; promote the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion; and counter religious profiling. The High Commissioner concluded that the steps taken by States were largely policy oriented or legal in nature, with many of them enshrining protection against discrimination on the basis of religion or belief in national constitutions, criminal codes and other civil laws. Advocacy of incitement to hatred was for the most part criminalized and often prohibited on several grounds, including religion or belief.

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/169 [YUN 2013, p. 653], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/336] summarizing information received from 16 States on steps taken to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief.

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/34)], the Council called on States to adopt measures and policies to promote full respect for and protection of places of worship and religious sites, cemeteries and shrines and to take measures in cases where they were vulnerable to vandalism or destruction; foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance; and ensure that public functionaries did not discriminate against an individual on the basis of religion or belief. It requested the High Commissioner to submit to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session a follow-up report on the efforts and measures taken by States to implement the resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/174** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the commitment made by all States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to, inter alia, religion or belief,

Reaffirming also the obligation of States to prohibit discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief and to implement measures to guarantee the equal and effective protection of the law,

Reaffirming further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Reaffirming that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides, inter alia, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

Reaffirming also the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance, and reaffirming further that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Expressing deep concern at those acts that advocate religious hatred and thereby undermine the spirit of tolerance,

Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Condemning the criminal acts committed by terrorist and extremist groups and movements against persons based on their religion or belief, and deeply regretting attempts to link these acts to any one specific religion or belief,

Reaffirming that violence can never be an acceptable response to acts of intolerance on the basis of religion or belief,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolutions 16/18 of 24 March 2011, 19/25 of 23 March 2012 and 22/31 of 22 March 2013 and General Assembly resolutions 67/178 of 20 December 2012 and 68/169 of 18 December 2013,

Deeply concerned about incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on their religion or belief in all regions of the world,

Deploing any advocacy of discrimination or violence on the basis of religion or belief,

Strongly deploring all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such

acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship,

Strongly deploring also all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

Deeply concerned about the prevalence of impunity in some instances, and the lack of accountability in some cases, in addressing violence against persons on the basis of religion or belief in public and private spheres, and stressing the importance of making necessary efforts to raise awareness to address the spread of hate speech against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

Concerned about actions that wilfully exploit tensions or target individuals on the basis of their religion or belief,

Expressing deep concern at the instances of intolerance, discrimination and acts of violence occurring in the world, including cases motivated by discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities, in addition to the negative projection of the followers of religions and the enforcement of measures that specifically discriminate against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

Expressing concern at the growing manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief, which can generate hatred and violence among individuals from and within different nations and which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard emphasizing the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of people of all religions or beliefs to humanity and the contribution that dialogue among religious groups can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Underlining the fact that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

Underlining also the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions or beliefs and of education in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of and its respect for religious and cultural diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining further the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recognizing that working together to enhance the implementation of existing legal regimes that protect individuals against discrimination and hate crimes, increase interreligious, interfaith and intercultural efforts and expand human rights education is an important first step in combating incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against individuals on the basis of religion or belief,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/127, entitled "A world against violence and violent extremism", adopted by consensus on 18 December 2013, welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organization in promoting intercultural dialogue, the work of the Alliance of Civilizations, the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures and the work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, and recalling also Assembly resolution 65/5 of 20 October 2010 on World Interfaith Harmony Week, proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan,

Welcoming, in this regard, all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting interreligious, intercultural and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion or belief, including the launching of the Istanbul Process for Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred and/or Violence on the Basis of Religion or Belief, and taking note of the initiative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence,

Welcoming also the continuation of the organization of workshops and meetings in the framework of the Istanbul Process and the promotion of effective implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 to counter global violence, religious discrimination and intolerance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Expresses deep concern* at the continued serious instances of derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief, as well as programmes and agendas pursued by extremist individuals, organizations and groups aimed at creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes about religious groups, in particular when condoned by Governments;

3. *Expresses concern* that the number of incidents of religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, as well as of negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief, continues to rise around the world, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, condemns, in this context, any advocacy of religious hatred against individuals that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and urges States to take effective measures, as set forth in the present resolution and consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat such incidents;

4. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

5. *Recognizes* that the open public debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national and international levels, can be among the best protections against religious intolerance and can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred, and expresses its conviction that a continuing dialogue on these issues can help to overcome existing misperceptions;

6. *Also recognizes* the strong need for global awareness about the possible serious implications of incitement to discrimination and violence, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and urges all Member States to make renewed efforts to develop educational systems that promote all human

rights and fundamental freedoms that enhance tolerance for religious and cultural diversity, which is fundamental to promoting tolerant, peaceful and harmonious multicultural societies;

7. *Calls upon* all States to take the following actions, as called for by the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect by:

- (a) Encouraging the creation of collaborative networks to build mutual understanding, promoting dialogue and inspiring constructive action towards shared policy goals and the pursuit of tangible outcomes, such as servicing projects in the fields of education, health, conflict prevention, employment, integration and media education;

- (b) Creating an appropriate mechanism within Governments to, inter alia, identify and address potential areas of tension between members of different religious communities and assisting with conflict prevention and mediation;

- (c) Encouraging the training of government officials in effective outreach strategies;

- (d) Encouraging the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of discrimination and developing strategies to counter those causes;

- (e) Speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;

- (f) Adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief;

- (g) Understanding the need to combat denigration and the negative religious stereotyping of persons, as well as incitement to religious hatred, by strategizing and harmonizing actions at the local, national, regional and international levels through, inter alia, education and awareness-raising;

- (h) Recognizing that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national, regional and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence;

8. *Also calls upon* all States:

- (a) To take effective measures to ensure that public functionaries, in the conduct of their public duties, do not discriminate against an individual on the basis of religion or belief;

- (b) To foster religious freedom and pluralism by promoting the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society;

- (c) To encourage the representation and meaningful participation of individuals, irrespective of their religion or belief, in all sectors of society;

- (d) To make a strong effort to counter religious profiling, which is understood to be the invidious use of religion as a criterion in conducting questioning, searches and other investigative law enforcement procedures;

9. *Further calls upon* all States to adopt measures and policies to promote full respect for and protection of places of worship and religious sites, cemeteries and shrines and to take protective measures in cases where they are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction;

10. *Calls for* strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs;

11. *Encourages* all States to consider providing updates on efforts made in this regard as part of ongoing reporting to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this respect requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to include those updates in her reports to the Human Rights Council;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report that includes information provided by the High Commissioner on steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief, as set forth in the present resolution.

Right to self-determination

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/153 [YUN 2013, p. 655], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/342] on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. The report summarized developments relating to the consideration of that subject by the Human Rights Council, including by its special procedures, and outlined the related jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It also summarized information on the right to self-determination as contained in the report [S/2014/258] of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the situation concerning Western Sahara.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/487], adopted **resolution 69/164** without vote [agenda item 67].

Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights, as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first and previous sessions,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, including resolution 68/153 of 18 December 2013,

Reaffirming also its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, containing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and recalling its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, containing the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which, inter alia, upheld the right to self-determination of peoples under colonial domination and foreign occupation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination,

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. *Declares its firm opposition* to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. *Calls upon* those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, in particular the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed for the execution of those acts against the peoples concerned;

4. *Deplores* the plight of millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts, and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and with honour;

5. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to continue to give special attention to violations of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the question to the General Assembly at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

Right of Palestinians to self-determination

During the year, the General Assembly reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine, as well as the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders. States and UN system bodies were urged to assist Palestinians in the early realization of the right.

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/27)], by a recorded vote of 46 to 1, with no abstentions, the Council urged Member States and UN system bodies to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/487], adopted **resolution 69/165** by recorded vote (180-7-4) [agenda item 67].

**The right of the Palestinian people
to self-determination**

The General Assembly,

Aware that the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as defined in the Charter,

Recalling, in this regard, its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970, entitled “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations”,

Bearing in mind the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,

Recalling the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling further the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and noting in particular the reply of the Court, including on the right of peoples to self-determination, which is a right *erga omnes*,

Recalling the conclusion of the Court, in its advisory opinion of 9 July 2004, that the construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, along with measures previously taken, severely impedes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, based on the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

Stressing also the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalling in this regard its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Recalling its resolution 68/154 of 18 December 2013,

Taking note of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Affirming the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine;

2. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to

support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/165:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Paraguay, South Sudan, Tonga.

Mercenaries

Reports of Working Group. In a June report [A/HRC/27/50], the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination described the activities undertaken since its last report [YUN 2013, p. 656] and presented the results of its global study on national legislation concerning private military and/or security companies (PMSCs), which focused on 16 selected countries in Africa and Asia. The Working Group observed that while there were common elements in the laws of those countries, diverse national contexts affected the way in which PMSCs were regulated and the regulatory approach of each country varied significantly. It reiterated the need for effective regulation of PMSC activities and invited States to facilitate its study of national legislation, which aimed to identify trends and good practices and to develop guidance for States in overseeing PMSC activities.

In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 657] and General Assembly resolution 68/152 [ibid.], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Working Group's report [A/69/338] focusing on the use by the United Nations of private security companies in light of the vast and complex challenges which outsourcing security to PMSCs posed to the United Nations and to local populations. The report was the outcome of a year-long study that aimed to examine how the United Nations contracted PMSCs and for what services. It reviewed the efforts undertaken to mitigate risks relating to the recruitment of private security providers, in particular the recently adopted policy and guidelines on the use of private armed guards. The report considered the limitations of those policy tools, suggested ways to ensure an efficient selection and vetting process when employing PMSCs and examined ways to ensure that PMSCs were held accountable for possible human rights violations.

Mission reports. Following its visit to the Comoros (7–16 May) [A/HRC/27/50/Add.1], the Working Group noted the country's difficult and turbulent history since its independence in 1975. A series of coups d'état by mercenaries and the political instability that prevailed during the three decades following independence had prevented the country's development. The Working Group recognized the negative and interdependent effects of mercenarism, separatism and the Mayotte issue on the human rights of Comorians. Despite obstacles, positive developments had brought relative stability, such as the 2009 amendment of the Constitution allowing for the rotation of the presidency that helped to counter the problem of separatism and attempted coups d'état. With respect to private security companies, the Working Group noted that the presence of natural resources in the Comoros had the potential to attract investment from multinational corporations in the extractive industry, which often used private security companies to protect their facilities. The likelihood of an increase in the number of private security companies operating in the Comoros and ongoing concerns surrounding maritime delimitation issues required the introduction of appropriate regulations.

Following its mission to Côte d'Ivoire (7–10 October) [A/HRC/30/34/Add.1], the Working Group expressed concern about the widespread lack of confidence in the justice system and the prevalent culture of impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations. The Working Group was informed that mercenaries had been recruited by both sides during the 2002 armed conflict and the 2010 post-election crisis, and had been responsible for grave violations. There had been little progress in prosecuting mercenaries or other armed actors in Côte d'Ivoire or in their countries of origin. The Working Group also noted the huge increase in private security companies after the conflicts and the existence of hundreds of such companies operating illegally. It

recommended improving access to justice and remedies for victims; ending the culture of impunity by bringing perpetrators to justice; and strengthening oversight of private security companies.

Intergovernmental working group. The open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of PMSCs, established in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 690], held its third session (Geneva, 21–25 July) [A/HRC/WG.10/3/2]. In the discussions, there was widespread agreement about gaps in the regulatory framework, as very few States had specific legislation on PMSCs. Efforts to ensure regulation through voluntary self-regulatory mechanisms were still being rolled out. In his concluding remarks, the Chair noted that the discussions had reaffirmed the shared goal of protecting human rights and ensuring accountability for violations and abuses relating to the PMSCs activities.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/10)], by a recorded vote of 32 to 14, with 1 abstention, the Council requested States to exercise the utmost vigilance against any kind of recruitment, training, hiring or financing of mercenaries, and in banning the use of private companies offering international military consultancy and security services when intervening in armed conflicts or actions to destabilize constitutional regimes. It requested the Working Group to continue work on strengthening the international legal framework for the prevention and sanction of the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries; to monitor mercenaries and mercenary-related activities; and to report to the Assembly's seventieth (2015) session and the Council's thirtieth (2015) session on implementation of the resolution.

International Convention

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the 1989 International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries remained at 33. The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 44/34 [YUN 1989, p. 825] and entered into force in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 632].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/487], adopted **resolution 69/163** by recorded vote (130–52–7) [agenda item 67].

Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 68/152 of 18 December 2013, and

Human Rights Council resolutions 15/12 of 30 September 2010, 15/26 of 1 October 2010, 18/4 of 29 September 2011, 21/8 of 27 September 2012, 24/13 of 26 September 2013 and 27/10 of 25 September 2014, as well as all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in this regard,

Recalling also all of its relevant resolutions, in which, inter alia, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit or use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements, and recalling further the relevant resolutions and international instruments adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Organization of African Unity, inter alia, the Organization of African Unity Convention for the elimination of mercenarism in Africa, as well as by the African Union,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the self-determination of peoples, the non-use of force or of the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States,

Reaffirming also that, by virtue of the principle of self-determination, all peoples have the right freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development and that every State has the duty to respect this right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter,

Reaffirming further the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the establishment of the open-ended intergovernmental working group of the Human Rights Council with the mandate of considering the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework, including the option of elaborating a legally binding instrument on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies,

Alarmed and concerned at the danger that the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of conflict,

Deeply concerned at the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the policy and economies of affected countries resulting from international criminal mercenary activities,

Extremely alarmed and concerned about recent mercenary activities in some developing countries in various parts of the world, including in areas of armed conflict, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of the affected countries,

Convinced that, notwithstanding the way in which mercenaries or mercenary-related activities are used or the form that they take to acquire some semblance of legitimacy, they are a threat to peace, security and the self-determination of peoples and an obstacle to the enjoyment of all human rights by peoples,

1. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the work and contributions of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, including its research activities, and takes note with appreciation of its latest report;

2. *Reaffirms* that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing, protection and training are causes for grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Recognizes* that armed conflict, terrorism, arms trafficking and covert operations by third Powers encourage, inter alia, the demand for mercenaries on the global market;

4. *Urges once again* all States to take the steps necessary and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries and to take legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection or transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to impede the right of peoples to self-determination, to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State or to dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the right of peoples to self-determination;

5. *Requests* all States to exercise the utmost vigilance against any kind of recruitment, training, hiring or financing of mercenaries by private companies offering international military consultancy and security services, as well as to impose a specific ban on such companies intervening in armed conflicts or actions to destabilize constitutional regimes;

6. *Encourages* States that import the military assistance, consultancy and security services provided by private companies to establish regulatory national mechanisms for the registering and licensing of those companies in order to ensure that imported services provided by those private companies neither impede the enjoyment of human rights nor violate human rights in the recipient country;

7. *Emphasizes its utmost concern* about the impact of the activities of private military and security companies on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular when operating in armed conflicts, and notes that private military and security companies and their personnel are rarely held accountable for violations of human rights;

8. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider taking the action necessary to accede to or ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;

9. *Welcomes* the cooperation extended by those countries that received a visit by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries and the adoption by some States of national legislation that restricts the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries;

10. *Condemns* recent mercenary activities in developing countries in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of conflict, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of those countries and the exercise of the right of their peoples to self-determination, and stresses the importance for the Working Group on the use of mercenaries of looking into

sources and root causes, as well as the political motivations of mercenaries and for mercenary-related activities;

11. *Calls upon* States to investigate the possibility of mercenary involvement whenever and wherever criminal acts of a terrorist nature occur and to bring to trial those found responsible or to consider their extradition, if so requested, in accordance with national law and applicable bilateral or international treaties;

12. *Condemns* any form of impunity granted to perpetrators of mercenary activities and to those responsible for the use, recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without distinction, to justice;

13. *Calls upon* Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate with and assist the judicial prosecution of those accused of mercenary activities in transparent, open and fair trials;

14. *Recalls* the holding of the third session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies, expresses satisfaction at the participation of experts, including of the members of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries, as resource persons at the above-mentioned session, and requests the Working Group and other experts to continue their participation during the fourth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group;

15. *Requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries to continue the work already done by previous Special Rapporteurs on the use of mercenaries on the strengthening of the international legal framework for the prevention and sanction of the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries, taking into account the proposal for a new legal definition of a mercenary drafted by the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination in his report to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session;

16. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries on the right of peoples to self-determination and, when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by those activities;

17. *Recommends* that all Member States, including those confronted with the phenomenon of private military and security companies, as contracting States, States of operations, home States or States whose nationals are employed to work for a private military and security company, contribute to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group, taking into account the initial work done by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries;

18. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully with the Working Group on the use of mercenaries in the fulfilment of its mandate;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide the Working Group on the use of mercenaries with all the assistance and support necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate, both professional and financial, including through the promotion of cooperation between the Working Group and other components of the United Nations system that deal with countering mercenary-

related activities, in order to meet the demands of its current and future activities;

20. *Requests* the Working Group on the use of mercenaries to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the present resolution and to report, with specific recommendations, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session its findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the enjoyment of all human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;

21. *Decides* to consider at its seventieth session the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/163:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Chad, Fiji, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Switzerland, Tonga.

Rule of law, democracy and human rights

Administration of justice

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/12 [YUN 2013, p. 660], OHCHR submitted a summary report [A/HRC/28/29] of the panel discussion held at the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session on the protection of the human rights

of persons deprived of their liberty (Geneva, 10 September). Participants reaffirmed the adequacy of existing forms of protection in international human rights law, as well as of the international human rights mechanisms that focused on the issue. Challenges, however, remained in the national implementation of international norms and standards. Political will, or lack of thereof, was identified as one factor contributing to the failure of national implementation.

Children and access to justice

Reports of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/32 [YUN 2013, p. 719], the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/25/35] on access to justice for children, which addressed the definition of access to justice for children and its relation to other concepts, such as child-sensitive justice and juvenile justice, and discussed the legal framework and challenges for children in accessing justice. The main part of the report reviewed standards and good practices. The High Commissioner concluded that international and regional human rights norms and standards provided a comprehensive framework for ensuring access to justice for children. Due to their special and dependent status, however, children were faced with serious challenges in accessing justice. She recommended that States revise their laws, policies and procedures to ensure better compliance with international norms and standards; strengthen capacity-building and training initiatives to ensure that persons working with, and for, children had the necessary knowledge and skills relating to their rights and needs; ensure that the views of children were given due consideration; and protect children from the risk of manipulation, harassment, reprisals or intimidation.

In an addendum [A/HRC/25/35/Add.1], the High Commissioner submitted information received from Monaco and Uruguay for her annual report after the deadline for submission.

Pursuant to Council request [YUN 2013, p. 719], the High Commissioner submitted a summary [A/HRC/27/25] of the full-day meeting on access to justice for children (Geneva, 13 March), comprising two panel discussions: one on international norms and standards on access to justice for children and child-sensitive justice, and the other on empowering children to claim their rights.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/6)], the Council emphasized that children in contact with the justice system were entitled to the safeguarding of their rights, and called on States to remove barriers to children's access to justice.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee

[A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/172** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

Human rights in the administration of justice

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the principles embodied in articles 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto, in particular articles 6, 7, 9, 10, 14 and 15 of the Covenant, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular article 2 (c) thereof, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular articles 37, 39 and 40 thereof, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as all other relevant international treaties,

Calling attention to the numerous international standards in the field of the administration of justice,

Recalling all the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the subject of human rights in the administration of justice, including General Assembly resolutions 65/213 of 21 December 2010 and 67/166 of 20 December 2012 and Human Rights Council resolutions 18/12 of 29 September 2011 and 24/12 of 26 September 2013,

Recalling also its resolution 67/1 of 24 September 2012, entitled "Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels",

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities,

Welcoming the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),

Welcoming also the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,

Welcoming further the work of all special procedures of the Human Rights Council that address human rights in the administration of justice in the discharge of their mandates,

Taking note of the work of all human rights treaty body mechanisms on human rights in the administration of justice, in particular of general comments No. 21 on the humane treatment of persons deprived of their liberty and No. 32 on the right to equality before courts and tribunals and to a fair trial, adopted by the Human Rights Committee, and general comments No. 10 on children's rights in juvenile justice and No. 13 on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Noting with appreciation the important work in the field of the administration of justice of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

as well as the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,

Noting with appreciation also the thematic report by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children entitled “Promoting restorative justice for children”,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice and of its members, in particular their coordination in providing technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice, and the active participation of civil society in their respective work,

Encouraging continued regional and cross-regional efforts, the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice, and noting in this regard the initiative to convene a world congress on juvenile justice in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015,

Convinced that the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and the integrity of the judicial system as well as an independent legal profession are essential prerequisites for the protection of human rights, the rule of law, good governance and democracy and for ensuring that there is no discrimination in the administration of justice and should therefore be respected in all circumstances,

Recalling that every State should provide an effective framework of remedies to redress human rights grievances or violations,

Emphasizing that the right to access to justice for all forms an important basis for strengthening the rule of law through the administration of justice,

Mindful of the importance of ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights in the administration of justice as a crucial contribution to building peace and justice and ending impunity,

Recognizing the importance of the principle that, except for those lawful limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, persons deprived of their liberty shall retain their non-derogable human rights and all other human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling that the social rehabilitation and reintegration of persons deprived of their liberty shall be among the essential aims of the criminal justice system, ensuring, as far as possible, that offenders are able to lead a law-abiding and self-supporting life upon their return to society,

Aware of the need for special vigilance with regard to the specific situation of children, juveniles and women in the administration of justice, in particular while they are deprived of their liberty, and their vulnerability to various forms of violence, abuse, injustice and humiliation,

Reaffirming that children who are victims and witnesses of crime and violence are particularly vulnerable and require special protection, assistance and support appropriate to their age, level of maturity and needs, in order to prevent further hardship and trauma that may result from their participation in the criminal justice process,

Recognizing the specific situation and needs of children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups when accused of crimes under international law allegedly committed while they were associated with armed forces or armed groups,

Reaffirming that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all decisions concerning the child in

the administration of justice, including in relation to pretrial measures, as well as being an important consideration in all matters concerning the child related to sentencing of his or her parents, or, where applicable, legal guardians or primary caregivers,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the most recent report of the Secretary-General on human rights in the administration of justice, containing an analysis of the international legal and institutional framework for the protection of all persons deprived of their liberty;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the protection of human rights of juveniles deprived of their liberty and on access to justice for children and the joint report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system, submitted to the Human Rights Council;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the full and effective implementation of all United Nations standards on human rights in the administration of justice;

4. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States to spare no effort in providing for effective legislative and other mechanisms and procedures, as well as adequate resources, to ensure the full implementation of those standards;

5. *Invites* States to make use of technical assistance offered by the relevant United Nations entities and programmes in order to strengthen national capacities and infrastructures in the field of the administration of justice;

6. *Appeals* to Governments to include, in their national development plans, the effective administration of justice and equal access to justice as an integral part of the development process, with a view to promoting and protecting human rights, and to allocate adequate resources for the provision of legal aid services, and invites the international community to respond favourably to requests for financial and technical assistance for the enhancement and strengthening of the administration of justice;

7. *Stresses* the special need for national capacity-building in the field of the administration of justice, in particular through reform of the judiciary, the police and the penal system, as well as juvenile justice reform, and through the encouragement of independence, accountability and transparency in the judiciary, in order to establish and maintain stable societies and the rule of law in post-conflict situations, and welcomes the role of the Office of the High Commissioner in supporting the establishment and functioning of transitional justice mechanisms in post-conflict situations;

8. *Reaffirms* that no one should be unlawfully or arbitrarily deprived of his or her liberty, and notes the principles of necessity and proportionality in this regard;

9. *Calls upon* States to ensure that anyone who is deprived of his or her liberty through arrest or detention has prompt access to a competent court with the effective power to determine the lawfulness of the detention and to order release if the detention or imprisonment is determined not to be lawful and prompt access to legal counsel, in accordance with their international obligations and commitments;

10. *Affirms* that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism, including in the administration

of justice, complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

11. *Notes* the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to exchange information on best practices, as well as on national legislation and existing international law, and on the revision of existing United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, and invites the expert group to continue its work and to conclude the review and update of the standard minimum rules, reiterating that any changes should not lower any existing standards but should improve them and reflect recent advances in correctional science and best practices, as well as human rights standards, so as to promote safety, security and humane conditions for prisoners, and in this regard acknowledges that the expert group can benefit from the expertise of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and of the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant stakeholders;

12. *Recalls* the absolute prohibition of torture in international law, and calls upon States to address and prevent the detention conditions, treatment and punishment of persons deprived of their liberty that amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

13. *Calls upon* States to investigate promptly, effectively and impartially all alleged human rights violations suffered by persons deprived of their liberty, in particular cases involving death, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to provide effective remedy to the victims, in accordance with their international obligations and commitments;

14. *Urges* States to endeavour to reduce, where appropriate, pretrial detention, inter alia, by adopting legislative and administrative measures and policies on its preconditions, limitations, duration and alternatives and by taking measures aimed at the implementation of existing legislation, as well as by ensuring access to justice and legal advice and assistance;

15. *Encourages* States to address overcrowding in detention facilities by taking effective measures, including through enhancing the use of alternatives to pretrial detention and custodial sentences where possible, access to legal aid and the efficiency as well as the capacity of the criminal justice system and its facilities;

16. *Welcomes* the panel discussion on the protection of the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty, held during the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, which highlighted challenges and good practices for ensuring the protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, in particular with regard to judicial oversight of detention, overcrowding and overuse of detention, including by examining the use of pretrial detention and alternatives to detention;

17. *Continues to encourage* States to pay due attention to the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) when developing and implementing relevant legislation, procedures, policies and action plans, and invites relevant special procedure mandate holders, the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and all other relevant organizations to take those rules into consideration in their activities;

18. *Recognizes* that every child and juvenile alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed the law, partic-

ularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crimes, should be treated in a manner consistent with his or her rights, dignity and needs, in accordance with international law, bearing in mind relevant international standards on human rights in the administration of justice, taking into account also the age, gender, social circumstances and development needs of such children, and calls upon States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to abide strictly by its principles and provisions;

19. *Welcomes* the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and urges States to consider applying them, as appropriate, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies, programmes, budgets and mechanisms aimed at eliminating violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

20. *Also welcomes* the Global Programme on Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recently developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Children's Fund, which is intended to promote and assist in the effective implementation of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures, and encourages Member States and other relevant stakeholders to support and to benefit from this programme;

21. *Encourages* States that have not yet integrated children's issues into their overall rule of law efforts to do so and to develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated juvenile justice policy to prevent and address juvenile delinquency and to address risks and causes for children's contact with the juvenile and/or criminal justice system, as well as with a view to promoting, inter alia, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion and restorative justice, and complying with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

22. *Stresses* the importance of including reintegration strategies for former child offenders in juvenile justice policies, in particular through the provision of gender-sensitive education and life skills programmes, as well as treatment and services for substance abuse and mental health needs, with a view to their assuming a constructive role in society;

23. *Urges* States to take all necessary and effective measures, including legal reform where appropriate, to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children within the justice system, including within the informal justice system, where it exists;

24. *Also urges* States to ensure that, under their legislation and practice, neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without the possibility of release nor corporal punishment is imposed for offences committed by persons under 18 years of age, and encourages States to consider repealing all other forms of life imprisonment for offences committed by persons under 18 years of age;

25. *Encourages* States not to set the minimum age of criminal responsibility at too low an age level, bearing in mind the emotional, mental and intellectual maturity of the child, and in this respect notes the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to increase the lower minimum age of criminal responsibility to the age of

12 years as the absolute minimum age, and to continue to increase it to a higher age level;

26. *Also encourages* States to gather relevant information, including through data collection and research, concerning children within their criminal justice systems so as to improve their administration of justice, while being mindful of the children's right to privacy, with full respect for relevant international human rights instruments, and bearing in mind applicable international standards on human rights in the administration of justice;

27. *Stresses* the importance of paying greater attention to the impact on children of imprisonment or other sentences imposed upon their parents, while noting with interest the convening of and reports on all relevant meetings and panel discussions on these issues held by the Human Rights Council;

28. *Invites* Governments to provide for tailored and interdisciplinary human rights training, including anti-racist, multicultural, gender-sensitive and child rights training, to all judges, lawyers, prosecutors, social workers, immigration and police officers and other professionals concerned, including personnel deployed in international field presences;

29. *Encourages* the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, United Nations institutes active in the areas of human rights and crime prevention and criminal justice, and other relevant parts of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including national professional associations concerned with promoting United Nations standards in this field, and other segments of civil society, including the media, to continue to develop their activities in promoting human rights in the administration of justice;

30. *Invites* States, upon their request, to benefit from technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice provided by the relevant United Nations entities and programmes, in particular the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, in order to strengthen national capacities and infrastructures in the field of the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice;

31. *Invites* the Human Rights Council and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Office of the High Commissioner, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue to closely coordinate their activities relating to the administration of justice;

32. *Invites* the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to reinforce, within their respective mandates, their activities relating to national capacity-building in the field of the administration of justice, in particular in post-conflict situations, and in this context to strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations entities;

33. *Underlines* the importance of rebuilding and strengthening structures for the administration of justice and of respecting the rule of law and human rights, including in post-conflict situations, as a crucial contribution to building peace and justice and ending impunity, and in this respect requests the Secretary-General to further streamline and strengthen system-wide coordination and coherence of programmes and activities of the relevant parts of the United Nations system, including through the Rule of Law

Coordination and Resource Group chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the joint global focal point for the police, justice and corrections areas in the rule of law in post-conflict and other crisis situations;

34. *Invites* States, in the context of the universal periodic review mechanism and in their reports under international human rights treaties, to consider addressing the promotion and protection of human rights in the administration of justice;

35. *Invites* relevant special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as well as relevant treaty bodies, to give special attention to questions relating to the effective protection of human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice, and to provide, wherever appropriate, specific recommendations in this regard, including proposals for advisory services and technical assistance measures;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the latest developments, challenges and good practices in human rights in the administration of justice and on the activities undertaken by the United Nations system as a whole;

37. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of human rights in the administration of justice at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Rule of law

Transitional justice

OHCHR report. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 661], OHCHR in June submitted a study [A/HRC/27/21] focusing on gender-based and sexual violence in relation to transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations, which covered the effective participation of victims and the participatory procedures necessary to address the different needs and opportunities of women, men, girls and boys, as well as good practices with regard to national consultations, truth-seeking, criminal justice, reparations and institutional reform. While there had been progress, as greater attention had been given to such violence and some good practices had been developed, more efforts were needed to ensure that transitional justice processes addressed the full spectrum of gender-based and sexual violence. OHCHR recommended that the good practices highlighted in the study should be emulated in other countries, while taking into account the national context. The study also made recommendations on how transitional justice measures could be improved to address the issue.

Truth, justice, reparation and non-recurrence

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 686], the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff (Colombia), in August submitted a report

[A/HRC/27/56] that listed his activities between August 2013 and June 2014 and addressed the topic of prosecutorial prioritization strategies in the aftermath of gross human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law. The Rapporteur elaborated on possible elements of a prioritization strategy; called for such strategies to tackle the systemic dimensions of violations so as to dismantle the web of players and structures that enabled the atrocities to take place; and underscored the importance of the independence of prosecutors. He also emphasized the growing importance of the participation of victims in judicial processes, including in relation to the design of prosecutorial strategies, and called for in-depth studies on the institutionalization of participation mechanisms.

In accordance with a Council request [YUN 2011, p. 686], in October, the Secretary-General transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/518] focusing on reparation for victims in the aftermath of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law. Despite significant normative progress in establishing the rights of victims to reparations and some practical experiences, the Rapporteur noted that most victims did not receive any reparation and that the implementation gap had reached scandalous proportions. It not only affected victims directly, but had a ripple effect that could be felt across generations and entire societies and was laden with legacies of mistrust, institutional weaknesses and failed notions and practices of citizenship. The Rapporteur addressed implementation challenges, including States' political unwillingness to implement existing obligations, the inadmissible exclusion of entire categories of victims on the basis of political considerations and the gender insensitivity of most reparation programmes. He urged States to address those challenges and called for a human rights-based approach in implementing reparation programmes.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission reports. Following his visit to Spain (21 January–3 February) [A/HRC/27/56/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur stated that the Spanish Civil War and the 40 years of dictatorship that followed left a colossal aftermath in terms of victims of human rights and humanitarian law violations, including executions, torture, arbitrary detentions, disappearances, forced labour for prisoners and exile. On the other hand, the consolidation of democracy constituted one of the outstanding achievements of the Spanish transition. He noted a considerable discrepancy between the positions adopted by the majority of State institutions and those of the victims and associations. The authorities maintained that, as far as possible, the claims of the victims and associations had mostly been met, while the latter felt insufficiently recognized and compensated. The most serious shortcomings were in the spheres of truth and justice. No State policy had ever been es-

tablished with respect to the truth, and there was no official information and no mechanisms for elucidating the truth. The Rapporteur made recommendations to the Government and State bodies, including on truth, guarantees of non-recurrence and reparation.

In September [A/HRC/27/56/Add.3], Spain submitted its comments on the report.

Following his visit to Burundi (8–16 December) [A/HRC/30/42/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur said that serious efforts to redress past massive violations were required to demonstrate the authorities' commitment to break with the tradition of impunity, which, in turn, would enable domestic institutions and mechanisms to protect human rights in the present. Transitional justice initiatives needed to foster human rights and should not be used as instruments of "turn-taking" that benefited only one side. Reparation schemes needed systematic treatment, with special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable. Reform of the security sector should be linked with justice considerations to ensure an institutional set-up that contributed to preventing violations. While there was broad acknowledgement that reforms were required to establish an independent judiciary, the executive branch and the governing political party continued to tightly control the justice sector.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/3)], the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a three-year period, and requested him to report annually to the Council and the General Assembly.

Independence of judges and lawyers

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 687], the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Gabriela Knaul (Brazil), in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/32], which focused on judicial accountability and judicial independence. The report considered concepts and definitions of judicial accountability; highlighted its importance for upholding the rule of law and strengthening the independence of the judiciary; examined related international human rights standards; analysed the different forms of judicial accountability and the mechanisms and proceedings for its implementation; and addressed the issue of State responsibility and the right to a remedy for people whose human rights had been violated as the result of a wrongful conviction or miscarriage of justice. The Rapporteur made recommendations to assist States in establishing judicial accountability mechanisms in line with the principles of judicial independence and impartiality.

In accordance with a Council request (see below), the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/294], which focused on the incorporation of the concepts of the rule of law

and access to justice into the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960). It formulated responses to the shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 51] and highlighted the opportunity for the international community to better address the connection among the rule of law, human rights and development in the post-2015 agenda. Noting that the rule of law and development were mutually reinforcing concepts, the Rapporteur emphasized the need for incorporating human rights standards and obligations throughout the post-2015 agenda, and urged that access to justice and the independence of the justice system be reflected as goals in their own right.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission reports. Following her visit to Qatar (19–26 January) [A/HRC/29/26/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur presented her findings on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including respect for the principle of separation of powers, the selection and appointment of judges and the impartiality of the judiciary; non-Qatari judges; accountability and disciplinary measures for judges; fair trial, due process guarantees and the administration of justice; access to justice and the situation of migrant workers; women in the justice system; prosecution services; lawyers; and education and training. She recognized Qatar's progress and achievements and made recommendations to address challenges and shortcomings that could undermine positive reform efforts.

Following her mission to the United Arab Emirates (27 January–5 February) [A/HRC/29/26/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur provided an overview of the federal justice system and presented her findings on topics such as legal uncertainty; the independence and impartiality of the judiciary; non-national judges; accountability and disciplinary measures; fair trial, due process and administration of justice; access to justice and legal aid; women in the justice system; prosecution services; lawyers; and education, training and capacity-building. She noted that the justice system had developed into an elaborate and complex court system in a relatively short time. Despite commendable progress, she expressed concern that the challenges and shortcomings she had identified were serious and negatively affected the delivery of justice. The report concluded with recommendations to relevant stakeholders.

Following her visit to Tunisia (27 November–5 December) [A/HRC/29/26/Add.3], the Special Rapporteur presented an overview of the justice system and its constitutional and legal frameworks, as well as her findings and concerns with regard to the need to adopt a comprehensive legal framework; independence, impartiality, integrity and accountability; the selection, appointment and tenure of judges; budget and conditions of work; case management, internal regulations and procedures, judicial delays and access to justice; threats, attacks and lack of protection; prosecutorial

services; military courts; lawyers; and education, training and capacity-building. She concluded the report with recommendations to relevant stakeholders.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/4)], the Council, by a recorded vote of 27 to 1, with 19 abstentions, requested the High Commissioner to convene, prior to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session, an expert consultation on human rights considerations relating to the issues of administration of justice through military tribunals and the role of the integral judicial system in combating human rights violations; and to present a summary of the consultation to the Council's twenty-eight session.

On 26 June [res. 26/7], the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a three-year period.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Council resolution 25/4 (see above), the High Commissioner convened an expert consultation on the issues of administration of justice through military tribunals and the role of the integral judicial system in combating human rights violations (Geneva, 24 November), and submitted a summary report [A/HRC/28/32]. Issues discussed by participants included independence, impartiality and competence of the judiciary, including military courts; the right to fair trial before courts and other procedural protections; the personal jurisdiction of military courts; and subject matter jurisdiction of military courts.

Right to a nationality

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/14)], the Council called on States to refrain from taking discriminatory measures and from enacting or maintaining legislation that would arbitrarily deprive persons of their nationality on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, especially if such measures and legislation rendered a person stateless; welcomed the efforts made to reduce statelessness and combat arbitrary deprivation of nationality by UN entities and human rights treaty bodies; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council before its thirty-first (2016) session on the impact the arbitrary deprivation of nationality had on the enjoyment of the rights of children concerned, as well as on the laws and practices on accessibility for children to acquire nationality, inter alia, of the country in which they were born, if they otherwise would be stateless.

Equal political participation

OHCHR report. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 663], OHCHR in June submitted a study [A/HRC/27/29] on factors that impeded equal political participation and steps to overcome

them. The study examined the human rights framework relating to participation in political and public affairs, noted that discrimination against women, indigenous peoples, minorities, persons with disabilities, human rights defenders and other marginalized groups might prevent their enjoyment of the rights to participate in political and public affairs, identified some major barriers to equal participation and made recommendations on measures to overcome them.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/24)], the Council noted the OHCHR study (see above) and urged States to consider its conclusions and recommendations, and to ensure the full, effective and equal participation of all citizens in political and public affairs. It requested OHCHR to present to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session a study on best practices, experiences and challenges and ways to overcome them with regard to implementation of the right to participate in public affairs, with a view to identifying elements of principles guiding that implementation.

Civil society space

Panel discussion. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 666], OHCHR submitted a summary report [A/HRC/27/33] of the panel discussion held at the Council's twenty-fifth (2014) session on the importance of the promotion and protection of civil society space (Geneva, 11 March). Panellists addressed the challenges that States faced in their efforts to ensure such space; experiences, lessons learned and good practices with regard to such space; and strategies and steps to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society. Participants recommended that the Council, through its special procedures mechanisms, develop and adopt guiding principles on creating such an environment.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 & Corr.2 (res. 27/31)], the Council welcomed the holding of the panel discussion (see above); urged States to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment in which civil society could operate free from hindrance and insecurity; and requested the High Commissioner to submit to the Council's thirty-second (2016) session a compilation of practical recommendations for the creation and maintenance of a safe and enabling environment for civil society, based on good practices and lessons learned.

Freedom of expression

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 690], the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue (Guatemala), in July submitted a report [A/HRC/26/30] which described his activities

and focused on freedom of opinion and expression in electoral contexts, particularly on the establishment and enforcement of legal instruments regulating political communications. He detailed the human rights framework applicable to the question in political communications and electoral processes; described common violations of the right in electoral periods; and provided recommendations on aligning national legal frameworks to international human rights standards.

In accordance with a Council request (see below), the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/335] that focused on the right of the child to freedom of expression. Despite the almost universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (see p. 763), too little had been done to give effect to the right of children to freedom of expression. He noted with concern the adoption of various restrictive measures allegedly aimed at protecting children from harmful information, and called for a greater focus by the international community and States on children's right to freedom of expression and access to information.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission reports. In April [A/HRC/26/30/Add.5], May [A/HRC/26/30/Add.4] and June [A/HRC/26/30/Add.6], respectively, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Italy submitted their comments on the Special Rapporteur's visit to their country in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 666].

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/2)], the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for three years and requested the Rapporteur to report annually to the Council and the General Assembly.

In June, the Council appointed David Kaye (United States) as Special Rapporteur.

Human rights and the Internet

Global multi-stakeholder meeting. The Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance (NETmundial) (Sao Paulo, Brazil, 23–24 April) sought to develop a set of universally acceptable Internet governance principles, as well as a way forward for the evolution of the Internet governance system. It brought together 930 participants from 110 countries, representing civil society, the private sector, academia, the technical community, governments and intergovernmental organizations, as well as over 1,000 remote participants from 23 countries. In his message to the meeting, the Secretary-General stated that building consensus on a roadmap for the future of Internet governance was crucial and NETmundial was an important milestone.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/13)], the Council took note of the meeting

(see above), which acknowledged the need for human rights to underpin Internet governance and that rights that people had offline must also be protected online. It called on States to address security concerns on the Internet to ensure protection of freedom of expression, freedom of association, privacy and other human rights online; and to consider adopting national Internet-related policies that had the objective of universal access and enjoyment of human rights at their core.

Right to privacy in digital age

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (dec. 25/117)], the Council decided to convene a panel discussion at its twenty-seventh (2014) session on the promotion and protection of the right to privacy in the digital age in the context of domestic and extraterritorial surveillance and/or the interception of digital communications and the collection of personal data; and requested the High Commissioner to organize the panel discussion and submit a summary report to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session.

OHCHR report. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/167 [YUN 2013, p. 667], OHCHR in June submitted a report [A/HRC/27/37] on the right to privacy in the digital age, which focused on the protection and promotion of the right in the context of domestic and extraterritorial surveillance and/or the interception of digital communications and the collection of personal data, including on a mass scale. The report concluded that while international human rights law provided a clear and universal framework for protecting the right to privacy, practices in many States had revealed a lack of adequate legislation and/or enforcement, weak procedural safeguards and ineffective oversight. In addressing the gaps in implementation, it was observed that information relating to domestic and extraterritorial surveillance policies and practices continued to emerge. Inquiries were ongoing to gather information on electronic surveillance and the collection and storage of personal data, as well as to assess its impact on human rights. The lack of governmental transparency associated with surveillance policies, laws and practices hindered efforts to assess their coherence with international human rights law and to ensure accountability. Addressing the challenges related to the right to privacy in the context of modern communications technology would require a concerted multi-stakeholder engagement. As an immediate measure, States should review their own laws, policies and practices to ensure full conformity with international human rights law.

By a 7 August note [A/69/276], the Secretariat referred the Assembly to the OHCHR report. The General Assembly took note of the Secretariat note on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Council decision 25/117 (see above), OHCHR submitted a summary

report [A/HRC/28/39] of the panel discussion held at the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session on the right to privacy in the digital age (Geneva, 12 September). Topics examined included the promotion and protection of the right to privacy in the digital age in the context of domestic and extraterritorial surveillance, the interception of digital communications and the collection of personal data, including on a mass scale. Panellists concluded that technological change might pose new challenges to existing legislation; noted the need to develop effective oversight and legal safeguards against violations; and stressed that the protection of the right to privacy required the engagement of all stakeholders, including Governments, industry, civil society and international organizations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/166** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

The right to privacy in the digital age

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling its resolution 68/167 of 18 December 2013 on the right to privacy in the digital age,

Welcoming the adoption by the Human Rights Council of resolution 26/13 of 26 June 2014 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet,

Welcoming also the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to privacy in the digital age, noting with interest its report on the subject, and recalling the panel discussion on the right to privacy in the digital age held during the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council,

Noting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression,

Noting with appreciation general comment No. 16 of the Human Rights Committee on the right to respect of privacy, family, home and correspondence, and protection of honour and reputation, while also noting the vast technological leaps that have taken place since its adoption,

Recognizing the need to further discuss and analyse, based on international human rights law, issues relating to the promotion and protection of the right to privacy in the digital age, procedural safeguards, effective domestic

oversight and remedies, the impact of surveillance on the right to privacy and other human rights, as well as the need to examine the principles of non-arbitrariness and lawfulness, and the relevance of necessity and proportionality assessments in relation to surveillance practices,

Noting the holding of the Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, “NETmundial”, in São Paulo, Brazil, in April 2014, and recognizing that effectively addressing the challenges relating to the right to privacy in the context of modern communications technology will require an ongoing, concerted multi-stakeholder engagement,

Noting also that the rapid pace of technological development enables individuals all over the world to use new information and communication technologies and at the same time enhances the capacity of governments, companies and individuals to undertake surveillance, interception and data collection, which may violate or abuse human rights, in particular the right to privacy, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and is therefore an issue of increasing concern,

Reaffirming the human right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, and recognizing that the exercise of the right to privacy is important for the realization of the right to freedom of expression and to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and is one of the foundations of a democratic society,

Stressing the importance of full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, including the fundamental importance of access to information and democratic participation,

Noting that while metadata can provide benefits, certain types of metadata, when aggregated, can reveal personal information and can give an insight into an individual’s behaviour, social relationships, private preferences and identity,

Emphasizing that unlawful or arbitrary surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as unlawful or arbitrary collection of personal data, as highly intrusive acts, violate the right to privacy, can interfere with the right to freedom of expression and may contradict the tenets of a democratic society, including when undertaken on a mass scale,

Noting in particular that surveillance of digital communications must be consistent with international human rights obligations and must be conducted on the basis of a legal framework, which must be publicly accessible, clear, precise, comprehensive and non-discriminatory and that any interference with the right to privacy must not be arbitrary or unlawful, bearing in mind what is reasonable to the pursuance of legitimate aims, and recalling that States that are parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights must undertake the necessary steps to adopt laws or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in the Covenant,

Emphasizing that States must respect international human rights obligations regarding the right to privacy

when they intercept digital communications of individuals and/or collect personal data and when they require disclosure of personal data from third parties, including private companies,

Recalling that business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights as set out in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework,

Deeply concerned at the negative impact that surveillance and/or interception of communications, including extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as the collection of personal data, in particular when carried out on a mass scale, may have on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights,

Noting with deep concern that, in many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms frequently face threats and harassment and suffer insecurity as well as unlawful or arbitrary interference with their right to privacy as a result of their activities,

Noting that while concerns about public security may justify the gathering and protection of certain sensitive information, States must ensure full compliance with their obligations under international human rights law,

Noting also in that respect that the prevention and suppression of terrorism is a public interest of great importance, while reaffirming that States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism are in compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

1. *Reaffirms* the right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

2. *Recognizes* the global and open nature of the Internet and the rapid advancement in information and communications technologies as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms;

3. *Affirms* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy;

4. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To respect and protect the right to privacy, including in the context of digital communication;

(b) To take measures to put an end to violations of those rights and to create the conditions to prevent such violations, including by ensuring that relevant national legislation complies with their obligations under international human rights law;

(c) To review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, interception and collection, with a view to upholding the right to privacy by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law;

(d) To establish or maintain existing independent, effective, adequately resourced and impartial judicial, administrative and/or parliamentary domestic oversight mechanisms capable of ensuring transparency, as appropri-

ate, and accountability for State surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data;

(e) To provide individuals whose right to privacy has been violated by unlawful or arbitrary surveillance with access to an effective remedy, consistent with international human rights obligations;

5. *Encourages* the Human Rights Council to remain actively seized of the debate, with the purpose of identifying and clarifying principles, standards and best practices regarding the promotion and protection of the right to privacy, and to consider the possibility of establishing a special procedure to that end;

6. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Safety of journalists

Panel discussion. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council decision [YUN 2013, p. 668], OHCHR submitted a summary report [A/HRC/27/35] on the panel discussion on the safety of journalists (Geneva, 11 June) held at the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) session. Participants agreed that journalists and media workers played a critical role in any democratic society. They helped to keep the public informed and the authorities and institutions that purported to work in the public interest in check. The report concluded that the safety of journalists could not be realized without a domestic legal framework and that every State needed a protection mechanism for journalists. Good practices included the creation of special investigative units or independent commissions, the appointment of a specialized prosecutor, the adoption of protocols and methods of investigation and prosecution, and the training of prosecutors and the judiciary on the safety of journalists.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/163 [YUN 2013, p. 668], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/268] on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, which reviewed recent trends with regard to the safety of journalists and media workers as well as initiatives undertaken to ensure their protection. He expressed concern about the upward trend in the number of journalists killed in recent years and the increased targeting of journalists and media workers to silence them, and noted that impunity for attacks against journalists remained the biggest obstacle to ensuring their safety. He recommended that States: establish an enabling environment for journalists and media workers so that they could fulfil their role effectively; ensure that the freedom of expression and the safety of journalists was an integral part of broader justice reforms and rule of law initiatives; ensure that investigations into threats and attacks were conducted effectively and that prosecutions were brought where supported by evidence; provide remedies to victims; and reinforce good practices.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/5)], the Council called on

States to implement strategies for combating impunity for attacks and violence against journalists, including by using good practices such as those identified during the panel discussion (see above) and/or compiled in the OHCHR report on good practices on the safety of journalists [YUN 2013, p. 668]; and acknowledged the importance of addressing the issue through the universal periodic review process [YUN 2008, p. 713].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/185** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto,

Recalling its resolution 68/163 of 18 December 2013 on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, in which it proclaimed 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on 12 April 2012, in which United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were invited to work with Member States towards a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers in both conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 21/12 of 27 September 2012 and 27/5 of 25 September 2014 on the safety of journalists, 20/8 of 5 July 2012 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet, and 27/12 of 25 September 2014 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, as well as Security Council resolution 1738(2006) of 23 December 2006,

Welcoming the panel discussion of the Human Rights Council on the issue of the safety of journalists, held on 11 June 2014, and taking note with appreciation of the summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights thereon, submitted to the Council at its twenty-seventh session, as well the 2014 report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development*,

Taking note of all relevant reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council with regard to the safety of journalists, in particular the reports of the Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of the right

to freedom of opinion and expression and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth session and the interactive dialogue thereon,

Commending the role and the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with regard to the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, and their facilitation of the commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, in consultation with relevant entities within the United Nations system, Governments and relevant stakeholders,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on good practices concerning the safety of journalists, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,

Noting with appreciation the international conference on the safety of journalists, held in Warsaw on 23 and 24 April 2013, and its specific recommendations,

Mindful that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is a human right guaranteed to all, in accordance with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that it constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and one of the basic conditions for its progress and development,

Acknowledging that journalism is continuously evolving to include inputs from media institutions, private individuals and a range of organizations that seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, online as well as offline, in the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thereby contributing to the shaping of public debate,

Recognizing the relevance of freedom of expression and of free media, online as well as offline, in building inclusive and peaceful knowledge societies and democracies and in fostering intercultural dialogue, peace and good governance, as well as understanding and cooperation,

Recognizing also that the work of journalists often puts them at specific risk of intimidation, harassment and violence,

Noting the good practices of different countries aimed at the protection of journalists, as well as, inter alia, those designed for the protection of human rights defenders that can, where applicable, be relevant to the protection of journalists,

Recognizing that the number of people whose lives are influenced by the way information is presented is significant and that journalism influences public opinion,

Bearing in mind that impunity for attacks against journalists remains one of the greatest challenges to the safety of journalists and that ensuring accountability for crimes committed against journalists is a key element in preventing future attacks,

Recalling, in this regard, that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians and shall be respected and protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians,

Deeply concerned by all human rights violations and abuses committed in relation to the safety of journalists, in-

cluding killing, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and arbitrary detention, expulsion, intimidation, harassment, threats and other forms of violence,

Expressing deep concern at the increased number of journalists and media workers who have been killed or detained in recent years as a direct result of their profession,

Expressing deep concern also at the growing threat to the safety of journalists posed by non-State actors, including terrorist groups and criminal organizations,

Acknowledging the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work, and underlining, in this context, the importance of taking a gender-sensitive approach when considering measures to address the safety of journalists,

Acknowledging also the particular vulnerability of journalists to becoming targets of unlawful or arbitrary surveillance or interception of communications in violation of their rights to privacy and to freedom of expression,

1. *Condemns unequivocally* all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and arbitrary detention, as well as intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations;

2. *Strongly condemns* the prevailing impunity for attacks and violence against journalists, and expresses grave concern that the vast majority of these crimes go unpunished, which in turn contributes to the recurrence of these crimes;

3. *Urges* the immediate release of journalists and media workers who have been taken as hostages or who have become victims of enforced disappearances;

4. *Encourages* States to take the opportunity of the proclamation of 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists to raise awareness regarding the issue of the safety of journalists and to launch concrete initiatives in this regard;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with relevant entities of the United Nations system, and mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980, to continue facilitating the implementation of the International Day in collaboration with Governments and relevant stakeholders;

6. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy, thorough, independent and effective investigations into all alleged violence, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers falling within their jurisdiction, to bring perpetrators, including those who command, conspire to commit, aid and abet or cover up such crimes to justice, and to ensure that victims and their families have access to appropriate remedies;

7. *Calls upon* States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference, including by means of: (a) legislative measures; (b) awareness-raising in the judiciary and among law enforcement officers and military personnel, as well as among journalists and in civil society, regarding international human rights and humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists; (c) the monitoring and reporting of attacks against journal-

ists; (d) publicly and systematically condemning violence and attacks; and (e) dedicating the resources necessary to investigate and prosecute such attacks and to develop and implement strategies for combating impunity for attacks and violence against journalists, including by using, where appropriate, good practices such as those identified in Human Rights Council resolution 27/5 of 25 September 2014;

8. *Stresses* the need to ensure better cooperation and coordination at the international level, including through technical assistance and capacity-building, with regard to ensuring the safety of journalists, including with regional organizations;

9. *Calls upon* States to cooperate with relevant United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as international and regional human rights mechanisms, and to share information on a voluntary basis on the status of investigations into attacks and violence against journalists;

10. *Invites* the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to actively exchange information, including through already identified focal points, about the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, in cooperation with Member States and under the overall coordination of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and to the Human Rights Council at its thirtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Freedom of peaceful assembly and association

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 670], the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Maina Kiai (Kenya), in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/29] describing his activities and assessing the threats to the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for groups most at risk. The Rapporteur called on States to ratify all international human rights instruments that protected the rights of individuals belonging to groups most at risk; to ensure that discrimination on prohibited grounds was eliminated and that individuals belonging to groups most at risk had the ability to exercise their rights; and to refrain from supporting limitations imposed by private parties on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

An addendum [A/HRC/26/29/Add.1] listed communications sent by the Special Rapporteur to 70 States between 1 March 2013 and 28 February 2014, as well as responses received until 30 April 2014.

In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 670], the Secretary-General transmitted in September the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/365] focusing on the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in the context of multilateral institutions. The Rapporteur

concluded that multilateral entities had responsibilities to protect peaceful assemblies and to maintain an enabling environment for civil society. He called for multilateral institutions to implement policies that emphasized the importance of substantive engagement with civil society organizations; to engage with smaller, local civil society organizations; to increase use of information technology to encourage greater civil society participation in multilateral processes; and to undertake studies on comparative good practices in civil society engagement.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission reports. Following his visit to Rwanda (20–27 January) [A/HRC/26/29/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur referred to the historical and political background of the country; identified issues of concern related to measures to prevent and combat genocide; examined the challenges to the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and recognized the work of the National Commission for Human Rights. While acknowledging the progress achieved, the Rapporteur expressed concern about the Government's hostility towards peaceful initiatives by its critics, the existence of a legal framework that silenced dissent and the prevailing opposition to vigorous debate and free expression of opinions, which made social reconciliation unstable. Stressing that a society without room for critical voices speaking freely and peacefully was unsustainable, he made recommendations for consideration by the authorities and offered to provide technical cooperation to the Government when implementing them.

In June, Rwanda submitted its preliminary comments on that report [A/HRC/26/29/Add.3].

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/38)], the Council, by a recorded vote of 31 to 9, with 7 abstentions, called on States to promote a safe and enabling environment for individuals and groups to exercise their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly; affirmed that nothing could ever justify the indiscriminate use of lethal force against a crowd; and requested the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to submit to the Council's thirty-first (2016) session a compilation of practical recommendations for the proper management of assemblies based on best practices and lessons learned.

Other issues

Capital punishment

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Human Rights Council decision 22/117 [YUN 2013, p. 670], OHCHR submitted a summary report [A/HRC/27/26] of the panel discussion on the question of the death pen-

alty held at the Council's twenty-fifth (2014) session (Geneva, 5 March). The panellists emphasized that the international community had a responsibility to move universal abolition of the death penalty forward and that discussions on the issue should continue at both the national and international levels. They recommended that States ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (see p. 761), aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

Reports of Secretary-General. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 691], the Secretary-General in June submitted a report on the question of the death penalty [A/HRC/27/23 & Corr.1]. The Secretary-General noted that the trend towards the universal abolition of the death penalty was continuing. Numerous concerns remained, however, with regard to the lack of respect for international human rights norms and standards in States where the death penalty was still imposed. He recommended that States using the death penalty on persons who committed crimes before the age of 18 stop that practice, and that the effects of the death penalty system in its entirety be further examined.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/176 [YUN 2012, p. 666], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/288] on moratoriums on the use of the death penalty. According to the report, 160 of the 193 Member States had abolished the death penalty or introduced moratoriums, either in law or in practice. Clemency, pardons and commutations remained critical to the process of the abolition of the death penalty. The Secretary-General recommended that States adhere to fair trial guarantees in capital cases; provide up-to-date and accurate global figures on the application of the death penalty; and not reintroduce the death penalty once abolished.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/2)], by a recorded vote of 29 to 10, with 8 abstentions, the Council requested the Secretary-General to dedicate the 2015 supplement to his quinquennial report on capital punishment to the consequences of the imposition and application of the death penalty and present it to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session. It decided to convene biennial panel discussions on the question, the first of which was to be held at the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session and was to address regional efforts aimed at abolishing the death penalty. OHCHR was requested to organize the panel discussions and submit a summary report to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/186** by recorded vote (117-37-34) [agenda item 68 (b)].

Moratorium on the use of the death penalty

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 62/149 of 18 December 2007, 63/168 of 18 December 2008, 65/206 of 21 December 2010 and 67/176 of 20 December 2012 on the question of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, in which the General Assembly called upon States that still maintain the death penalty to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing it,

Welcoming all relevant decisions and resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Mindful that any miscarriage or failure of justice in the implementation of the death penalty is irreversible and irreparable,

Convinced that a moratorium on the use of the death penalty contributes to respect for human dignity and to the enhancement and progressive development of human rights, and considering that there is no conclusive evidence of the deterrent value of the death penalty,

Noting ongoing local and national debates and regional initiatives on the death penalty, as well as the readiness of an increasing number of Member States to make available to the public information on the use of the death penalty, and also, in this regard, the decision by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 26/2 of 26 June 2014 to convene biennial high-level panel discussions in order to further exchange views on the question of the death penalty,

Recalling the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and in this regard welcoming the increasing number of accessions to and ratifications of the Second Optional Protocol,

Noting the technical cooperation among Member States, as well as the role of relevant United Nations entities and human rights mechanisms, in supporting State efforts to establish moratoriums on the death penalty,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* about the continued application of the death penalty;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 67/176 and the recommendations contained therein;

3. *Also welcomes* the steps taken by some States to reduce the number of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed, as well as steps taken to limit its application;

4. *Further welcomes* the decisions made by an increasing number of States, at all levels of government, to apply a moratorium on executions, followed in many cases by the abolition of the death penalty;

5. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To respect international standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, in particular the minimum standards, as set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984, as well as to provide the Secretary-General with information in this regard;

(b) To comply with their obligations under article 36 of the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,

particularly the right to receive information on consular assistance within the context of a legal procedure;

(c) To make available relevant information, disaggregated by applicable criteria, with regard to their use of the death penalty, inter alia, the number of persons sentenced to death, the number of persons on death row and the number of executions carried out, which can contribute to possible informed and transparent national and international debates, including on the obligations of States pertaining to the use of the death penalty;

(d) To progressively restrict the use of the death penalty and not to impose capital punishment for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age, on pregnant women or on persons with mental or intellectual disabilities;

(e) To reduce the number of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed;

(f) To establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty;

6. *Calls upon* States which have abolished the death penalty not to reintroduce it, and encourages them to share their experience in this regard;

7. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/186:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

Against: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guyana, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Bahrain, Belarus, Cameroon, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia.

Disappearance of persons

Working Group activities. The five-member Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances held three sessions in 2014: its 102nd (3–7 February), 103rd (7–16 May) and 104th (15–19 September) [A/HRC/27/49 & A/HRC/30/38], all in Geneva. In addition to its core mandate to assist families in determining the fate or whereabouts of family members who had reportedly disappeared and to act as a communication channel between families and the Government concerned, the Group monitored compliance by States with the 1992 Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance [YUN 1992, p. 744].

As at 16 May 2014, the total number of cases transmitted by the Group to Governments since its inception was 54,405. Cases under active consideration that had not been clarified, closed or discontinued totalled 43,250 concerning 88 States. The Group had clarified 254 cases over the past five years.

During the year [A/HRC/WGEID/102/1, A/HRC/WGEID/103/1, A/HRC/WGEID/104/1], the Working Group adopted or reviewed general allegations concerning specific countries and clarified cases in a number of countries. It also transmitted to States cases under its urgent action procedure; transmitted communications under its prompt intervention procedure; transmitted newly reported cases of enforced disappearance; and transmitted urgent appeals concerning persons who had been arrested, detained, abducted or otherwise deprived of their liberty or who had been forcibly disappeared or were at risk of disappearance.

Mission reports. Following a regional visit in June to Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, the Working Group noted that given the amount of time that had passed since the enforced disappearances occurred and the advanced age of many witnesses, relatives and perpetrators, there was a need for everyone involved in the search for missing persons in the region to set as a priority the determination of the fate and whereabouts of all the disappeared. Expressing concern that regional cooperation was marred with mutual mistrust, and stressing that such cooperation required strong political commitment from the highest levels, the Working Group called on everyone involved to foster a trusting environment to promote regional cooperation, inter-ethnic reconciliation and social cohesion.

Following its visit to Croatia (15–18 June) [A/HRC/30/38/Add.3], the Working Group called on the

Government to establish enforced disappearance as a separate offence; to continue its efforts in the search for missing persons and the identification of human remains; to ensure efficient prosecution of war crimes; to combat impunity; and to set up comprehensive reparations programmes.

Following its visit to Serbia, including Kosovo (19–26 June) [A/HRC/30/38/Add.1], the Working Group called on the Serbian Government and the Kosovo authorities to continue their efforts in the search for missing persons and the identification of human remains; to ensure efficient prosecution of war crimes; to combat impunity; and to establish comprehensive reparations programmes.

Following its mission to Montenegro (27–30 June) [A/HRC/30/38/Add.2], the Working Group called on the Government to establish enforced disappearance as a separate offence; to ensure efficient prosecution of war crimes; combat impunity; and to set up comprehensive reparations programmes.

In September [A/HRC/27/49/Add.2], the Working Group submitted a follow-up report to the recommendations it had made following its missions to Argentina [YUN 2008, p. 807] and Bosnia and Herzegovina [YUN 2010, p. 700].

In December [A/HRC/27/49/Add.3], Spain submitted its comments on the Working Group's report on its visit to the country [YUN 2013, p. 671].

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (dec. 25/116)], the Council decided, in an effort to synchronize schedules for resolutions, mandates and the presentation of special procedures' reports, to postpone the renewal of the Working Group's mandate to the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session.

On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/1)], the Council extended the Working Group's mandate for three years and called on States that had not provided for a long period substantive replies concerning claims of enforced disappearances in their countries to do so.

Missing persons

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/177 [YUN 2012, p. 668], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report on missing persons [A/69/293] reviewing implementation of that resolution. Information was received from eight States, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Commission on Missing Persons and three UN system entities. The report dealt with measures to prevent persons from going missing; mechanisms to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons; children; criminal investigation and prosecution; forensic recovery and identification of missing persons' remains; and the legal status of missing persons and support for their families. It ended with conclusions and recommendations.

Secretariat note. In December [A/HRC/28/52], the Secretariat referred the Council to the Secretary-General's report (see above).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/184** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

Missing persons

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,

Recalling the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and calling upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to it as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances,

Recalling also all previous relevant resolutions on missing persons adopted by the General Assembly, as well as the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 68/165 of 18 December 2013 on the right to the truth, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/66 of 20 April 2005 and Human Rights Council decision 2/105 of 27 November 2006 and Council resolutions 9/11 of 24 September 2008, 12/12 of 1 October 2009 and 21/7 of 27 September 2012 on the right to the truth,

Noting with deep concern that armed conflicts are continuing in various parts of the world, often resulting in serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Noting that the issue of persons reported missing in connection with international or non-international armed conflicts, in particular those who are victims of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, continues to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and inflicts grievous suffering on the families of missing persons, and stressing in this regard the need to address the issue from, inter alia, a humanitarian and rule of law perspective,

Considering that the problem of missing persons may raise questions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as appropriate,

Bearing in mind that cases of missing persons involve conduct that may constitute criminal offences, and stress-

ing the importance of ending impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law with respect to missing persons,

Cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility for countering the phenomenon of missing persons, taking all appropriate measures to prevent persons from going missing, including, when appropriate, effectively investigating the conditions relating to persons going missing and determining the fate of missing persons, and for recognizing their accountability as regards implementing the relevant mechanisms, policies and laws,

Bearing in mind the effective search for and identification of missing persons using forensic sciences, and recognizing that great technological progress has been made in this field, including DNA forensic analysis, which can significantly assist efforts to identify missing persons and to investigate violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Recognizing that the establishment and effective work of competent national institutions can play a crucial role in clarifying the fate of missing persons in connection with armed conflict,

Recognizing also the importance of addressing the legal situation of missing persons in connection with armed conflict and supporting their family members through national policies that include a gender perspective, as appropriate,

Noting, in this regard, the progress made by coordination mechanisms, established in different parts of the world, aiming at exchanging information and identifying missing persons, which have contributed to informing families of the fate and whereabouts of their missing relatives,

Recognizing that respect for and implementation of international humanitarian law can reduce the number of cases of missing persons in armed conflict,

Stressing the importance of measures to prevent persons from going missing in connection with armed conflict, which may include enacting national legislation, producing and providing proper means of identification, the establishment of information bureaux, grave registration services and registers of deaths and ensuring accountability in cases of the missing,

Taking note of the four-year plan of action for the implementation of international humanitarian law, adopted by the Thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011, in which, inter alia, States were invited, as part of its fourth objective, to consider, in the light of the right of families to know the fate of their relatives, enacting appropriate legislation or arrangements to ensure adequate participation and representation of victims and their families as well as access to justice and protection for victims and witnesses, especially women and children, in proceedings before their courts and in other transitional justice mechanisms concerning serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Taking note also of the report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on best practices in the matter of missing persons,

Welcoming the convocation of the international conference entitled “The missing: an agenda for the future”, organized by the International Commission on Missing Persons in The Hague from 30 October to 1 November 2013, and taking note of the comprehensive report entitled

“The missing: an agenda for the future” and its recommendations to address the problem of missing persons and the impact on their families,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing international and regional efforts to address the question of missing persons and the initiatives undertaken by international and regional organizations in this field,

1. *Urges* States to strictly observe and to respect and ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and, where applicable, in the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977;

2. *Calls upon* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all appropriate measures to prevent persons from going missing in connection with the armed conflict, to account for persons reported missing as a result of such a situation and, in cases of the missing persons, to take such measures, as appropriate, to ensure thorough, prompt, impartial and effective investigations and the prosecution of offences linked to missing persons, consistent with their obligations under international law, with a view to full accountability;

3. *Calls upon* States to take measures to prevent persons from going missing in connection with armed conflict, including by fully implementing their obligations and commitments under relevant international law;

4. *Reaffirms* the right of families to know the fate of their relatives reported missing in connection with armed conflict;

5. *Also reaffirms* that each party to an armed conflict, as soon as circumstances permit and, at the latest, from the end of active hostilities, shall search for the persons who have been reported missing by an adverse party;

6. *Calls upon* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all necessary measures, in a timely manner, to determine the identity and fate of persons reported missing in connection with the armed conflict and, to the greatest extent possible, to provide their family members, through appropriate channels, with all relevant information that they have on their fate, including their whereabouts or, if they are dead, the circumstances and cause of their death;

7. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the need for appropriate means of identification and for the collection, protection and management of data on missing persons and unidentified remains according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each other and with other concerned actors working in this area by, inter alia, providing all relevant information related to missing persons, including on their fate and whereabouts;

8. *Requests* States to pay the utmost attention to cases of children reported missing in connection with armed conflict and to take appropriate measures to search for and identify those children and to reunite them with their families;

9. *Invites* States that are parties to an armed conflict to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross in establishing the fate of missing persons and to adopt a comprehensive approach to this issue, including all such legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms as may be necessary, based on humanitarian considerations only;

10. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to cooperate, consistent with their international obligations,

in order to effectively solve cases of missing persons, including by providing mutual assistance in terms of information-sharing, victim assistance, location and identification of missing persons and recovery, identification and return of human remains and, if possible, by identifying, mapping and preserving burial sites;

11. *Invites* States to encourage interaction between competent organizations and institutions, such as national commissions on missing persons, which play a crucial role in clarifying the fate of persons missing in connection with armed conflict and providing support to the families of the missing;

12. *Urges* States, and encourages intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to take all necessary measures at the national, regional and international levels to address the problem of persons reported missing in connection with armed conflict and to provide appropriate assistance, as requested by the concerned States, and welcomes in this regard the establishment and efforts of commissions and working groups on missing persons;

13. *Calls upon* States, without prejudice to their efforts to determine the fate of persons reported missing in connection with armed conflict, to take appropriate steps with regard to the legal situation of missing persons and the needs and accompaniment of their family members, with particular attention to the needs of women and children, in such fields as social welfare, psychological and psychosocial support, financial matters, family law and property rights;

14. *Invites* States, national institutions and, as appropriate, intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations to further their engagement in order to follow forensic best practices as they apply to preventing and resolving cases of missing persons in connection with armed conflict;

15. *Also invites* States, national institutions and, as appropriate, intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations to ensure the development and proper management of archives pertaining to missing persons and unidentified remains in connection with armed conflict, as well as access to those archives in accordance with relevant applicable laws and regulations;

16. *Stresses* the need to address the issue of missing persons as a part of peace and peacebuilding processes, with reference to all justice and rule-of-law mechanisms, including the judiciary, parliamentary commissions and truth-finding mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

17. *Invites* relevant human rights mechanisms and procedures, as appropriate, to address the problem of persons reported missing in connection with armed conflict in their forthcoming reports to the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Human Rights Council at its relevant session and to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, including relevant recommendations;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations;

20. *Decides* to consider the question at its seventy-first session.

Extralegal executions

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 693], the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns (South Africa), in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/36] covering his activities and focusing on the protection of the right to life during law enforcement. The Rapporteur made the case for a concerted effort to bring domestic laws on the use of (especially lethal) force by the police in line with the international standards. He also suggested that the Council outline the legal framework for the use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones and called on the Council to remain engaged with the matter of autonomous weapons systems. As a starting point, States should be asked whether their laws, seen as a whole, recognized the “protect life” principle. The Rapporteur presented recommendations addressed to the United Nations, States, regional bodies, national human rights institutions, NGOs and civil society and donors.

A 2 June addendum [A/HRC/26/36/Add.2] contained observations by the Special Rapporteur on 128 communications to 55 States and other actors sent between 1 March 2013 and 28 February 2014 and responses received between 1 May 2013 and 30 April 2014. Those included 75 urgent appeals and 53 allegation letters concerning attacks or killings (56), the death penalty (39), excessive use of force (21), death threats (22), deaths in custody (8), impunity (2), expulsion (4) and armed conflict (4). The Rapporteur received responses to 53 communications.

In August, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/168 [YUN 2012, p. 671], the Secretary-General transmitted the Special Rapporteur’s report [A/69/265] focusing on four topics relating to the protection of the right to life: the role of regional human rights systems; less lethal and unmanned weapons in law enforcement; resurreptions of the death penalty; and the role of statistical indicators. The Rapporteur noted that the world was not yet at a stage where each individual life was equally well tracked. States needed to treat any loss of life (whether a homicide, a death occurring during armed conflict or a death occurring during a legal intervention) as an event worthy of official record. He welcomed that the issue of violence reduction had been proposed as part of the post-2015 development agenda, with a proposal to halve violent deaths by 2030, and recommended that UN agencies and other international actors support efforts to establish a specific target for reducing violent deaths within that agenda.

Mission reports. Following his visit to Papua New Guinea (3–14 March) [A/HRC/29/37/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur noted that while many formal steps had been taken to ensure the protection of the right to life, they had not been properly implemented. A package of reforms was required. He recommended

that Papua New Guinea establish: a national human rights institution to help facilitate the introduction of human rights in school curricula and police training; a centre for human rights within the University of Papua New Guinea; witness and victim protection programmes; and a human rights-focused NGO. A larger and better trained police force would strengthen the certainty of conviction for criminal offences, which, in turn, would contribute to countering calls for the reintroduction of the death penalty.

Following his mission to the Gambia (3–7 November) [A/HRC/29/37/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur presented his main findings, including with regard to the imposition of the death penalty, the resumption of executions, the use of force by law enforcement agencies, impunity for extrajudicial executions, the use of force during demonstrations, lack of accountability for human rights violations, groups at risk and fear of reprisals. He made recommendations to the Government, the international community and civil society to prevent unlawful killings and ensure better protection of the right to life.

In April [A/HRC/26/36/Add.3], Mexico submitted its comments on the Special Rapporteur's 2013 mission to the country [YUN 2013, p. 671].

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/12)], the Council demanded that States ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions was brought to an end; take action to combat and eliminate the phenomenon; and ensure follow-up to the recommendations and conclusions of the Special Rapporteur. It also extended the Rapporteur's mandate for three years.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/182** by recorded vote (122-0-66) [agenda item 68 (b)].

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of person, the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant human rights conventions,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as set out in Council resolution 26/12 of 26 June 2014,

Welcoming the universal ratification of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, which, alongside international human rights law, provide important legal frameworks of accountability in relation to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions during armed conflict,

Recalling all its resolutions on the subject of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions as well as the resolutions

of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the subject, and emphasizing the importance of their full and effective implementation,

Recognizing the positive role that regional human rights systems can play in the global protection against arbitrary deprivation of life,

Noting with deep concern that impunity continues to be a major cause of the perpetuation of violations of human rights, including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,

Noting that enforced disappearances can end up in extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, recalling the importance in this regard of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and calling upon all States which have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention,

Acknowledging that international human rights law and international humanitarian law are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Noting with deep concern the growing number of civilians and persons hors de combat killed in situations of armed conflict and internal strife,

Noting also with deep concern the continuing instances of the arbitrary deprivation of life, resulting from, inter alia, the imposition and implementation of capital punishment when carried out in a manner that violates international law,

Deeply concerned about acts that can amount to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions committed against persons exercising their rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in all regions of the world,

Deeply concerned also about killings committed by non-State actors, including terrorist groups and criminal organizations, which may amount to abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law,

Acknowledging that extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions may under certain circumstances amount to genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as defined in international law, including in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and recalling in this regard that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from such crimes, as set out by the General Assembly in its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005 and 63/308 of 14 September 2009,

Convinced of the need for effective action to prevent, combat and eliminate the abhorrent practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, which represent flagrant violations of international human rights law, particularly the right to life, as well as of international humanitarian law,

1. *Reiterates its strong condemnation* of all the extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that continue to occur throughout the world;

2. *Demands* that all States ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions is brought to an end and that they take effective action to prevent, combat and eliminate the phenomenon in all its forms and manifestations;

3. *Reiterates* that all States must conduct prompt, exhaustive and impartial investigations into all suspected cases of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,

identify and bring to justice those responsible, while ensuring the right of every person to a fair hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, grant adequate compensation within a reasonable time to the victims or their families and adopt all necessary measures, including legal and judicial measures, to put an end to impunity and prevent the further occurrence of such executions, as recommended in the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extrajudicial, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, fully consistent with their obligations under international law;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to pay greater attention to the work of national-level commissions of inquiry into extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, with a view to ensuring the effective contribution of these commissions to accountability and to combating impunity;

5. *Calls upon* all States, in order to prevent extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to comply with their obligations under the relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, and also calls upon States which retain the death penalty to pay particular regard to the provisions contained in articles 6, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, bearing in mind the safeguards and guarantees set out in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/50 of 25 May 1984 and 1989/64 of 24 May 1989 and taking into account the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in his reports to the Council and the General Assembly, including the report submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, regarding the need to respect all safeguards and restrictions, including limitation to the most serious crimes, stringent respect of due process and fair trial safeguards and the right to seek pardon or commutation of sentence;

6. *Urges* all States:

(a) To take all measures required by international human rights law and international humanitarian law to prevent loss of life, in particular that of children, during detention, arrest, public demonstrations, internal and communal violence, civil unrest, public emergencies or armed conflicts and to ensure that the police, law enforcement agents, armed forces and other agents acting on behalf of or with the consent or acquiescence of the State act with restraint and in conformity with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the principles of proportionality and necessity, and in this regard to ensure that police and law enforcement officials are guided by the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;

(b) To ensure the effective protection of the right to life of all persons, to conduct, when required by obligations under international law, prompt, exhaustive and impartial investigations into all killings, including those targeted at specific groups of persons, such as racially motivated violence leading to the death of the victim, killings of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities or because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, killings of persons affected by terrorism or hostage-taking or living under foreign occupation, killings of refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants,

street children or members of indigenous communities, killings of persons for reasons related to their activities as human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists or demonstrators, killings committed in the name of passion or in the name of honour and killings committed for discriminatory reasons on any basis, to bring those responsible to justice before a competent, independent and impartial judiciary at the national or, where appropriate, international level and to ensure that such killings, including those committed by security forces, police and law enforcement agents, paramilitary groups or private forces, are neither condoned nor sanctioned by State officials or personnel;

7. *Affirms* the obligation of States, in order to prevent extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to protect the lives of all persons deprived of their liberty in all circumstances and to investigate and respond to deaths in custody;

8. *Encourages* States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the United Nations and of regional human rights systems, to review, where necessary, their domestic laws and practices with regard to the use of force in law enforcement in order to ensure that these laws and practices are in conformity with their international obligations and commitments;

9. *Urges* all States to ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty are treated humanely and with full respect for international law and that their treatment, including judicial guarantees and conditions, conform to the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and, where applicable, to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977, as well as to other pertinent international instruments;

10. *Welcomes* the International Criminal Court as an important contribution to ending impunity concerning extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and noting the growing awareness of the Court worldwide, calls upon those States that are under an obligation to cooperate with the Court to provide such cooperation and assistance in the future, in particular with regard to arrest and surrender, the provision of evidence, the protection and relocation of victims and witnesses and the enforcement of sentences, further welcomes the fact that 122 States have already ratified or acceded to and 139 States have signed the Rome Statute of the Court, and calls upon all those States that have not ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court to give serious consideration to doing so;

11. *Acknowledges* the importance of ensuring the protection of witnesses for the prosecution of those suspected of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, urges States to intensify efforts to establish and implement effective witness protection programmes or other measures, and in this regard encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop practical tools designed to encourage and facilitate greater attention to the protection of witnesses;

12. *Encourages* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to organize training programmes and to support projects with a view to training or educating military forces, law enforcement officers and government officials in international humanitarian and human rights law connected with their work and to include a gender and child rights perspective in such training, and

appeals to the international community and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to support endeavours to that end;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and invites States to take due consideration of the recommendations contained therein;

14. *Commends* the important role that the Special Rapporteur plays towards the elimination of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue, within his mandate, to collect information from all concerned, to respond effectively to reliable information that comes before him, to follow up on communications and country visits and to seek the views and comments of Governments and to reflect them, as appropriate, in his reports;

15. *Acknowledges* the important role of the Special Rapporteur in identifying cases where extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions could amount to genocide and crimes against humanity or war crimes, and urges the Special Rapporteur to collaborate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, as appropriate, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, in addressing situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that are of particularly serious concern or in which early action might prevent further deterioration;

16. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Special Rapporteur and other United Nations mechanisms and procedures in the field of human rights, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue his efforts in that regard;

17. *Urges* all States, in particular those that have not done so, to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur so that his mandate can be carried out effectively, including by favourably and rapidly responding to requests for visits, mindful that country visits are one of the essential tools for the fulfilment of his mandate, and by responding in a timely manner to communications and other requests transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to those States that have received the Special Rapporteur, asks them to examine his recommendations carefully, invites them to inform him of the actions taken on those recommendations, and requests other States to cooperate in a similar way;

19. *Once again requests* the Secretary-General to continue to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standards of legal safeguards provided for in articles 6, 9, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights appear not to have been respected;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with adequate human, financial and material resources to enable him to carry out his mandate effectively, including through country visits;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in close collaboration with the High Commissioner and in conformity with the mandate of the High Commissioner, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, to ensure that personnel specialized in international humanitarian and human rights law form part of United Nations missions, where appropriate, in order to deal with serious violations of human rights, such as extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventieth and seventy-first sessions, a report on the situation worldwide in regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and his recommendations for more effective action to combat this phenomenon;

23. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-first session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/182:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Torture and cruel treatment

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 694], the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan E. Méndez (Argentina), in April submitted a report [A/HRC/25/60] covering his activities and focusing on the exclusionary rule—the prohibition on the use of statements made as a result of torture or other ill-treatment—in judicial proceedings, and its fundamental role in upholding the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment by providing a disincentive to carry out such acts. The report also focused on the use of information obtained by torture or other

ill-treatment by executive agencies and its relation to the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment and the obligation of the State to prevent and discourage such acts. The Rapporteur concluded that all actions of executive agencies should be reviewed under the absolute prohibition of torture and that the standards contained in the exclusionary rule should apply to the collecting, sharing and receiving of information by executive actors.

In an 11 March addendum [A/HRC/25/60/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur provided observations on communications sent to 68 Governments between 1 December 2012 and 30 November 2013, as well as on responses received until 31 January 2014.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/156 [YUN 2013, p. 673], the Secretary-General in September transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/387] focusing on the role forensic science played in the obligation of States to investigate and prosecute allegations of torture or other ill-treatment. He elaborated on existing standards on how legal and medical investigations into such allegations should be conducted, challenges observed during country visits and basic requirements for implementing those standards. He concluded that there was a need to step up the overall involvement of forensic medical science across the various sectors of the criminal justice cycle; and that the lack of independence and impartiality of many forensic medical services and health professionals was a key obstacle to combating impunity for perpetrators and ensuring reparations to victims.

The General Assembly took note of the report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission reports. Following his visit to Mexico (21 April–2 May) [A/HRC/28/68/Add.3], the Special Rapporteur noted that torture was generalized in the country. It occurred especially from the moment when a person was detained until he or she was brought before a judge, and was used as punishment and as a means of investigation. He identified a number of reasons for the weakness of preventive safeguards and recommended measures for addressing them. He also observed serious problems in conditions of detention, especially overcrowding. The Rapporteur called on the Government to implement his recommendations promptly and on the international community to assist Mexico in its efforts to eliminate torture and ill-treatment, end impunity and guarantee redress to victims.

Following his mission to the Gambia (3–7 November) [A/HRC/28/68/Add.4], the Special Rapporteur noted that the visit was compromised by the Government's unwillingness to grant him freedom of movement and inquiry in all areas of detention facilities. He noted that human rights activism was a weak concept in the country; that there were no institutions or legal mechanisms to counter the powers of law

enforcement and security forces, which engaged in practices that violated human rights with impunity; that the practice of torture was prevalent and routine; and that the Government had not fulfilled its obligation to investigate, prosecute and punish incidents of torture and ill-treatment. The Rapporteur made recommendations that he hoped the Government would use to commence a constructive dialogue with all interlocutors to strengthen legal safeguards and improve the conditions of those deprived of their liberty.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/13)], the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for three years and urged those Governments that had not responded to communications transmitted to them by the Rapporteur to answer without further delay.

Voluntary fund for torture victims

Reports of Secretary-General. In his annual report [A/69/296] to the General Assembly on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Secretary-General presented the recommendations adopted by the Fund's Board of Trustees at its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 10–14 March). The Board recommended clearer grant-making parameters for the Fund and the progressive introduction, as at 2015, of a case-by-case competitive review of project proposals, based on merit, documented needs and years of continuous support to the same project. It was expected that by 2017, the Fund's project portfolio would be reduced to a manageable number of projects and that the average size of the grants would increase noticeably. Contributions received from 15 countries and three private and public donors from 13 July 2013 to 1 July 2014 amounted to \$7,490,935, while pledges from two countries totalled \$208,804.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

The Secretary-General reported [A/HRC/28/25] on the Board's fortieth session (Geneva, 29 September–3 October), at which the Board recommended for a grant 167 ongoing projects amounting to \$5,670,000; 20 new projects amounting to \$590,000; and three grants for new training and seminars projects amounting to \$75,400. Between 1 January and 10 November, the Fund received \$8,808,111 in contributions from 16 countries and one donor and \$358,692 in pledges from three countries.

Arbitrary detention

Working Group activities. The five-member Working Group on Arbitrary Detention held its sixty-ninth (22 April–1 May), seventieth (25–29 August) and seventy-first (17–21 November) sessions in Geneva [A/HRC/30/36]. States informed the Working Group that they had taken measures to remedy the

situation of detainees: in some cases, detainees had been released; in other cases, the Working Group was assured that the detainees concerned would be guaranteed a fair trial. The Working Group engaged in continuous dialogue with countries that it visited, particularly concerning its recommendations. Information on the implementation of recommendations made by the Working Group was received from El Salvador.

In the report, the Working Group analysed issues relating to detention in the context of drug control and to peaceful protests and arbitrary detention, and emphasized the need of remedies for arbitrary detention. It recommended that States enforce the protection of every person's right to liberty; ensure that guarantees and safeguards were extended to all forms of deprivation of liberty; and ensure that persons were not held in pretrial detention for periods longer than those prescribed by law, and were promptly brought before a judge. It also recommended that the Human Rights Council change the title of the Working Group to the Working Group on Arbitrary Deprivation of Liberty.

Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 679], the Working Group presented a June report [A/HRC/27/47], which reviewed the national, regional and international laws, regulations and practices on the right of anyone to challenge the lawfulness of his or her detention before court. The report was a compilation of information submitted by a wide range of stakeholders, including 44 States, and was the result of an independent review of international and regional legal frameworks. The exercise was undertaken as a first step in the Working Group's preparation of draft basic principles and guidelines on remedies and procedures on the right of anyone deprived of his or her liberty to challenge the lawfulness of detention before court.

Mission reports. Following its visit to New Zealand (24 March–7 April) [A/HRC/30/36/Add.2], the Working Group noted that the country's legal framework regarding the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of one's liberty was well-developed and consistent with international human rights law and standards. Arrested persons were immediately brought before a judge, police officers informed arrested persons of the grounds for their arrest and their legal rights immediately after their apprehension, and detainees had the right to initiate habeas corpus proceedings to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. On the other hand, it also noted that the country had a high rate of reoffending and that people of Maori descent made up 51.4 per cent of the prison population, while Maori comprised 15 per cent of the general population. The number of young Maori appearing in court was four times that of non-Maori. The Working Group recommended that the Government prevent discrimination against Maori in the administration of justice; reduce the reoffending

rate through adequate programmes; and deprive of liberty asylum seekers and irregular immigrants only as a measure of last resort.

Following its mission to Italy (7–9 July) [A/HRC/30/36/Add.3] to assess progress since 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 799], the Working Group welcomed the measures undertaken by the Government and noted that there was a clear realization of the need to prevent arbitrary deprivation of liberty. Despite those positive developments, concerns remained with regard to the high number of pretrial detainees; the disproportionate application of pretrial detention in the case of foreign nationals and Roma, including minors; overcrowding in the penitentiary system; and the lack of compliance with international human rights requirements of the special detention regime for mafia offenders. With regard to the latter, the judicial review of the orders imposing or extending that form of detention needed to be strengthened and expedited. The Working Group issued a number of recommendations to the Government.

In its follow-up visit to Germany (12–14 November) [A/HRC/30/36/Add.1], the Working Group noted that the reduction in the prison population was a remarkable achievement, the positive trends observed in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 698] had continued and the sentencing regime and review of pretrial detention constituted international best practice; however, certain detention regimes and restrictions on personal liberty that under international law were considered punishment were not regarded as such under German law. Consequently, there were different guarantees against retroactivity, including less effective remedies. The Working Group repeated its recommendations that members of the police in all Länder should be identifiable so that they could be held accountable. It also asked the Government not to limit court review of deportation orders, and to build on the achievements in reducing the number of foreigners awaiting deportation in detention.

In August [A/HRC/27/48/Add.6] and September [A/HRC/27/48/Add.7], respectively, Greece and Morocco submitted their comments on the Working Group's mission to their country in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 677].

Terrorism

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 678], the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson (United Kingdom), in March submitted an annual report [A/HRC/25/59], which covered his activities from 10 January to 16 December 2013 and examined the use of remotely piloted aircraft, or drones, in extraterritorial lethal counter-terrorism operations, including in the context of asymmetrical armed con-

flict, and allegations that the increasing use of drones had caused a disproportionate number of civilian casualties. In his recommendations, the Rapporteur called on States identified in the report to disclose the results of any fact-finding inquiries into the alleged incidents listed therein, or to explain why no inquiries had been made; called on States on whose territory those strikes reportedly took place to provide information on those strikes; and encouraged all States to respond to his requests for clarification on legal issues on which there was no international consensus.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/178 [YUN 2013, p. 678], the Secretary-General in September transmitted the Special Rapporteur's annual report [A/69/397], covering his activities from 17 December 2013 to 31 July 2014, examining the use of mass digital surveillance for counter-terrorism purposes and considering the implications of bulk access technology for the right to privacy. The Rapporteur concluded that there was a need for States using that technology to revise and update national legislation to ensure consistency with international human rights law. States should establish strong and independent oversight bodies, and individuals should have the right to seek a remedy for any alleged violation of their online privacy rights.

Mission report. In March [A/HRC/25/59/Add.3], Chile submitted its comments on the Special Rapporteur's mission to the country in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 678].

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/7)], the Council called on States to safeguard the right to privacy, to ensure that interferences with that right were regulated by law, and to ensure that any measure taken to counter terrorism, including the use of remotely piloted aircraft, complied with their obligations under international law. It requested the Special Rapporteur to report regularly to the Council.

On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/22)], by a recorded vote of 27 to 6, with 14 abstentions, the Council called on States to ensure transparency in their records on the use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones and to conduct investigations whenever there were indications of a violation to international law caused by their use; decided to organize a panel discussion at its twenty-seventh (2015) session on the issues raised in the Rapporteur's report; and requested OHCHR to present a summary of the panel discussion at its twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Right to peace

Working Group activities. The Human Rights Council in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 680] established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Right to Peace, with the mandate of negotiating a draft

on the basis of the one submitted by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee [ibid.]. The first session of the Working Group was held in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 682].

By a note of 22 April 2014 [A/HRC/WG.13/2/1], the Secretariat informed the Council that the Working Group's Chairperson-Rapporteur would present, prior to the second session, a new draft text based on the discussions held during the first session and intersessional consultations. On 22 May [A/HRC/WG.13/2/2], the Chairperson-Rapporteur outlined his preliminary ideas to the Working Group. The new text was circulated to Member States by a note of 24 June.

At its second session (Geneva, 30 June–4 July 2014) [A/HRC/27/63], the Working Group proceeded with the first and second readings of the new draft text prepared by the Chairperson-Rapporteur, acknowledged the constructive dialogue, broad participation and active engagement of governments, regional and political groups, civil society and relevant stakeholders, and took note of the input received from them. The Chairperson-Rapporteur recommended that another session of the Working Group be held before the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session to finalize the text of the declaration.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/17)], the Council, by a recorded vote of 33 to 9, with 5 abstentions, decided that the Working Group should hold its third session in 2015 to finalize the declaration. It requested the Chairperson-Rapporteur to conduct informal consultations with Governments, regional groups and stakeholders, prepare a revised text based on the discussions held during the Working Group's first and second sessions and on the intersessional consultations, and present it prior to the third session of the Working Group for consideration. It also requested the Working Group to report to the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/176** by recorded vote (134-53-2) [agenda item 68 (b)].

Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/222 of 21 December 2010 and 67/173 of 20 December 2012, and Human Rights Council resolutions 20/15 of 5 July 2012, 23/16 of 13 June 2013 and 27/17 of 25 September 2014, entitled "Promotion of the right to peace",

Recalling also its resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984, entitled "Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace", and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Determined to foster strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Underlining, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, its full and active support for the United Nations and for the enhancement of its role and effectiveness in strengthening international peace and security and justice and in promoting the solution of international problems, as well as the development of friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered,

Emphasizing its objective of promoting better relations among all States and contributing to setting up conditions in which their people can live in true and lasting peace, free from any threat to or attempt against their security,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its commitment to peace and security and justice and the continuing development of friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Rejecting the use of violence in pursuit of political aims, and stressing that only peaceful political solutions can ensure a stable and democratic future for all people around the world,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter and international law,

Reaffirming also that all peoples have the right to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Reaffirming further the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing that peace and development are mutually reinforcing, including in the prevention of armed conflict,

Affirming that human rights include social, economic and cultural rights and the right to peace, a healthy environment and development, and that development is in fact the realization of those rights,

Underlining the fact that the subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental rights, is contrary to the Charter and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and cooperation,

Recalling that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set

forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

Convinced of the aim of creating conditions of stability and well-being, which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,

Convinced also that life without war is the primary international prerequisite for the material well-being, development and progress of countries and for the full implementation of the rights and fundamental human freedoms proclaimed by the United Nations,

Convinced further that international cooperation in the field of human rights contributes to creating an international environment of peace and stability,

1. *Reaffirms* that the peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the preservation of the right of peoples to peace and the promotion of its implementation constitute a fundamental obligation of all States;

3. *Stresses* that peace is a vital requirement for the promotion and protection of all human rights for all;

4. *Also stresses* that the deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, peace and security and stability;

5. *Emphasizes* that the preservation and promotion of peace demands that the policies of States be directed towards the elimination of the threat of war, particularly nuclear war, the renunciation of the use or threat of use of force in international relations and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Affirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and an international system based on respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter and the promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development and the right of peoples to self-determination;

7. *Urges* all States to respect and to put into practice the purposes and principles of the Charter in their relations with other States, irrespective of their political, economic or social system and of their size, geographical location or level of economic development;

8. *Reaffirms* the duty of all States, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, to use peaceful means to settle any dispute to which they are party and the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, as a vital requirement for the promotion and protection of all human rights of everyone and all peoples;

9. *Welcomes* the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 20/15, to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group with the mandate of progressively negotiating a draft United Nations declaration on the right to peace;

10. *Underlines* the vital importance of education for peace as a tool to foster the realization of the right of peoples to peace, and encourages States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

11. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

12. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of the promotion of the right of peoples to peace at its seventy-first session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/176:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Singapore, Tonga.

Civilians and firearms

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/16)], by a recorded vote of 44 to 0, with 3 abstentions, the Council expressed concern that hundreds of thousands of human beings of all ages around the world, including women and children, had lost their lives or suffered injuries and psychological harm by the misuse of firearms by civilians. It called on States to take legislative, administrative and other measures, consistent with their constitutional frameworks, to ensure that civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms were regulated with the aim of enhancing the protection of human rights, in particular the right to life and security of person.

Sexual orientation and gender identity

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/32)], by a recorded vote of 25 to 14, with 7 abstentions, the Council expressed concern at acts of violence and discrimination committed against individuals worldwide because of their sexual orientation and gender identity; welcomed positive developments at the international, regional and national levels in the fight against such acts; and requested the High Commissioner to present it to the Council’s twenty-ninth (2015) session an update of the 2011 report [YUN 2011, p. 704] on the issue with a view to sharing good practices and ways to overcome violence and discrimination.

Economic, social and cultural rights

Realizing economic, social and cultural rights

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/11)], the Council welcomed the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 5 May 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 600]; underlined the importance of the joint United Nations Social Protection Floor Initiative [YUN 2010, p. 1229] for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the Council on the question of the realization of those rights in all countries, with a focus on the importance of social protection floors for their realization.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Council resolution 25/11 (see above), the Secretary-General in December submitted a report [A/HRC/28/35] that outlined the main characteristics of social protection floors and how their adoption by States could contribute to ensuring the enjoyment of minimum essential levels of economic, social and cultural rights, reducing poverty and inequality. In that context, the Social Protection Floor Initiative, led by the International Labour Organization and supported by all UN agencies, was pivotal in promoting basic income security and access to health care, and in facilitating the enjoyment of several economic and social rights by the most marginalized groups.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/141 [YUN 1993, p. 906], the High Commissioner in July submitted a report [E/2014/86] that offered a human rights analysis of land-related issues, in particular on land management, States’ obligations and other actors’ responsibilities. It also laid out the criteria that States should apply when considering land and human rights issues in relation to specific groups and existing human rights.

The Economic and Social Council took note of that report on 17 November (**decision 2014/253**).

Human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations

Advisory Committee report. As requested by the Human Rights Council [YUN 2013, p. 683], the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee in August submitted a progress report [A/HRC/27/57] on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations. The report summarized responses to a questionnaire received from 36 States, listed the main issues identified and provided conclusions and recommendations.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (dec. 26/116)], the Council requested the Advisory Committee to submit the final report on the topic at its twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Right to development

Working Group activities. The Working Group on the Right to Development, at its fifteenth session (Geneva, 12–16 May) [A/HRC/27/45], finalized the first reading of the remaining draft right to development operational subcriteria proposed by the High-Level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development [YUN 2010, p. 719]. It also proposed draft operational subcriteria for new draft criteria proposed at the Working Group's thirteenth session [YUN 2012, p. 683]. The Working Group recommended continuing to consider, revise and refine the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria, and to invite the Chairperson-Rapporteur to hold informal consultations with Governments, groups of Governments, regional groups and other stakeholders in preparation for the sixteenth (2015) session of the Working Group.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/2)], by a recorded vote of 42 to 1, with 4 abstentions, the Council endorsed the Working Group's recommendations; decided that the Working Group would continue to consider, revise and refine the draft right to development criteria and corresponding operational sub-criteria; and requested OHCHR to continue to report annually on its activities with regard to the right to development.

Report of Secretary-General and High Commissioner. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/158 [YUN 2013, p. 683], the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner in June submitted a consolidated report [A/HRC/27/27] which reviewed the activities of OHCHR and UN human rights mechanisms relating to the promotion and realization of the right to development from May 2013 to April 2014. The

activities included support for Council mechanisms, as well as events and initiatives in the areas of inter-agency coordination and mainstreaming of the right to development into the policies and programmes of international organizations and into the post-2015 development agenda (see p. 960).

In July, a secretariat note [A/69/121] informed the General Assembly of the report. The Assembly took note of that note on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/181** by recorded vote (156-5-26) [agenda item 68 (b)].

The right to development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, which expresses, in particular, the determination to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and, to that end, to employ international mechanisms for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling also the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, which confirmed that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations, and that the individual is the central subject and beneficiary of development,

Stressing the importance of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, and that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights and the individual as the central subject and beneficiary of development,

Reaffirming the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2000,

Deeply concerned that the majority of indigenous peoples in the world live in conditions of poverty, and recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty and inequity on indigenous peoples by ensuring their full and effective inclusion in development and poverty eradication programmes,

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and its outcome document,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness, interdependence and mutually reinforcing nature of

all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development,

Expressing deep concern over the lack of substantial progress in the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, and reaffirming the need for a successful outcome of the Doha Development Round in key areas such as agriculture, market access for non-agricultural products, trade facilitation, development and services,

Recalling the outcome of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Accra from 20 to 25 April 2008, on the theme “Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development”,

Recalling also all its previous resolutions, Human Rights Council resolution 21/32 of 28 September 2012, previous resolutions of the Council and those of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to development, in particular Commission resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998 on the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development, as set out in the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling further the outcome of the eleventh session of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 April 2010, as contained in the report of the Working Group and as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Recalling the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012, and the previous summits and conferences at which the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries stressed the need to operationalize the right to development as a priority,

Reiterating its continuing support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development as a development framework for Africa,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council and the members of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development in completing the 2008–2010 three-phase road map established by the Council in its resolution 4/4 of 30 March 2007,

Deeply concerned about the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on the realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights,

Recognizing also that Member States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Recognizing further that poverty is an affront to human dignity,

Recognizing that extreme poverty and hunger are among the greatest global threats and require the collective commitment of the international community for their eradication, pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1, and therefore calling upon the international community, including the Human Rights Council, to contribute towards achieving that goal,

Recognizing also that historical injustices, inter alia, have contributed to the poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparity, instability and insecurity that affect many people in different parts of the world, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing that poverty eradication is one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels, especially in the context of the Millennium Development Goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one United States dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Emphasizing that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Emphasizing also that the right to development should be central to the post-2015 development agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which provides information on the activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights relating to the promotion and realization of the right to development;

2. *Recognizes* the significance of all the events held to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, including the panel discussion on the theme “The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice”, held during the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council;

3. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development, as renewed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 9/3 of 24 September 2008, with the recognition that the Working Group may convene annual sessions of five working days and submit its reports to the Council;

4. *Endorses* the recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its fourteenth session, and, while reaffirming them, calls for their immediate, full and effective implementation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant actors, noting also the efforts under way within the framework of the Working Group with a view to completing the tasks entrusted to it by the Council in its resolution 4/4;

5. *Emphasizes* the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 establishing the Human Rights Council, and in this regard calls upon the Council to implement the agreement to continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and also in this regard to lead the raising of the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of

Action, to the same level as and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Welcomes* the launching, by the Working Group, of the process for considering, revising and refining the draft right-to-development criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria, with the first reading of the draft criteria and operational subcriteria;

7. *Stresses* that the above-mentioned compilations of views, criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria, once considered, revised and endorsed by the Working Group, should be used, as appropriate, in the elaboration of a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Working Group taking appropriate steps to ensure respect for and practical application of the above-mentioned standards, which could take various forms, including the elaboration of guidelines on the implementation of the right to development, and evolve into a basis for the consideration of an international legal standard of a binding nature through a collaborative process of engagement;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions of the Working Group at its third session, congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming the right to development at the national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

10. *Also stresses* that it is important that the Chair-Rapporteur and the Working Group, in the discharge of their mandates, take into account the need:

(a) To promote the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the effective participation of developing countries in international decision-making;

(b) To also promote effective partnerships such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development and other similar initiatives with the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, for the purpose of the realization of their right to development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level, while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also while urging all States to expand and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development in the context of promoting effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development, bearing in mind that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level and a favourable economic environment at the international level;

(d) To consider ways and means to continue to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority;

(e) To mainstream the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as

well as in the policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, bearing in mind in this regard that the core principles of the international economic, commercial and financial spheres, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international cooperation, including effective partnerships for development, are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment arising from political or other non-economic considerations in addressing the issues of concern to the developing countries;

11. *Encourages* the Human Rights Council to continue considering how to ensure follow-up to the work of the former Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the right to development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and in compliance with decisions to be taken by the Council;

12. *Invites* Member States and all other stakeholders to participate actively in future sessions of the Social Forum, while recognizing the strong support extended to the Forum at its first four sessions by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implement the goals and targets set out in all the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their review processes, in particular those relating to the realization of the right to development, recognizing that the realization of the right to development is critical to achieving the objectives, goals and targets set in those outcome documents;

14. *Also reaffirms* that the realization of the right to development is essential to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which regards all human rights as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, places the human person at the centre of development and recognizes that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights;

15. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights lies with the State, and reaffirms that States have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

16. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of States to create national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development, as well as their commitment to cooperate with each other to that end;

17. *Also reaffirms* the need for an international environment that is conducive to the realization of the right to development;

18. *Stresses* the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international and national levels, and calls upon all States to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

19. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of identifying and analysing obstacles impeding the full realization of the right to development at both the national and international levels;

20. *Affirms* that, while globalization offers both opportunities and challenges, the process of globalization remains deficient in achieving the objectives of integrating all countries into a globalized world, and stresses the need for policies and measures at the national and global levels to respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization if this process is to be made fully inclusive and equitable;

21. *Recognizes* that, despite continuous efforts on the part of the international community, the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide, that most of the developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and that many risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

22. *Expresses its deep concern*, in this regard, about the negative impact on the realization of the right to development due to the further aggravation of the economic and social situation, in particular of developing countries, as a result of the ongoing international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing challenges posed by global climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries;

23. *Underlines* the fact that the international community is far from meeting the target set in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015, reaffirms the commitment made to meet that target, and emphasizes the principle of international cooperation, including partnership and commitment, between developed and developing countries towards achieving the goal;

24. *Notes with concern* that some developing countries will fail to meet the deadline of 2015 to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard invites Member States and the international community to take proactive measures aimed at creating a conducive environment to contribute to meeting the targets set in the Millennium Development Goals and to allow for the effective implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

26. *Recognizes* the need to address market access for developing countries, including in the sectors of agriculture, services and non-agricultural products, in particular those of interest to developing countries;

27. *Calls once again* for the implementation of a desirable pace of meaningful trade liberalization, including in areas under negotiation in the World Trade Organization, the implementation of commitments on implementation-related issues and concerns, a review of special and differential treatment provisions, with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational, the avoidance of new forms of protectionism and capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries as important issues in making progress towards the effective implementation of the right to development;

28. *Recognizes* the important link between the international economic, commercial and financial spheres and the realization of the right to development, stresses in this regard the need for good governance and for broadening the base of decision-making at the international level on issues of development concern and the need to fill organizational gaps, as well as to strengthen the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions, and also stresses the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

29. *Also recognizes* that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist all States in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and agrees on the value of the ongoing efforts being made by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations, including in the context of agreed partnership approaches to development, capacity-building and technical assistance;

30. *Further recognizes* the important role and the rights of women and the application of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in the process of realizing the right to development, and notes in particular the positive relationship between the education of women and their equal participation in the civil, cultural, economic, political and social activities of the community and the promotion of the right to development;

31. *Stresses* the need for the integration of the rights of children, girls and boys alike, in all policies and programmes and for ensuring the promotion and protection of those rights, especially in areas relating to health, education and the full development of their capacities;

32. *Recalls* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted on 10 June 2011 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS, stresses that further and additional measures must be taken at the national and international levels to fight HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases, taking into account ongoing efforts and programmes, and reiterates the need for international assistance in this regard;

33. *Welcomes* the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011, with its particular focus on development and other challenges and social and economic impacts, particularly for developing countries;

34. *Recalls* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want";

35. *Also recalls* the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 3 May 2008, and stresses the need to take into consideration the rights of persons with disabilities and the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts in the realization of the right to development;

36. *Stresses its commitment* to indigenous peoples in the process of the realization of the right to development, reaffirms the commitment to promote their rights in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and

retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security, in accordance with recognized international human rights obligations and taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007, and in this regard takes note of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in 2014;

37. *Recognizes* the need for strong partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector in pursuit of poverty eradication and development, as well as for corporate social responsibility;

38. *Emphasizes* the urgent need for taking concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

39. *Also emphasizes* the need to strengthen further the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and realization of the right to development, including by ensuring effective use of the financial and human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, and calls upon the Secretary-General to provide the Office of the High Commissioner with the necessary resources;

40. *Reaffirms* the request to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in mainstreaming the right to development, to effectively undertake activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions and to reflect those activities in detail in his next report to the Human Rights Council;

41. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies, to mainstream the right to development in their operational programmes and objectives, and stresses the need for the international financial and multilateral trading systems to mainstream the right to development in their policies and objectives;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs and bodies, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, international development and financial institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations;

43. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and an interim report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development, and invites the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group to present an oral report and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly at its seventieth session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/181:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Palau, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine.

Human rights and international solidarity

Reports of Independent Expert. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 687], the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, Virginia Dandan (Philippines), in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/34] summarizing her activities from May 2013 to January 2014 and work on the proposed draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity, which was annexed to the report. Due to budgetary constraints, it had not been possible to hold regional consultations and the draft declaration had been finalized in the absence of comments from States, except for those received from Guatemala and Qatar. The comments and inputs from UN agencies, independent experts, NGOs, academics, national human rights institutions and local communities on the preliminary text were contained in an addendum [A/HRC/26/34/Add.1]. The Expert recommended that regional consultations be held on the proposed draft declaration. She would consolidate the outputs from the consultations, revise the draft and submit it for the Council's consideration.

In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 26/6 (see below), the Secretary-General in September transmitted the Independent Expert's report [A/69/366] covering her activities since the previous report [YUN 2013, p. 687], notably on the draft declaration (see above), as well as on contributing to the formulation of the future sustainable development goals. In regard to the latter, the report focused on three areas of concern: overcoming inequality and ending poverty and discrimination; building effective and accountable institutions and peaceful societies; and strengthening implementation and revitalizing global partnerships for international cooperation.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/6)], by a recorded vote of 33 to 14, with no abstentions, the Council extended the Independent Expert's mandate for three years and requested her to report regularly to the Council and the General Assembly; to convene regional consultations to obtain inputs from States on the draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity; to report on the consultations at the Council's thirty-second (2016) session; and to submit a revised draft declaration to the Council and the Assembly before the end of her second term.

Democratic and equitable international order

Reports of Independent Expert. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request (see below), the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Alfred-Maurice de Zayas (United States), submitted a July report [A/HRC/27/51] covering his activities from June 2013 to June 2014. In the report, he undertook a preliminary study of the adverse impacts of military spending, including ongoing armed conflict, the war on terror, surveillance, procurement, military research, diversion and corruption, on the realization of a democratic and equitable international order. He concluded that reduced military budgets would release funds for promoting human rights and addressing global problems. He made recommendations to States, parliaments, national human rights institutions, civil society and the Human Rights Council.

In August, in accordance with Assembly resolution 68/175 [YUN 2013, p. 688], the Secretary-General transmitted the Independent Expert's report [A/69/272], which focused on the implementation of the right of self-determination as key to the international order envisaged by the UN Charter. The Expert acknowledged the need to balance competing rights and interests in the spirit of the Charter and proposed criteria to facilitate an understanding of the various manifestations of self-determination.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/15)], by a recorded vote of 30 to 14, with 3 abstentions, the Council urged States to continue their efforts towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; called on OHCHR to build on the issue and to bring the resolution to the attention of States, UN entities, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), and NGOs; and requested the Independent Expert to report on its implementation at the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session.

On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/9)], by a recorded vote of 29 to 14, with 4 abstentions, the Council reaffirmed that everyone was entitled to a democratic and equitable international order. It extended the Independent Expert's mandate for three years and requested him to report regularly to the Council and the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/178** by recorded vote (129-53-6) [agenda item 68 (b)].

Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, including resolution 68/175 of 18 December 2013, and Human Rights Council resolutions 18/6 of 29 September 2011 and 25/15 of 27 March 2014,

Reaffirming the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law,

Affirming that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter and with full respect for, inter alia, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

Recalling the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

Reaffirming also the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practise tolerance and good-neighbourliness and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Stressing that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social issues, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central role must be played by the United Nations, as the most universal and representative organization in the world,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Recognizing that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Emphasizing that democracy is not only a political concept, but that it also has economic and social dimensions,

Recognizing that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development,

Noting with concern that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, inter alia, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation at all levels,

Underlining the fact that it is imperative for the international community to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people and that only through broad and sustained efforts, based on our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable,

Deeply concerned that the current global economic, financial, energy and food crises, resulting from a combination of several major factors, including macroeconomic and other factors, such as environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of financial resources and the technology necessary to confront their negative impact in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing States, represent a global scenario that is threatening the adequate enjoyment of all human rights and widening the gap between developed and developing countries,

Stressing that efforts to make globalization fully inclusive and equitable must include policies and measures at the global level that correspond to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation,

Stressing also the need for adequate financing of, technology transfer to and capacity-building in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including to support their efforts to adapt to climate change,

Having listened to the peoples of the world, and recognizing their aspirations to justice, to equality of opportunity for all, to the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and to equal participation without discrimination in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 on institution-building of the Council and 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Council of 18 June 2007, and stressing that all mandate holders shall discharge their duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Emphasizing the importance of a global and inclusive post-2015 development agenda for the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order,

Resolved to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

1. *Affirms* that everyone is entitled to a democratic and equitable international order;

2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, and notes in this regard its focus on the implementation of the right of self-determination as crucial to the international order as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to fulfil their commitment expressed in Durban, South Africa, during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to maximize the benefits of globalization through, inter alia, the strengthening

and enhancement of international cooperation to increase equality of opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies and increased intercultural exchange through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, and reiterates that only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future based upon our common humanity and all its diversity can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable;

5. *Declares* that democracy includes respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms and is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and reaffirms the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels;

6. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(a) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;

(c) The right of every human person and all peoples to development;

(d) The right of all peoples to peace;

(e) The right to an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, solidarity and cooperation among all States;

(f) International solidarity, as a right of peoples and individuals;

(g) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principle of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;

(h) The right to equitable participation of all, without any discrimination, in domestic and global decision-making;

(i) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;

(j) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communications order based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;

(k) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all, since this enhances cultural pluralism, contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds, advances the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights across the world and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

(l) The right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment and to enhanced international cooperation that responds effectively to the needs for assistance of

national efforts to adapt to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and that promotes the fulfilment of international agreements in the field of mitigation;

(m) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in international economic, commercial and financial relations;

(n) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of mankind in connection to the public right of access to culture;

(o) The shared responsibility of the nations of the world for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, which should be exercised multilaterally;

7. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as respect for national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

8. *Also stresses* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and reaffirms that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

9. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, social justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

10. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries;

11. *Also reaffirms* the need to continue working urgently for the establishment of a new international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations, in accordance with relevant previous General Assembly resolutions, programmes of action and major conferences and summits in the economic, social and related areas;

12. *Further reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove the current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

13. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Independent Expert;

15. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Independent Expert in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to consider responding favourably to the requests of the Independent Expert to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

16. *Requests* the Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special mechanisms extended by the Council and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation;

17. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to build upon the issue of the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

19. *Requests* the Independent Expert to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue his work;

20. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/178:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Armenia, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Samoa.

Globalization

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/168 [YUN 2013, p. 691], the Secretary-General in June submitted a report [A/69/99] that summarized the views on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights received from seven Governments (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cuba, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Panama), as well as from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. The report identified common themes and made recommendations on how to address the issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/173** by recorded vote (135-53-1) [agenda item 68 (b)].

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and expressing, in particular, the need to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, adopted on 24 April 2009, and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, entitled "United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", of 22 September 2011,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome documents of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly, held in New York from 5 to 10 June 2000 and in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, respectively,

Recalling also its resolutions 66/154 of 19 December 2011, 67/165 of 20 December 2012 and 68/168 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/17 of 14 April 2005 on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 17/4 of 16 June 2011 on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and 21/5 of 27 September 2012 on the contribution of the United Nations system as a whole to the advancement of the business and human rights agenda and the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework,

Recognizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Realizing that globalization affects all countries differently and makes them more exposed to external developments, positive as well as negative, inter alia, in the field of human rights,

Realizing also that globalization is not merely an economic process, but that it also has social, political, environmental, cultural and legal dimensions, which have an impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Emphasizing the need to fully implement the global partnership for development and enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement the commitments made in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields, and reaffirming in particular the commitment contained in paragraphs 19 and 47 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome to promote fair globalization and the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization,

Realizing the need to undertake a thorough, independent and comprehensive assessment of the social, environmental and cultural impact of globalization on societies,

Recognizing in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind, and aware of the risk that globalization poses more of a threat to cultural diversity if the developing world remains poor and marginalized,

Recognizing also that multilateral mechanisms have a unique role to play in meeting the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization,

Realizing the need to consider the challenges and opportunities linked to globalization with a view to addressing such challenges and building on possible opportunities in order to achieve the full enjoyment of all human rights,

Emphasizing the global character of the migratory phenomenon, the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation and the need to protect the human rights of migrants, particularly at a time in which migration flows have increased in the globalized economy,

Expressing grave concern at the negative impact of international financial turmoil on social and economic development and on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly in the light of the continuing global financial and economic crisis, which has an adverse impact on the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing that developing countries are in a more vulnerable situation when facing such impact and that regional economic cooperation and development strategies and programmes can play a role in mitigating such impact,

Expressing deep concern at the negative impact of the continuing global food and energy crises and climate change challenges on social and economic development and on the full enjoyment of all human rights for all,

Recognizing that globalization should be guided by the fundamental principles that underpin the corpus of human rights, such as equity, participation, accountability, non-discrimination at both the national and the international levels, respect for diversity, tolerance and international cooperation and solidarity,

Emphasizing that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full realization and effective enjoyment of human rights and that its immediate alleviation and eventual elimination must remain a high priority for the international community,

Acknowledging that there is greater acceptance that the increasing debt burden faced by the most indebted developing countries is unsustainable and constitutes one of the principal obstacles to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication and that, for many developing countries, excessive debt servicing has severely constrained their capacity to promote social development and to provide basic services to realize economic, social and cultural rights,

Strongly reiterating the determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit, described as the Millennium Development Goals, which have helped to galvanize efforts towards poverty eradication,

Gravely concerned at the inadequacy of measures to narrow the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and within countries, which has contributed to, inter alia, deepening poverty and has adversely affected the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries,

Emphasizing that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect all human rights,

Emphasizing also that human beings strive for a world that is respectful of human rights and cultural diversity and that, in this regard, they work to ensure that all activities, including those affected by globalization, are consistent with those aims,

1. *Recognizes* that, while globalization, by its impact on, inter alia, the role of the State, may affect human rights,

the promotion and protection of all human rights is first and foremost the responsibility of the State;

2. *Emphasizes* that development should be at the centre of the international economic agenda and that coherence between national development strategies and international obligations and commitments is imperative for an enabling environment for development and an inclusive and equitable globalization;

3. *Reaffirms* that narrowing the gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries, is an explicit goal at the national and international levels, as part of the effort to create an enabling environment for the full enjoyment of all human rights;

4. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to create an environment at both the national and the global levels that is conducive to development and to the eradication of poverty by, inter alia, promoting good governance within each country and at the international level, eliminating protectionism, enhancing transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and committing to an open, equitable, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system;

5. *Recognizes* the impacts that the global financial and economic crisis is still having on the ability of countries, particularly developing countries, to mobilize resources for development and to address the impact of this crisis, and in this context calls upon all States and the international community to alleviate, in an inclusive and development-oriented manner, any negative impacts of this crisis on the realization and the effective enjoyment of all human rights;

6. *Also recognizes* that, while globalization offers great opportunities, the fact that its benefits are very unevenly shared and its costs unevenly distributed represents an aspect of the process that affects the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries;

7. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights, which focuses on the liberalization of agricultural trade and its impact on the realization of the right to development, including the right to food, and takes note of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

8. *Reaffirms* the international commitment to eliminating hunger and to securing food for all, today and tomorrow, and reiterates that the relevant United Nations organizations should be assured the resources needed to expand and enhance their food assistance and support social safety net programmes designed to address hunger and malnutrition, when appropriate, through the use of local or regional purchase;

9. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization so that poverty is systematically reduced and the international development targets are achieved;

10. *Recognizes* that the responsible operations of transnational corporations and other business enterprises can contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular economic, social and cultural rights;

11. *Also recognizes* that only through broad and sustained efforts, including policies and measures at the global

level to create a shared future based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable and have a human face, thus contributing to the full enjoyment of all human rights;

12. *Underlines* the urgent need to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system to strengthen and broaden the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

13. *Affirms* that globalization is a complex process of structural transformation, with numerous interdisciplinary aspects, which has an impact on the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;

14. *Also affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that promotes and protects human rights while ensuring respect for the cultural diversity of all;

15. *Underlines*, therefore, the need to continue to analyse the consequences of globalization for the full enjoyment of all human rights;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, and requests him to continue to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a substantive report on the subject based on those views, including recommendations on ways to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/173:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal,

Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Central African Republic.

Foreign debt

Reports of Independent Expert. In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 716], the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Cephass Lumina (Zambia), in March submitted a report [A/HRC/25/50] that reflected on his tenure between 2008 and 2014. It described the main activities undertaken, the challenges faced by the Council in addressing sovereign debt as a human rights issue and the constraints confronting the special procedures in carrying out their mandate, including insufficient resources. He concluded that sovereign debt and its negative impact on the capacity of Governments to fulfil their human rights obligations remained an important issue and urged the Council to continue its engagement.

Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request (see below), the Secretary-General in August transmitted the report [A/69/273] of the new Independent Expert, Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky (Argentina), who was appointed by the Council on 8 May. The report set out his preliminary workplan for the period 2014–2017, which would focus on six thematic areas: preventive aspects of fiscal policy and debt management; international human rights law in the context of debt restructuring and debt relief; good practices to avoid negative human rights implications; human rights and debt arbitration in the context of bilateral investment treaties; lending to States and non-State actors involved in gross human rights violations and transitional justice; and the impact of illicit financial flows on human rights.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission report. Following his mission to Iceland (8–15 December) [A/HRC/28/59/Add.1], the Independent Expert assessed the extent to which the country had fulfilled its obligations to protect economic, social and cultural rights in the aftermath of its recent banking crisis. Although Iceland had managed the crisis better than many other countries, he identified gaps that needed to be addressed. He recommended that the country's legal and institutional framework be strengthened to prevent the recurrence of a similar crisis and that attention be paid to vulnerable groups, in particular highly indebted individuals, people living in rented accommodation, immigrants and children living in single-parent households. He concluded that international organizations and other countries could learn from the path that Iceland had chosen, which

included protecting its core social welfare system, seeking to ensure citizen participation in decision-making and endeavouring to establish accountability.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/16)], by a recorded vote of 30 to 14, with 3 abstentions, the Council reiterated its request to the High Commissioner to pay more attention to the problem of the debt burden of developing countries; extended the Independent Expert's mandate for three years; and requested him to report regularly to the Council and the General Assembly.

On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/30)], by a recorded vote of 33 to 5, with 9 abstentions, the Council welcomed the Advisory Committee's research proposal on the activities of vulture funds and human rights (see p. 752); condemned such activities for the negative effect that the debt repayment to those funds had on the capacity of Governments to fulfil their human rights obligations; and requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a research-based report on the issue and submit a progress report to the Council's thirty-first (2016) session.

Non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin

In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 699], the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Cephass Lumina, in May submitted a final report [A/HRC/25/52] on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin on the enjoyment of human rights. The report indicated that by reducing the resources available to States to establish the conditions for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and to create and strengthen institutions that upheld civil and political rights, illicit financial flows compromised the affected Governments' ability to devote resources to the realization of human rights. The Expert concluded that the substantial amounts lost to illicit financial flows, estimated at \$946.7 billion in 2011, could help the efforts of developing countries to mobilize domestic resources for poverty alleviation, development and human rights, and to reduce their costly dependence on external financing.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/9)], by a recorded vote of 33 to 2, with 12 abstentions, the Council called on States to consider enacting legislation to address offences by business enterprises, which deprived Governments of legitimate domestic revenue sources for implementing their development agendas; asserted the need to repatriate illicit funds to the countries of origin without conditionalities; and requested the Independent Expert to undertake a further study to analyse the negative impact of illicit financial flows on the en-

joyment of human rights in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and to present an interim study and a final study, respectively, to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) and thirty-first (2016) sessions.

Transnational corporations

Working Group activities. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 717], the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises in May submitted a report [A/HRC/26/25], which reviewed the strategic objectives, activities and outcomes of its first three years and identified the challenges ahead. The Working Group concluded that while significant efforts had been undertaken to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights [YUN 2011, p. 716], challenges remained, including with respect to broadening dissemination, reaching scale in implementation, building trust between stakeholders and overcoming barriers to effective remedies. There was a growing gap between the pace of implementation and the expectations of civil society and affected stakeholders. The Working Group urged that efforts towards the implementation of the Guiding Principles be scaled up and made recommendations addressed to States, business enterprises and civil society organizations.

An addendum [A/HRC/26/25/Add.1] summarized the findings from a 2013 questionnaire for corporations on the Guiding Principles, to which 153 business representatives from 39 countries had responded. The responses revealed that the majority of the sampled businesses were aware of the Guiding Principles and that half had a public statement of human rights; were engaged in the human rights agenda; and cited moving from policy to practice and addressing human rights in business relationships as the main challenges. Despite those insights, the small scale of the questionnaire and the fact that it was not randomized had limited the extent to which the results could be extrapolated and global generalizations could be made. The results underscored the value of conducting a future larger scale, randomized survey to gather a solid baseline of credible and complete data.

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 17/4 [YUN 2011, p. 717] and 26/22 (see below), the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Working Group's report [A/69/263], which explored how national action plans on business and human rights might be employed to implement the Guiding Principles and to protect against business-related human rights abuses. The Working Group made recommendations addressed to States, business enterprises and civil society.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission report. Following its visit to Azerbaijan (18–27 August) [A/HRC/29/28/Add.1], the Working

Group reported on efforts by the Government and companies to prevent, protect against and redress human rights abuses by business enterprises, in conformity with the Guiding Principles. It highlighted issues of particular importance, namely, the space for participation of civil society; efforts to tackle corruption and abuse of public positions; the oil and gas sector and the construction industry; and labour rights. The Working Group made observations on access to remedy and on ways forward to strengthen the national policy framework, and made recommendations for further action.

Reports of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 21/5 [YUN 2012, p. 696], the Secretary-General in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/20] on the challenges, strategies and developments with regard to implementation of that resolution by the UN system. The report found that further efforts were needed to embed the Guiding Principles in the strategic coordination mechanisms of the UN system.

The Secretary-General also presented the conclusions from an OHCHR study on the feasibility of a global fund to enhance the capacity of stakeholders to implement the Guiding Principles [A/HRC/26/20/Add.1]. One finding was that there was strong support for such a fund among a broad range of stakeholders. Perspectives, however, differed on the most desirable mandate, governance model and sources of funding.

Forum on Business and Human Rights. The third annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights (Geneva, 1–3 December) [A/HRC/FBHR/2014/3] gathered an estimated 2,000 participants from some 130 countries, with equal representation of women and men. The theme of the Forum was “Advancing business and human rights globally: alignment, adherence and accountability”. Plenary sessions focused on leadership perspectives on the business and human rights agenda in the context of global trends, and on how the Guiding Principles could contribute to human rights and dignity for all in the global economy. The thematic tracks examined issues such as: the role of public policy and national action plans; progress achieved and challenges faced by companies in integrating the corporate responsibility to respect human rights; enhancing accountability and access to remedy for victims of business-related human rights abuse; integrating the Guiding Principles in global governance structures; and good practice models for stakeholder engagement.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/22)], the Council decided that the two-day Forum on Business and Human Rights would continue to be held on an annual basis, with the addition of one meeting day to allow for the preparation and sharing of new tools and experience; extended the Working Group's mandate for three years; and

requested the High Commissioner to consult with States and stakeholders on whether to create a global fund to enhance the capacity of stakeholders to implement the Guiding Principles, and to report thereon to the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session.

On 26 June [res. 26/9], by a recorded vote of 20 to 14, with 13 abstentions, the Council established an open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, to elaborate an international legally-binding instrument to regulate the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises. It decided that the working group's first two sessions would deliberate on the content, scope, nature and form of the international instrument; that the working group's Chairperson-Rapporteur would prepare elements for the draft instrument for negotiations at the commencement of the third session; and that the working group would hold its first session before the Council's thirtieth (2015) session and report on progress made to the Council's thirty-first (2016) session.

Unilateral coercive measures

OHCHR report. In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 696], OHCHR reported [A/HRC/27/32] on the workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations, in particular their socioeconomic impact on women and children, in the States targeted (Geneva, 23 May). Participants examined a wide range of impacts of coercive measures, from their impact on international humanitarian and human rights law, to their impact on the economy, on peace and security and on the social fabric of States. A number of panelists questioned the purposes and effectiveness of those measures, whether imposed to react to prior violations by the targeted State, in response to terrorism, as an alternative to war or in the context of war. The Chair pointed to a need to redefine what was understood as the effectiveness of coercive measures in order to take human rights and humanitarian concerns into account. She noted the need to move beyond tweaking sanctions to examine the place of sanctions in the international setting.

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/162 [YUN 2013, p. 696], the Secretary-General in June submitted a report [A/69/97] that summarized submissions received from five Governments (Colombia, Cuba, Iran, Lebanon, Mauritius) on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on their populations.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 & Corr.1 (res. 27/21)], by a recorded vote of 31 to 14, with 2 abstentions, the Council decided to organize a biennial panel discussion on the issue

of unilateral coercive measures and human rights, starting at the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session; requested OHCHR to report on the panel discussion; and requested the Council's Advisory Committee to prepare a research-based report on mechanisms to assess the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and promote accountability and submit a progress report to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session. The Council decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights with the mandate to: gather information on the issue; study trends, developments and challenges and make recommendations; and review independent mechanisms to assess unilateral coercive measures to promote accountability. The Council requested the Rapporteur to report annually to the Council and the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/180** by recorded vote (134-53-1) [agenda item 68 (b)].

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on this subject, the most recent of which was resolution 68/162 of 18 December 2013, and Human Rights Council decision 18/120 of 30 September 2011 and resolutions 24/14 of 27 September 2013 and 27/21 of 26 September 2014, as well as previous resolutions of the Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming the pertinent principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281(XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, in which it declared that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/162, and recalling the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolutions 52/120 of 12 December 1997 and 55/110 of 4 December 2000,

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights, and in this regard reaffirming the right to development as an integral part of all human rights,

Recalling the Final Document of the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011, the Final Document of

the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 1972, and the documents adopted at previous summits and conferences, in which States members of the Movement agreed to oppose and condemn those measures or laws and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them, urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations, and request States applying those measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately,

Recalling also that, at the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, States were called upon to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights and also severely threatens the freedom of trade,

Bearing in mind all the references to this question in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, adopted by the World Summit for Social Development on 12 March 1995, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995, the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on 14 June 1996, and in their five-year reviews,

Expressing concern about the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on international relations, trade, investment and cooperation,

Expressing grave concern that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities,

Deeply concerned that, despite the recommendations adopted on this question by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and recent major United Nations conferences, and contrary to general international law and the Charter, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated and implemented, with all their negative implications for the social-humanitarian activities and economic and social development of developing countries, including their extraterritorial effects, thereby creating additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

Bearing in mind all the extraterritorial effects of any unilateral legislative, administrative and economic measures, policies and practices of a coercive nature against the development process and the enhancement of human rights in developing countries, which create obstacles to the full realization of all human rights,

Reaffirming that unilateral coercive measures are a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling article 1, paragraph 2, common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights, which provides, inter alia, that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

Noting the continuing efforts of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council, and reaffirming in particular its criteria, according to which unilateral coercive measures are one of the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

1. *Urges* all States to cease adopting or implementing any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, in particular those of a coercive nature, with all their extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Strongly urges* States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

3. *Condemns* the inclusion of Member States in unilateral lists under false pretexts, which are contrary to international law and the Charter, including false allegations of terrorism sponsorship, considering such lists as instruments for political or economic pressure against Member States, particularly developing countries;

4. *Urges* all States not to adopt any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular children and women, that hinder their well-being and that create obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for his or her health and well-being and his or her right to food, medical care and education and the necessary social services, as well as to ensure that food and medicine are not used as tools for political pressure;

5. *Strongly objects* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States, and in this context calls upon all Member States neither to recognize those measures nor to apply them, as well as to take administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial applications or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

6. *Condemns* the continuing unilateral application and enforcement by certain Powers of unilateral coercive measures, and rejects those measures, with all their extraterritorial effects, as being tools for political or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, adopted with a view to preventing those countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, and because of the negative effects of those measures on the realization of all the human rights of vast sectors of their populations, in particular children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

7. *Expresses grave concern* that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and

the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

8. *Reaffirms* that essential goods such as food and medicines should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development;

9. *Calls upon* Member States that have initiated such measures to abide by the principles of international law, the Charter, the declarations of the United Nations and world conferences and relevant resolutions and to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are parties by revoking such measures at the earliest possible time;

10. *Reaffirms*, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

11. *Recalls* that, according to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970, and the relevant principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 3281(XXIX), in particular article 32 thereof, no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind;

12. *Rejects* all attempts to introduce unilateral coercive measures, and urges the Human Rights Council to take fully into account the negative impact of those measures, including through the enactment of national laws and their extraterritorial application that are not in conformity with international law, in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

13. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging his functions relating to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development and bearing in mind the continuing impact of unilateral coercive measures on the population of developing countries, to give priority to the present resolution in his annual report to the General Assembly;

14. *Underlines* the fact that unilateral coercive measures are one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and in this regard calls upon all States to avoid the unilateral imposition of economic coercive measures and the extraterritorial application of national laws that run counter to the principles of free trade and hamper the development of developing countries, as recognized by the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council;

15. *Recognizes* that, in the Declaration of Principles adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, States were strongly urged to avoid and refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with

international law and the Charter of the United Nations in building the information society;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 27/21, to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur;

18. *Recalls* the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 27/21, to organize a biennial panel discussion on the issue of unilateral coercive measures and human rights;

19. *Welcomes* the increased attention paid by the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the negative impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures, and invites the Council to continue to explore ways to address this issue;

20. *Reiterates its support* for the invitation of the Human Rights Council to all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures;

21. *Reaffirms* the request of the Human Rights Council that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize a workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations, in particular their socioeconomic impact on women and children, in the States targeted;

22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the full enjoyment of human rights;

23. *Invites* Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his or her mandate through, inter alia, the submission of comments and suggestions on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the full enjoyment of human rights;

24. *Decides* to examine the question on a priority basis at its seventieth session, under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms" of the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/180:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia,

Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Chad.

Social Forum

Social Forum session. The Social Forum (Geneva, 1–3 April) [A/HRC/26/46], which was attended by States, UN bodies, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, academic and national human rights institutions and independent experts, focused on the rights of older persons, including best practices. Participants agreed that there must be greater national and international protection of older persons' rights and that need would grow as population demographics changed to reflect longer life expectancies for people worldwide. Issues of concern included insufficient mechanisms for guaranteeing older persons the exercise of their rights; the absence of an express prohibition of age discrimination in most human rights instruments; and deficiency in the human rights framework in addressing issues affecting older persons, such as poverty, employment discrimination, inadequate systems for long-term care, violations of informed consent, insufficient services for persons with dementia, restricted autonomy and decision-making, discrimination and lack of pension coverage. Participants called for a new legally binding instrument on the rights of older persons and for further monitoring, study and analysis of older persons' issues. The report concluded that older persons contributed to economic and social development where they were not prevented from doing so through discriminatory laws, policies or attitudes, and that a paradigm change was needed to enable older persons to enjoy their rights regardless of whether or not they were able to contribute to society economically.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/28)], the Council decided that the Social Forum in 2015 would focus on access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and invited the Social Forum to report to the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session.

Extreme poverty

Reports of Special Rapporteur. As requested by the Human Rights Council [YUN 2011, p. 720], the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona (Chile), in May submitted a report [A/HRC/26/28 & Corr.1] focusing on fiscal policy, and particularly taxation policies, as a major determinant in the enjoyment of human rights. She outlined relevant human rights obligations to guide and inform State revenue-raising practices, analysed the questions of how the principles of non-discrimination and equality and the duty of international cooperation and assistance should inform global and national taxation policies and assessed how revenue-raising policies and practices could be strengthened through a human rights-based approach. She made recommendations for fiscal and tax policies that were grounded in human rights and could lead to poverty reduction, sustainable development and the realization of transformative rights.

In a 5 June addendum [A/HRC/26/28/Add.3], the Special Rapporteur reviewed her activities during the term (2008–2014) of her mandate, including country visits, thematic reports as well as her work on advocacy and in concluding the drafting process for the Guiding Principles on extreme poverty and human rights [YUN 2012, p. 700].

In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 26/3 (see below), the Secretary-General in August transmitted the first report [A/69/297] of the new Special Rapporteur, Philip Alston (Australia), who was appointed by the Council on 8 May. The report focused on the implementation of the right to social protection through the adoption by States of social protection floors. The widely endorsed Social Protection Floor Initiative [YUN 2010, p. 1229] aimed to guarantee basic income security and access to essential social services for all. The Rapporteur examined challenges to the Initiative's success, including overcoming the ambivalence of key international actors, including the World Bank, towards the concept; the lack of sufficient legal recognition of social protection as a human right; and misgivings as to the affordability of social protection floors. He called for civil society groups to engage with the Initiative and for the World Bank to adopt a new approach that was supportive of it. He recommended greater engagement with the Initiative by both the Committee on

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the special procedures mandate holders.

Mission report. Following her visit to Guinea-Bissau (23 February–1 March) [A/HRC/29/31/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur reported that the country ranked as one of the poorest in the world, with a consistent decline of investment in essential social services such as health care and education. She expressed concern about the disproportionate vulnerability of certain groups, especially women, as well as obstacles to poverty reduction, such as political instability, corruption and impunity. She recommended implementing policies and programmes to enable those living in extreme poverty to enjoy their human rights on an equal basis with the rest of the population.

Human Rights Council. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/3)], the Council extended the Special Rapporteur's mandate for three years and requested the Rapporteur to report annually to the Council and the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/183** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

Human rights and extreme poverty

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and all other human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it declared 17 October the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007, by which it proclaimed the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), as well as its resolution 67/164 of 20 December 2012 and its previous resolutions on human rights and extreme poverty, in which it reaffirmed that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them,

Recalling also its resolution 52/134 of 12 December 1997, in which it recognized that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights was essential for the effective understanding, promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions 2/2 of 27 November 2006, 7/27 of 28 March 2008, 8/11 of 18 June 2008, 12/19 of 2 October 2009, 15/19 of 30 September 2010, 17/13 of 17 June 2011 and 26/3 of 26 June 2014,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 21/11 of 27 September 2012, by which the Council adopted the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights as a useful tool for States in the formulation and implementation of poverty reduction and eradication policies, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, welcoming the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and recalling its outcome document, contained in resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010,

Taking note of the fact that the proposal contained in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and noting that the report includes a goal on eradicating poverty in all its forms everywhere,

Concerned that, during the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, such progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of those most affected, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that its extent and its manifestations, such as social exclusion, hunger, trafficking in human beings, disease, lack of adequate shelter, illiteracy and hopelessness, are particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Deeply concerned also that gender inequality, violence and discrimination exacerbate extreme poverty, disproportionately impacting women and girls,

Stressing that special attention should be given to those who are living in extreme poverty and in vulnerable situations, in particular women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples,

Concerned by the challenges faced today, including those derived from the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, and by the resulting increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty and their negative effect on the capacity of all States, especially developing countries, to fight extreme poverty,

Recognizing that the eradication of extreme poverty is a major challenge within the process of globalization that requires the coordination and continuation of inclusive policies through decisive national action and international cooperation,

Recognizing also that social protection systems make a critical contribution to the realization of human rights for all, in particular for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations and are trapped in poverty and subject to discrimination,

Recognizing further that persistent and growing inequalities within countries are a major challenge to poverty eradication, particularly affecting those who are living in extreme poverty and in vulnerable situations,

Stressing the necessity of better understanding and addressing the multidimensional causes and consequences of extreme poverty,

Reaffirming that, since the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and may, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life, its immediate alleviation and eventual eradication must remain a high priority for the international community,

Stressing that respect for all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, is of crucial importance for all policies and programmes to fight extreme poverty,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of extreme poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that they contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty,

1. *Reaffirms* that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process in the societies in which they live, in the promotion of human rights and in efforts to combat extreme poverty and exclusion and that it is essential for people living in and affected by poverty and in situations of vulnerability to be empowered to organize themselves and to participate in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life, in particular the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development;

3. *Emphasizes* that extreme poverty is a major issue to be addressed by Governments, civil society, community-based social organizations and the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, and in this context reaffirms that political commitment is a prerequisite for the eradication of poverty;

4. *Also emphasizes* the need to accord due consideration and priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, consistent with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

5. *Reaffirms* that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile;

6. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, in-

cluding through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

7. *Reaffirms* the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the commitments to spare no effort to fight against extreme poverty and to achieve development and poverty eradication, including the commitment to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one United States dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger;

8. *Also reaffirms* the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all, including women and girls;

9. *Further reaffirms* the commitment made at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to accelerating progress in order to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015;

10. *Reaffirms* furthermore that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) is to support, in an efficient and co-ordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals relating to the eradication of poverty, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to coordinate international support to that end;

11. *Acknowledges* that, in its report, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals reiterated that poverty eradication is the greatest challenge facing the world today and included the goal to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, with a specific target to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than 1.25 dollars a day, by 2030;

12. *Recalls* that promoting universal access to social services and providing social protection floors can make an important contribution to consolidating and achieving further development gains and that social protection systems that address and reduce inequality and social exclusion are essential for protecting the gains made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 on social protection floors;

13. *Encourages* States, when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes, to ensure gender mainstreaming and the promotion and protection of all human rights in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, throughout this process;

14. *Also encourages* States to take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against all persons, in particular those living in poverty, to refrain from adopting any laws, regulations or practices denying or limiting the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including economic, social and cultural rights, and to ensure that people, in particular those living in poverty, have equal access to justice;

15. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to strengthen and support South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, recognizing their contributions to the efforts of developing countries to collaborate in the eradication of poverty, and stresses that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

16. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen its efforts to address challenges that are contributing to extreme poverty, including those derived from the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity in all parts of the world, especially in developing countries, by enhancing cooperation to help to build national capacities;

17. *Reaffirms* the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals, as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, efforts towards expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty, reaffirms in this context the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted at the World Education Forum on 28 April 2000, and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education for All programmes as tools for achieving the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015;

18. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to give high priority to the question of the relationship between extreme poverty and human rights, and also invites his Office to pursue further work in this area;

19. *Calls upon* States, United Nations bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to give appropriate attention to the links between human rights and extreme poverty, and encourages the private sector and international financial institutions to proceed likewise;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights, adopted by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 21/11, as a useful tool for States in the formulation and implementation of poverty reduction and eradication policies, as appropriate;

21. *Encourages* Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and non-State actors, including the private sector, to consider the guiding principles in the formulation and implementation of their policies and measures concerning persons affected by extreme poverty;

22. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to disseminate the guiding principles, as appropriate;

23. *Welcomes* the efforts of entities throughout the United Nations system to incorporate the Millennium Declaration and the internationally agreed development goals set out therein into their work;

24. *Also welcomes* the work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on extreme poverty and human rights, including her report, submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, and

his report, submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

25. *Decides* to consider the question further at its seventy-first session under the sub-item entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms” of the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

Right to food

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 700], the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter (Belgium), submitted his final report [A/HRC/25/57], entitled “The transformative potential of the right to food”, which presented the main conclusions from his mandate, showing the connections among his various contributions. An overview of key recommendations made in his previous thematic reports to the Council and the General Assembly was appended as an annex. He concluded that the eradication of hunger and malnutrition was an achievable goal. Reaching it, however, required improving coordination across sectors, across time and across levels of governance.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/177 [YUN 2013, p. 700], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the first report [A/69/275] of the new Special Rapporteur, Hilal Elver (Turkey), who was appointed by the Council on 8 May. The report outlined issues she intended to focus on during her tenure, including the obstacles faced by those wishing to seek remedy for violations related to the right to food; gender gaps related to equal assets and productive resources; the effect of unpaid care work on women’s right to food; the need for mainstreaming gender in all legislative frameworks, programmes and policies related to food security and nutrition; the nutritional dimension of national food policies and development strategies; the effects of undernutrition on the most vulnerable, particularly children under five; the relationship between climate change, the right to food and the post-2015 sustainable development agenda; and the impact of protracted conflicts and emergency situations on the right to food.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/14)], the Council called on States and international organizations to combat the different forms of malnutrition; urged States to give priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food; and requested the Special Rapporteur to report to the Council’s twenty-eighth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/177** without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

The right to food

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations and its importance for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming also all previous resolutions and decisions on the right to food adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015,

Recalling also the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

Bearing in mind the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,

Reaffirming the importance of the concrete recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,

Reaffirming also the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, adopted in Rome on 16 November 2009,

Reaffirming further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, at both the national and the international levels, is the essential foundation that will enable States to give adequate priority to food and nutrition security and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Declaration of the World Food Summit, that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter and that endanger food and nutrition security,

Convinced that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food and nutrition security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

Recognizing the complex character of the global food crisis, in which the right to adequate food has been threatened to be violated on a substantial scale, as a combination of several major factors, such as the global financial and economic crisis, environmental degradation, desertification and the impacts of global climate change, as well as natural disasters and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States,

Resolved to act to ensure that the human rights perspective is taken into account at the national, regional and international levels in measures to address the impacts of the global food crisis,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pest infestations, as well as the negative impact of climate change, and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in substantial loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries,

Emphasizing that a multisectoral approach that integrates nutrition across all sectors, including agriculture, health, water and sanitation, social protection and education, as well as a gender perspective, is critical to achieving global food and nutrition security and the realization of the right to food,

Recalling the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security by the Committee on World Food Security at its 38th session, held on 11 May 2012, and by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its 144th session,

Recalling also the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, which were transmitted to the governing bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for consideration at the forty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in October 2014,

Stressing the importance of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, hosted by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014,

Stressing also the need to increase official development assistance devoted to agriculture, both in real terms and as a share of total official development assistance,

Recognizing the importance of the protection and preservation of agrobiodiversity in guaranteeing food security and the right to food for all,

Recognizing also the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the key United Nations agency for rural and agricultural development and its work in supporting the efforts of Member States to achieve the full realization of the right to food, including through its provision of technical assistance to developing countries in support of the implementation of national priority frameworks,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

Acknowledging the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis established by the Secretary-General, and supporting the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts in this regard, including continued engagement with Member States and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food,

1. *Reaffirms* that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and therefore requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;

2. *Also reaffirms* the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

3. *Considers* it intolerable that, as estimated by the United Nations Children's Fund, more than one third of the children who die every year before the age of 5 die from hunger-related illness and that, as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, about 805 million people worldwide suffer from chronic hunger, including as one of the effects derived from the global food crisis, while, according to the latter organization, the planet could produce enough food to feed everyone around the world;

4. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that the effects created by the world food crisis still continue to have serious consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, which have been further aggravated by the impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, and at the particular effects of this crisis on many net food-importing countries, especially least developed countries;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* that, according to the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, entitled *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013*, the number of hungry people in the world remains unacceptably high and the vast majority of hungry people live in developing countries;

6. *Expresses its concern* that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food and nutrition insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries, girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition;

7. *Encourages* all States to take action to address gender inequality and discrimination against women, in particular when they contribute to the malnutrition of women and girls, including measures to ensure the full and equal realization of the right to food and that women have equal access to resources, including income, land and water and their ownership and agricultural inputs, as well as full and equal access to health care, education, science and technology, to enable them to feed themselves and their families, and in this regard stresses the need to empower women and strengthen their role in decision-making;

8. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food to continue mainstreaming a gender perspective in the fulfilment of her mandate, and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and all other United Nations bodies and mechanisms addressing the right to

food and food insecurity to continue integrating a gender perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities;

9. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure that programmes delivering safe and nutritious food are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

10. *Calls upon* all States and, if appropriate, relevant international organizations to take measures and support programmes that are aimed at combating undernutrition in mothers, in particular during pregnancy, and children and the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, in particular from birth to the age of 2 years;

11. *Encourages* all States to take steps, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to food, including steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and, as soon as possible, to enjoy fully the right to food, and to create and adopt national plans to combat hunger;

12. *Recognizes* the advances reached through South-South cooperation in developing countries and regions in connection with food security and the development of agricultural production for the full realization of the right to food;

13. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and public investment in rural development are essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investment, including private investment, in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts;

14. *Recognizes* the critical contribution made by the fisheries sector to the realization of the right to food and to food security and the contribution of small-scale fishers to the local food security of coastal communities;

15. *Also recognizes* that 70 per cent of hungry people live in rural areas, where nearly half a billion family farmers are located, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity given the increasing cost of inputs and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for poor producers; that sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural policies are important tools for promoting land and agrarian reform, rural credit and insurance, technical assistance and other associated measures to achieve food security and rural development; and that support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises, including through the facilitation of access for their products to national and international markets and empowerment of small producers, particularly women, in value chains, is a key element for food security and the provision of the right to food;

16. *Stresses* the importance of fighting hunger in rural areas, including through national efforts supported by international partnerships to stop desertification and land degradation and through investments and public policies that are specifically appropriate to the risk of drylands, and in this regard calls for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

17. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to favourably consider becoming parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to consider becoming parties to

the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as a matter of priority;

18. *Recalls* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, acknowledges that many indigenous organizations and representatives of indigenous peoples have expressed in different forums their deep concerns over the obstacles and challenges they face in achieving the full enjoyment of the right to food, and calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples and the continuous discrimination against them;

19. *Welcomes* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014, and the commitment to developing, in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned and where appropriate, policies, programmes and resources to support indigenous peoples' occupations, traditional subsistence activities, economies, livelihoods, food security and nutrition;

20. *Notes* the need to further examine various concepts, such as "food sovereignty", and their relation with food security and the right to food, bearing in mind the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all people at all times;

21. *Requests* all States and private actors, as well as international organizations, within their respective mandates, to take fully into account the need to promote the effective realization of the right to food for all, including in the ongoing negotiations in different fields;

22. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen national commitment as well as international assistance, upon the request of and in cooperation with the affected countries, towards the full realization and protection of the right to food, and in particular to develop national protection mechanisms for people forced to leave their homes and land because of hunger or humanitarian emergencies affecting their enjoyment of the right to food;

23. *Takes note with appreciation* of the growing movement, in different regions of the world, towards the adoption of framework laws, national strategies and measures in support of the full realization of the right to food for all;

24. *Stresses* the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, and to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

25. *Calls for* the conclusion and a successful, development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization as a contribution to creating international conditions that permit the full realization of the right to food;

26. *Stresses* that all States should make all efforts to ensure that their international policies of a political and economic nature, including international trade agreements, do not have a negative impact on the right to food in other countries;

27. *Recalls* the importance of the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, and recommends the continuation of efforts aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for the fight against hunger and poverty, as well as non-communicable diseases;

28. *Recognizes* that the promises made at the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the number of persons who are undernourished are not being fulfilled, while recognizing the efforts of Member States in this regard, and once again invites all international financial and development institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and funds, to give priority to and provide the necessary funding to realize the aim of halving by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, as well as the right to food as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

29. *Reaffirms* that integrating food and nutritional support, with the goal that all people at all times will have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, is part of a comprehensive effort to improve public health, including the response to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases;

30. *Urges* States to give adequate priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food;

31. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution both to the expansion and improvement of agriculture and its environmental sustainability, food production, breeding projects on diversity of crops and livestock and institutional innovations such as community seed banks, farmer field schools and seed fairs and to the provision of humanitarian food assistance in activities related to emergency situations for the realization of the right to food and the achievement of sustainable food security, while recognizing that each country has the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of national programmes and strategies in this regard;

32. *Also stresses* that States parties to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights should consider implementing that agreement in a manner that is supportive of food security, while being mindful of the obligation of Member States to promote and protect the right to food;

33. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to support national efforts aimed at responding rapidly to the food crises currently occurring across different regions, and expresses its deep concern that funding shortfalls are forcing the World Food Programme to cut operations across different regions, including Southern Africa;

34. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to continue to promote policies and projects that have a positive impact on the right to food, to ensure that partners respect the right to food in the implementation of common projects, to support strategies of Member States aimed at the fulfilment of the right to food and to avoid any actions that could have a negative impact on the realization of the right to food;

35. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council;

36. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, as extended by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 22/9 of 21 March 2013;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources

necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur;

38. *Welcomes* the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its general comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), in which the Committee affirmed, *inter alia*, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and is also inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and the international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

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

40. *Reaffirms* that the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004, represent a practical tool to promote the realization of the right to food for all, contribute to the achievement of food security and thus provide an additional instrument in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and welcomes the outcome of the meeting on the 10-year retrospective of the implementation of the Guidelines, held in October 2014;

41. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in her task, to supply all necessary information requested by her and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable her to fulfil her mandate more effectively;

42. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue her work, including by examining the emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food within her existing mandate;

43. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, civil society actors and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of her mandate through, *inter alia*, the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food;

44. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Rights of peasants and other rural area workers

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/26)], by a recorded vote of 29 to 5, with 13 abstentions, the Council took note of the

expert seminar on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (Geneva, 8–9 April) held at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights; decided that the intergovernmental working group on a UN declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas [YUN 2012, p. 707] would hold its second session before the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session; and requested the working group's Chairperson-Rapporteur to prepare a new text on the basis of the discussions during its first session [YUN 2013, p. 703] and the informal consultations to be held, and to present the new text to the working group's second session. It requested the working group to report on progress made to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session.

Right to adequate housing

Reports of Special Rapporteur. As requested by Human Rights Council resolution 15/8 [YUN 2010, p. 741], the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in that context, Raquel Rolnik (Brazil), submitted a report [A/HRC/25/54] recommending a set of guiding principles to assist States and other actors in addressing the tenure insecurity crisis faced by the urban poor. The 10 principles, which were based on input from States, various stakeholders and civil society organizations, dealt with: strengthening diverse tenure forms; improving security of tenure; prioritizing *in situ* solutions; promoting the social function of property; combating discrimination on the basis of tenure; promoting women's security of tenure; respecting security of tenure in business activities; strengthening security of tenure in development cooperation; empowering the urban poor and holding the State accountable; and ensuring access to justice.

As requested by Council resolutions 15/8 and 25/17 (see below), the Secretary-General in August transmitted to the Assembly the first report [A/69/274] of the new Special Rapporteur, Leilani Farha (Canada), who was appointed by the Council on 8 May. The Rapporteur outlined areas in which she wished to consult with States, civil society and other stakeholders as she prepared her work plan; reflected on the work undertaken by previous mandate holders and advances achieved; offered preliminary thoughts about the status of the right to adequate housing; and highlighted priority areas in which she hoped that advances could be made.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission report. In March [A/HRC/25/54/Add.4], the United Kingdom submitted its comments on the report of the Special Rapporteur's 2013 visit to the country [YUN 2013, p. 704].

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/17)], the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a three-year period and requested the Rapporteur to report regularly to the Council and the General Assembly.

Right to health

Reports of Special Rapporteur. As requested by the Human Rights Council [YUN 2013, p. 705], the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Anand Grover (India), in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/31] that drew links between unhealthy foods and diet-related non-communicable diseases. He highlighted the need for States to address structural changes in the food environment, which negatively affected individuals' enjoyment of the right to adequate and nutritious food. Global trade, increased foreign direct investment in the food sector and the pervasive marketing of unhealthy foods had increased their consumption. The Rapporteur outlined policies to increase the availability and accessibility of healthier food options, as well as to increase awareness about the risks posed by unhealthy foods. He pointed to States' obligations to ensure the fulfilment of the right to health, and to the food industry's responsibility to refrain from producing, marketing and promoting unhealthy foods. He stressed the need for accountability and remedial mechanisms by which individuals could seek redress to violations of their right to health. The Rapporteur made recommendations aimed at States and the food industry.

In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 705], the Secretary-General in August transmitted to the General Assembly the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/299], which considered elements that affected implementation of the right to health framework, including the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights; the concept of the progressive realization of the right to health; and the accountability deficit of transnational corporations. The Rapporteur called for an international mechanism to hold them liable for violations of human rights and urged a review of the system of international investment agreements and the investor-State dispute settlement system, with a view to creating a level playing field between transnational corporations and States. He presented recommendations on bridging the gaps in the realization of the right to health.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission report. Following his visit to Malaysia (19 November–2 December) [A/HRC/29/33/Add.1], the new Special Rapporteur, Dainius Pūras (Lithuania), appointed by the Council in June, assessed issues related to the country's health-care system and financing, as well as to the right to health of particular

groups, such as women and girls; indigenous communities; migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons; persons living with HIV/AIDS; children; and persons with psychosocial and developmental disabilities. He commended the country for advances made in reducing poverty, increasing spending on health and improving basic health-related indicators. He encouraged the Government to address challenges that were mostly connected to a selective approach to human rights and the prevalence of discrimination against vulnerable groups. In that regard, the Rapporteur made a number of recommendations.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/18)], the Council called on States to promote physical activity and sport among all segments of their population and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit a study on sport and healthy lifestyles as contributing factors to the right of everyone to health to the Council's thirty-second (2016) session.

Maternal mortality

OHCHR report. In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 710], OHCHR in June submitted a report [A/HRC/27/20] which discussed initiatives to implement the technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce preventable maternal morbidity and mortality [YUN 2012, p. 710]. Taking into consideration information received from 12 States, one UN agency, civil society groups and other stakeholders, the report documented efforts in disseminating and utilizing the guidance, examined challenges in its implementation and offered recommendations to support implementation.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/11)], the Council urged States to renew their political commitment to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity; called on States and encouraged stakeholders to consider the recommendations in the OHCHR report on the technical guidance (see above); and requested the High Commissioner to submit a follow-up report on the application of the technical guidance by States and other actors to the Council's thirty-third (2016) session.

Water and sanitation

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 711], the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque (Portugal), in June submitted a report [A/HRC/27/55] that focused on common violations of those rights, as identifying them was crucial for

prevention and remedial action. She developed a typology of violations, examining breaches of the obligations to respect, to protect, to fulfil, to refrain from discrimination, to ensure substantive equality and to ensure participation, as well as extraterritorial obligations. The report also discussed access to justice for violations. The Rapporteur noted that violations of the right to sanitation had not received the attention they deserved and that victims were among the most stigmatized in society. Taboos remained that prevented open discussions about unhygienic conditions. She urged all actors to frame violations related to water and sanitation more explicitly as violations of human rights and presented conclusions and recommendations.

In a July addendum [A/HRC/27/55/Add.3], the Special Rapporteur introduced the “Handbook for realizing the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation” that she had developed as a culmination of her six years of work as a mandate holder. The handbook would be published in September before her term ended.

In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 730], the Secretary-General in July transmitted the Special Rapporteur’s report [A/69/213], which focused on the right to participation in the context of realizing the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, emphasizing that States had an obligation to ensure participation. She provided guidance on what the right to participation required, what elements were essential for ensuring active, free and meaningful participation, and what participation entailed at various levels of decision-making. She noted that while there were excellent practices that ensured participation, those appeared to be isolated rather than institutionalized. The Rapporteur made recommendations for States and other stakeholders.

Mission reports. Following her visit to Jordan (11–16 March) [A/HRC/27/55/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur noted that the country, characterized by an arid environment, faced enormous challenges in providing water and sanitation services to a growing population and to the millions of refugees it hosted. The country had made considerable progress in the connection of water and sanitation networks and in the collection, treatment and reuse of wastewater; yet several challenges persisted, such as the intermittency of the water supply, with grave consequences for its quality, availability and affordability. The water and sanitation tariff system put an unjust burden on the poor and marginalized, while the heavy subsidization of water, in particular for agriculture, threatened sustainability. The Rapporteur made recommendations to address those challenges, and called on the Government to take a holistic approach, linking pressing emergency needs with a long-term development strategy.

In July, Brazil [A/HRC/27/55/Add.4] and Jordan [A/HRC/27/55/Add.5] submitted their comments on the Special Rapporteur’s report on her visit to those

countries, respectively, in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 706] and in 2014 (see above).

Following her mission to Kenya (22–28 July) [A/HRC/30/39/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur noted that it was one of the first States to explicitly recognize the human rights to water and sanitation in national legislation, and was undertaking legal and institutional reforms in the areas related to the provision of those services. Kenya faced enormous challenges, including those related to access to sanitation in informal settlements and rural areas. The Rapporteur encouraged the Government to place the human rights to water and sanitation at the core of the reform processes and to prioritize the most marginalized groups. She made recommendations to address those challenges and called on the Government to clarify the allocation of responsibilities in the provision of water and sanitation services.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/7)], the Council took note of the work of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in their 2014 update on the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, and called on States to progressively realize the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and to support the goals of the advocacy campaign “Sustainable sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015”. It also called on non-State actors, including business enterprises, to comply with their responsibility to respect those rights.

In November, the Council appointed Léo Heller (Brazil) as the second Special Rapporteur. He took office on 1 December.

Ebola epidemic

Human Rights Council action. In a 26 September statement [A/69/53/Add.1 (PRST/27/4)], the Council President deplored the fact that the Ebola virus had claimed, and continued to claim, the lives of so many people in West Africa, including health workers; noted that WHO had declared the Ebola outbreak a public health emergency of international concern; requested States and international organizations to support the rapid establishment of an African centre for disease control and prevention; and called on States to implement the recommendations of WHO and international health regulations in taking prevention and containment measures.

Cultural rights

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 712], the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed (Pakistan), in January submitted a report [A/HRC/25/49] that addressed memorialization processes of past events in post-conflict and divided

societies, with a focus on memorials and museums of history/memory. States exiting conflicts or periods of repression were increasingly engaging in memorial policies as a means of ensuring recognition for the victims, as reparation for mass or grave violations of human rights and as a guarantee of non-recurrence. Addressing challenges in memorializing the past, the Rapporteur made recommendations grounded in the principle that memorialization should be understood as a process that provided the space for those affected by human rights violations to articulate their narratives. Memorial practices should stimulate civic engagement, critical thinking and discussions on the representation of the past, as well as on contemporary challenges of exclusion and violence.

In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 712], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/286], which considered the impact that commercial advertising and marketing practices had on the enjoyment of cultural rights. The Rapporteur was concerned by the disproportionate presence of advertising and marketing in public spaces, the myriad advertisements people received daily, and the resort to techniques aimed at circumventing individual rational decision-making. The Rapporteur concluded that States should protect people from undue levels of commercial advertising and marketing while increasing the space for not-for-profit expressions. She recommended that States regulate the area more effectively, and in particular that all commercial advertising and marketing in schools be banned.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission report. Following her visit to Botswana (14–26 November) [A/HRC/31/59/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur commended the country's achievements in the area of development and poverty reduction. Important nation-building policies had been implemented and efforts to recognize, value and benefit from the rich cultural diversity of the country had been developed. Many people, however, felt excluded from the main society and lacked recognition of their cultural heritage. The Rapporteur expressed concern about the imbalance in recognition and power between Tswana and non-Tswana communities, a system inherited from the colonial past that influenced the realization of cultural rights. Botswana needed to engage in a new era of nation-building that fully reflected, built upon and celebrated its rich cultural diversity.

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/19)], the Council decided to hold, at its twenty-seventh (2014) session, a panel discussion on history teaching and memorialization processes to contribute to the sharing of good practices; requested the High Commissioner to submit a summary report on the discussion to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session; and requested the Special Rapporteur to report to that session.

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 25/19 (see above), the High Commissioner submitted a summary report [A/HRC/28/36] on the panel discussion on history teaching and memorialization processes (Geneva, 9 September). Panelists reaffirmed that a lack of attention to past wrongs and historical events inevitably resulted in a recurrence of violations and stressed that more attention had to be paid to victims of violations. They welcomed the fact that so many delegations had expressed support for the Special Rapporteur's recommendations relating to the multi-perspective approach in teaching history and memorialization processes, and encouraged States to implement such an approach.

Right to education

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 734], the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Kishore Singh (India), in May submitted a report [A/HRC/26/27] focusing on the assessment of the educational attainments of students and the implementation of the right to education. He underlined the importance of applying national assessment systems which were in compliance with international human right norms, thus fostering the humanistic mission of education rather than its instrumental role, assessing students on more than just mathematical literacy and language skills. He placed emphasis on skills development as an integral part of basic education, and on the need for innovative assessment modalities of technical and vocational education and training. The Rapporteur recommended strengthening human rights-based, holistic approaches to national assessments of the educational attainments of students.

In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 734], the Secretary-General in September transmitted to the General Assembly the report [A/69/402] of the Special Rapporteur, which examined State responsibility in the face of the explosive growth of private education providers from a right to education perspective. The Rapporteur emphasized the need to preserve education as a public good, which must not be reduced to a profit-making business. Privatization often excluded marginalized groups, who were unable to pay, undermining the right of universal access to education. The Rapporteur stressed that States must develop a regulatory framework for private education providers, including sanctions for abusive practices.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission report. Following his mission to Bhutan (26 May–3 June) [A/HRC/29/30/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur welcomed the progress achieved, including the increasing access of boys and girls to primary and secondary education, and measures taken to improve the quality of education. Basic education

was free and compulsory, 40 per cent of meritorious students were offered government scholarships for two additional years of secondary schooling and university-level education was available for graduates of grade 12; however, some areas of concern remained. An education act had not been developed, children without residency rights might not always be enrolled in schools, and technical and vocational education and training was not adequate for the needs of the nation. The Rapporteur concluded the report with recommendations, including on reinforcing education for “gross national happiness”.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/17)], the Council urged States to apply assessment systems that were in compliance with international human rights law; called on stakeholders to increase efforts towards attaining the 2015 education goals; and extended the Special Rapporteur’s mandate for three years.

On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/6)], the Council expressed concern that despite progress in recent years, many girls continued to suffer severe disadvantage and exclusion in education systems throughout their lives; decided to convene at its twenty-ninth (2015) session a panel discussion on realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl to share lessons learned and best practices; and requested the High Commissioner to organize the discussion and present a summary report to the Council’s thirtieth (2015) session.

Environmental and scientific concerns

Human rights and the environment

Report of Independent Expert. In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 713], the first Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, John H. Knox (United States), submitted his second report [A/HRC/25/53], which mapped human rights obligations relating to the environment. The Expert described procedural obligations of States to assess environmental impacts on human rights, make environmental information public, facilitate participation in environmental decision-making and provide access to remedies for environmental harm. He described States’ obligations to adopt legal and institutional frameworks that protected against environmental harm interfering with the enjoyment of human rights, including harm caused by private actors, and outlined obligations relating to the protection of members of vulnerable groups, including women, children and indigenous peoples.

Mission report. Following his visit to France (20–24 October) [A/HRC/28/61/Add.1], the Independent Expert noted that the country provided many good

examples of the application of human rights to environmental protection, including: the adoption of the Charter for the Environment at the constitutional level; innovative steps to provide environmental information to the public through online platforms; national consultations on environmental issues of sweeping importance; and the emphasis on sustainable development in the French Development Agency. The Expert also noted challenges, such as projects with public inquiry opportunities very late in the process and decision-making processes that were lengthy, complicated or unpredictable. He encouraged innovative thinking about ways to strengthen public participation in environmental decision-making.

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/21)], the Council recognized that human rights law set out obligations on States regarding the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and reaffirmed the duty of States to protect against human rights abuse as well as the importance of non-discrimination in the application of environmental laws. The Council urged States to comply with their human rights obligations when developing and implementing their environmental policies.

Climate change

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/27)], the Council noted the 23 September convening by the Secretary-General of the climate summit (see p. 1198); reiterated its concern that the adverse effects of climate change had direct and indirect implications for the enjoyment of human rights; and decided to hold a full-day discussion on themes relating to human rights and climate change at its twenty-eighth (2015) session, which would include two panel discussions: one on identifying challenges and ways forward towards the realization of human rights for all, and another on the adverse impact of climate change on States’ efforts to realize the right to food, as well as policies, lessons learned and good practices. OHCHR was requested to submit a summary report to the Council.

Toxic waste

Report of Special Rapporteur. In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 715], the new Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste, Baskut Tuncak (Turkey), appointed by the Council in June, submitted a report in August [A/HRC/27/54] reviewing the background, history, scope and context of the mandate, and presenting his preliminary strategy for the mandate. He assumed office on 1 August following the tragic loss of the previous mandate holder Marc Pallemmaerts [YUN 2012, p. 715] in

May after months of ill health. In order to fulfil his mandate, which included an analysis of gaps and ambiguities in international laws, as well as the development of a best practices guide, the Rapporteur would hold consultations and undertake country missions.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/23)], the Council extended the Special Rapporteur's mandate for three years, and requested that he report annually to the Council; develop a guide to good practices and submit it to the Council's thirty-sixth (2017) session; and hold two international meetings of experts to draw up the guide.

Slavery and related issues

Report of Special Rapporteur. As requested by the Human Rights Council [YUN 2013, p. 712], the new Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Urmila Bhoola (South Africa), who was appointed by the Council on 8 May, submitted her first annual report [A/HRC/27/53] to the Council in July. The report summarized the activities undertaken by the previous mandate holder since her 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 712], including country visits to Mauritania and Kazakhstan (see below), and outlined the priorities on which the new Rapporteur intended to focus.

Mission reports. Following her visit to Mauritania (24–27 February) [A/HRC/27/53/Add.1] to assess developments since her 2009 mission [YUN 2009, p. 731], the former Special Rapporteur, Gulnara Shahinian (Armenia), found that the Government had made progress in taking legislative and institutional measures to fight forms of slavery. It had adopted the road map for implementing the Rapporteur's recommendations, marking a new stage in the fight against all forms of slavery and slavery-like practices. The Rapporteur stressed the need to implement laws and policies fully and expressed concern at the lack of reliable information, which was a prerequisite for the efficiency of Government programmes. She stressed the need for the Government to publish in the official gazette the anti-slavery conventions it had ratified in order to raise awareness that all work should be entered into freely and fundamental human rights should be respected.

Following her mission to Kazakhstan (25–27 March) [A/HRC/27/53/Add.2] to assess developments since her 2012 visit [YUN 2012, p. 716], the Special Rapporteur, while welcoming the action taken in response to her recommendations, found that some challenges remained. The country was experiencing a growing demand for workers in a variety of sectors in which contemporary forms of slavery and forced and bonded labour persisted, in particular in the tobacco, cotton and construction industries. She recommended that the Government adopt a comprehensive legal and policy approach to the eradication of slavery, which involved a review of laws, policies, programmes and practices to

ensure subsequent streamlining. She stressed the need for a substantive survey and for the collection of disaggregated data and statistics. The Rapporteur made recommendations to the Government, the business community and the international community.

Following her mission to the Niger (11–21 November) [A/HRC/30/35/Add.1], the new Special Rapporteur highlighted issues of concern, including descent-based slavery, the practice known as *wahaya* (the purchase of one or more girls, usually of slave descent, under the guise of a fifth wife), child marriage, domestic servitude and child labour. While commending the criminalization of slavery in 2003 and acknowledging the Government's commitment to eradicating slavery, she noted challenges the Government faced to address the root causes of slavery, including poverty, inequality and customary norms that caused widespread discrimination against former slaves and their descendants. She made recommendations to assist the Government in improving the coordination and streamlining of anti-slavery efforts, ensure effective law enforcement, increase access to justice and enhance victim protection.

Trust fund on slavery

Report of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General reported [A/70/299] on the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The Fund's Board of Trustees, at its nineteenth session (Geneva, 24–28 November), recommended 44 project grants amounting to \$588,900 to assist NGO projects in 35 countries in 2015. The High Commissioner approved those recommendations on behalf of the Secretary-General on 10 December. During 2014, the Fund received contributions and pledges amounting to \$683,005 from 11 States. The Board reiterated that the Fund would need a minimum of \$2 million in annual contributions to fulfil its mandate.

Slavery and transatlantic slave trade

Commemorative meeting. On 25 March (decision 68/553), the General Assembly decided that its commemorative meeting on the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, held on that day, would include a statement by Michaëlle Jean, Special Envoy for Haiti of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and member of the International Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Slave Route Project. The meeting was also addressed by the General Assembly President, the Chef de Cabinet on behalf of the Secretary-General, Member States on behalf of the regional groups and the representative of the host country [A/68/PV.77].

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/7 [YUN 2013, p. 713], the Secretary-General in August reported [A/69/281] on the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery. The theme of the 2014 commemoration, “Victory over slavery: Haiti and beyond”, paid tribute to the fight against slavery in nations around the world. Haiti was the first nation to become independent on 1 January 1804 as a result of the struggle of enslaved men and women, led by Toussaint Louverture. Working with States members of the Caribbean Community and the African Union, the UN Department of Public Information organized a series of activities throughout 2014, including observance of the International Day, a film festival on slavery and an exhibition. To increase awareness of the observance, the Department mobilized its network of UN information centres, used social media platforms and engaged in partnerships with Member States and civil society.

On 29 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Permanent memorial

Report of Secretary-General. As requested by Assembly resolution 68/7 [YUN 2013, p. 713], the Secretary-General in June reported [A/69/93] on the status of the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships—Permanent Memorial, established to erect a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. In August 2013, following the conduct of an international competition to select a design for the memorial, the receipt of 310 entries worldwide and the shortlisting of 16 entries by UNESCO, a panel of five judges met in New York to evaluate the proposals. The winning design, *Ark of Return* by Rodney Leon, was unveiled by the Secretary-General at a 23 September 2013 ceremony at UN Headquarters. In February 2014, the Permanent Memorial Committee [YUN 2008, p. 846] entered into an agreement with the winning architect to provide design services for the construction of the memorial, which was expected to be completed in 2015.

As at 31 May 2014, \$1,448,065 had been recorded as income under the Fund, including \$1,288,519 in voluntary contributions from Member States, \$108,612 in public and private donations and \$50,934 in interest income. The Fund had an unspent balance of \$1,074,085.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 21 November [meeting 58], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/19** [draft: A/69/L.19 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 116].

Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/19 of 28 November 2006, entitled “Commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade”, and subsequent resolutions entitled “Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade”,

Recalling also the designation of 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

Recognizing how little is known about the transatlantic slave trade and its lasting consequences, felt throughout the world, and welcoming the increased attention that the annual commemoration by the General Assembly has brought to the issue, including raising awareness in many States,

Noting the initiatives undertaken by States in reaffirming their commitment to implement paragraphs 101 and 102 of the Durban Declaration of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, aimed at countering the legacy of slavery and contributing to the restoration of the dignity of the victims of slavery and the slave trade,

Recalling, in particular, paragraph 101 of the Durban Declaration, which, inter alia, invited the international community and its members to honour the memory of the victims,

Recalling also its resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2024, and its resolution 69/16 of 18 November 2014, in which it adopted the programme of activities for the Decade,

Stressing the importance of educating and informing current and future generations about the causes, consequences and lessons of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

Recalling that the permanent memorial initiative complements the work being done at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the Slave Route Project, the twentieth anniversary of which is commemorated in 2014,

1. *Endorses* the initiative of Member States to erect, at a place of prominence at United Nations Headquarters that is easily accessible to delegates, United Nations staff and visitors, a permanent memorial in acknowledgement of the tragedy and in consideration of the legacy of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

2. *Recalls* the establishment of a committee of interested States to oversee the permanent memorial project, drawn from all geographical regions of the world, with Member States from the Caribbean Community and the African Union playing a primary role, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, representatives of the Secretariat and civil society;

3. *Also recalls* the establishment of a trust fund account for the permanent memorial, referred to as the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships—Permanent Memorial, administered by the United Nations Office for Partnerships, and notes the current status of contributions to the Trust Fund;

4. *Expresses sincere appreciation* to those Member States, organizations and individuals that have made contributions to the Trust Fund;

5. *Recognizes* the necessity of sustained voluntary contributions in order to achieve in a timely manner the goal of erecting a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, and in this regard, encourages Member States and other interested parties to make further voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

6. *Decides* that the United Nations will incorporate the memorial within the existing United Nations Headquarters campus, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, also decides that any funds remaining in the Trust Fund will be retained to support the maintenance of the memorial, and welcomes efforts to continue to solicit voluntary contributions in this regard;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize a series of activities annually to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, including a commemorative meeting of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters and, as appropriate, activities through the network of United Nations information centres;

8. *Requests* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters;

9. *Reiterates its request*, in resolution 64/15 of 16 November 2009, for Member States to develop, in accordance with their national legislation, educational programmes, including through school curricula, designed to educate and inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and consequences of slavery and the slave trade, and to provide such information to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report;

10. *Notes with satisfaction* the selection of the design “Ark of Return” as the model for the permanent memorial and the ongoing construction of the memorial, scheduled for completion during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery relating to the diverse educational outreach strategy to increase awareness of and to educate future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice, and encourages continued action in this regard;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on continued action to implement the programme of educational outreach, including actions taken by Member States in implementing the present resolution, as well as steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office for Partnerships, through the Secretary-General, to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the status of the Trust Fund and, in particular, on contributions received and their utilization;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Follow-up to the

commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade”.

Women

Violence against women

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 715], the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo (South Africa), in May submitted a report [A/HRC/26/38] that covered her activities since her previous report [YUN 2013, p. 714] and focused on developments in the United Nations over 20 years, including the expanding conceptualization of the theme. The Rapporteur concluded that despite the existence of guidelines and monitoring by human rights treaty bodies and the universal periodic review, the limitations of large and varied monitoring mandates, coupled with time constraints when examining State party reports, had resulted in insufficient interrogation concerning the information relating to the issue and insufficient assessment of responses. The lack of specific, legally enforceable standards further affected efforts to ensure appropriate responses and accountability. She recommended that the Council undertake an inquiry into the normative gap to strengthen efforts to eliminate violence against women and that the Secretary-General initiate a study on the impact of other challenges raised in the report.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/144 [YUN 2012, p. 1095], the Secretary-General in September transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/368], which focused on violence against women as a barrier to the realization of women's civil, political, economic, social, cultural and developmental rights and the effective exercise of citizenship rights. The Rapporteur concluded that many States had acknowledged violence against women as a widespread and systematic human rights violation and were working on eradicating it.

Mission reports. Following her visit to Honduras (1–8 July) [A/HRC/29/27/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur noted that while the Government had undertaken legislative and institutional initiatives to address the situation of women and girls, those initiatives had not been translated into practical improvements. The absence of a data collection system to guide policy development and monitor progress, as well as the failure of the State to fulfil its obligation to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of gender-based violence presented further challenges. The Rapporteur made recommendations on law and policy reforms, accountability, societal transformation, and statistics and data collection. She also recommended a review of the presence, programmes and resources of UN agencies in the country in the quest to respond to the problem.

Following her mission to the United Kingdom (31 March–15 April) [A/HRC/29/27/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur noted that while the Government had developed national strategies and action plans, those initiatives had resulted in isolated pockets of good practice, largely due to the lack of a consistent human rights-based approach to address violence against women and girls. She expressed concern about regressive measures that had been adopted, including the shift from gender specificity to gender neutrality; austerity measures that affected the provision of services; as well as cross-cutting issues, such as poverty and unemployment. Women from black and minority ethnic communities, as well as migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women, women belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community and women with disabilities had been affected by those cutbacks. The Rapporteur made a series of recommendations to the Government.

Following her mission to Afghanistan (4–12 November) [A/HRC/29/27/Add.3], the Special Rapporteur said that the Government had undertaken legal and institutional initiatives to meet its human rights obligations and address the situation of women and girls. Despite continued challenges, political commitments to protect and promote human rights continued to be highlighted through the Bonn process, the Kabul Conference, the Tokyo Conference and the 2014 London Conference. Those commitments, however, had not translated into concrete improvements in the lives of the majority of women. The Rapporteur reiterated and expanded on key recommendations made by her predecessors in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 668] and 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 852], many of which remained relevant.

In June [A/HRC/26/38/Add.4] and October [A/HRC/26/38/Add.6], respectively, India and Azerbaijan submitted their comments on the Special Rapporteur's report on her visit to those countries in 2013 [YUN 2013, pp. 714 & 715].

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/15)], the Council urged States and all segments of society to address the harmful attitudes, customs, practices, stereotypes and unequal power relations that underlay and perpetuated violence against women and girls; welcomed the panel discussions on gender stereotyping and on women's human rights in the context of the sustainable development agenda held at the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) session (see p. 749); and requested OHCHR to submit a summary report on the panel recommendations to the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session and the Assembly's sixty-ninth (2014) session.

Female genital mutilation

Panel discussion. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 715], OHCHR submitted a summary report [A/HRC/27/36] on the panel discussion

on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation (FGM), held during the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) session (Geneva, 16 June). There was a consensus among States on the need to eliminate FGM and on the action required to address it. Panellists recommended a greater focus on education for young people on FGM; broader dissemination of international human rights instruments; the development of national action plans; support from communities and local role models in advocacy campaigns; and the involvement of men and boys. The role played by civil society and NGOs was deemed to be critical.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/22)], the Council urged States to condemn all harmful practices that affected women and girls, in particular FGM, whether committed within or outside a medical institution; called on States, the international community and UN system entities to end the medicalization of FGM; and requested the High Commissioner to submit a compilation of good practices and challenges in preventing and eliminating FGM to the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session.

Trafficking in women and girls

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 740], the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (Nigeria), in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/37] reviewing her activities from 1 March 2013 to 1 March 2014 and providing a thematic analysis of the first decade of the mandate. She summarized the achievements of the anti-trafficking movement and identified challenges in developing rights-based responses to trafficking, drawing on the responses of States and partners to a questionnaire she had sent. The Rapporteur made recommendations on how the mandate could contribute to the global movement against human trafficking.

In a March addendum [A/HRC/26/37/Add.2], the Rapporteur provided an in-depth analysis of the first decade of the mandate, 2004–2014.

In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2011, p. 740], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/269] covering her activities from 1 March to 31 July 2014 and assessing the first decade of the mandate. The basic principles on the right to an effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons [YUN 2011, p. 739], which were finalized through consultations with States and other stakeholders and written submissions (see below), were annexed to the report.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/536**).

Mission report. Following her mission to Seychelles (27–31 January) [A/HRC/26/37/Add.7], the Special Rapporteur expressed concern about the absence of legal and policy frameworks, as well as of targeted policies and institutions to prevent and combat trafficking in persons; the lack of comprehensive support for victims of trafficking; the lack of capacity, including front-line officials, law enforcement agents and civil society organizations; and the lack of awareness on the part of the general population with regard to the issue. As a result, the scale of the problem, its trends and scope appeared to be underestimated in the absence of statistical information. The Rapporteur made recommendations to the Government, including on addressing gaps in the anti-trafficking legislative, policy and institutional frameworks; improving the justice system; establishing a comprehensive data collection system on trafficked persons; increasing capacity-building activities for those involved in addressing trafficking issues; and addressing the root causes of trafficking.

Seychelles in June submitted its comments [A/HRC/26/37/Add.8] on that report.

On 28 May [A/HRC/26/37/Add.9] and 11 June [A/HRC/26/37/Add.10 & 11], respectively, Italy, the Bahamas and Belize submitted their comments on the Special Rapporteur's report on her 2013 mission to those countries [YUN 2013, p. 716].

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 721], the High Commissioner in May submitted a summary report [A/HRC/26/18] on the regional and global consultations convened by OHCHR to discuss and collect inputs on the draft basic principles on the right to an effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons. The draft basic principles were revised on the basis of international human rights law and standards, as well as oral inputs and some 30 written submissions received during the consultative process from several stakeholders, including States, experts, participants, intergovernmental bodies and civil society. OHCHR welcomed the basic principles and encouraged the Council to endorse them with a view to States incorporating the principles into their legal framework so that they could become a living tool for practitioners in their daily anti-trafficking work.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/8)], the Council took note of the General Assembly decision to declare 30 July World Day against Trafficking in Persons [YUN 2013, p. 1249]; acknowledged the work of the Special Rapporteur in drafting the basic principles; extended the Rapporteur's mandate for three years; requested the Rapporteur to report annually to the Council and the Assembly; and urged States and subregional, regional and multilateral organizations to develop strategies and action plans to combat trafficking in persons in accordance with a victim-centred approach.

In June, the Human Rights Council appointed Maria Grazia Giammarinaro (Italy) as Special Rapporteur.

Discrimination against women in law and in practice

Working group activities. In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2010, p. 751], the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/39], which summarized its activities since its last report [YUN 2013, p. 716] and addressed the topic of eliminating discrimination against women in economic and social life, with a focus on economic crisis, the priority theme for 2013–2014. The report noted that discriminatory legislation in a number of States continued to obstruct women's enjoyment of equal rights and access to economic opportunity and resources. While a significant number of countries had adopted anti-discrimination measures, those had not resulted in equality of opportunity in women's economic and social lives. Women were disproportionately concentrated in informal and precarious employment and were exposed to multiple forms of discrimination; the wage gap persisted; maternity protections had not been fully implemented; and in many countries women did not have equal rights and access to resources. Austerity measures taken by some States in response to economic crisis had had a disparate impact on women, increasing the precarity of their employment and their burden of unpaid care work. The Working Group called for the establishment of gender-responsive and effective accountability systems at the international, regional and national levels; and called on States to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and international human rights treaties and conventions that guaranteed women's economic and social rights.

Mission reports. Following its visit to Chile (1–9 September) [A/HRC/29/40/Add.1], the Working Group noted that although Chile had made significant progress towards gender equality, there was still a large gap between the principles of equality and the actual rights of women. There were hard cores of resistance to change in relations between the sexes in the country. A cultural shift needed to take place through the adoption and implementation of legislation on equality in order to empower women and eliminate discrimination. The Working Group made recommendations to bolster initiatives aimed at ensuring gender equality and the promotion women's human rights.

Following its mission to Peru (11–19 September) [A/HRC/29/40/Add.2], the Working Group noted that while progress had been made in areas such as the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework, a gap remained between the rhetoric and

the reality. Although in law women had the right to equal treatment in public, political and economic life, there were no effective mechanisms to enable them to file complaints of discrimination. Women had been oppressed and silenced by the prevailing culture of religious conservatism and machismo, which undermined their well-being and especially the full realization of their sexual and reproductive rights. The Working Group made recommendations to strengthen measures designed to guarantee gender equality and the protection of women's rights.

Following its visit to Spain (9–19 December) [A/HRC/29/40/Add.3], the Working Group examined the incidence of gender-based violence and the effectiveness of Government measures adopted to combat it. It reviewed issues regarding women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, highlighted the role of education and media in combating discriminatory stereotypes, identified good practices and noted the achievements made. It concluded with recommendations regarding remaining challenges.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/5)], the Council requested States to take measures to overcome the barriers to women's economic opportunities resulting from maternity and the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work, and called on States and encouraged institutions of global economic governance and business to promote women's equal access to decision-making positions.

Mainstreaming women's human rights

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 6/30 [YUN 2007, p. 787] and 26/15 (see above), OHCHR submitted a summary report [A/HRC/27/73] on the annual full-day discussion on women's human rights held during the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) session (Geneva, 17 June). The meeting comprised two panel discussions: one on the impact of gender stereotypes and gender stereotyping on the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of women's human rights, and another on the intersections between realizing women's rights and achieving sustainable development. Panellists recommended that States take into consideration the diverse needs of all women, and for an approach to address gender stereotyping in all sectors of society, including in education, employment, marriage and family life. The discussion on sustainable development affirmed the importance of ensuring a strong focus on gender equality in the post-2015 universal framework. Many speakers called for a stand-alone goal covering women's human rights. The need to mainstream gender concerns across the entire framework, ensure adequate financing and accountability mechanisms to achieve its goals, and ensure the availability of disaggregated data were emphasized.

By a 3 September note [A/69/369], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the

OHCHR summary report. The Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note on 18 December (**decision 69/531**).

Children

Violence against children

Reports of Special Representative. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/152 [YUN 2012, p. 609], the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, Marta Santos Pais (Portugal), in January submitted her annual report [A/HRC/25/47] which highlighted initiatives aimed at consolidating the human rights foundation of children's freedom from violence through the ratification and implementation of international standards; accelerating progress towards a world free from violence; placing children's protection from violence at the centre of the UN development agenda beyond 2015; and enhancing awareness to strengthen children's protection from violence, with a special focus on promoting restorative justice for children. The Representative concluded that restorative justice represented a paradigm shift in how justice for children and young people was perceived in many countries. It promoted the accountability and reintegration of children who had committed an offence through a non-adversarial and voluntary process based on dialogue and problem solving.

In response to Assembly resolution 68/147 [YUN 2013, p. 603], the Special Representative in August submitted to the Assembly a report [A/69/264] that reviewed the strategic initiatives that she had developed to advance the implementation of the recommendations of the UN study on violence against children [YUN 2006, p. 916]. Those initiatives had helped to consolidate cross-regional commitments to children's protection from violence and strengthen national advocacy, legal and policy action aimed at preventing and eliminating violence.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/532**).

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/10)], the Council urged States to protect children from all forms of violence or abuse; decided to convene a panel discussion at its twenty-seventh (2014) session on accelerating global efforts to end violence against children, with a particular focus on how to better prevent violence and protect children as a global priority and cross-cutting concern; and requested the High Commissioner to organize the panel discussion and submit a summary report to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 25/10 (see above), the High Commissioner submitted a summary report [A/HRC/28/34] of the panel discussion on accelerating global efforts to end violence against children (Geneva, 23 September) con-

vened at the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session. Panellists focused on the need to assess the underlying causes of violence against children; address the impact of traditional practices and culture on the realization of children's rights; tailor solutions to individual situations rather than apply a "one-size-fits-all" approach; address birth registration in order to make children visible; and ensure that violence against children was central to the post-2015 development agenda.

Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2012, p. 723], the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid (Morocco), submitted a report [A/HRC/25/48] covering the activities since her previous report [YUN 2013, p. 717] and reviewing the main issues relating to the mandate and lessons learned during her six-year tenure. She noted that even though the issue had gained visibility over the past years, millions of children worldwide were still victims of sexual exploitation. The phenomenon had become increasingly complex, with risk factors growing and multiplying. Impunity, social tolerance for such crimes, corruption and precarious socioeconomic situations remained among the most challenging obstacles. Strategies aimed at preventing and combating the phenomenon needed to be constantly reviewed and laws, action plans and strategies needed to be translated into concrete actions, with adequate funding and capacities to be fully operational. The Rapporteur recommended the inclusion of child-sensitive social protection in the post-2015 development agenda; underlined the need to strengthen child-rights strategies; and invited States to put in place child rights-centred protection systems.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/147, the Secretary-General in August transmitted the first report [A/69/262] of the new Special Rapporteur, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio (The Netherlands), appointed by the Council on 8 May. The report provided information on activities undertaken by her predecessor from August 2013 to May 2014 and her own activities from June to August 2014. The Rapporteur outlined her approach to the mandate and the methods of work. She would closely follow negotiations on sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda to ensure that child protection issues were included in the outcome document.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/532**).

Mission report. Following her mission to Honduras (21–25 April) [A/HRC/28/56/Add.1] to assess progress since 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 723], the Special Rapporteur noted that although most of her recommendations remained valid, she urged the State to

prioritize three sets of recommendations: establish an integrated child protection system by means of a comprehensive framework and strategic plan; provide the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family with the budget it needed to perform its coordinating and supervisory functions; and create a framework for cooperation in implementing the child protection policy, with the support of international cooperation agencies and the UN system.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/6)], the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a three-year period.

Child, early and forced marriage

OHCHR report. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 718], OHCHR in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/22 & Corr.1] on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, which took into consideration 110 replies received as at 17 March from UN agencies, civil society groups, other stakeholders and 31 States. According to UNICEF estimates, in 2012, approximately 400 million women aged 20–49 worldwide (41 per cent of the total population of women in that age group) had been married or entered into a union before they reached 18 years of age. The United Nations Population Fund reported that the rate of marriage for girls before the age of 18 in developing countries (not including China) was one in three. The report concluded that despite progress made, challenges remained in the adoption and implementation of laws, policies and strategies to address the factors which allowed child marriage to persist and prevented women from marrying a spouse of their choice, including cultural attitudes supporting the practice. It was recommended that national policies and strategies be developed and implemented with the involvement of national and local government departments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. Policy and protection measures should be part of broader efforts to promote equality and eliminate discrimination against women and girls.

By a 22 July note [A/69/166], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the OHCHR report. The Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note on 18 December (**decision 69/532**).

Panel discussion. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 718], OHCHR submitted a summary report [A/HRC/27/34] on the panel discussion on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, with a particular focus on challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps (Geneva, 23 June), held at the Council's twenty-sixth (2014) session. The panellists concluded that further action was necessary to tackle the problem from a human rights perspective; approaches should address the root causes of child, early and forced marriage, including poverty and gender inequality; girls should

have access to education and services, including on sexual and reproductive health, and child, early and forced marriage should be featured in the post-2015 development agenda.

By a 22 July note [A/69/165], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the summary report. The Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note on 18 December (**decision 69/532**).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/484], adopted **resolution 69/156** without vote [agenda item 64 (a)].

Child, early and forced marriage

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 68/148 of 18 December 2013 on child, early and forced marriage,

Recalling its resolutions 66/140 of 19 December 2011 and 68/146 of 18 December 2013 on the girl child and 67/144 of 20 December 2012 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 24/23 of 27 September 2013, entitled "Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps", and all other previous resolutions relating to child, early and forced marriage,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as other relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, together with the relevant Optional Protocols thereto,

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

Recalling the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of 2 April 2014 on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage and its summary report of 18 July 2014 on the panel discussion on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, and noting the summary report on the panel discussion held by the General Assembly on 5 September 2014,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice that violates, abuses and impairs human rights and is linked to and perpetuates other harmful practices and human rights violations and that such violations have a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls, and underscoring the human rights obligations and commitments of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and

to prevent and eliminate the practice of child, early and forced marriage,

Deeply concerned about the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage worldwide, including the fact that approximately 15 million girls are married every year before they reach 18 years of age and that more than 700 million women and girls alive today were married before their eighteenth birthday,

Noting with concern that the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage has had a negative impact on the achievement and the overarching aims of Millennium Development Goals 1 to 6, including in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, poverty reduction, education, maternal and child mortality and health, including sexual and reproductive health, and recognizing that child, early and forced marriage continues to impair sustainable development, inclusive economic growth and social cohesion,

Noting with concern also that poverty and insecurity are among the root causes of child, early and forced marriage and that child, early and forced marriage remains common in rural areas and among the poorest communities, and recognizing that the immediate alleviation and eventual eradication of extreme poverty must remain a high priority for the international community,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage is itself a barrier to development and helps to perpetuate the cycle of poverty and that the risk of child, early and forced marriage is also exacerbated in conflict and humanitarian crisis situations,

Recognizing also that child, early and forced marriage is inherently linked to deep-rooted gender inequalities, norms and stereotypes and to harmful practices, perceptions and customs that are obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights and that the persistence of child, early and forced marriage places children, in particular the girl child, at risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence throughout their lives,

Recognizing further that child, early and forced marriage undermines women's and girls' autonomy and decision-making in all aspects of their lives and continues to be an impediment to improvements in the education and the economic and social status of women and girls in all parts of the world and that the empowerment of and investment in women and girls is critical for economic growth, including the eradication of poverty, as well as the meaningful participation of girls in all decisions that affect them,

Noting with concern that child, early and forced marriage disproportionately affects girls who have received little or no formal education and is itself a significant obstacle to educational opportunities for girls and young women, in particular girls who are forced to drop out of school owing to marriage and/or childbirth, and recognizing that educational opportunities are directly related to women's and girls' empowerment, employment and economic opportunities and to their active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage constitutes a serious threat to multiple aspects of the physical and psychological health of women and girls, including but not limited to their sexual and reproductive health, significantly increasing the risk of early, frequent and unintended

pregnancy, maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, as well as increasing vulnerability to all forms of violence, and that every girl and woman at risk of or affected by these practices must have equal access to quality services such as education, counselling, shelter and other social services, psychological, sexual and reproductive health-care services and medical care,

1. *Urges* all States to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage and protecting those at risk and to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses;

2. *Calls upon* States, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, including girls, religious and community leaders, civil society, women's and human rights groups, men and boys and youth organizations, to develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and coordinated responses and strategies to eliminate child, early and forced marriage and to support already married girls, adolescents and women, including through the strengthening of child protection systems, protection mechanisms such as safe shelters, access to justice and the sharing of best practices across borders;

3. *Calls upon* States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of women and girls is ensured by, inter alia, cooperating, supporting and participating in efforts for the eradication of extreme poverty, and reaffirms that investment in women and girls and the protection of their rights are among the most effective ways to end the practice of child, early and forced marriage;

4. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect the right of women and girls to education through enhanced emphasis on quality education, including catch-up and literacy education for those who have not received formal education, while recognizing that education is one of the most effective ways to prevent and end child, early and forced marriage and to help married women and girls to make more informed choices about their lives;

5. *Urges* Governments to promote and protect the human rights of all women, including their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, and to adopt and accelerate the implementation of laws, policies and programmes that protect and enable the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

6. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies to continue to collaborate with and support Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies at the national, regional and international levels to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, as well as to support already married girls, adolescents and women;

7. *Recalls* the inclusion of a target on eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, recognizes child, early

and forced marriage as a barrier to development and the full realization of women's and girls' human rights, and recognizes the need to give due consideration to the inclusion of the target in the post-2015 development agenda in order to help to ensure progress towards the elimination of child, early and forced marriage;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly, before the end of its seventieth session, on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide since the issuance of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of 2 April 2014, with particular emphasis on high-prevalence countries, best practices for programmes aimed at ending the practice and supporting already married women and girls, gaps in research and implementation and legal reforms and policies related to this matter, using information provided by Member States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

9. *Decides* to consider the issue of child, early and forced marriage at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", taking into account the multifaceted and worldwide nature of the issue of child, early and forced marriage.

Child mortality

OHCHR report. In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 719], OHCHR in June presented a report [A/HRC/27/31] containing technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age. The technical guidance was prepared by OHCHR in collaboration with WHO and with an external advisory group of human rights and child health experts, and was informed by input from States, national human rights institutions and civil society. OHCHR encouraged the implementation of the technical guidance at the national and subnational levels. States were encouraged to consider the technical guidance in their deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, and in the implementation and monitoring of the new development goals.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/14)], the Council, concerned that more than 6.3 million children under 5 years of age died each year, mostly from preventable and treatable causes, urged States to disseminate and apply the technical guidance (see above); called on States to strengthen their international commitment, cooperation and mutual assistance to reduce and eliminate preventable child mortality and morbidity; and requested the High Commissioner to submit to the Council's thirty-third (2016) session a report on the application of the technical guidance and its impact on the development and implementation of policies and programmes in States.

Birth registration and right to recognition

OHCHR report. In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 719], OHCHR in June presented a report [A/HRC/27/22] which reviewed the global rates of birth registration, a universal human right recognized in international instruments; considered the consequences and impact of non-registration on human rights, particularly since the right to be registered at birth was closely linked to the realization of many other rights; analysed the barriers to access to birth registration; and provided examples of good practices. OHCHR noted that the universal implementation of the right to birth registration for all was fundamental to the protection of children and the implementation of their rights. One of the most basic institutional responsibilities of a Government was to provide a person with a legal identity, which was central to good governance. The report concluded with recommendations to ensure the universal implementation of that right.

Right of child to engage in play

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/15)], the Council acknowledged the fundamental importance of the right of children to engage in play and recreational activities for their well-being, health and development; encouraged States to respect, protect, promote and fulfil that right; and recommended that the celebration of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (6 April) emphasize, through specific events, the right of the child to engage in play and recreational activities.

Investment in child rights

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/6)], the Council decided to focus its next (2015) full-day meeting on the rights of the child on the theme, “Towards better investment in the rights of the child”, and invited the High Commissioner to present a report on that issue to the Council’s twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Children and armed conflict

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2068(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 724], the Secretary-General in May submitted a report [A/68/878-S/2014/339] on children and armed conflict, covering developments in 2013. Two annexes listed those parties that recruited or used children, killed or maimed children, committed rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, or engaged in attacks on schools and/or hospitals in situations of armed conflict. The report provided information on grave violations committed against children dur-

ing armed conflict and progress made by parties on dialogue, action plans and other measures to halt and prevent violations. It concluded with recommendations to States, parties listed in the annexes, the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations.

Security Council consideration. On 7 March [S/PV.7129], the Council held an open debate on children and armed conflict. It had before it a 1 March concept note [S/2014/144] on the topic submitted by Luxembourg. Addressing the meeting, the Secretary-General observed that, given a chance, former child soldiers could rebuild their lives and help to build peace in their countries. He welcomed the launch on 7 March of the “Children, not soldiers” campaign, which was supported by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (see below), UNICEF and other partners, and noted that the States concerned had renewed their commitment to the action plans.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 7 March [meeting 7129], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2143(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/149] was submitted by 47 Member States.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1261(1999) of 25 August 1999, 1314(2000) of 11 August 2000, 1379(2001) of 20 November 2001, 1460(2003) of 30 January 2003, 1539(2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011 and 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012, and the statements by its President of 24 July 2006, 28 November 2006, 12 February 2008, 17 July 2008, 29 April 2009, 16 June 2010 and 17 June 2013, which contribute to a comprehensive framework for addressing the protection of children affected by armed conflict,

Acknowledging that its resolutions 1612(2005), 1882(2009), 1998(2011) and 2068(2012) and the statements by its President on children and armed conflict have generated progress in preventing and responding to violations and abuses committed against children, in particular in the demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of thousands of children, the signing of action plans between parties to armed conflict and the United Nations and the delisting of parties to conflict from the annexes to the annual report of the Secretary-General,

Remaining deeply concerned, however, over the lack of progress on the ground in some situations of concern, where parties to conflict continue to violate with impunity the relevant provisions of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict,

Recalling that all parties to armed conflict must comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international law for the protection of children in armed conflict, including those contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict, as well as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,

Noting that article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the right of the child to education and sets forth obligations for States parties to the Convention, with a view to progressively achieving this right on the basis of equal opportunity,

Expressing deep concern about the military use of schools by armed forces and non-State armed groups in contravention of applicable international law, including their use as military barracks, weapons storage facilities, command centres, detention and interrogation sites and firing and observation positions,

Expressing further concern regarding the high number of children that are being killed and maimed in conflict and post-conflict situations by landmines, explosive remnants of war, improvised explosive devices and other unexploded ordnance,

Convinced that the protection of children in armed conflict should be an important aspect of any comprehensive strategy to resolve conflict and build peace,

Recalling the responsibility of all Member States to comply with their respective obligations to end impunity and to investigate and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children, and noting that the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern committed against children has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes by the International Criminal Court, ad hoc and mixed tribunals and specialized chambers in national tribunals,

Acknowledging the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, and noting that, in line with the provisions in article 7, paragraph 4, of the Treaty, exporting States parties shall take into account the risk of covered conventional arms or items being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of violence against children,

Reiterating its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this connection, its commitment to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on children,

Stressing the primary role of Governments in providing protection and relief to all children affected by armed conflict, recognizing the importance of strengthening national capacities in this regard, and reiterating that all action undertaken by United Nations entities within the framework of the monitoring and reporting mechanism must be designed to support and supplement, as appropriate, the protection and rehabilitation roles of national Governments,

Recognizing further that capacity-building for the protection of children affected by armed conflict is a process that must begin from the earliest days of international engagement,

Emphasizing the vital role of the United Nations, in consultation with international partners, to support national authorities in consolidating peace and in developing strategies for peacebuilding priorities as well as to ensure that these strategies strengthen coherence between political, security, human rights, development and rule of law activities,

Recognizing the crucial role of child protection advisers in mainstreaming child protection and leading monitoring, prevention and reporting efforts in relevant United

Nations peacekeeping missions, political missions and peacebuilding offices in accordance with their mandate, including advice for and close cooperation and coordination between the missions, the United Nations Children's Fund and specialized non-governmental organizations for child demobilization and integration and prevention of recruitment,

Underlining the importance of providing military, police and civilian peacekeepers with adequate predeployment and in-mission training on mission-specific child protection issues and on appropriate comprehensive prevention and protection responses,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, and commending in this regard the declaration signed on 17 September 2013 by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission, in order to mainstream protection mechanisms in all peace and security activities of the African Union, in close partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as the European Union Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, including its Checklist for the Integration of the Protection of Children affected by Armed Conflict into European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Operations, and the development by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, in close collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, of training courses and military guidelines on children and armed conflict,

1. *Strongly condemns* all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict, as well as their recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, attacks against schools or hospitals and denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict and all other violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, committed against children in situations of armed conflict, and demands that all relevant parties immediately put an end to such practices and take special measures to protect children;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to devise ways, in close consultation with the United Nations country-level task force on monitoring and reporting and United Nations country teams, to facilitate the development and implementation of time-bound action plans and the review and monitoring by the United Nations country-level task force of obligations and commitments relating to the protection of children affected by armed conflict;

3. *Reiterates* the value of interministerial committees as a successful framework for partnership with concerned Governments to discuss and follow up on child protection commitments, and encourages those Governments, with the support of the United Nations, to utilize those committees to foster action plan implementation;

4. *Stresses* the importance of regular and timely consideration of violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, including through incorporating, where appropriate, a children and armed conflict dimension in the terms of reference of Security Council field visits, and invites its Working Group on Children and

Armed Conflict to make full use of its toolkit in the light of ongoing discussions on enhancing compliance, and in this regard to continue to consider the issue of persistent perpetrators and action plan implementation;

5. *Recalls* the fact that the conscription or enlistment of children under the age of 15 or using them to participate actively in hostilities in both international and non-international armed conflict constitutes a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and notes that the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict requires States parties to set a minimum age of 18 for compulsory recruitment and participation in hostilities and to raise the minimum age for voluntary recruitment from that set out in article 38, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities;

6. *Welcomes*, in this context, the campaign “Children, Not Soldiers” initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Children’s Fund, in collaboration with other United Nations partners, with a view to ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children by government armed forces in conflict by 2016;

7. *Urges*, in this regard, concerned Governments to undertake all efforts in order to ensure that no children are in their ranks in conflict, in particular through the development and implementation of time-bound action plans, and calls upon Member States, all relevant United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and the donor community to support in their various capacities the campaign “Children, Not Soldiers”, recognizing that its goal can only be attained through partnership and active involvement of all;

8. *Invites* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to inform the Council about the campaign “Children, Not Soldiers”, including about process and progress in delisting concerned parties;

9. *Further urges* Member States, United Nations entities and other parties concerned to ensure that child protection provisions, including those relating to the release and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups, are integrated into all peace negotiations and peace agreements;

10. *Reiterates* its readiness to adopt targeted and graduated measures against persistent perpetrators of violations and abuses committed against children, taking into account the relevant provisions of resolutions 1539(2004), 1612(2005), 1882(2009), 1998(2011) and 2068(2012), and to consider including provisions pertaining to parties to armed conflict that engage in activities in violation of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflicts, when establishing, modifying or renewing the mandate of relevant sanctions regimes;

11. *Stresses* the need to exclude genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children from amnesty laws and other similar provisions, and strongly encourages concerned States to establish a vetting mechanism to ensure that those responsible for such crimes are not included in the ranks of the army or other security forces;

12. *Emphasizes* the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to investigate and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children, and highlights in this regard the contribution of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity to national criminal jurisdictions as set out in the Rome Statute;

13. *Urges* concerned Member States, when undertaking security sector reforms, to mainstream child protection, such as the establishment of child protection units in national security forces and of effective age assessment mechanisms to prevent underage recruitment, while stressing in this regard the importance of ensuring universal birth registration, including late birth registration;

14. *Further urges* all parties concerned, including Member States and United Nations entities as well as financial institutions, to support, as appropriate, bearing in mind national ownership, the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions and local civil society networks for advocacy, protection and rehabilitation of children affected by armed conflict as well as national accountability mechanisms, including building investigative and prosecutorial capacities and the adoption of legislation criminalizing violations and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to pursue efforts to coalesce the donor community in order to address funding gaps, and encourages bilateral, regional and international partners to provide financial and capacity-building support in this regard, including for education during conflict and post-conflict periods;

16. *Recalls* the importance of ensuring that children continue to have access to basic services during conflict and post-conflict periods, including education and health care;

17. *Reiterates its deep concern* about attacks as well as threats of attacks in contravention of applicable international law against schools and/or hospitals and protected persons in relation to them, as well as the closure of schools and hospitals in situations of armed conflict as a result of attacks and threats of attacks, and urges all parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede the access of children to education and health services;

18. *Expresses deep concern* at the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law, recognizing that such use may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering the safety of children and teachers as well as the education of children, and in this regard:

(a) *Urges* all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools in accordance with international humanitarian law;

(b) *Encourages* Member States to consider concrete measures to deter the use of schools by armed forces and armed non-State groups in contravention of applicable international law;

(c) *Urges* Member States to ensure that attacks on schools in contravention of international humanitarian law are investigated and those responsible duly prosecuted;

(d) *Calls upon* United Nations country-level task forces to enhance monitoring of and reporting on the military use of schools;

19. *Recalls* the obligations of all parties to an armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, to ensure that the wounded and sick, including children, receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required by their condition and to respect and protect medical and health personnel, facilities, transports and activities in accordance with international humanitarian law;

20. *Recommends* that Member States include child protection in military training and standard operating procedures, as well as in military guidance as appropriate, and recommends further that United Nations entities and United Nations peacekeeping troop-and police-contributing countries undertake targeted and operational trainings for the preparation of United Nations mission personnel, including troop and police contingents, on their contribution in preventing violations against children so as to give all mission personnel the ability to effectively recognize, report and respond to violations and abuses committed against children and to successfully support child protection activities for better implementation of their respective mandates;

21. *Urges* all United Nations entities, including peacekeeping missions, political missions, peacebuilding offices, United Nations offices, agencies, funds and programmes, to give full attention to violations against children in the application of the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;

22. *Urges* Member States, United Nations entities, including the Peacebuilding Commission, and other parties concerned to ensure that post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning, programmes and strategies give due priority to issues concerning children affected by armed conflict;

23. *Urges* relevant United Nations entities to continue to take concrete steps to reduce the impact of mines, unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war on children by prioritizing mine clearance, risk education and risk reduction activities;

24. *Decides* to continue the inclusion of specific provisions for the protection of children in the mandates of all relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations and political missions, encourages deployment of child protection advisers to such missions, and calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure that the need for and the number and roles of such advisers are systematically assessed during the preparation and renewal of each United Nations peacekeeping operation and political mission and encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat to take into account child protection when briefing the Council on country-specific situations;

25. *Encourages* pertinent regional and subregional organizations and arrangements to help to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on children, invites them to continue the mainstreaming of child protection into their advocacy, policies, programmes and mission planning and the development and expansion of guidelines to protect children affected by armed conflict, as well as the training of personnel and the inclusion of child protection staff in their peacekeeping and field operations, and reiterates its call for the establishment of child protection mechanisms within their secretariats, including through the appointment of child protection focal points;

26. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that, in all his reports on country-specific situations, the matter of children and armed conflict is included as a specific aspect of the report;

27. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Reports of Special Representative. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/152 [YUN 2012, p. 609], the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui (Algeria), submitted an annual report [A/HRC/25/46], which covered the period from May 2012 to December 2013 and outlined the progress achieved in developing and implementing action plans, as well as the challenges of the children and armed conflict agenda. She acknowledged the progress made with regard to cooperation with regional organizations and in the development and implementation of international law to protect children's rights, yet also noted the ongoing impunity for grave violations against children. The Representative reiterated her call on States to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict; to enact legislation to prohibit and criminalize the recruitment of children into armed forces or groups; and to establish 18 years as the minimum age for voluntary recruitment.

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/147 [YUN 2013, p. 603], the Special Representative in July submitted a report [A/69/212] on activities undertaken and progress achieved from August 2013 to July 2014. It described trends, issues of concern and progress made at both the policy and operational levels, including the mainstreaming of child protection issues within the UN system. The Representative made recommendations for States to seek alternatives to the prosecution and detention of children for their alleged association with armed groups; for States that were the focus of the "Children, not soldiers" campaign to redouble their efforts towards compliance with their commitments; and for States, regional organizations and parties to conflict to protect schools and hospitals and to deter the military use of schools.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 18 December (**decision 69/532**).

Working Group activities. In December [S/2014/914], the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict reported on the Working Group's activities since its last report [YUN 2013, p. 722]. It held 10 meetings in 2014 (14 February, 1 May, 2, 6 and 20 June, 7 and 21 July, 19 September, 26 November and 8 December), during which it adopted conclusions on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo [S/AC.51/2014/3], Mali [S/AC.51/2014/2], the Philippines [S/AC.51/2014/1] and the Syrian Arab Republic [S/AC.51/2014/4].

On the basis of the Working Group's conclusions, the Security Council President sent letters to the Secretary-General on the Democratic Republic of the Congo [S/2014/809], Mali [S/2014/588] and the Philippines [S/2014/150].

The family

Human Rights Council action. On 26 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/11)], by a recorded vote of 26 to 14, with 6 abstentions, the Council reaffirmed that the family was the natural and fundamental group unit of society and was entitled to protection by society and the State; decided to convene a panel discussion on the protection of the family and its members at its twenty-seventh (2014) session; and requested the High Commissioner to submit a summary report to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 26/11 (see above), OHCHR submitted a summary report [A/HRC/28/40 & Corr.1, 2] of the panel discussion on the protection of the family and its members (Geneva, 15 September) held at the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session. Participants emphasized the importance of families as key means of ensuring welfare and stability, promoting traditional values and protecting human rights. They also recognized the need to focus on the protection of individuals' rights within the family, observing that human rights abuses might be experienced in the family by more vulnerable family members such as women, children and the elderly. The importance of recognizing the diversity of families, which could include same-sex unions, single parents and adoptive or foster parents, was also acknowledged.

Older persons

Report of Independent Expert. In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 722], the first Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Rosa Kornfeld-Matte (Chile), appointed by the Council on 8 May, submitted her first annual report [A/HRC/27/46], which described the activities undertaken since she took office on 2 June, her views about the foundations and context of the mandate, as well as some preliminary considerations that would inform her work. Emphasizing her desire for constructive engagement with UN Member States, she reiterated the importance of an inclusive and all-encompassing approach in the discharge of her mandate, and noted the central role of NGOs, including in providing her with information and engaging with and assisting her.

Mission report. Following her visit to Slovenia (17–21 November) [A/HRC/30/43/Add.1], the Independent Expert identified both best practices and gaps in the implementation of existing laws; as-

sessed the implementation of international instruments, as well as law and policies; and analysed the challenges faced, paying particular attention to ostracized persons and groups. The Expert noted that the impressive number of normative actions, policy support and societal initiatives, as well as government measures, had contributed to the relatively high human rights standard enjoyed by the majority of older persons. Recognizing that Slovenia had a good normative framework, she noted that there was room for improvement in practice and that some of the relevant laws had not been fully implemented.

Internally displaced persons

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 724], the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), Chaloka Beyani (Zambia), in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/33 & Corr.1] which reviewed his activities from January 2013 to March 2014, analysed the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) [YUN 2009, p. 1207], examined the progress made in its implementation and offered recommendations to maximize its potential. The Rapporteur recommended that States address internal displacement and ensure the implementation of the Kampala Convention.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/180 [YUN 2013, p. 724], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/69/295], which outlined his activities from August 2013 to July 2014 and addressed the challenge of finding durable solutions for IDPs in urban settings. He concluded that durable solutions remained available options for IDPs, including those in urban settings. The very nature of urban displacement, however, tended to lend weight to local integration as the viable choice preferred by IDPs in urban areas. The Rapporteur made recommendations addressed to States, national and municipal authorities, donor States and international organizations.

Mission reports. Following his follow-up mission to Azerbaijan (19–24 May) [A/HRC/29/34/Add.1] to assess progress since 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 758], the Special Rapporteur said that the Government had made commendable progress in providing durable housing for IDPs, especially with the construction of new settlements that were all equipped with modern facilities. One of the main obstacles to the search for durable solutions for IDPs, including return to their homes or places of origin, remained the absence of a political settlement to the unresolved armed conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region. In that connection, the Rapporteur called on all parties to step up efforts towards reaching a political settlement.

Following his visit to Haiti (29 June–5 July) [A/HRC/29/34/Add.2] to assess progress since the January 2010 earthquake [YUN 2010, p. 930], the Special Rapporteur called for a transition from a largely humanitarian approach to a development rights-based approach, and for solutions for IDPs along with the vulnerable segments of the population. He stressed that the closure of IDP camps, to which the Government had given priority, did not mean that durable solutions had been found. One of the main obstacles to finding solutions remained the extreme poverty from which a large portion of the population suffered, and which particularly affected those displaced by the earthquake. Other concerns included the absence of a protection-sensitive approach to the issue of displacement, the lack of coherent urban planning and of a cadastre, and the persistent instability, in part due to poor rule of law. The Rapporteur concluded the report with a number of recommendations.

Following his visit to Ukraine (16–25 September) [A/HRC/29/34/Add.3] to examine the situation of IDPs following the political upheavals and conflict that had affected, in particular, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the eastern regions of Luhansk and Donetsk, the Special Rapporteur stated that the Government must exercise primary responsibility, establish more effective systems and step up its efforts to meet the needs of IDPs. Ukraine was urged to learn from the experiences of similar IDP situations in other countries where internal displacement had become protracted. It should put in place policies, frameworks, support structures and programmes to move towards a situation in which protection and assistance were linked to durable solutions.

In April and June, respectively, South Sudan [A/HRC/26/33/Add.5] and Sri Lanka [A/HRC/26/33/Add.6] submitted their comments on the Special Rapporteur's reports on his visits to those countries [YUN 2013, p. 723].

Persons with disabilities

OHCHR report. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 618], OHCHR in April submitted a report [A/HRC/26/24] focusing on activities undertaken by the Office, the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other UN agencies and regional organizations to support States' efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in their national legislation, policies and programmes, including to mainstream disability in development efforts, and suggesting a way forward.

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/20)], the Council welcomed the OHCHR study on the right of persons with disabilities to education [YUN 2013, p. 727], called on stakeholders to consider the study's recommendations and urged States to eliminate accessibility barriers to education.

It decided that its next annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities would be held at its twenty-eighth (2015) session and would focus on article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on living independently and being included in the community, and requested OHCHR to submit a study on the topic prior to that session. The Council noted expiry of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development on 31 December 2014 and the Commission's decision to consider the possibility, at its fifty-third (2015) session, of another monitoring mechanism.

On 27 June [res. 26/20], the Council reaffirmed the obligation of States to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities and to promote and protect their human rights. It also decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities with a mandate to consult with States and other stakeholders to identify, exchange and promote good practices relating to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities; request, receive and exchange communications on violations of their rights; make recommendations on promoting and protecting their rights; and report annually to the Council starting from its twenty-eighth (2015) session, and to the General Assembly.

In November, the Council appointed Catalina Devandas Aguilar (Costa Rica) as the first Special Rapporteur.

Indigenous peoples

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2010, p. 761], the new Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli Corpuz (Philippines), who was appointed by the Council on 8 May, submitted her first report [A/HRC/27/52] to the Council in August. The report presented some preliminary reflections on the status of operationalization of international standards in the field and her vision for her work. While there had been many advances, many challenges continued to confront indigenous peoples worldwide. Obstacles included the failure or reluctance of governments to recognize indigenous peoples; challenges in developing practical implementation measures; reconciliation and redress for historical wrongs yet to be completed; negative attitudes towards indigenous peoples on the part of broader societies in which they lived; and social and economic conditions preventing the full exercise of indigenous rights. The Rapporteur intended to focus on issues surrounding the economic, social, cultural and environmental rights of indigenous peoples.

In a 3 September report [A/HRC/27/52/Add.4], the former Special Rapporteur, James Anaya (United States), provided information on communications

sent as at 1 June 2013 and replies received as at 31 May 2014 concerning 22 countries.

In accordance with a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 728.], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the new Special Rapporteur's first report [A/69/267] to the General Assembly. Given that the Assembly was reviewing and adopting the post-2015 development agenda, including global sustainable development goals, the Rapporteur provided some thoughts on that issue for indigenous peoples, in the hope that her comments might guide Member States and others as they reflected on development priorities.

Mission report. Following her visit to Paraguay (21–28 November) [A/HRC/30/41/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur noted that while it had a constitutional framework in which the rights of indigenous peoples were recognized, that framework had not been translated into the legislative, administrative and other measures needed to ensure the enjoyment of those rights. There was a widespread lack of legal protection for indigenous peoples' rights over their lands, territories and resources, which were vital to ensure their survival and uphold their dignity. That situation, she observed, gave rise to numerous conflicts and human rights violations, which the Government should regard as an emergency situation. The Rapporteur made a series of recommendations to the Government.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2013, p. 728], the High Commissioner in June reported [A/HRC/27/30] on the activities of OHCHR and human rights bodies and mechanisms between May 2013 and April 2014 for the promotion and application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples [YUN 2007, p. 691].

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/13)], the Council requested the High Commissioner to report annually to the Council on the rights of indigenous peoples and requested the Special Rapporteur to report to the Assembly's seventieth (2015) session. It requested the Expert Mechanism (see below) to submit a study on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples with respect to their cultural heritage to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session; continue the questionnaire survey on best practices and implementation strategies to attain the Declaration's goals; and present a final summary of responses to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session. The Council also decided to hold, at its thirtieth (2015) session, a half-day panel discussion on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (see p. 888).

Expert Mechanism

The five-member Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at its seventh session (Geneva, 7–11 July) [A/HRC/27/64], held a half-day session to

discuss the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014), a panel discussion on post-2015 development agenda and a discussion on the follow-up to thematic studies and advice. It adopted the proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh (2014) session; the Expert Mechanism's follow-up study and advice on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples [A/HRC/EMRIP/2014/3/Rev.1]; the study and advice on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness initiatives [A/HRC/EMRIP/2014/2]; and the final summary of responses to a questionnaire [A/HRC/EMRIP/2014/4] (see below). Discussions on the Declaration included a panel discussion on the role of parliaments in implementing the Declaration.

As requested by the Human Rights Council [YUN 2013, p. 728], the Expert Mechanism in July submitted a report [A/HRC/27/67], which contained the final summary of responses to the questionnaire seeking the views of States and indigenous peoples on best practices regarding possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies to attain the goals of the Declaration. Responses to the questionnaire were received from 25 States and 18 indigenous peoples' organizations.

In August, the Expert Mechanism submitted the study [A/HRC/27/65] on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, which examined barriers and remedies in access to justice for indigenous women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities; addressed restorative justice and its role in achieving peace and reconciliation; and concluded with Expert Mechanism Advice No. 6: Restorative justice, indigenous juridical systems and access to justice for indigenous women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities.

Also in August, the Expert Mechanism submitted the study [A/HRC/27/66] on promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness initiatives. The study explored the links between disaster risk reduction and human rights; analysed factors placing indigenous peoples at risk of being affected by disasters; proposed ways to increase indigenous peoples' participation in disaster risk reduction initiatives; and concluded with Expert Mechanism Advice No. 7: Promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

The Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, at its twenty-seventh session (Geneva, 17–21 February) [A/69/278], allocated 25 grants to support the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and

communities in the thirteenth session of the Permanent Forum, 20 grants to attend the seventh session of the Expert Mechanism and three grants to attend sessions of other bodies. Between December 2013 and June 2014, nine States contributed \$471,321 to the Fund.

Second International Decade

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/153 [YUN 2012, p. 732], the Secretary-General in August submitted the final report [A/69/271] on progress made in the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005–2014) [YUN 2004, p. 799], which followed assessments in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 762] and 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 732]. The final report provided examples of efforts to achieve the objectives of the Programme of Action for the Decade [YUN 2005, p. 879], and analysed the impact of the Second Decade on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. While there had been some progress in achieving the goals of the Decade, a substantial gap remained between the formal recognition of indigenous peoples and the implementation of policies on the ground. The Secretary-General concluded that the post-2015 development agenda provided an opportunity to develop indicators to measure the progress of development initiatives that addressed the needs of indigenous peoples. The report would also serve as input to the preparatory process for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (see p. 888).

Trust Fund for Second International Decade

On 8–9 May, the Bureau of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, acting as the Advisory Group for the projects for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, decided to fund projects in 15 countries in the 2014 round.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The 16-member Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, at its thirteenth session (New York, 12–23 May) [E/2014/43 & Corr.1], considered as its special theme “Principles of good governance consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: articles 3 to 6 and 46”. It had before it reports [E/C.19/2014/1–10] submitted by its secretariat and subsidiary mechanisms, Governments, UN system bodies, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and NGOs. The Forum recommended five draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council on: an international expert group meeting on the theme “Dialogue on an optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”; report of the Forum on its thirteenth session and provisional agenda for its

fourteenth session; venue and dates of the fourteenth session; changing the name of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and an additional one-day meeting. The Forum identified proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible action and, through the Council, recommended that States, UN system entities, intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and NGOs assist in their realization. The Forum issued recommendations and held half-day discussions on the Asian Region and on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Economic and Social Council action. On 16 July, the Economic and Social Council authorized an international expert group meeting on the theme “Dialogue on an optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (**decision 2014/243**); decided that further discussion was needed on the change of name of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the “Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (**decision 2014/246**); decided that an additional one-day meeting would be organized for members of the Permanent Forum to discuss methods of work (**decision 2014/247**); took note of the report of the Permanent Forum on its thirteenth session and approved the provisional agenda for its fourteenth session (**decision 2014/245**); and decided that the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum would be held in New York from 20 April to 1 May 2015 (**decision 2014/244**).

Expert meetings and conferences

An international expert group meeting on the theme “Sexual health and reproductive rights: articles 21, 22 (1), 23 and 24 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (New York, 15–17 January) [E/C.19/2014/8] called for increased emphasis on the provision of intercultural health care that responded to and engaged with indigenous peoples’ notions of health and illness, traditional medicinal knowledge and practices.

The annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues (Geneva, 1–2 December) [E/C.19/2015/7] discussed, among other matters, issues related to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/485], adopted **resolution 69/159** without vote [agenda item 65 (a)].

Rights of indigenous peoples

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Economic

and Social Council relating to the rights of indigenous peoples, reaffirming its resolutions 65/198 of 21 December 2010, 66/142 of 19 December 2011, 67/153 of 20 December 2012, 68/149 of 18 December 2013 and 69/2 of 22 September 2014, and recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 27/13 of 25 September 2014,

Welcoming the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in New York on 22 and 23 September 2014, in which Heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States reiterated the important and continuing role of the United Nations in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and welcomed the inclusive preparatory process for the high-level plenary meeting, including the comprehensive engagement of the representatives of indigenous peoples,

Reaffirming the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which addresses their individual and collective rights,

Stressing the importance of promoting and pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also through international cooperation to support national and regional efforts to achieve the ends of the Declaration, including the right to maintain and strengthen the distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions of indigenous peoples and the right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Recognizing the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization,

Taking note of the outcome documents of the recent regional review conferences on population and development, including the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which included “Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights”,

Recognizing the value and the diversity of the cultures and the form of social organization of indigenous peoples and their holistic traditional scientific knowledge of their lands, natural resources and environment,

Recognizing also the importance of traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, as well as access to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including efficient irrigation, the reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage for indigenous peoples and others living in rural areas,

Welcoming the achievements made during the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People, and recognizing that challenges remain in finding solutions to the problems faced by indigenous peoples in such areas as traditional knowledge, science, culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development,

Concerned about the extreme disadvantages that indigenous peoples have typically faced across a range of social and economic indicators and about the impediments to their full enjoyment of their rights,

Stressing the need to pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of indigenous women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including in the process of protecting and promoting their access to justice,

Recognizing the forthcoming thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, in 2015,

1. *Notes* the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples, takes note of her report, and encourages all Governments to respond favourably to her requests for visits;

2. *Welcomes* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and urges Governments and the United Nations system, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples through their representatives and institutions, to implement, when necessary, appropriate measures, concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and other measures to realize the commitments made in the outcome document, and invites international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, national human rights institutions, where they exist, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and other relevant actors to contribute to those efforts;

3. *Reiterates* the commitment of Member States to cooperate with indigenous peoples, through their own representative institutions, to develop and implement national action plans, strategies or other measures, where relevant, to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the final report of the Secretary-General on the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People, one of the major highlights of which was the adoption, in 2007, of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, but regrets that gaps remain between the formal recognition of indigenous peoples’ rights and the implementation of policies on the ground;

5. *Decides* to convene a high-level event to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to be held during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, in 2017, and that the event will take stock of the achievements of the preceding 10 years and assess the remaining challenges for the rights of indigenous peoples, and also consider the further follow-up to the Declaration, including the consideration of a third International Decade;

6. *Welcomes* the designation by the Secretary-General of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the senior official of the United Nations system responsible for coordinating follow-up action to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in order, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, the Inter-

Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and Member States, to begin development, within existing resources, of a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, raising awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples and increasing the coherence of the activities of the system in this regard;

7. *Encourages* those States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so and to consider supporting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and welcomes the increased support of States for the Declaration;

8. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership, and invites indigenous organizations and private institutions and individuals to do likewise;

9. *Decides* to continue observing in New York, Geneva and other United Nations offices every year on 9 August the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, to request the Secretary-General to support the observance of the day from within existing resources and to encourage Governments to observe the day at the national level;

10. *Encourages* States to consider including in their reports related to indigenous peoples and women information on the progress made and challenges in the implementation of Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 49/7 of 11 March 2005, entitled "Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", and 56/4 of 9 March 2012, entitled "Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication";

11. *Also encourages* States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, to take the appropriate measures at the national level, including legislative, policy and administrative measures, to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to promote awareness of it among all sectors of society, including members of legislative, judicial and civil service bodies;

12. *Underlines* the need to intensify efforts, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities and to support measures that will ensure their empowerment and full and effective participation in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas and eliminate barriers to their full, equal and effective participation in political, economic, social and cultural life;

13. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the entities of the United Nations system to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples into development agendas at the national, regional and international levels, and encourages giving due consideration to the rights of indigenous peoples in the ongoing discussion of the post-2015 development agenda;

14. *Encourages* States and entities of the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation, including to address the disadvantages faced by indigenous peoples, and to increase technical cooperation and financial assistance in this regard;

15. *Reaffirms* its decision in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to continue at its seventieth session the consideration of ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and organizations in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, including any specific proposals made by the Secretary-General in this regard;

16. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and requests the High Commissioner to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Rights of indigenous peoples", a sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples".

World Conference

The General Assembly held a high-level plenary meeting (New York, 22 September) [A/69/PV.4] known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples [YUN 2007, p. 690]. The World Conference resulted in a concise, action-oriented outcome document prepared on the basis of inclusive and open informal consultations with Member States and indigenous peoples. Addressing the meeting, the Secretary-General stated that he was encouraged that the draft conference outcome document [A/69/L.1] contained action-oriented commitments; welcomed the document's requests to him; and said that he would consult with UN system entities on the way forward, and that the Organization would work closely with all indigenous peoples and Member States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 September [meeting 4], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/2** [draft: A/69/L.1] without vote [agenda item 65].

Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

The General Assembly

Adopts the following outcome document:

Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

1. We, the Heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States, reaffirming our solemn commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in a spirit of cooperation with the indigenous peoples of the world, are assembled

at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 and 23 September 2014, on the occasion of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to reiterate the important and continuing role of the United Nations in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples.

2. We welcome the indigenous peoples' preparatory processes for the World Conference, including the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference held in Alta, Norway, in June 2013. We take note of the outcome document of the Alta Conference and other contributions made by indigenous peoples. We also welcome the inclusive preparatory process for the high-level plenary meeting, including the comprehensive engagement of the representatives of indigenous peoples.

3. We reaffirm our support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007, and our commitments made in this respect to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them, in accordance with the applicable principles of the Declaration.

4. We reaffirm our solemn commitment to respect, promote and advance and in no way diminish the rights of indigenous peoples and to uphold the principles of the Declaration.

5. In addition to the Declaration, we recall the other major achievements of the past two decades in building an international framework for the advancement of the rights and aspirations of the world's indigenous peoples, including the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the creation of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the establishment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. We commit ourselves to giving due consideration to recommendations and advice issued by those bodies in cooperation with indigenous peoples.

6. We encourage those States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), to consider doing so. We recall the obligation of ratifying States under the Convention to develop coordinated and systematic action to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

7. We commit ourselves to taking, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, appropriate measures at the national level, including legislative, policy and administrative measures, to achieve the ends of the Declaration and to promote awareness of it among all sectors of society, including members of legislatures, the judiciary and the civil service.

8. We commit ourselves to cooperating with indigenous peoples, through their own representative institutions, to develop and implement national action plans, strategies or other measures, where relevant, to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

9. We commit ourselves to promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities and to continuing to improve their social and economic conditions, including by developing targeted measures for the

forementioned action plans, strategies or measures, in collaboration with indigenous persons with disabilities. We also commit ourselves to ensuring that national legislative, policy and institutional structures relating to indigenous peoples are inclusive of indigenous persons with disabilities and contribute to the advancement of their rights.

10. We commit ourselves to working with indigenous peoples to disaggregate data, as appropriate, or conduct surveys and to utilizing holistic indicators of indigenous peoples' well-being to address the situation and needs of indigenous peoples and individuals, in particular older persons, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

11. We commit ourselves to ensuring equal access to high-quality education that recognizes the diversity of the cultures of indigenous peoples and to health, housing, water, sanitation and other economic and social programmes to improve well-being, including through initiatives, policies and the provision of resources. We intend to empower indigenous peoples to deliver such programmes as far as possible.

12. We recognize the importance of indigenous peoples' health practices and their traditional medicine and knowledge.

13. We commit ourselves to ensuring that indigenous individuals have equal access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. We also commit ourselves to intensifying efforts to reduce rates of HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases by focusing on prevention, including through appropriate programmes, policies and resources for indigenous individuals, and to ensure their access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

14. We commit ourselves to promoting the right of every indigenous child, in community with members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion or to use his or her own language.

15. We support the empowerment and capacity-building of indigenous youth, including their full and effective participation in decision-making processes in matters that affect them. We commit ourselves to developing, in consultation with indigenous peoples, policies, programmes and resources, where relevant, that target the well-being of indigenous youth, in particular in the areas of health, education, employment and the transmission of traditional knowledge, languages and practices, and to taking measures to promote awareness and understanding of their rights.

16. We acknowledge that indigenous peoples' justice institutions can play a positive role in providing access to justice and dispute resolution and contribute to harmonious relationships within indigenous peoples' communities and within society. We commit ourselves to coordinating and conducting dialogue with those institutions, where they exist.

17. We commit ourselves to supporting the empowerment of indigenous women and to formulating and implementing, in collaboration with indige-

nous peoples, in particular indigenous women and their organizations, policies and programmes designed to promote capacity-building and strengthen their leadership. We support measures that will ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas and eliminate barriers to their participation in political, economic, social and cultural life.

18. We commit ourselves to intensifying our efforts, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous peoples and individuals, in particular women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, by strengthening legal, policy and institutional frameworks.

19. We invite the Human Rights Council to consider examining the causes and consequences of violence against indigenous women and girls, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and other special procedures mandate holders within their respective mandates. We also invite the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the issue of the empowerment of indigenous women at a future session.

20. We recognize commitments made by States, with regard to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources.

21. We also recognize commitments made by States, with regard to the Declaration, to establish at the national level, in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned, fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent processes to acknowledge, advance and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to lands, territories and resources.

22. We recognize that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. We acknowledge the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples, wherever possible, in the benefits of their knowledge, innovations and practices.

23. We intend to work with indigenous peoples to address the impact or potential impact on them of major development projects, including those involving the activities of extractive industries, including with the aim of managing risks appropriately.

24. We recall the responsibility of transnational corporations and other business enterprises to respect all applicable laws and international principles, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework and to operate transparently and in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. In this regard, we commit ourselves to taking further steps, as appropriate, to prevent abuses of the rights of indigenous peoples.

25. We commit ourselves to developing, in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned, and where appropriate, policies, programmes and resources to support indige-

nous peoples' occupations, traditional subsistence activities, economies, livelihoods, food security and nutrition.

26. We recognize the importance of the role that indigenous peoples can play in economic, social and environmental development through traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, and access to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for irrigation and water harvesting and storage.

27. We affirm and recognize the importance of indigenous peoples' religious and cultural sites and of providing access to and repatriation of their ceremonial objects and human remains in accordance with the ends of the Declaration. We commit ourselves to developing, in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned, fair, transparent and effective mechanisms for access to and repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains at the national and international levels.

28. We invite the Human Rights Council, taking into account the views of indigenous peoples, to review the mandates of its existing mechanisms, in particular the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, with a view to modifying and improving the Expert Mechanism so that it can more effectively promote respect for the Declaration, including by better assisting Member States to monitor, evaluate and improve the achievement of the ends of the Declaration.

29. We invite the human rights treaty bodies to consider the Declaration in accordance with their respective mandates. We encourage Member States to include, as appropriate, information on the situation of the rights of indigenous peoples, including measures taken to pursue the objectives of the Declaration, in reports to those bodies and during the universal periodic review process.

30. We welcome the increasingly important role of national and regional human rights institutions in contributing to the achievement of the ends of the Declaration. We encourage the private sector, civil society and academic institutions to take an active role in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples.

31. We request the Secretary-General, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and Member States, to begin the development, within existing resources, of a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration and to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made. We invite the Secretary-General to accord, by the end of the seventieth session of the Assembly, an existing senior official of the United Nations system, with access to the highest levels of decision-making within the system, responsibility for coordinating the action plan, raising awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples at the highest possible level and increasing the coherence of the activities of the system in this regard.

32. We invite United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in addition to resident coordinators, where appropriate, to support the implementation, upon request, of national action plans, strategies or other measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration, in accordance with

national priorities and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, where they exist, through better coordination and cooperation.

33. We commit ourselves to considering, at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, including any specific proposals made by the Secretary-General in response to the request made in paragraph 40 below.

34. We encourage Governments to recognize the significant contribution of indigenous peoples to the promotion of sustainable development, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, and the need to promote harmony with nature to protect our planet and its ecosystems, known as Mother Earth in a number of countries and regions.

35. We commit ourselves to respecting the contributions of indigenous peoples to ecosystem management and sustainable development, including knowledge acquired through experience in hunting, gathering, fishing, pastoralism and agriculture, as well as their sciences, technologies and cultures.

36. We confirm that indigenous peoples' knowledge and strategies to sustain their environment should be respected and taken into account when we develop national and international approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

37. We note that indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In this regard, we commit ourselves to giving due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

38. We invite Member States and actively encourage the private sector and other institutions to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues, the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility and the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership as a means of respecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide.

39. We request the Secretary-General to include relevant information on indigenous peoples in his final report on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

40. We request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and Member States, taking into account the views expressed by indigenous peoples, to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present outcome document, and to submit at the same session, through the Economic and Social Council, recommendations regarding how to use, modify and improve existing United Nations mechanisms to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ways to enhance a coherent, system-wide approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration and specific proposals to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions, building on the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of promoting participation at the United Nations of indigenous peoples' representatives on the issues affecting them.

In October [A/69/521], the Secretary-General submitted proposed additional requirements for the 2014–2015 programme budget of \$101,800 resulting from requests in the outcome document, to which the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had no objection [A/69/657].

Human rights country situations

In 2014, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Secretary-General, Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts addressed the human rights situation in Member States.

In Africa, in response to continued and widespread human rights violations and abuses in the Central African Republic, the Human Rights Council held its twentieth special session and appointed an Independent Expert to undertake an urgent visit to the country. In Côte d'Ivoire, the situation intensified with the approach of the 2015 presidential elections. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the High Commissioner commended the efforts of the Congolese authorities to address serious human rights violations, but remained concerned about the situation, particularly in the eastern provinces. The Council called on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to commission a study on the impact of technical assistance and capacity-building on the human rights situation in the country for submission in 2015. In Eritrea, the Council established a commission of inquiry to investigate alleged violations of human rights. The Ebola virus disease outbreak exacerbated problems in Guinea, and slowed progress made in other human rights areas. Libya faced the worst political crisis and escalation of violence since the armed conflict of 2011, with two parliaments and governments claiming legitimacy, while powerful armed groups exercised control on the ground, committing violations of international human rights and humanitarian law with impunity. The High Commissioner for Human Rights reiterated his appeal to all parties to end hostilities and build a State based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The ongoing violent crisis in South Sudan saw the targeted killing of civilians, mass displacement, allegations of the recruitment and use of child soldiers, widespread incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention, sexual violence and mass killings. The human rights situations in Mali, Somalia and the Sudan also remained of concern.

In the Americas, progress was made in Bolivia, Colombia and Guatemala, yet issues remained. In Haiti, the Council welcomed the El Rancho Accord of 14 March, which led to elections and the appointment in December of a new Prime Minister.

In Asia, the human rights situation in Afghanistan was negatively affected by the contested security, political and economic transitions.

The High Commissioner provided recommendations for the Government, anti-Government bodies and the international community to improve the situation. In Cambodia, the human rights situation was profoundly affected by the political climate. Security forces used violence, arrests and live ammunition to disperse demonstrations, and physical attacks against journalists spiked during the year. The commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reported that, in many instances, the systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations committed by the authorities in that country constituted crimes against humanity. The General Assembly decided to submit the report of the commission to the Security Council for action towards ensuring accountability. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran found that numerous issues flagged by the international community persisted, and in some cases appeared to have worsened. The Human Rights Council held its twenty-second special session on the situation in Iraq in the light of the violations and abuses committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups. In Myanmar, efforts continued for a nationwide ceasefire and framework for political dialogue, but the tension in Rakhine did not lessen, causing concern and alarm both domestically and internationally. The High Commissioner briefed the Council on the comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights committed in Sri Lanka by both parties to the conflict and appealed to the authorities to cooperate fully with the investigation, as well as with the relevant special procedures mandate holders. In Yemen, the High Commissioner welcomed the conclusion in January of the National Dialogue Conference and the Conference outcomes pertaining to human rights, but she regretted that the overall security situation in the country.

In Europe, there was a continued systemic denial of human rights to citizens in Belarus by way of a purposeful combination of restrictive laws and abusive practices, and in Cyprus, concerns were expressed about factors impeding the implementation of international human rights standards owing to the protracted conflict. In Ukraine, there was violence and excessive use of force by the police in response to large-scale street protests, particularly on Independence Square in Kyiv, where over 100 people were killed in January and February. The violations

led to the downfall of the Government. In March, after soldiers without insignia as well as paramilitary and self-defence groups took control of Crimea, the High Commissioner deployed a monitoring mission to propose recommendations regarding the emerging human rights issues and the root causes of the situation.

In the Middle East, the international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic found that more than 250,000 people were besieged in the country and subjected to relentless shelling and bombardment. Government forces and pro-government militia perpetrated massacres and conducted widespread attacks on civilians, systematically committing crimes against humanity, war crimes and gross violations of human rights. Chemical weapons were used in multiple incidents during the conflict. The Assembly condemned the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, demanded that the Syrian authorities meet their responsibilities to protect the Syrian population, and demanded that all parties end all violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law. In territories occupied by Israel, settlement activity, including increased settler violence, continued. The Council held its twenty-first special session to address the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory following an Israeli military operation that involved disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks, aerial bombardment and the targeting of civilians in collective punishment. In the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the human rights situation deteriorated as security operations increased and resulted in a high number of killings and injuries.

General aspects

In the annual report on the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) [A/HRC/28/3], the High Commissioner, Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan), reviewed the work of the Office at the country and regional levels, including its efforts to respond to deteriorating human rights situations. At the country level, its work was conducted through human rights field presences, support for human rights mechanisms and dialogue between the High Commissioner and Member States—including bilateral meetings, open or confidential communication, country visits by the High Commissioner and technical cooperation programmes. The report highlighted the new four-year (2014–2017) planning cycle and its newly defined thematic priorities: strengthening international human rights mechanisms; enhancing equality and countering discrimination; combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law;

integrating human rights into development and in the economic sphere; widening the democratic space; and early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity. All priorities were cross-cutting and mutually reinforcing.

In November, OHCHR supported 67 field presences: 13 country or stand-alone offices, 12 regional offices and centres, 14 human rights components in peace missions, and 28 human rights advisers within country teams. Country or stand-alone offices were comprised of 12 country offices in Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Mauritania, Mexico, the State of Palestine, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Yemen and one stand-alone office in Kosovo. Regional presences included 10 regional offices in East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia); Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa); West Africa (Dakar, Senegal); Central America (Panama City, Panama); South America (Santiago, Chile); Europe (Brussels, Belgium); Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan); South East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand); the Pacific (Suva, Fiji); and the Middle East and Africa (Beirut, Lebanon), as well as a subregional centre for human rights and democracy for Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon) and a Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar).

On efficiency aspects, OHCHR established a results-based management system to ensure that its scant resources were planned and allocated to ensure maximum impact. The High Commissioner concluded that OHCHR continued to provide substantive support to human rights mechanisms; worked to fulfil all mandates received from the relevant intergovernmental bodies and to provide valuable advice to stakeholders; and delivered a considerable number of technical assistance activities upon the request of States.

Africa

Central African Republic

Human Rights Council special session. In a 13 January letter [A/HRC/S-20/1], Ethiopia, on behalf of the Group of African States in Geneva, requested the convening of a special session of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, which was supported by 36 Council members and 43 observer States. The Council held its twentieth special session on 20 January [A/HRC/S-20/2].

Human Rights Council action. On 20 January [A/69/53 (res. S-20/1)], the Council condemned the continued and widespread violations and abuses of

human rights perpetrated by all actors; demanded an immediate halt to all human rights violations, abuses and acts of violence; urged all parties to protect civilians, in particular women and children, from sexual violence; and called on the international community to assist the national authorities and neighbouring host countries to ensure protection of and assistance to those fleeing the violence. It emphasized the urgency of appointing an Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic; and requested the Independent Expert to undertake an urgent visit to the country, present an oral update on the situation at the Council's twenty-fifth (2014) session, and submit a preliminary report to its twenty-sixth (2014) session, pursuant to Council resolution 24/34 [YUN 2013, p. 733].

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Council resolution 23/18 [YUN 2013, p. 733], in February, the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/25/43] on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, which evaluated the need for technical assistance and capacity-building in the country. The High Commissioner identified the priority areas in which assistance needed to be provided by the end of the year, including support for national reconciliation, the development of a strategy to combat impunity, rehabilitation of the judicial and prison systems, reform of the security sector and strengthening of the national human rights protection system. The report made recommendations to the transitional authorities, the international community and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic on their respective roles. She concluded that, during the conflict between 10 December 2012 and 23 March 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 733], violations of international humanitarian and human rights law had been committed by Government forces, under the regime of former President François Bozizé, and the Séléka armed group, and that those human rights violations had continued when the Séléka came to power. Violence had continued throughout 2013 and by year's end, the number of deaths had reached 728 in Bangui alone, and the number of displaced persons reached 370,000 in the capital and 785,000 nationwide.

Reports of Independent Expert. On 26 March [A/HRC/25/CRP.2], pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/34 [YUN 2013, p. 733], the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, Marie-Thérèse Keita Bocoum (Côte d'Ivoire), submitted an oral update to the Council following her visit to the country (4–14 March).

In May, pursuant to Council resolution S-20/1 (see above), the Independent Expert submitted a preliminary report [A/HRC/26/53], following her second

visit to the country (10–18 April), where she held talks with leading political figures and the transitional authorities, in particular the transitional Head of State. During her first visit, the Independent Expert noted that the right to life, security and physical integrity was being violated by assassinations, summary executions, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. In addition, the exercise of civil and political rights, more particularly freedom of opinion, religion and movement and freedom to choose one's place of residence, were constrained by the deterioration of the security situation, impunity and the fragility of State institutions. Overcrowding and the prevailing insecurity in Bangui prison, the lack of appropriate detention facilities in the rest of the country, the weaknesses of the judicial system and the ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system, hampered the administration of justice and the fight against impunity. The situation was regarded as one of the root causes of the instability threatening social peace and undermined efforts at dialogue and inter-communal reconciliation. Breaches of international humanitarian law were reported during the Independent Expert's two visits, including: forced displacements of the civilian population, particularly Muslims; destruction of property essential to the survival of the population, including health centres, schools, residential dwellings and fields; attacks against the civilian population in some parts of the country; rapes and other forms of sexual violence; and the recruitment of minors by armed groups.

On the economic and social level, the Independent Expert noted that the crisis experienced by the Central African Republic since December 2012 had led to the collapse of economic activity, paralysed the Government administration and given rise to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with nearly one quarter of the population being displaced or reduced to refugee status. She concluded that the economic recovery remained dependent on the normalization of security conditions, the return of displaced persons and refugees and the gradual recovery of economic activity, particularly in the agricultural and trade sectors.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/28)], the Council condemned the widespread human rights violations and abuses committed by all actors; urged all parties to protect civilians from sexual and gender-based violence; and called on the authorities to ensure respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms of the entire population and take steps to end the impunity of the perpetrators of crimes. It welcomed the appointment of a new Government to lead the political transition; called on all parties to respect the terms of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement of 23 July (see p. 228); and invited the Central African authorities to consolidate the security situation in the country through

the introduction of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The Council extended the mandate of the Independent Expert for one year to monitor, verify and report on the human rights situation in the country, with a view to making recommendations concerning technical assistance and capacity-building; and requested the Independent Expert to provide an oral update at its twenty-eighth (2015) session and a written report at its thirtieth (2015) session. It also decided to hold an interactive dialogue at its twenty-ninth (2015) session to assess developments in the human rights situation on the ground, with a particular focus on the fight against impunity.

Côte d'Ivoire

Report of Independent Expert. In a May report [A/HRC/26/52] on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from December 2013 and April 2014, the Independent Expert, Doudou Diène (Senegal), reported on his sixth visit to the country (11–24 February) and included a proposed programme of action for addressing the needs of the victims of the Ivorian crisis, which was the outcome of the international conference on the situation (Abidjan, 12–14 February), organized by the Independent Expert. The situation in the country was becoming more complex with the approach of the 2015 presidential elections. The Independent Expert re-examined a number of concerns, connected, *inter alia*, with the increase in sexual violence, the persistence of abuses committed by the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire and the *dozos*, the population's socioeconomic circumstances, and concerns about freedom of expression and association. He also confirmed the progress made towards consolidating the rule of law, while underscoring the major challenges that remained. In conclusion, the Independent Expert recommended taking up the situation of victims as a national cause, in order to ensure that victims of the crisis did not become victims of the political polarization in Ivorian society.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/32)], the Council condemned attacks by unidentified armed groups in Côte d'Ivoire; and welcomed the substantial improvement in security matters, the cooperation of the Government with UN human rights machinery, and the resumption of criminal trials throughout the national territory after a 16-year hiatus. It applauded the work in the political framework for ongoing dialogue aimed at facilitating inclusive political pluralism, the adoption of new legislation, notably in the area of family law providing for equal rights between men and women in marriage; the reform of the Independent Electoral Commission; the commitments made by the Government to endorse the Independent Expert's

recommendations; and Government efforts to ratify international and regional human rights instruments. The Council urged the Government to support the implementation of the mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission [YUN 2011, p. 146]; requested the international community to continue to support the reconstruction and reconciliation process underway; and requested OHCHR to continue to provide the technical assistance requested by the Government, including support for the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It requested the Independent Expert to submit a report at the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session and final recommendations at its twenty-ninth (2015) session; and decided to establish a new mandate on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights, to follow on from the previous mandate, for a period of one year, renewable, from the twenty-sixth (2014) to the twenty-ninth (2015) sessions of the Council.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of High Commissioner. In a September report on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) [A/HRC/27/42], covering the period from June 2013 to May 2014, pursuant to Council resolution 24/27 [YUN 2013, p. 736], the High Commissioner commended the efforts made by the Congolese authorities to address serious human rights concerns, in particular, the continued increase in the prosecution of State agents for human rights violations, as well as the promulgation by the Government of an amnesty law for acts of insurrection, acts of war and political offences, excluding amnesty for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of human rights. The Government had also proposed legislation aimed at establishing specialized chambers within the civilian justice system to try perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Despite those efforts, the High Commissioner remained concerned about the human rights situation in the country, particularly in the eastern provinces. While the defeat of *Mouvement du 23 mars*, in November 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 735], had had a positive impact on the security and human rights situation, the operations of several armed groups to control resource-rich territories still represented a serious threat for civilians. In addition, the justice system continued to face various challenges in investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of human rights violations. Military tribunals, where they existed, were often understaffed and under-resourced, and the lack of independence of the military justice system from military hierarchy was problematic. Human rights activists, journalists and political opponents continued to face challenges and threats,

particularly in the lead-up to the 2015 provincial and local elections and the 2016 presidential and legislative elections. The report reiterated previous recommendations of the High Commissioner, notably with regard to addressing impunity for past and present violations.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/27)], the Council encouraged the DRC to make the National Human Rights Commission operational [YUN 2013, p. 736] soon; welcomed the appointment, by an 8 July presidential order, of the Personal Representative of the Head of State on Sexual Violence and Child Recruitment; invited the Government and its national partners to ensure the transparency and credibility of the electoral process; welcomed the 30 August adoption of the action plan of the DRC Armed Forces to combat sexual violence; and encouraged the Government to ensure appropriate protection for journalists and human rights defenders in the course of their respective activities, and to ensure that the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme took account of the specific needs of children affected by the armed conflict and the protection of their rights. The Council called on the High Commissioner to commission a study on the impact of technical assistance and capacity-building on the human rights situation in the DRC and to submit the report at its thirtieth (2015) session within the framework of an interactive dialogue.

Eritrea

Report of Special Rapporteur. In a May report [A/HRC/26/45] on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, submitted pursuant to Council resolution 23/21 [YUN 2013, p. 737], the Special Rapporteur, Sheila B. Keethartuh (Mauritius), focused on two main issues, namely, the indefinite national service, and arbitrary arrest and detention, including incommunicado detention and inhuman prison conditions. She emphasized that the rampant human rights violations occurring in those contexts, which were causing hundreds of thousands to leave the country for an unknown and precarious future elsewhere, required the Council's particular attention. Noting that Eritrea lived in a state of constant preparedness for combat based on what the State termed as a "no war-no peace" situation, the Special Rapporteur concluded that that rhetoric provided the context for the non-implementation of the Constitution ratified by the Constituent Assembly in 1997; withholding the organization of free and fair elections at the national level; severe restrictions on civil, political, economic and social rights; excessive militarization of society, with a high proportion of the population either in indefinite national service or in the People's Militia; and forced migration.

The Special Rapporteur highlighted that her recommendations from her first report [YUN 2013, p. 736] remained valid, as the Government of Eritrea had not demonstrated its willingness to take them into consideration and to act upon them. She presented a series of recommendations to the Government, including, *inter alia*, to discontinue the indefinite national service and demobilize those who had completed the 18 months of service originally envisaged; ensure children were not conscripted into the military; promptly investigate allegations of extrajudicial killings, torture, rape and sexual abuse within the national service; end human rights violations committed against conscripts during national service; close all unofficial and secret places of detention; permit unhindered access by international monitors to all detention facilities; end restrictions on the freedom of movement, within Eritrea and travel outside the country, without requiring an exit permit; and treat returnees in accordance with human rights international law.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/24)], the Council condemned the continued widespread and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms committed by the Eritrean authorities. It reiterated its call on the Government to end the use of arbitrary detention of its citizens, to account for and release all political prisoners, to end the system of indefinite national service, and to cooperate with OHCHR and allow unhindered access to a further mission. It extended the Special Rapporteur's mandate for one year; requested the Rapporteur to report at its twenty-ninth (2015) session and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth (2014) session; invited the High Commissioner to report to the Council on progress in cooperation between Eritrea and OHCHR; and established, for one year, a commission of inquiry comprising the Special Rapporteur and two members appointed by the Council President to investigate all alleged violations of human rights in Eritrea, as outlined in the Special Rapporteur's reports. The Council requested the commission of inquiry to present an oral update to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session and to the General Assembly's seventieth (2015) session, and a written report to the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session. It also decided that all reports of the commission of inquiry would be transmitted to all relevant UN bodies and to the Secretary-General for appropriate action.

Guinea

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/35)], the Council welcomed the holding of peaceful elections in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 737] and the establishment of the new National Assembly of Guinea on 13 January 2014; recognized the Government's efforts to strengthen the rule of law and im-

prove the human rights situation in the country; welcomed the existence of the new Ministry of Human Rights and Civil Liberties; and called on the Guinean authorities to guarantee freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association. It urged all political stakeholders to continue to take an active part in the political dialogue, prevent and prohibit any act of violence, and be involved in the national reconciliation process; encouraged the Government to draw up a comprehensive programme to strengthen the administration of justice to combat impunity and strengthen respect for human rights; and invited the High Commissioner to report at the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session on the situation of human rights and the work of OHCHR in Guinea.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Council resolution 25/35 (see p. 896), the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/28/50] on the situation of human rights in Guinea in 2014, made recommendations to address diverse human rights problems and provided information on the activities of OHCHR in the country. During the year, action by the Government was dominated by efforts to control the Ebola virus. The case fatality rate, the measures adopted by the authorities to tackle the virus and the decisions by some neighbouring countries to close their borders affected the exercise of fundamental rights, such as, freedom of movement, the right to education, the right to health and the right to work. Government efforts to consolidate national institutions continued. The reform of the judicial system was marked by the establishment of the Supreme Council of Justice and the implementation of the special status for magistrates to ensure their independence and significantly improve their salary. Progress in combating impunity among members of the defence and security forces, however, had been very limited; prison overcrowding remained a major problem, due to the systematic use of pretrial detention; no progress had been made in efforts to combat violence against women and girls; and female genital mutilation was still practiced.

As Guinea was readying itself for presidential elections in 2015 in an extremely difficult socio-economic and health situation, the High Commissioner concluded that it was essential to foster and ensure the dialogue and prevent instability and all forms of violence. He recommended that the Government continue efforts to combat impunity; ensure that any measures taken to control the Ebola virus were based on respect for human rights; strengthen the resources of the security forces; ensure security and transparency during the Presidential elections, while respecting electoral rights and freedoms; strengthen efforts to combat discrimination, particularly gender-based stereotypes; and strengthen cooperation with the treaty bodies and the universal periodic review mechanism. The international community should continue to provide the Government with the

assistance necessary to enable it to combat the spread of the Ebola virus; support the reform of the security and justice sectors; and provide the Government with the assistance necessary to reduce poverty and help improve the realization of social and economic rights.

Libya

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/19 [YUN 2013, p. 738], the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/25/42] on technical assistance for Libya in the field of human rights, which highlighted the importance of supporting the ongoing efforts of the Government to build the capacity of institutions dealing with human rights, transitional justice and the rule of law, and made recommendations to the Government on establishing a robust legal framework, strengthening national human rights bodies, ensuring effective administration of justice, developing comprehensive transitional justice processes and addressing the needs of social groups. The High Commissioner recommended that the Government, through capacity-building and technical assistance support, review and strengthen protections in law and policy to guarantee the rights of women, minorities, migrants, refugees and children; develop a strategy to address the issue of all persons displaced since 2011; address the situation of persons deprived of their liberty, with due regard to the situation of female detainees; strengthen the capacity of State institutions, such as the judicial system and the judicial police; implement an approach to transitional justice through ensuring the appointment of qualified and independent members of the Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission; develop a legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights; ratify outstanding human rights treaties and optional protocols; and establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/37)], the Council welcomed the promulgation of Law No. 29 on 2 December 2013 on transitional justice; the issuance of Decree No. 119 of 2014 on recognizing victims of sexual violence as victims of war; and an amendment to the law to enhance the independence of the judiciary. It expressed concern at the continued mistreatment of detainees in detention centres out of judicial police control and called on the Government to establish control over all detention centres to ensure that detainees were treated in accordance with its international obligations; further empower women and girls, ensuring their full participation in relation to the electoral system, the police and the judiciary; and protect freedom of religion and belief.

The Council requested the High Commissioner to provide technical assistance to support the Government in building and strengthening national structures that had a direct impact on the overall observance of

human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law in the country; and to submit a report on the human rights situation in Libya and its technical support and capacity-building needs at the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Council resolution 25/37 (see p. 897), the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/28/51] on the situation of human rights in Libya and on related technical support and capacity-building needs. He stated that the country was facing the worst political crisis and escalation of violence since the 2011 armed conflict [YUN 2011, p. 266], with two parliaments and governments claiming legitimacy, while powerful armed groups exercised effective control on the ground, committing violations of international human rights and humanitarian law with impunity. In May, in Benghazi, General Khalifa Haftar, the head of the Libyan National Army, launched Operation Dignity against the Benghazi Revolutionaries Shura Council, with fierce fighting continuing throughout the year. A renewed offensive by the Libyan National Army in October, led to the Army gaining control of sizeable areas of Benghazi by December. Tripoli witnessed six consecutive weeks of heavy fighting from mid-July, when an alliance of armed groups launched Operation Libya Dawn against Zintan-affiliated armed groups allied with fighters from the Warshafana region, west of the city. In August, Libya Dawn fighters seized control of Tripoli International airport and other areas of Tripoli, and subsequently took control over the region. Sporadic fighting also erupted throughout the year in southern Libya. Meanwhile, the justice system had continued to be attacked and was no longer functioning in parts of the country. In that context, the provision of technical assistance had been significantly disrupted. Some State institutions and civil society organizations, however, were still functioning to varying degrees and required assistance.

The High Commissioner concluded that the actions taken by all parties involved in the violence had led to numerous grave abuses of human rights and violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. He reiterated his appeal to all parties to end hostilities and, through an inclusive political dialogue, establish a framework to build a State based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. He recommended that the Libyan authorities, through capacity-building and technical support: address the situation of persons deprived of their liberty; develop a strategy to address the issue of displaced persons; resume building State institutions, in particular the armed forces, law enforcement and the judiciary; review and strengthen legal and policy protections which guaranteed the rights of women, minorities, children, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; ensure that those responsible for human rights violations and abuses were brought to justice; and cooperate fully

with the International Criminal Court by assisting its investigations and complying with its rulings.

Mali

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/36)], the Council welcomed the return to constitutional order and significant improvement in the security situation in Mali; commended action taken by the Government to bring all perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses before impartial and independent courts regardless of their status or function; and welcomed the establishment of a Ministry for National Reconciliation. It reiterated its concern over the human rights violations, abuses and violations of international humanitarian law committed in the country since 2012; called on the Government to continue its efforts to protect human rights and promote national reconciliation; and urged the international community to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in order to encourage the voluntary return of such persons to their place of origin. The Council extended the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali for one year and requested him to report to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Report of Independent Expert. Pursuant to Council resolution 25/36 (see above), the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali, Suliman Baldo (Sudan), submitted a report [A/HRC/28/83 & Corr.1] covering the period from 1 May to 29 December and providing an account of his third visit to the country (7–17 October). He noted with concern that the progress observed during his second mission in February, in terms of strengthening State authority, deploying the administration in the north of the country and combating impunity, had been called into question following the fighting that broke out in Kidal from 16 to 21 May. Those events, which had rekindled the power struggle between the Government and rebel groups, had had major political, security and humanitarian repercussions in the country, as well as serious consequences for the human rights situation. Armed movements, including terrorist groups, had gradually regained control of the north of the country and, for the first time, members of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali were targeted by jihadi groups, keeping humanitarian actors away from people living in northern Mali. The Independent Expert noted the contrast, since his previous report [YUN 2013, p. 739], between the marked decrease in cases of violations of the right to life, attributable to the Malian armed forces, and the significant increase in violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law by the different armed groups in northern Mali. The rape of minors by certain members of the Malian armed forces was the main source of concern. Armed and extremist

groups present in the north of the country continued to be involved in violations of human rights and the fragile security situation in northern Mali was pushing many groups, formed most often on the basis of their identity, to acquire weapons to defend their communities. Against a backdrop of intercommunal and intracommunal tensions, the risk of serious human rights violations among the civilian population was of great concern. The Independent Expert noted the Government's efforts to reform the National Human Rights Commission and establish mobile counselling centres to expedite judicial proceedings for crimes committed in the north of the country. He concluded the report with a series of recommendations for the Malian authorities.

Somalia

Report of Independent Expert. In a September report [A/HRC/27/71], the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Bahame Tom Nyanduga (Tanzania), who assumed his mandate in June and made preliminary inquiries for OHCHR to organize a visit to the country in June-July 2014, indicated that it was not feasible to undertake a visit that would not yield any meaningful outcomes as the Holy month of Ramadan was approaching. In addition, he needed to complete the requisite security training before travelling to Somalia. Consequently, the Independent Expert undertook extensive background research on the prevailing socioeconomic, political, security, humanitarian, and human rights situation in the country. He also held meetings in Geneva and Nairobi with various stakeholders, including UN agencies, permanent missions, international organizations, donor countries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, with whom he exchanged a broad range of ideas and views on his mandate and the human rights situation in Somalia. In July, reports of a sustained Al-Shabaab campaign of terror and violence were impacting the human rights situation in Somalia. Mogadishu witnessed targeted assassinations of government officials and members of the Somali Federal Parliament, and attacks on vital institutions, such as the Parliament and the Villa Somalia, the seat of Government. The attacks caused loss of life to members of the security forces and civilians, including women and children. The Independent Expert provided a summary of the meetings held, a brief analysis of the human rights situation and of the emerging issues in Somalia, as well as some recommendations.

Sudan

Report of Independent Expert. Pursuant to Council resolution 24/28 [YUN 2013, p. 741], the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights

in the Sudan, Mashood A. Baderin (Nigeria), submitted a September report [A/HRC/27/69] covering the period from October 2013 and July 2014, during which he undertook two missions to the Sudan. The report focused principally on the need to enhance the protection of human rights on the ground and implementation of the recommendations contained in his previous report [YUN 2013, p. 741]. It outlined the subsisting human rights challenges in the country, highlighted a list of communications sent to the Government during the reporting period, identified technical assistance and capacity-building needs and provided a list of recommendations, addressed to the Government and other stakeholders, necessary for addressing the human rights challenges in the country.

The Independent Expert concluded that the Government had sustained its efforts in respect of policies to improve the human rights situation in the Sudan, but the effective and practical implementation of those policies on the ground still remained protracted. He recommended the Government implement the remaining recommendations from his previous report without delay; institute an independent judicial public enquiry into the killings and other human rights violations that occurred during the September 2013 demonstrations; ensure that the death of the third-year economics student killed by gunshot at the University of Khartoum on 10 March 2014 was fully investigated and its findings made public; charge or release the leader of the Sudanese Congress Party and all other political and youth activist detainees; ensure that security agents desist from arbitrary arrests and detentions, press censorship, clamping down on civil society organisations, and fully respect the right to liberty and freedom of individuals; recognize representatives of armed movements, civil society organisations, academia, women and youth groups as formal participants in the proposed national dialogue; stop indiscriminate aerial strikes and respect the principle of proportionality in armed response to attacks by armed movements; provide police forces in areas where sexual and gender-based violence was prevalent; lift the suspension on International Committee of the Red Cross activities; allow vaccination access to the conflict areas to save children from preventable diseases and facilitate humanitarian access to populations in need of assistance; improve the conditions of prisons outside Khartoum; and cooperate with the international community to find a permanent peaceful solution to armed conflicts in the country, especially in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. The international community should continue to provide necessary technical assistance to the Government and civil society organizations in the Sudan towards the effective improvement of the human rights situation in the country.

In a September addendum [A/HRC/27/69/Add.1], the Government of the Sudan provided its comments on the Independent Expert's report.

Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/29)], the Council encouraged the initiative of holding a comprehensive, inclusive national dialogue in the Sudan to achieve sustainable peace; expressed serious concern at the excessive use of force, including the lethal shooting of demonstrators in September 2013 and March 2014, and called on the Government to institute an independent public inquiry and to refer its findings to the judiciary within its legal system; urged the Government to further its efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular to ensure freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention, and to respect the human rights of all individuals; and condemned the violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law reported in the States of Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile and by all parties, including sexual and gender-based violence, the indiscriminate aerial bombings on humanitarian facilities, and the targeting of civilians and humanitarian aid workers. The Council extended the Independent Expert's mandate for one year; requested him to report to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session; and called on the Government to continue its cooperation with the Independent Expert and to permit effective access to visit all areas of the country.

Communication. In a 26 September note verbale [A/HRC/27/G/10], the Sudan transmitted its comments regarding the 7 July 2014 call for application vacancy of an Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan.

South Sudan

Human Rights Council action. By a President's statement of 28 March [A/69/53 (PRST/25/2)], the Council expressed concern at and deplored the situation of human rights resulting from the crisis and violence that broke out in mid-December 2013 in South Sudan [YUN 2013, p. 242] and called on the parties to the conflict to end all violations and abuses of human rights, and violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks against and killings of civilians, the displacement of populations and sexual and gender-based violence. It expressed support for the democratically elected Government, encouraged it to investigate the root causes of the crisis and outbreak of violence in December 2013 and welcomed the establishment by the African Union (AU) of a commission of inquiry for South Sudan as an important step towards ensuring accountability and preventing the recurrence of such abuses. The Council urged the parties to the conflict to allow access to humanitarian assistance to all populations in need, and stressed the importance of the Council's continued attention to the human rights situation, including through the High Commissioner's interim report to be submitted at its twenty-sixth (2014) session.

High Commissioner visit. An 8 September note by the secretariat [A/HRC/26/23] (see also p. 901) advised that the cessation of hostilities agreement signed by the parties to the conflict in Addis Ababa, in January 2014 (see p. 335), had proved ineffective, as both parties had continued attacks. At the request of the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, together with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Prevention of Genocide, visited South Sudan (28–30 April). The visit provided the High Commissioner with an opportunity to witness firsthand the human rights situation in the country and to engage with the country's leaders with regard to their responsibilities to bring an end to the violence and protect civilians from violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/31)], the Council condemned the abuses and violations of human rights, and violations of international humanitarian law, including the targeted killing of civilians and mass displacements, allegations of unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers, widespread incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention, sexual violence and mass killings that had occurred in the aftermath of the violence of 15 December 2013. It demanded a halt to all human rights violations, abuses and acts of violence by all parties; stressed that the perpetrators should be held accountable and brought to justice; and called on the international community to assist neighbouring countries hosting refugees. The Council decided to convene, at its twenty-seventh (2014) session, a panel discussion on the human rights situation in South Sudan; and requested the High Commissioner to submit an interim report on the situation for discussion by the panel, and to submit a summary on the outcome of the discussion and a report on technical assistance and capacity-building measures to its twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Council resolution 26/31 (see above), the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/27/74] on the situation of human rights in South Sudan covering the period from 8 May to 8 August and noted that the scale and severity of reported violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law had declined in the country compared with the first months of the conflict. Civilians, nonetheless, continued to bear the brunt of the armed conflict. The number of civilians displaced across and from South Sudan continued to rise, and the humanitarian situation further deteriorated, with the country experiencing extreme food insecurity and facing a possible famine. Despite the relative lull in large-scale hostilities, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) continued to receive reports of the killing and wounding of civilians by all parties to the armed conflict and other armed groups.

The Government and opposition Sudan People's Liberation Movement continued to mobilize forces and amass weapons in an effort to consolidate their respective power bases, and to undermine the conditions for the protection of civilians and the life-saving work of humanitarian agencies and UNMISS. Accountability for human rights abuses committed since the outbreak of violence in December 2013 remained of great concern, with little or no progress registered. Despite the establishment of several investigation committees and numerous pronouncements by both parties to the conflict that perpetrators would be held accountable for conflict-related human rights abuses and violations, as well as serious violations of international humanitarian law, no concrete steps had been taken.

Secretariat note. An 8 September note by the secretariat [A/HRC/26/23], in reference to Council resolution 23/24 [YUN 2013, p. 741] requesting the High Commissioner to report on the situation of human rights in South Sudan and submit an interim progress report on technical assistance and capacity-building, informed that OHCHR carried out its human rights programme through the Human Rights Division of UNMISS (see p. 348). The severe crisis triggered on 15 December 2013 by an internal political conflict within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement had not been resolved and the conflict that ensued had resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives, the destruction of major towns and more than a million people displaced. Security institutions, especially the Sudan People's Liberation Army, had partially disintegrated and their legitimacy had been eroded by the human rights violations committed by their members. In light of the crisis, UNMISS had adjusted its posture and proceeded with a strategic shift from its original mandate of support to peacebuilding, State-building and the extension of State authority to one of strict impartiality in its relations to the parties to the conflict. In the absence of any capacity-building programmes in South Sudan, the High Commissioner drew the Council's attention to the May report by UNMISS Human Rights Division for an overview of the human rights situation in the country since the outbreak of conflict.

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 26/31 (see p. 900), a panel discussion on the human rights situation in South Sudan was convened at the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session (Geneva, 24 September) and the High Commissioner submitted a summary [A/HRC/28/53] on its outcome. The discussion focused on identifying measures to improve the human rights situation in South Sudan and to strengthen UN support for the work of the AU Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan and for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-led peace process. The report also included specific recommendations addressed

to the parties to the conflict, IGAD, UNMISS and the Human Rights Council.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Council resolution 26/31 (see p. 900), the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/28/49] on the human rights situation in South Sudan, covering the period from 15 August to 15 December, prepared in cooperation with UNMISS. He stated that the situation remained of serious concern: the Mission had continued to receive reports of human rights violations and abuses, as well as violations of international humanitarian law. Incidents of conflict-related sexual violence continued to be reported, not only in the context of the hostilities between the main belligerents, but also of cyclical intercommunal clashes. Reports were also received of the large-scale recruitment of children, the military use and occupation of schools and hospitals, and other grave violations and abuses perpetrated against children. Restrictions on freedom of expression characterized the human rights situation, with regular incidents of harassment of members of civil society, detention of journalists, confiscation of newspapers and closure of radio stations by government officials. Other areas of concern included, problems in the administration of justice; allegations of torture and ill-treatment in custody; and the lack of accountability for human rights violations and abuses committed during the conflict. While the Government had acknowledged that violations had been committed and had established several accountability measures, there were serious concerns as to whether such measures met international standards, including due process, independence and transparency.

Americas

Bolivia

Report of High Commissioner. In his annual report [A/HRC/28/3/Add.2], the High Commissioner reviewed the human rights situation in Bolivia and the work undertaken by OHCHR in the country during 2014. President Evo Morales Ayma was re-elected in the October general elections, and as a result of those elections, the Plurinational Legislative Assembly would have equal male and female representation. Income redistribution programmes registered progress in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and in the fight against extreme poverty. Food insecurity fell from 38 per cent to 19.5 per cent. The High Commissioner expressed concern about the number of femicides, the length of the related investigations and the low number of convictions. He noted that the adoption of Comprehensive Law 348 in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 742] guaranteeing women a life free from violence, and the publication of the corre-

sponding regulation in October 2014, constituted an important step forward in the struggle against gender-based violence. He welcomed the initiative taken in October by female judges of the judicial branch and the Constitutional Court to present a draft policy on gender equality in judicial institutions.

The main structural problems faced by the administration of justice had worsened. The High Commissioner hoped that the establishment of the National Council for Strategic Development of the Bolivian Justice System would be the first step towards effective judicial reform. Emblematic cases cited in the report exemplified the delays in the delivery of justice, resulting in impunity. OHCHR remained concerned at the high-level of pretrial detention—82 per cent of prisoners—despite short- and medium-term measures taken to combat it, as well as developments affecting human rights defenders and civil society organizations.

The High Commissioner concluded with recommendations, including those which related to drawing up a plan for judicial reform, with short-, medium- and long-term measures to rectify structural problems; continuing the investigations of the events surrounding the fire at Palmasola Prison, which led to the deaths of 35 people; bringing prison conditions into line with international norms and ensuring that national police adhered to detention protocols; increased Government efforts to support the National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination; promulgation of the law on free, prior and informed consultation; creation by the Government of a specialized interministerial coordination body for the drafting of State party reports and for following up on the implementation of the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms; the adoption of measures to address gender-based violence; and the conduct of prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all instances of lynching.

Colombia

Report of High Commissioner. In his annual report [A/HRC/28/3/Add.3] on the situation of human rights in Colombia, the High Commissioner welcomed the efforts of the Government to meet its human rights obligations and the progress made in the pursuit of a negotiated end to the internal armed conflict. He described how sustainable peace would require substantial efforts to overcome inequalities in access to political and economic rights and public services, and highlighted the need to address past violations, including extrajudicial executions. The High Commissioner recommended that peace negotiations should take into account the different views of those affected by the armed conflict, such as victims of violations and displacement, women, human rights defenders, ethnic communities, and children

used by armed groups, and that the participation of those groups should be actively sought; that Colombia should develop judicial and non-judicial means for society as a whole to confront past violations of human rights and international humanitarian law; the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army and the National Liberation Army should respect human rights and international humanitarian law and cease the use of children in their ranks; and the State should invest in maximizing economic and work opportunities for youth that provided them with viable alternatives to joining criminal groups. Further recommendations related to accountability for extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, sexual violence, child recruitment and killings of human rights defenders; efforts to prevent and respond to attacks and threats against human rights defenders; measures to guarantee the rights of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; measures to guarantee access to education for children with disabilities in line with its international obligations; steps to provide access to drinking water to all municipalities within a 10-year period and to eradicate preventable diseases; and the establishment of a national torture preventive mechanism as a step towards addressing the penitentiary crisis.

Guatemala

Communication. By a 12 February note verbale [A/HRC/25/G/8], Guatemala provided its comments on the report of the High Commissioner on OHCHR work in Guatemala during 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 742].

Report of High Commissioner. In his annual report [A/HRC/28/3/Add.1 & Corr.1, 2] on OHCHR activities in Guatemala during the year, the High Commissioner, in the context of elections to high-level posts in the justice sector, reviewed progress and challenges to judicial independence and the fight against impunity, including transitional justice. He also highlighted the persistently high levels of violence, which particularly affected women; outlined the response strategies of security institutions; and described the insecure environment in which human rights defenders worked, and the outstanding challenges in ensuring the rights of indigenous peoples. The report identified the causes of social unrest, the impacts on human rights and the response provided by the State. Issues related to the right to food, access to land and labour rights were also addressed, and a section on business and human rights had been incorporated. The report summarized activities undertaken by OHCHR-Guatemala, including training for indigenous organizations on strategic litigation for indigenous peoples' rights, and training for officials of the judiciary in the human rights of indigenous peoples.

In his recommendations, the High Commissioner called on the State to conduct a comprehensive

review and reform of the constitutional and legal framework related to the judiciary; urged newly appointed judges of the Supreme Court of Justice to ensure the continuity of previous efforts at expediting proceedings, diminishing the judicial backlog and facilitating access for the rights holders; recommended that all judicial authorities continue efforts to investigate human rights violations committed in the context of the armed conflict and to prosecute the perpetrators; urged that the renewal of the mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala [YUN 2007, p. 308] be considered an important contribution in the struggle against impunity; and called on the judiciary to carry out specific actions to strengthen indigenous peoples' access to justice. Further recommendations related to the investigation and prosecution of attacks on human rights defenders; a mechanism for protecting journalists; creation of a new category of environmental protection to harmonize environmental protection with the traditional systems for the administration, use and possession of communal lands; recognition and respect by justice institutions of indigenous jurisdiction in their areas of competency, in accordance with international standards; complaints regarding the impact of monocultures in the communities on the Southern Coast; measures to fully implement the agrarian policy; and legal reforms to reinstate the capacity of the Ministry of Labour to impose sanctions in cases where labour rights were infringed.

Communication. By a 26 December note verbale [A/HRC/28/G/1], Guatemala provided its comments on the High Commissioner's report on the work of OHCHR in Guatemala.

Haiti

Human Rights Council action. By a President's statement of 28 March [A/69/53 (PRST/25/1)] on the situation of human rights in Haiti, the Council noted the latest legal and political developments in the country, which had been marked by progress in terms of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; and welcomed the signature of the El Rancho Accord on 14 March (see p. 397), which gave voice to the desire of Haitian political actors to move forward with the planning of elections and the consolidation of democracy, as well as, the commitment of the authorities to improve the living conditions of Haitians by devoting greater attention to human rights. The Council encouraged the Government to strengthen national human rights and judicial institutions; strengthen the rule of law by combating impunity, crime and its causes, and the use of prolonged pretrial detention; and continue to adopt measures to increase women's participation in political affairs, combat gender-based violence and discrimination, and safeguard the rights of vulnera-

ble groups, including women, persons with disabilities and children—particularly child domestic workers. It extended the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti for one year and invited the Independent Expert to submit a report on the human rights situation in Haiti to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session, and to undertake a mission to Haiti and also report on the mission at its twenty-eighth session.

Report of Independent Expert. Pursuant to Human Rights Council statement PRST/25/1 (see above), the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, Gustavo Gallón (Colombia), submitted a report [A/HRC/28/82] covering his second mission to the country (15–22 July) and reviewing efforts made to address the following five human rights areas identified in his previous report [YUN 2013, p. 743]: illiteracy; prolonged pretrial detention; elections; redress for large-scale human rights violations perpetrated in the past; and resettlement of the people displaced by the 2010 earthquake. For each area, he identified the problems observed and proposed specific solutions. As prerequisites for addressing those urgent human rights matters, he identified strong political will on the part of the Government and the international community, active involvement by civil society, consensus on the priority problems to be addressed, focused coordination of work and perseverance in efforts to attain the state goals. In December, a new Prime Minister was appointed as a first step towards clearing the impasse surrounding the holding of elections. Success on that front could bring momentum to the efforts to improve the human rights situation in Haiti.

The Independent Expert recommended that the State set a reasonably short time frame for eradicating illiteracy, which afflicted roughly one half of the adult population; promptly reduce prison overcrowding, ensure proper sanitation in prisons, provide food to inmates and process the cases of persons being held in prolonged pretrial detention; set up the national commission for reparation that was to have been established in 1995, as recommended by the National Truth and Justice Commission created for victims of the 1991 coup; and establish a reparations commission for the victims of the cholera epidemic. Further recommendations pertained to the increased resources required to guarantee the right to housing and decent living conditions for displaced persons still living in camps set up after the January 2010 earthquake; Dominican Republic authorities ensuring the rights of residents of Haitian origin as ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in its 28 August judgement; special attention being accorded to the rights of women; and the recruitment of an expert to assist with the preparation of the report of Haiti to the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Asia

Afghanistan

Report of High Commissioner. In a report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan [A/HRC/28/48], submitted pursuant to a Human Rights Council decision [YUN 2006, p. 948] and resolution 14/15 [YUN 2010, p. 772], the High Commissioner stated that the human rights situation in 2014 had been negatively affected by the contested security, political and economic transitions. Anti-Government elements sought to exploit the uncertainty by increasing their offensives, resulting in more ground engagements and a rising toll in civilian casualties. In the first 11 months of the year, civilian deaths and injuries from conflict-related violence increased by 19 per cent compared with the same period in 2013, and 2014 had the highest number of civilian deaths and injuries recorded by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and OHCHR since 2009. Unaddressed violence against women and girls and impunity for abusive detention practices, including torture, continued. Despite the worsening conflict and continued human rights violations, the formation in September 2014 of the National Unity Government committed to a reform agenda, provided an opportunity to consolidate and expand human rights protections. The High Commissioner welcomed the strong public statements by the new Government that emphasized the importance of human rights, especially women's rights. He noted that UNAMA/OHCHR supported Government initiatives on women's empowerment, the rights of detainees, combatting sexual harassment and addressing concerns regarding internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNAMA/OHCHR also provided support and advocacy to strengthen the effectiveness and independence of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. It had prioritized four areas: protection of civilians in armed conflict, including children; elimination of violence against women; prevention of torture and arbitrary detention; and human rights aspects of peace and reconciliation processes.

The High Commissioner recommended that the Government take concrete measures to reduce civilian casualties from ground engagements; strengthen structures that track, mitigate and provide accountability for civilian casualties by pro-Government forces; prosecute and punish those found responsible for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and human rights abuses; disband and disarm all illegal militia and armed groups; establish a concrete plan covering a two-year period to improve the status of the elimination of violence against women; ensure that prosecutors and courts dismiss evidence obtained through the use of torture

and ill-treatment; support the public release of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission's conflict-mapping report as a way of promoting peace and reconciliation; and establish a moratorium on executions.

Recommendations to anti-Government elements, included to cease firing mortars, rockets and grenades into civilian-populated areas; cease the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of improvised explosive devices; cease the deliberate targeting and killing of civilians; cease practices carried out by parallel judicial structures that impose unlawful punishments, such as killing, amputation, mutilation and beatings; apply a definition of "civilian(s)" that is consistent with international humanitarian law; and enforce codes of conduct, instructions and directives ordering members to prevent and avoid civilian casualties.

Cambodia

Report of Special Rapporteur. In an August report [A/HRC/27/70] submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/29 [YUN 2013, p. 744], the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, Surya P. Subedi (Nepal), stated that his last two missions to the country in January and June 2014 focused on the possible establishment of an independent national human rights institution that met the benchmarks of the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his previous four reports dealing with judicial, parliamentary, electoral and land reform. Although elections to the National Assembly in July 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 744] were conducted in a largely peaceful manner, they were marred by allegations of electoral irregularities. The newly elected members of Parliament belonging to the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party initially refused to take their seats in the National Assembly and called for an independent and credible investigation into those allegations. The Special Rapporteur believed that the ability of people to exercise their rights of freedom of assembly, thought and speech, was a sign of a maturing democracy in the country; however, the violence and use of excessive force on repeated occasions since the elections, the indefinite continuation of an ambiguous and arbitrary ban on demonstrations that lasted over six months, and the arrest of opposition members on very serious charges ran counter to that trend. The Special Rapporteur concluded that Cambodia stood at a crossroads and that change in the country was possible if it was underpinned by comprehensive reform of State institutions. He highlighted the need for the independence of national structures to promote and protect human rights, as well as transparency and participation in the way the country is governed.

The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government continue strengthening the legal and institutional framework for human rights protection, and to give effect to the human right to participate in public affairs; accelerate the process of establishing an independent national human rights institution; reach a detailed agreement with the opposition on the promised reform of the electoral, parliamentary and other institutions for upholding people's rights; bring all perpetrators of violence during demonstrations to justice, including members of the security forces who caused death and injury; renew its efforts aimed at legal and judicial reform; pursue public administration reform; respect the trade union rights of all workers; protect human rights defenders; refrain from using the judiciary to intimidate, harass and imprison human rights defenders and trade union representatives; resolve existing land rights disputes as a matter of priority; and review its position on the recommendations from the universal periodic review (UPR) that were legal obligations on Cambodia as a party to international treaties, and take steps to implement them.

In a September addendum [A/HRC/27/70/Add.1], the Government of Cambodia provided its comments on the report of the Special Rapporteur.

Report of Secretary-General. In an August report [A/HRC/27/43] on the role and achievements of OHCHR in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/29 [YUN 2013, p. 744], the Secretary-General found the human rights situation to be profoundly affected by the political situation following the July 2013 elections of the National Assembly, which led to the approval of a newly formed Government. Negotiations between the ruling Cambodian People's Party and the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party took place on and off, but remained unresolved. Cambodia witnessed a wave of demonstrations that were unprecedented in number and scale, which gathered momentum towards the end of 2013. On 2 January 2014, security forces intervened violently at a generally peaceful demonstration outside a factory on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, beating people and eventually arresting 10 men. Further violence, arrests and deaths continued in the following days. Physical attacks by security forces against journalists spiked in 2014, and fatalities and injuries caused by State forces during demonstrations over the year had not been investigated or resolved. Ongoing human rights concerns continued to demand attention, particularly with respect to land and housing rights. OHCHR continued its most significant technical cooperation activities. In February 2014, its Memorandum of Understanding with the Government was renewed for another two years until 31 December 2015. In 2014, several programmes yielded achievements in the professionalization of key groups of public servants, particularly in securing a

separate legal status and setting out specific training requirements for prison staff and in requiring all judges to set out their legal reasoning when deciding on pretrial detention. Agreement was also reached with the Bar Association that all new trainee lawyers would receive training on fair trial rights, thereby institutionalizing the Fair Trial Rights Academy that had been delivered by OHCHR.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Communication. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), in a 3 February letter [A/HRC/25/G/6] to the President of the Human Rights Council, rejected the commission of inquiry and Council resolution 22/13 [YUN 2013, p. 745] establishing the commission's mandate.

Reports of commission of inquiry. Pursuant to Council resolution 22/13 [ibid.], the commission of inquiry on human rights in the DPRK submitted a February report [A/HRC/25/63], which found that systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations had been and were being committed by the DPRK, its institutions and its officials. In many instances, the violations of human rights found by the commission constituted crimes against humanity. The principal findings of the commission included violations of the freedoms of thought, expression and religion; discrimination; violations of the freedom of movement and residence; violations of the right to food and related aspects of the right to life; arbitrary detention; torture; executions and prison camps; abductions and enforced disappearances from other countries; and crimes against humanity. The commission noted that the perpetrators enjoyed impunity and the DPRK was unwilling to implement its international obligation to prosecute and bring the perpetrators to justice, because those perpetrators acted in accordance with State policy.

Based on its findings, the commission of inquiry recommended that the DPRK undertake political and institutional reforms to introduce genuine checks and balances upon the powers of the Supreme Leader and the Workers' Party of Korea; acknowledge the existence of human rights violations, including the political prison camps; reform the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure to abolish the vaguely worded "anti-State" and "anti-People" crimes and to enshrine the right to a fair trial and due process guarantees; implement an immediate moratorium on the death penalty; allow the establishment of independent newspapers and other media; abolish activities that espouse hatred or war propaganda; allow religious believers to exercise their religion independently and publicly; end discrimination against citizens on the basis of their political loyalty or socio-political background; take immediate measures to ensure gender equality in practice; ensure that citizens enjoy the right to food and other economic and social rights without

discrimination; pay particular attention to the needs of women and vulnerable groups; and legalize and support free market activities, internal and external trade and other independent economic conduct that provide citizens with a livelihood. The Government should also abolish the prohibition on foreign travel imposed on ordinary citizens; decriminalize illegal border crossings; provide the families and nations of origin of all persons who had been abducted, or otherwise forcibly disappeared, with full information on their fate and whereabouts; allow separated families to unite; and prosecute those persons most responsible for alleged crimes against humanity and appoint a special prosecutor to supervise that process.

The commission of inquiry recommended that China and other States respect the principle of non-refoulement and abstain from forcibly repatriating any persons to the DPRK; provide OHCHR and humanitarian organizations unimpeded access to all persons from the DPRK seeking such contact; adopt a victim-centric and human rights-based approach to trafficking in persons; and take measures to prevent DPRK agents from carrying out further abductions from Chinese territory. The commission also recommended that the Korean people foster inter-Korean dialogue in a phased approach leading to an agenda for reconciliation. The commission on inquiry further recommended that the Security Council refer the situation in the DPRK to the International Criminal Court [YUN 1998, p. 1209]; that the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council extend the country-specific human rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms on the DPRK that predated the commission's establishment; that the High Commissioner establish a structure to help ensure accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK; and that States refrain from using the provision of food and other essential humanitarian assistance to impose economic or political pressure on the DPRK.

Also in February, the commission of inquiry submitted a report [A/HRC/25/CRP.1] that contained its detailed findings on the situation of human rights in the DPRK.

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/25)], the Council condemned the long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations and abuses committed in the DPRK and expressed its concern at the detailed findings in the commission of inquiry's report (see above). It urged the Government to acknowledge the human rights violations and take immediate steps to end such violations and abuses; expressed concern at the situation of refugees and asylum seekers returned to the DPRK; acknowledged that the commission's findings provided reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity had been committed in the country; and stressed that DPRK authorities had failed to prosecute those responsible for crimes against

humanity and other human rights violations. The Council recommended that the General Assembly submit the commission of inquiry's report to the Security Council for its consideration and appropriate action; extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK for one year and requested him to submit regular reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly; and requested OHCHR to follow up on the commission of inquiry's recommendations, establish a field-based structure to strengthen monitoring and documentation of the situation, and report on its follow-up efforts in the regular annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly. It urged the Government to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, and to participate in its UPR in a constructive manner.

Reports of Special Rapporteur. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 25/25 (see above), the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, Marzuki Darusman (Indonesia), submitted a June report [A/HRC/26/43 & Corr.1], in which he presented his thoughts on the direction he intended to take in fulfilling his mandate, building on the findings and recommendations of the commission of inquiry (see above). He also stressed the international law implications of the commission's findings and the responsibility of the international community to protect; highlighted DPRK responses, including some opportunities for engagement presented by the Government's latest position on the recommendations made at UPR; and discussed the way forward and the responses required of States, the UN system, civil society, individuals and other stakeholders.

In an October report [A/69/548], submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/183 [YUN 2013, p. 746], the Special Rapporteur provided an update on the human rights situation in the country; elaborated on the strategic engagement required by the UN system, including a "human rights up front" response; and presented further analysis and recommendations taking into account the outcome of the second UPR of the country adopted by the Council in September. He emphasized that the international community had to seize the opportunity and momentum created by the commission of inquiry to make a difference in the lives of the people in the country, and to ensure the accountability of those responsible for serious violations of human rights, including crimes against humanity. He recommended that the General Assembly: submit the report of the commission of inquiry to the Security Council for its consideration and action; recommend that the Security Council place the human rights situation in the DPRK on its agenda and hold regular briefings with the Special Rapporteur and other experts to address the links between peace and security and

human rights in the Korean Peninsula; reaffirm the responsibility of the international community to protect the people of the DPRK and victims abroad from crimes against humanity; ensure that the OHCHR field-based structure to follow up on the commission's work could function with independence; request the Secretary-General and the UN system as a whole to address the grave human rights situation in a coordinated manner; and request the DPRK to allow persons who had been abducted or otherwise forcibly disappeared to return immediately to their countries of origin; halt all human rights violations relating to prison camps; and allow access for independent agencies and UN human rights mechanisms to verify and assess the implementation of the recommendations that the DPRK had made voluntarily during two cycles of UPR. The Special Rapporteur called on all countries where persons from the DPRK had sought refuge or were in transit to protect such persons, treat them humanely and adhere to the principles of non-refoulement. He also stated that he would assist States in forming a contact group to raise concerns about and provide support for initiatives to improve the situation of human rights in the country.

Report of Secretary-General. In a December report [A/69/639] submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 68/183 [YUN 2013, p. 746], the Secretary-General provided an update on the UN engagement with the DPRK regarding the human rights situation in the country from September 2013 to November 2014. The report drew attention to the participation of the DPRK in the second cycle of UPR and to the findings of the commission of inquiry and the related follow-up. It contained updated information on human rights and humanitarian issues, including the rights to food, health and education; the right to life, liberty and security of the person; the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities; and the impact of economic sanctions on UN assistance. The Secretary-General recommended that the Government translate the commitments made during UPR into concrete follow-up measures; consider the findings and recommendations of the commission of inquiry; invite the Special Rapporteur and other independent human rights mechanisms to visit the country; seek technical assistance from OHCHR; engage with States concerned on human rights issues, particularly with respect to the resolution of international abductions and enforced disappearances; and provide humanitarian agencies with the access required to bring humanitarian assistance to the population. The Secretary-General appealed to the international community to step up the provision of funding for humanitarian assistance efforts, especially food and medicine; work to minimize the adverse humanitarian consequences of sanctions imposed on the DPRK for the population; respect the international human rights law principle of non-

refoulement under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees [YUN 1951, p. 520]; and refrain from forcibly returning to the DPRK persons seeking asylum, given the grave risks they faced upon return.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/488/Add.3], adopted **resolution 69/188** by recorded vote (116-20-53) [agenda item 68 (c)].

Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations that they have undertaken under the various international instruments,

Recalling all previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including Assembly resolution 68/183 of 18 December 2013 and Council resolution 25/25 of 28 March 2014, and mindful of the need for the international community to strengthen its coordinated efforts aimed at achieving the implementation of those resolutions,

Deeply concerned at the grave human rights situation, the pervasive culture of impunity and the lack of accountability for human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Welcoming the report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and expressing grave concern at the detailed findings contained therein,

Noting the transmission of the report of the commission of inquiry to the Security Council on 14 April 2014,

Recalling the responsibility of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to protect its population from crimes against humanity,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, regretting that he still has not been allowed to visit the country and that he has received no cooperation from the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and taking note also of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea submitted in accordance with resolution 68/183,

Mindful that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and recalling the concluding observations of the treaty bodies under the four treaties,

Noting with appreciation the signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional

Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, encouraging the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take speedy steps to ratify the Convention and the Optional Protocol, and urging the Government to fully respect the rights of persons with disabilities and children,

Acknowledging the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the second universal periodic review process, noting the acceptance by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of 113 out of the 268 recommendations contained in the outcome of the review and its stated commitment to implement them and look into the possibility of implementing a further 58 recommendations, and emphasizing the importance of the implementation of the recommendations in order to address the grave human rights violations in the country,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration established between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization in order to improve the health situation in the country, and the collaboration established with the United Nations Children's Fund in order to improve the quality of education for children,

Noting the decision on the resumption, on a modest scale, of the activities of the United Nations Development Programme in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and encouraging the engagement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the international community to ensure that the programmes benefit the persons in need of assistance,

Noting also the cooperation between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on food security assessments, underscoring the importance of those assessments in analysing changes in the national, household and individual food security and nutritional situation and thereby in supporting donor confidence in the targeting of aid programmes, noting further the letter of understanding signed by the Government and the World Food Programme and the importance of further improvements in operating conditions, bringing access and monitoring arrangements closer to international standards for all United Nations entities, and noting with appreciation the work of international aid operators,

Noting further the importance of the issue of international abductions and of the immediate return of all abductees, taking note of the outcome of the government-level consultation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan in May 2014, and expecting concrete and positive results from the investigations being conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on all the Japanese nationals, in particular victims of abduction,

Noting the importance of the inter-Korean dialogue, which could contribute to the improvement of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the country,

Welcoming the resumption of the reunions of separated families across the border in February 2014, and, given that this is an urgent humanitarian concern of the entire Korean people, hoping that necessary arrangements for further reunions on a larger scale and a regular basis will be made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and members of the Korean diaspora,

1. *Condemns* the long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including those which the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 22/13 of 21 March 2013, has said may amount to crimes against humanity, and the continuing impunity for such violations;

2. *Expresses its very serious concern* at:

(a) The persistence of continuing reports of violations of human rights, including the detailed findings made by the commission of inquiry in its report, such as:

(i) Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including inhuman conditions of detention; rape; public executions; extrajudicial and arbitrary detention; the absence of due process and the rule of law, including fair trial guarantees and an independent judiciary; extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions; the imposition of the death penalty for political and religious reasons; collective punishments extending up to three generations; and the extensive use of forced labour;

(ii) The existence of an extensive system of political prison camps, where a vast number of persons are deprived of their liberty and subjected to deplorable conditions and where alarming violations of human rights are perpetrated, and in this regard strongly urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately end this practice and to release all political prisoners unconditionally and without any delay;

(iii) The forcible transfer of populations and the limitations imposed on every person who wishes to move freely within the country and travel abroad, including the punishment of those who leave or try to leave the country without permission, or their families, as well as punishment of persons who are returned;

(iv) The situation of refugees and asylum seekers expelled or returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and sanctions imposed on citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who have been repatriated from abroad, leading to punishments of internment, torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, sexual violence or the death penalty, and in this regard strongly urges all States to respect the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, to treat those who seek refuge humanely and to ensure unhindered access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office, with a view to protecting the human rights of those who seek refuge, and once again urges States parties to comply with their obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto in relation to refugees from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who are covered by those instruments;

(v) All-pervasive and severe restrictions on the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion or belief, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, the right to privacy and equal access to information, by such means as the persecution,

torture and imprisonment of individuals exercising their freedom of opinion and expression, religion or belief, and their families, and the right of everyone to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, of his or her country;

- (vi) Violations of economic, social and cultural rights, which have led to severe hunger, malnutrition, widespread health problems and other hardship for the population in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in particular for women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly;
 - (vii) Violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, in particular the creation of internal conditions that force women to leave the country and make them extremely vulnerable to trafficking in persons for the purpose of prostitution, domestic servitude or forced marriage and the subjection of women to forced abortions, gender-based discrimination, including in the political and social spheres, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence;
 - (viii) Violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children, in particular the continued lack of access to basic economic, social and cultural rights for many children, and in this regard notes the particularly vulnerable situation faced by, inter alia, returned or repatriated children, street children, children with disabilities, children whose parents are detained, children living in detention or in institutions and children in conflict with the law;
 - (ix) Violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, especially in the use of collective camps and of coercive measures that target the rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children;
 - (x) Violations of workers' rights, including the right to freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the right to strike as defined by the obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the prohibition of the economic exploitation of children and of any harmful or hazardous work of children as defined by the obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - (xi) Discrimination based on the *songbun* system, which classifies people on the basis of State-assigned social class and birth, and also includes consideration of political opinions and religion;
- (b) The continued refusal of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or to extend cooperation to the Special Rapporteur;
- (c) The continued lack of acknowledgement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of the grave human rights situation in the country and its consequential lack of

action to implement the recommendations contained in the outcome of its first universal periodic review;

(d) The failure of the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to prosecute those responsible for human rights violations, including violations which the commission of inquiry has said may amount to crimes against humanity;

3. *Underscores its very serious concern* at the systematic abduction, denial of repatriation and subsequent enforced disappearance of persons, including those from other countries, on a large scale and as a matter of State policy, and in this regard strongly calls upon the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea urgently to resolve these issues of international concern, in a transparent manner, including by ensuring the immediate return of abductees;

4. *Expresses its very deep concern* at the precarious humanitarian situation in the country, which could rapidly deteriorate owing to limited resilience to natural disasters and to government policies causing limitations in the availability of and access to food, compounded by structural weaknesses in agricultural production resulting in significant shortages of diversified food and the State restrictions on the cultivation of and trade in foodstuffs, as well as the prevalence of chronic malnutrition, particularly among the most vulnerable groups, pregnant women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, and urges the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in this regard, to take preventive and remedial action, cooperating where necessary with international donor agencies and in accordance with international standards for monitoring humanitarian assistance;

5. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the activities undertaken so far and for his continued efforts in the conduct of his mandate despite the denial of access;

6. *Also commends* the work of the commission of inquiry and recognizes the importance of its report, and regrets that the commission received no cooperation from the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including with regard to access to the country;

7. *Acknowledges* the commission's finding that the body of testimony gathered and the information received provide reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity have been committed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the State for decades;

8. *Decides* to submit the report of the commission of inquiry to the Security Council, and encourages the Council to consider the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the commission and take appropriate action to ensure accountability, including through consideration of referral of the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the International Criminal Court and consideration of the scope for effective targeted sanctions against those who appear to be most responsible for acts that the commission has said may constitute crimes against humanity;

9. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights towards establishing a field-based structure in the Republic of Korea to strengthen the monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to ensure accountability, to provide the

Special Rapporteur with increased support, to enhance the engagement and capacity-building of the Governments of all States concerned, civil society and other stakeholders and to maintain the visibility of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through sustained communications, advocacy and outreach initiatives;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to undertake to ensure that the field-based structure of the Office of the High Commissioner can function with independence, that it has sufficient resources and that it is not subjected to any reprisals or threats;

11. *Strongly urges* the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respect fully all human rights and fundamental freedoms and, in this regard:

(a) To immediately put an end to the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights emphasized above, inter alia, by implementing fully the measures set out in the above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, and the recommendations addressed to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by the Council in the context of the universal periodic review and by the commission of inquiry, the United Nations special procedures and treaty bodies;

(b) To protect its inhabitants, address the issue of impunity and ensure that those responsible for violations of human rights are brought to justice before an independent judiciary;

(c) To tackle the root causes leading to refugee outflows and prosecute those who exploit refugees by human smuggling, trafficking and extortion, while not criminalizing the victims;

(d) To ensure that citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who are expelled or returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are able to return in safety and dignity, are treated humanely and are not subjected to any kind of punishment, and to provide information on their status and treatment;

(e) To extend its full cooperation to the Special Rapporteur, including by granting him full, free and unimpeded access to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and to other United Nations human rights mechanisms so that a full needs assessment of the human rights situation may be made;

(f) To engage in technical cooperation activities in the field of human rights with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office, as pursued by the High Commissioner in recent years, with a view to improving the situation of human rights in the country, and to strive to implement the accepted recommendations stemming from the universal periodic review;

(g) To engage in cooperation with the International Labour Organization;

(h) To continue and reinforce its cooperation with United Nations humanitarian agencies;

(i) To ensure full, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian aid and take measures to allow humanitarian agencies to secure its impartial delivery to all parts of the country on the basis of need in accordance with humanitarian principles, as it pledged to do, and to ensure access to adequate food and implement more effective food security policies, including through sustainable agriculture,

sound food production distribution measures and the allocation of more funds to the food sector, and to ensure adequate monitoring of humanitarian assistance;

(j) To further improve cooperation with the United Nations country team and development agencies so that they can directly contribute to improving the living conditions of the civilian population, including accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in accordance with international monitoring and evaluation procedures;

(k) To consider ratifying and acceding to remaining international human rights treaties, which would enable a dialogue with the human rights treaty bodies;

12. *Urges* the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to implement the recommendations of the commission of inquiry without delay;

13. *Encourages* all Member States, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Secretariat, civil society organizations, foundations and engaged business enterprises and other stakeholders towards which the commission of inquiry has directed recommendations to implement or take forward those recommendations;

14. *Welcomes* the recent willingness expressed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to consider human rights dialogues with States and groups of States, technical cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and a country visit of the Special Rapporteur;

15. *Calls upon* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue to engage constructively with international interlocutors with a view to promoting concrete improvements in the human rights situation on the ground, including through dialogues, official visits to the country and more people-to-people contact;

16. *Decides* to continue its examination of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at its seventieth session, and to this end requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and requests the Special Rapporteur to continue to report his findings and recommendations, as well as to report on the follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry, in line with Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/188:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzer-

land, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Against: Belarus, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Gambia, Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Oman, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Suriname, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia.

Iran

Report of Special Rapporteur. In a March report [A/HRC/25/61] submitted in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/9 [YUN 2011, p. 768], the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ahmed Shaheed (Maldives), outlined his activities since the Council renewed his mandate in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 748], examined ongoing issues and presented the most pressing developments in the State's human rights situation. The Special Rapporteur concluded that Iran possessed the basic tools necessary to observe its international human rights obligations. He stressed that despite welcome amendments to the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure, and the proposal for a new charter of citizens' rights, the issues previously raised by the UN human rights mechanisms and recommendations made during the 2010 UPR [YUN 2010, p. 634] of the country were not resolved. Reports continued to detail cases of frequent infringement of the rule of law established by national laws and international standards, resulting in the arbitrary detention of hundreds of individuals peacefully exercising their rights. Most of the violations, including psychological and physical torture for the purpose of extorting information to be used as evidence in court, were reportedly committed during pretrial detention or court sessions.

In his recommendations, the Special Rapporteur urged the Government to facilitate the unconditional release of individuals imprisoned for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association, assembly, belief and religion; strengthen fair trial safeguards by ensuring access to legal counsel during all phases of pretrial detention and the investigative stages of cases; improve access of legal counsel to all files containing evidence against the accused; investigate all allegations of mistreatment and prosecute the parties responsible; prevent the intimidation of lawyers, including threats of detention and prosecution for

discharging their ethical and professional responsibilities; and prohibit capital punishment for juveniles and for crimes that did not meet the most serious criminal standards under international law, including for drug offences and perceived sexual offences.

Communication. In a 18 March letter [A/HRC/25/G/17] to the Human Rights Council President, Iran, in its capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement in Geneva, stated that there was a lack of clarity, transparency, equitability and predictability on the rules governing the publishing of addenda containing comments by States to country reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General and requested that the Bureau remain seized of the matter with a view to finding a fair and equitable solution.

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/24)], by a recorded vote of 21 to 9, with 16 abstentions, the Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year; requested him to report on the implementation of his mandate to the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session and the General Assembly's sixty-ninth (2014) session; and called on the Government to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur and to permit access to visit the country, as well as, to provide all information necessary to allow the fulfilment of his mandate.

Reports of Secretary-General. In an April report [A/HRC/25/26] submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 68/184 [YUN 2013, p. 750], the Secretary-General discussed the patterns and trends in the situation of human rights in Iran and provided information on progress made in the implementation of that resolution. He welcomed the positive steps taken by the Government, notably the release of high-profile political prisoners and the reinstatement of some students and lecturers in universities, and encouraged the Government to build on those developments by creating space for human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists, and to release political prisoners, including human rights defenders and lawyers detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. He remained troubled by reports of increasing numbers of executions, including of political prisoners, and continuing amputations and floggings and reiterated his call for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, and to prohibit executions in public. He encouraged the Government to continue to address regional disparities in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as discrimination against women and members of certain minorities; urged the Government to establish an independent national human rights institution; and regretted that, despite repeated requests for a country visit, the Special Rapporteur had not yet been admitted to the country.

In an August report [A/69/306], the Secretary-General welcomed the positive statements in relation

to freedom of expression and non-discrimination made by the Government under President Hassan Rouhani, and encouraged the authorities to translate them into concrete steps; remained troubled by reports of increased numbers of executions and reiterated his call for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, and to prohibit executions of juvenile offenders in all circumstances; urged the Government to create space for human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists, and to release political prisoners; urged the Government to establish an independent national human rights institution; and called on the Government to cooperate in the Special Rapporteur's mandate by inviting him to the country in the near future.

Report of Special Rapporteur. In an August report [A/69/356] to the General Assembly submitted in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 25/24 (see p. 911), the Special Rapporteur found that numerous issues flagged by the General Assembly, UN human rights mechanisms and the Secretary-General persisted, and in some cases appeared to have worsened. Progress on the 123 recommendations made by States during the first UPR consideration of the country in 2010 remained slow. Various laws, policies and institutional practices continued to undermine the conditions needed for the realization of the fundamental rights guaranteed by international and national law. Some draft laws appeared to further undermine the rights to freedom of expression and association and markedly compounded discrimination against women by further eroding their protection from forced marriage and rights to education, work and equal wages. The rise in executions for crimes that did not meet the threshold of "most serious crimes" and reports about the pervasive use of torture and the continued arbitrary arrest, detention and prosecution of individuals for exercising their fundamental rights severely contravened the Government's international and national commitments. The uneven application of national laws and an apparent reluctance to investigate claims of rights violations both undermined the rule of law and cultivated a culture of impunity. Concerns persisted in terms of the realization of social and economic rights, notably as a result of legislative and policy developments between 2010 and 2014, including laws that discriminated against women in the areas of early marriage, educational opportunities and participation in the workforce. Other laws appeared to eliminate access to reproductive health services for all Iranians.

The Special Rapporteur reiterated the call for the Government to establish an independent national human rights institution; echoed the call of the Human Rights Committee to ensure the independence of the judiciary and to investigate all allegations of torture and mistreatment of detainees; and repeated his call for substantive engagement and cooperation between the Government and the UN

human rights mechanisms. The Government should consider extending the de facto moratorium on stoning and halt the use of the death penalty, and take immediate steps to address the increased incidence of early and forced child marriage, by banning child marriage and raising the minimum age for marriage to 18 years.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.3], adopted **resolution 69/190** by recorded vote (83-35-68) [agenda item 68 (d)].

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international human rights instruments,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the most recent of which is resolution 68/184 of 18 December 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in August 2014 pursuant to resolution 68/184, and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted in August 2014 pursuant to Council resolution 25/24 of 28 March 2014;

2. *Welcomes* pledges made by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to some important human rights issues, particularly on eliminating discrimination against women and members of ethnic minorities and promoting freedom of expression and opinion, and urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to translate them into concrete action that results in demonstrable improvements as soon as possible and to ensure that its national laws are consistent with its obligations under international human rights law and that they are implemented in accordance with its international obligations;

3. *Acknowledges* legislative and administrative changes in the Islamic Republic of Iran that address some human rights concerns, including amendments to the Islamic Penal Code and to the criminal procedure code, and notes efforts to introduce a citizen's rights charter, while urging the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure that these measures are consistent with its international human rights obligations;

4. *Also acknowledges* recent engagement by the Islamic Republic of Iran with human rights treaty bodies through the submission of periodic national reports, as well as participation in its second universal periodic review by the Human Rights Council, while remaining seriously concerned about the broader lack of engagement with human rights monitoring mechanisms, including the ongoing lack of response to requests from special procedures mandate holders for information and country visits;

5. *Expresses deep concern* at serious ongoing and recurring human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran relating to, inter alia:

(a) The alarming high frequency of and increase in the carrying-out of the death penalty in the absence of internationally recognized safeguards, including public executions, notwithstanding the issuance of a circular by the former head of the judiciary prohibiting public executions, and secret group executions, as well as reports of executions undertaken without the notification of the prisoner's family members or legal counsel;

(b) The continuing imposition and carrying-out of the death penalty against minors and persons who at the time of their offence were under the age of 18, in violation of the obligations of the Islamic Republic of Iran under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(c) The imposition of the death penalty for crimes that lack a precise and explicit definition and for crimes that do not qualify as the most serious crimes, in violation of international law;

(d) Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including flogging and amputations;

(e) Widespread and serious restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of association and freedom of opinion and expression, including through continued efforts to block, filter or hinder Internet access and content, including social media outlets, to jam international satellite transmission and to censor or close media outlets;

(f) The systematic targeting and harassment of human rights defenders and the renewed targeting of journalists, bloggers and social media users, who face arrest, arbitrary detention, long-term exile and harsh sentences, including the death sentence;

(g) Pervasive gender inequality and violence against women and ongoing discrimination against women and girls in law and in practice, including by continuing to limit equal access to employment and to certain fields of higher education, as well as restrictions on access to decision-making positions in the Government and to the labour market, despite the granting of 3 of 11 deputy vice-presidential posts to women;

(h) Continued discrimination and other human rights violations, at times amounting to persecution, against persons belonging to ethnic, linguistic or other minorities, including Arabs, Azeris, Balochis and Kurds and their defenders, noting in particular reports of the violent suppression and detention of ethnic Arabs and Azeris, including ongoing violations of their due process rights and alleged torture while imprisoned, and the reported secret execution of members of the Ahwaz Arab community;

(i) Ongoing severe limitations and restrictions on the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and restrictions on the building of, as well as attacks against, places of worship and burial;

(j) Continued harassment, at times amounting to persecution, and human rights violations against persons belonging to recognized religious minorities, including Christians, Jews, Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims and Zoroastrians and their defenders, noting in particular the arbitrary arrest and detention of Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims and evangelical Christians, including the continued detention of Christian pastors;

(k) Continued discrimination, persecution and human rights violations against persons belonging to unrecognized religious minorities, particularly members of the Baha'i faith

and their defenders, including targeted attacks and murders, without proper investigation to hold those responsible accountable, arbitrary arrests and detention, the denial of access to higher education on the basis of religion, the continued imprisonment of the entire leadership of the Iranian Baha'i community, the closure of Baha'i-owned businesses, the desecration and destruction of Baha'i cemeteries and the effective criminalization of membership in the Baha'i faith;

(l) Continued and sustained house arrest of leading opposition figures from the 2009 presidential elections, despite serious concerns about their health, as well as ongoing restrictions on their supporters and family members, including through harassment, intimidation and reprisals;

(m) Persistent failure to uphold due process of law, and violations of the rights of detainees, including the widespread and systematic use of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, the lack of access of detainees to legal representation of their choice, the refusal to consider granting bail to detainees, the poor conditions of prisons, the denial of access to adequate medical treatment and the consequent risk of death faced by prisoners, detainees being subjected to torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence, harsh interrogation techniques and the use of pressure exerted upon their relatives and dependants, including through arrest, to obtain false confessions that are then used at trials and are broadcast on national television;

(n) Continuing arbitrary or unlawful interference by State authorities with the privacy of individuals, in particular in relation to private homes, and with their correspondence, including telephone and e-mail communications, in violation of international law;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to address the substantive concerns highlighted in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the specific calls to action found in previous resolutions of the General Assembly, and to respect fully its human rights obligations, in law and in practice, in particular:

(a) To abolish, in law and in practice, public executions and other executions carried out in the absence of respect for internationally recognized safeguards, including by stoning and suspension strangulation;

(b) To further revisit the revised Islamic Penal Code to make it consistent with its obligation, under article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to abolish executions of minors and persons who at the time of their offence were under the age of 18;

(c) To eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

(d) To eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination and other human rights violations against women and girls, including to address the increasing incidence of child, early and forced marriage, to promote women's participation in decision-making positions and, while recognizing the high enrolment of women in all levels of education, to lift all restrictions on women's equal access to all aspects of university education and promote women's participation in the labour market and in all aspects of economic, cultural, social and political life;

(e) To eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination and other human rights violations against

persons belonging to religious, ethnic, linguistic or other minorities, recognized or otherwise;

(f) To eliminate discrimination against, and exclusion of, members of certain groups with respect to access to higher education based on their political, ethnic or religious affiliations or community, including through the unqualified readmission of those students previously excluded for these reasons, to eliminate the criminalization of efforts to provide higher education to Baha'i youth denied access to Iranian universities and to release those imprisoned for this reason;

(g) To implement, inter alia, the 1996 report of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, in which he recommended ways in which the Islamic Republic of Iran could emancipate the Baha'i community, to release the seven Baha'i leaders held since 2008 and to accord all Baha'is, including those imprisoned because of their beliefs, the due process of law and the rights that they are constitutionally guaranteed;

(h) To launch a comprehensive accountability process in response to cases of serious human rights violations, including those involving the Iranian judiciary and security agencies, and to end impunity for such violations, including those that took place during the attack that injured dozens of prisoners in Evin prison in April 2014, as promised by the Government;

(i) To fulfil repeated pledges by the President for greater space for freedom of expression and opinion by ending the ongoing harassment, intimidation and persecution of political opponents, human rights defenders, women's and minority rights activists, labour leaders, students, academics, film-makers, journalists and their families, other media representatives, bloggers, social media users, clerics, artists and lawyers, including by releasing persons who continue to be detained arbitrarily or on the basis of their political views;

(j) To end restrictions on, and the arbitrary arrest of, the press and media representatives, Internet users and Internet providers, including the selective jamming of satellite broadcasts, that violate the rights to freedom of expression and association, and, while the General Assembly welcomes the decision of the Government to increase Internet speed, it further encourages improvements to facilitate open and free Internet access;

(k) To uphold, in law and in practice, procedural guarantees to ensure due process of law;

7. *Also calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen its national human rights institutions in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) by establishing an independent national human rights institution as it committed itself to doing in the framework of its first universal periodic review by the Human Rights Council, with due regard for the recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

8. *Notes* the recent engagement by the Islamic Republic of Iran with human rights treaty bodies, including the submission of national periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider acting upon the concluding observations adopted by those Committees;

9. *Calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to effectively implement its obligations under those

human rights treaties to which it is already a party, to withdraw any reservations that it may have made upon signature or ratification of other international human rights instruments where such reservations are overly general, imprecise or could be considered incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty, to consider acting upon the concluding observations concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted by the bodies of the international human rights treaties to which it is a party and to consider ratifying or acceding to the international human rights treaties to which it is not already a party;

10. *Notes with concern* the poor implementation record of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in respect of the recommendations that it had accepted during its first universal periodic review by the Human Rights Council, and strongly encourages the Government to implement all accepted recommendations, including from its second universal periodic review, with the full and genuine participation of independent civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation process;

11. *Expresses deep concern* that, despite the standing invitation issued by the Islamic Republic of Iran to all thematic special procedures mandate holders, it has not fulfilled any requests from those special mechanisms to visit the country in nine years and has left unanswered the vast majority of the numerous and repeated communications from those special mechanisms, and strongly urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to fully cooperate with the special mechanisms, including facilitating their visits to its territory, so that credible and independent investigations of all allegations of human rights violations can be conducted;

12. *Expresses serious concern* about allegations of reprisals against individuals for their cooperation or contact with United Nations human rights mechanisms or representatives;

13. *Strongly encourages* the thematic special procedures mandate holders to pay particular attention to, with a view to investigating and reporting on, the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice of the Human Rights Council;

14. *Welcomes* the recent engagement, through country visits, of the heads of United Nations agencies, and urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to deepen its engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms;

15. *Encourages* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue to explore cooperation on human rights and justice reform with the United Nations, including

the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

16. *Continues to call upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and other international human rights mechanisms, including by accepting the repeated requests made by the Special Rapporteur to visit the country to carry out his mandate;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including options and recommendations to improve its implementation, and to submit an interim report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session;

18. *Decides* to continue its examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran at its seventieth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/190:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Vanuatu.

Against: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia.

Iraq

Human Rights Council special session. In a 26 August letter [A/HRC/S-22/1], Iraq requested that the Human Rights Council convene a special session on 1 September, entitled “The human rights situation in Iraq in the light of the abuses committed by the

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups”, and transmitted a list of Council members and observer States that were also in support of that request. On the same day [A/HRC/S-22/2] and on 27 August [A/HRC/S-22/3], respectively, the coordinators of the Group of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Head of the Permanent Delegation of the European Union, and Costa Rica supported that request. The Council held its twenty-second special session on 1 September [A/HRC/S-22/4].

Human Rights Council action. On 1 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. S-22/1)], the Council condemned the systematic violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law resulting from the terrorist acts committed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and associated groups taking place since 10 June in several provinces of Iraq, which might amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, and condemned in particular all violence against persons based on their religious or ethnic affiliation, and against women and children; urged all parties to comply with international humanitarian law and human rights law, protect civilians, respect their human rights and meet their basic needs, which required safe access for humanitarian and medical services to all affected populations; called on the Iraqi Government to ensure that all perpetrators of violations and abuses were brought to justice; expressed its support for the Iraqi authorities in establishing a new and inclusive Government within the constitutionally mandated time frame; called on the new Iraqi Government to promote and protect human rights; called on the international community to assist the Iraqi authorities to ensure the protection of and assistance to those fleeing the areas affected by terrorism; and requested the High Commissioner to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to the Government. The Council requested OHCHR to dispatch a mission to Iraq to investigate alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law committed by ISIL and associated terrorist groups to report on its findings at an interactive dialogue during the Council's twenty-eighth (2015) session and to provide an oral update during the twenty-seventh (2014) session of the Council on the implementation of the resolution.

On 25 September, at the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session [A/HRC/27/2], the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights presented the oral country update of the High Commissioner pursuant to Council resolution S-22/1 (see above).

Myanmar

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/26)], the Council welcomed the positive developments in Myanmar and the Government's commitment to continue on its path of political and

economic reform, democratization and national reconciliation. It expressed concern about remaining human rights violations and abuses; the situation of the Rohingya and other minorities in Rakhine State; and further delays to open an OHCHR country office. The Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar for one year; invited him to provide in his next report further recommendations on the needs of the country, including with regard to technical assistance and capacity-building; and requested him to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth (2014) session and to the Council in accordance with its annual programme of work.

Report of Special Rapporteur. In an April report [A/HRC/25/64], the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana (Argentina), described his ninth visit to the country (14–19 February) and reflected on the progress made during the course of his six years as the mandate holder. He noted important improvements such as the release of over 1,100 prisoners of conscience, the opening up of space for freedom of expression, the development of political freedoms and the holding of free and fair by-elections, and progress in securing an end to fighting in the ethnic border areas. The democratic transition, however, was still in its early stages and remained fragile. He noted that the military retained a prevailing role in the life and institutions of the country; State institutions remained unaccountable; the judiciary was not yet functioning as an independent branch of the State; and rule of law was not yet in existence.

The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government continue to convene the prisoner review committee and upgrade the status of the committee to enable it to investigate cases of prisoners of conscience, including in Rakhine State; ensure that the police and military officers alleged to have committed acts of torture and ill-treatment were held accountable through the criminal justice system; expedite a new prisons law to meet international standards; and abolish the death penalty. On the situation in ethnic border areas, the Government, and ethnic armed groups, should abide by humanitarian and human rights law in areas where armed conflict persisted; establish a system for monitoring the implementation of ceasefire and political agreements; ensure that political negotiations abide by the principles of participation, transparency, accountability, equality and non-discrimination; ensure access to non-government controlled areas in Kachin State for humanitarian organizations; ensure that any return of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs be carried out voluntarily; and accelerate the identification and release of all children in the national armed forces and border guard forces. The Special Rapporteur also made recommendations on addressing the Rakhine State, the transition to democracy and estab-

lishment of the rule of law, the right to freedom of expression, the problem of hate speech, the rights to peaceful assembly and association, human rights in the context of development, and joint plans of action on child soldiers.

In an addendum to the report [A/HRC/35/64/Add.1] Myanmar presented its comments on the report of the Special Rapporteur.

Report of Secretary-General. In an August report [A/69/362] submitted pursuant to General Assembly 68/242 [YUN 2013, p. 753] and covering the period from 11 August 2013 and 6 August 2014, the Secretary-General stated that Myanmar continued the reform agenda while the country prepared for the 2015 elections. Parliament enacted fresh laws reflecting popular needs and ensuring popular accountability, and efforts continued for a nationwide ceasefire and for building the framework for a political dialogue. The tension in Rakhine did not lessen, however, causing widespread concern and alarm both domestically and internationally. In that regard, the Secretary-General welcomed the establishment by presidential decree of a centre for diversity and national harmony in Yangon, with the objective of bridging the gap between communities, promoting peaceful coexistence and establishing early warning systems and building capacity among government bodies and civil society with the goal of detecting areas of potential tension and friction among communities. He observed that while human rights concerns and the communal violence of the past few years had, at times, overshadowed the progress made by the country, the political transition in Myanmar and the Government's commitment towards a strong developmental agenda had held ground. He urged the international community to continue to support the country along the path of democratization, reform, respect for human rights and stable economic growth and towards a more harmonious and inclusive society.

Report of Special Rapporteur. In a September report [A/69/398], the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee (South Korea), presented her preliminary key areas of focus and recommendations aimed at contributing to the country's efforts towards respecting, protecting and promoting human rights and achieving democratization, national reconciliation and development. She took up her functions in June 2014 and conducted her first mission to Myanmar (17–26 July). She concluded that Myanmar was undergoing an important transition and that far-reaching reforms in the country had dramatically transformed the political, economic, social and human rights landscape. Possible signs of backtracking, however, if not addressed, could undermine the progress achieved. She recommended that the Government implement an electoral framework and process in line with international standards to ensure that elec-

tions were transparent, inclusive, participatory, free and fair; amend relevant laws and regulations affecting the rights to vote, campaign and stand for elections, ensuring no discrimination between different citizenship categories and using objective and reasonable criteria for candidates running for public office; ensure an enabling environment for civil society and the freedoms of expression, assembly and association; end discrimination against, and ensure the protection of, the rights of minorities; utilize the Rabat Plan of Action to develop a holistic set of measures to address the root causes of discrimination against racial and religious minorities, as well as intercommunal tensions and violence; ensure a rights-based and people-centred form of sustainable development and the protection of economic, social and cultural rights; strengthen the rule of law; and amend the Constitution to ensure that human rights were accorded to all persons in the country, providing for the prohibition of torture and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, and ensuring that the military was subject to civilian rule and to the rule of law.

The Special Rapporteur also made recommendations to the Government regarding Rakhine State, including immediately addressing the critical health situation in camps; providing adequate basic services; investigating and prosecuting those responsible for human rights violations perpetrated against the Rohingya community; respecting the right to self-identification for Rohingyas and other minorities; and developing reconciliation measures as a necessary step to rebuilding integrated communities for inclusion in the Rakhine State Action Plan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.3], adopted **resolution 69/248** without vote [agenda item 68 (c)].

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments, and recalling its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the most recent of which is resolution 68/242 of 27 December 2013, those of the Commission on Human Rights, and those of the Human Rights Council, the most recent of which is resolution 25/26 of 28 March 2014,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the facilitation by the Government of Myanmar of the visits of his Special Adviser to the country from 25 August to 2 September, from 5 to 11 October, from 31 October to 6 November and from 29 November to 2 December 2013 and from 18 to 28 January, from 28 March to 10 April, from 26 to 28 June and from 26 July to 1 August 2014,

Welcoming also the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the access granted to her during her visit to Myanmar from 17 to 26 July 2014,

1. *Welcomes* the continued positive developments in Myanmar towards political and economic reform, democratization and national reconciliation and the promotion and protection of human rights, recognizes the scale of the reform effort undertaken to date, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to take further steps to consolidate the progress made and address outstanding concerns;

2. *Also welcomes* the continued engagement of the Government of Myanmar with political actors within the parliament and opposition parties, as well as with civil society, and urges the authorities to continue the process of constitutional review and reform in order to ensure, inter alia, that the elections to be held in 2015 are credible, inclusive and transparent, allowing all candidates to fairly contest the elections, and to ensure that Myanmar continues its democratic transition by bringing all national institutions, including the military, under a democratically elected, fully representative civilian government;

3. *Further welcomes* the ongoing efforts aimed at reviewing and reforming legislation, recalls the importance of ensuring its compatibility with international standards and democratic principles, welcomes some steps taken to strengthen good governance and the rule of law, and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to continue legal reform, including by repealing laws restricting fundamental freedoms, to consider ratifying additional international instruments, including international human rights conventions, and to take further steps to strengthen good governance and the rule of law, including through legislative, judicial and institutional reform;

4. *Welcomes* the release of prisoners of conscience, stressing the important role of the political prisoner review committee and encouraging its continuation, urges the Government of Myanmar to continue the unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience, including all political activists and human rights defenders recently detained or convicted, and to provide for the full rehabilitation of former prisoners of conscience, welcomes the announcement of a mandate for the Interim Press Council to mediate disputes between journalists and the authorities, and encourages the Government to fulfil its commitment to protect the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, to allow for free and independent media and to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of journalists, civil society activists and human rights defenders and their freedom to pursue their activities;

5. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to step up its efforts to end remaining human rights violations and abuses, including arbitrary arrest and detention, forced displacement, rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, arbitrary deprivation of property, including land, and violations of international humanitarian law in some parts of the country, and repeats its call upon the Government to take necessary measures to ensure accountability and end impunity;

6. *Welcomes* the important steps taken towards a nationwide ceasefire with ethnic armed groups and towards an all-inclusive political dialogue with the objective of achieving lasting peace, and urges full implementation of existing ceasefire agreements, including for all parties to

protect the civilian population against ongoing violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law and for safe, timely, full and unhindered humanitarian access to be granted to all areas;

7. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to accelerate its efforts to address discrimination, human rights violations, violence, hate speech, displacement and economic deprivation affecting various ethnic and religious minorities, and attacks against Muslims and other religious minorities, and calls upon the Government to uphold the rule of law and to step up its efforts to promote tolerance and peaceful co-existence in all sectors of society by, inter alia, facilitating interfaith and intercommunity dialogue and understanding and supporting community leaders in this direction;

8. *Reiterates its serious concern* about the situation of the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State, including further instances of violence and other abuses in the past year, and, while noting some steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to address the situation, calls upon the Government to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all inhabitants of Rakhine State regardless of legal status, to ensure full and immediate access to humanitarian assistance without discrimination, to permit unhindered access for humanitarian agencies across Rakhine State, to take measures to ensure the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons to their communities of origin, to allow freedom of movement and equal access to full citizenship for the Rohingya minority, to allow self-identification, to ensure equal access to services, particularly health and education, the right to marry and birth registration, to address the root causes of violence and discrimination, and to undertake full, transparent and independent investigations into all reports of human rights violations and abuses to ensure accountability and to bring about reconciliation;

9. *Notes* the efforts made to address comprehensively the complex situation in Rakhine State, and urges the Government of Myanmar to ensure transparency and a consultative approach that ensures the full engagement of all stakeholders, including religious minorities, in these efforts with a view to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and providing access to full citizenship on an equal basis, and to promote peaceful coexistence and the long-term development of all communities in Rakhine State;

10. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Centre for Diversity and National Harmony in Myanmar, which is intended to promote harmony and peaceful coexistence among communities;

11. *Also welcomes* the continued steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to improve engagement and cooperation with the United Nations and other international actors, including regional organizations, encourages the full implementation of relevant agreements, and, recalling the commitment of the Government to open a country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, expresses concern about delays and calls upon the Government to establish, without further delay, the office in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

12. *Encourages* the international community to continue to support the Government of Myanmar in the fulfilment of its international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations and commitments, the implementation of its democratic transitional process and its economic and social development;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on human rights, democracy and reconciliation in Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to offer technical assistance to the Government of Myanmar in this regard;

(b) To give all assistance necessary to enable the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner;

(c) To report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter on the basis of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur.

Sri Lanka

Report of High Commissioner. In a February report [A/HRC/25/23] on promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/1 [YUN 2013, p. 755], the High Commissioner acknowledged the progress made in reconstruction and in the implementation of some of the recommendations made by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, but highlighted that the Government had not ensured independent and credible investigations into past violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. The report contained updates on the ongoing attacks on religious minorities, the harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists, and continued militarization. The Government had also not responded to the multiple offers of technical assistance made by the High Commissioner and special procedures, and new evidence continued to emerge on the events that took place in the final stages of the armed conflict, with human remains still being discovered. In addition to the establishment of an independent, international inquiry mechanism, which would contribute to establishing the truth, the High Commissioner recommended that the Government finalize laws dealing with incitement to hatred, witness and victim protection, the right to information and the criminalization of enforced disappearances; arrest, prosecute and punish perpetrators of attacks on minority communities, media and human rights defenders; undertake independent and credible criminal and forensic investigations, with international assistance, into all alleged violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including recently discovered mass graves; broaden the scope and tenure of the Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances to encompass cases from all parts of the island and all periods of the history of disappearances; take further steps in demilitarization and ensure military disengagement

from activities that were meant to be civilian; resolve land disputes and promote community participation in reconstruction and development; and engage civil society and minority community representatives in a consultative process to support the implementation of the recommendations made by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission.

Communications. In letters dated 24 [A/HRC/25/G/9] and 27 February [A/HRC/25/G/10], Sri Lanka, respectively, provided its comments on the report of the High Commissioner on promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka; and stated it had requested that its comments be published as an addendum to the report of the High Commissioner, not as a separate communication. It further stated that there was a lack of clarity and transparency with regard to the rules governing addenda and submissions of comments by States on the reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General and requested that the issue be addressed in consultation with the Bureau with a view to seeking an equitable solution.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/1)], by a recorded vote of 23 to 12, with 12 abstentions, the Council called on the Government to conduct an independent and credible investigation into allegations of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and hold accountable those responsible; implement the constructive recommendations made in the report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission; release publicly the results of its investigations into alleged violations by security forces; investigate all alleged attacks on journalists, human rights defenders, members of religious minority groups and other members of civil society, as well as on temples, mosques and churches; and cooperate with special procedures mandate holders and respond formally to their outstanding requests. The Council requested OHCHR to monitor the human rights situation in Sri Lanka and continue to assess progress on relevant national processes; undertake a comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes by both parties in the country during the period covered by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, and establish the facts and circumstances of alleged violations and of the crimes perpetrated with a view to avoiding impunity and ensuring accountability; and present an oral update to the Council's twenty-seventh (2014) session, and a comprehensive report at its twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Council resolution 25/1 (see above), the High Commissioner in September presented an oral update [A/HRC/27/CRP.2] on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka. He urged the Government to seize the opportunity presented by the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and

Reconciliation Commission to address many root causes and structural issues that contributed to the conflict, and lay the basis for longer-term reconciliation; and to end the climate of intimidation, threat and harassment against civil society actors advocating for justice and human rights, as well as the incitement of hatred and violence against the country's Muslim and Christian minorities, which would only undermine the prospects for peace and reconciliation. The High Commissioner briefed the Council on the progress of the OHCHR-conducted comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes by both parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka and appealed to the Sri Lankan authorities to cooperate fully with the investigation, as well as with the relevant special procedures mandate holders.

Yemen

Report of High Commissioner. In an August report on the situation of human rights in Yemen [A/HRC/27/44] covering the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, the High Commissioner focused on accountability and transitional justice in providing redress for victims of serious human rights violations; incidents of extrajudicial killing; the use of the death penalty; the situation of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and IDPs; enforced disappearances, fair trial and prison conditions; marginalized groups; developments regarding the judiciary; children's rights, women's rights and the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association; and human rights activities conducted in cooperation with OHCHR. The High Commissioner welcomed the conclusion on 25 January 2014 of the National Dialogue Conference [YUN 2012, p. 351] and noted the Conference outcomes pertaining to human rights, especially with regard to women, children and marginalized communities. She, nonetheless, regretted that the overall security situation in the country had escalated into intermittent conflict since October 2013; urged all parties involved to respect their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law; and deplored that no independent and effective investigation had been conducted in relation to allegations of the excessive use of force and grave human rights violations committed in Al-Dhale'a, Amran and other regions, in particular in cases that resulted in deaths and attacks against civilian targets, such as schools and hospitals. The High Commissioner recommended that the Government expedite the establishment of the national commission of inquiry; cooperate with OHCHR to revise the draft law on Transitional Justice and National Reconciliation to be in conformity with international standards; release all individuals imprisoned for their peaceful participation in the 2011 events; establish a moratorium on the death penalty; ensure independent

investigations into allegations of the excessive use of force and grave human rights violations; ensure safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian organizations to all areas affected by armed conflict; and ensure the safety and security of journalists; ensure the consideration of women's rights in the Constitution drafting process; and implementation of the Action Plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the Yemeni Armed Forces.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/19)], the Council noted with concern the armed violence in Dhale'a, Amran, Al Jawf, Ma'rib and Sana'a, and in particular the recent escalation of violence; welcomed the Peace and National Partnership Agreement of 21 September and called on all parties to cooperate and implement that Agreement; urged the competent State organs of Yemen to ensure the early adoption of the draft law establishing an independent national human rights institution; noted that the appointment of the members of the committee to investigate allegations of violations of human rights in 2011 had not yet been finalized by the President; and demanded that armed groups end the recruitment and use of children and release those who had already been recruited. It called on the Government to release persons arbitrarily detained; end any practice of unlawful detention of persons; investigate cases of violence against journalists and review cases of detention of journalists; uphold the rights of all non-nationals; and ensure fair trial guarantees and continue to ensure that the death penalty was not applied to minors. The Council also welcomed the recommendations on women's rights in the outcome document of the National Dialogue Conference; called on the international community to provide financial support to the 2014 Yemen humanitarian response plan; requested the High Commissioner to provide technical assistance and work with the Government to identify additional areas of assistance; and requested OHCHR to report to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session on the human rights situation in Yemen.

Europe and the Mediterranean

Belarus

Report of Special Rapporteur. In an April report on the situation of human rights in Belarus [A/HRC/26/44], the Special Rapporteur, Miklós Haraszti (Hungary), in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 23/15 [YUN 2013, p. 757], outlined major concerns in detail, and the general situation, which was characterized by a systemic denial of human rights to citizens in the country by way of a purposeful combination of restrictive laws and abusive practices. Those concerns included the independence

of the judiciary and of lawyers; torture and other cruel, inhuman treatment or degrading treatment or punishment; prison conditions; arbitrary arrest and detention; the imprisonment of political opponents, human rights defenders and activists; enforced disappearances; the death penalty; freedoms of opinion and expression, of peaceful assembly and of association; access to information; trade unions; just and favourable work conditions; forced labour; discrimination; persons with disabilities; gender; minorities; and elections. The Special Rapporteur concluded that there had been very little progress since his last report in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 756] and noted that the majority of the recommendations made by UN human rights mechanisms, including matters such as shortcomings of rule of law institutions, lack of accountability for human rights violations and impunity, had neither been implemented nor followed up on.

The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government release all political opponents, human rights defenders and activists convicted solely for the exercise of their political rights; take measures leading to meaningful political accountability; decriminalize public activities without permission; activate the work of the parliamentary working group on the death penalty, release information on those executed and establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty; establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles; investigate the fate of disappeared persons; ensure the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment in law and in practice; adopt anti-discrimination legislation; adopt legislation in favour of holding peaceful assemblies; protect human rights defenders and journalists; and recognize and extend full cooperation to the mandate holder by engaging in a constructive dialogue and facilitating a visit to the country.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/25)], by a recorded vote of 24 to 7, with 16 abstentions, the Council called on the Government to conduct a comprehensive review of relevant legislation, policies, strategies and practices to ensure that the provisions were clearly defined and consistent with international human rights law; carry out a comprehensive reform of the justice sector and bar associations; and release all political prisoners. It extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year, and requested him to report to the Council's twenty-ninth (2015) session and to the General Assembly's seventieth (2015) session.

Report of Special Rapporteur. In an August report on the situation of human rights in Belarus [A/69/307], submitted in accordance with Council resolution 23/15 [YUN 2013, p. 757], the Special Rapporteur focused on the state of freedom of association and the impact of the legal framework and legal practices on NGOs and human rights defenders in the country. He identified the main obstacles hampering the activities

of civil society organizations and human rights defenders. Findings indicated that such organizations and individuals continued to endure extreme political pressure and a restrictive regulatory setting, and that civil activities outside the official framework were criminalized. He concluded that the overall legislative framework and practices of the Belarusian authorities violated, on a regular basis, the relevant provisions of international law and paralyzed the exercise of citizens' right to full and inclusive participation in public life. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government release the remaining human rights defenders and activists convicted for exercising their civil and political rights; guarantee the independence and protection of human rights defenders, civil society organizations and NGOs from harassment, intimidation and violations; conduct a comprehensive review of the Belarusian legislation pertaining to freedom of association to bring it in line with international human rights law; review the law on public association and all regulations and practices pertaining to the activities of civil society organizations; remove legal and administrative impediments on funding for NGOs and human rights defenders, including funding from abroad; cease the vilification campaigns against NGOs critical of the government; end the obstruction, harassment and punishment of NGOs exercising their right to peaceful assembly; engage in constructive dialogue with independent NGOs and human rights defenders on civil society issues; and establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles in cooperation with all national NGOs willing to defend human rights.

On 18 December (**decision 69/536**), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Special Rapporteur.

Cyprus

Communications. By a 21 March note verbale [A/HRC/25/G/21], Turkey transmitted to the High Commissioner the Turkish Cypriot view on the OHCHR report on the question of human rights in Cyprus [YUN 2013, p. 757]. On 25 April [A/HRC/25/G/26], Cyprus provided its comments in relation to the Turkey's letter.

Report of High Commissioner. In a report on the question of human rights in Cyprus [A/HRC/28/20], the High Commissioner highlighted the concerns voiced by international and regional human rights mechanisms at factors and difficulties impeding the implementation of international human rights standards on the whole island owing to the protracted conflict. The report, which covered the period from 1 December 2013 to 30 November 2014, provided an overview of the specific human rights concerns in the country, including with regard to the right to life and the question of missing persons, the principle of

non-discrimination, freedom of movement, property rights, freedom of religion and cultural rights, freedom of opinion and expression and the right to education. It also provided an update on activities conducted to promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113] and adopt a gender perspective when negotiating and implementing peace agreements. OHCHR noted some positive developments, including in the identification and return of the remains of missing persons, an improved climate of interreligious cooperation and progress in conservation works at cultural heritage sites. The persistent division on the island, however, continued to hinder the full enjoyment by the whole population of Cyprus, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Office reiterated the importance of addressing all human rights protection gaps and the underlying human rights issues in situations of protracted conflict.

Ukraine

In Ukraine, from 21 November 2013 to 22 February 2014, large-scale street protests erupted, triggered by the decision of former President Viktor Yanukovich not to sign an association agreement with the European Union. The protests were exacerbated by violence and the excessive use of force by the police, particularly in Independence Square (Maidan) in Kyiv, where over 100 people were killed in January and February 2014, including by snipers. The violence and human rights violations led to the downfall of the Government, the departure of President Yanukovich to the Russian Federation and the formation of a pro-European interim Government on 27 February. In March, the crisis broadened; paramilitary and so-called self-defence groups, as well as soldiers without insignia took control of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and organized a referendum to join the Russian Federation. In the east and south of the country, regular rallies were organized with participation of the local population, but also allegedly with individuals and groups from neighbouring regions of the Russian Federation, with the demand for a referendum on the federalization of Ukraine or union with the Russian Federation, as well as recognition of Russian as a second State language. Supporters and opponents regularly clashed, resulting in the first three deaths of the crisis in the eastern regions on 13 and 14 March.

UN monitoring mission. On 14 March, OHCHR deployed the Human Rights Monitoring Mission to Ukraine to monitor and report on the human rights situation throughout the country and to propose recommendations to the Government and other actors to address emerging human rights issues as well as the root causes of the situation. The mission was deployed for a three month period. On 27 March, by

resolution 68/262 (see p. 505), the General Assembly, reiterating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, concluded that the referendum to join the Russian Federation had no validity.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/30)], by a recorded vote of 23 to 4, with 19 abstentions, the Council welcomed the holding of presidential elections in Ukraine on 25 May; the cooperation of the Government with the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and the renewal of the Mission's mandate until 15 September 2014 (see below). It called on all parties to cooperate with human rights monitors and implement the recommendations contained in the reports of OHCHR (see below); and called on the Government to continue its reform efforts and investigate all alleged human rights violations and abuses in a prompt, impartial, transparent and comprehensive manner. The Council expressed concern that individuals were not able to take part in voting in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and in parts of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions owing to disruption by illegal armed groups; called for an end to all acts of discrimination and harassment, in particular towards persons belonging to minorities, indigenous peoples and other residents of Crimea and Sevastopol; condemned the violence and abuses committed by illegal armed groups; urged all members of such groups to disarm and stop their unlawful acts, including to release all those unlawfully detained and vacate occupied public and administrative buildings; and urged the Government to conduct security and law enforcement operations in accordance with international law. The Council invited the High Commissioner to report on the implementation of the resolution at its twenty-seventh (2014) session.

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 26/30 (see above), the High Commissioner submitted a September report [A/HRC/27/75] covering the period from 21 November 2013 to 5 September 2014. He provided an overview of key human rights developments and concerns in Ukraine on the basis of the work of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. The Mission's mandate was extended twice, most recently until 15 December 2014. Since April 2014, OHCHR had issued five public monthly reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine, based on the findings of monitoring teams in Kyiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Lviv and Odessa. OHCHR recommended the Government to prioritize addressing systemic and structural issues affecting human rights through institutional reform; establish governance and justice systems that promoted and protected human rights for all and were non-discriminatory; and integrate a comprehensive human rights plan, reflecting recommendations from international and regional mechanisms, into the reform agenda of the country. OHCHR noted the

good cooperation extended by the Government to Human Rights Monitoring Mission, and stated that the Mission would continue to monitor and report on the evolving situation, with a view to contributing to an unbiased and accurate assessment of the human rights situation and a stronger and effective national human rights protection system.

Middle East

Syrian Arab Republic

Report of international commission of inquiry.

A February report [A/HRC/25/65] of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, established by Human Rights Council resolution S-17/1 [YUN 2011, p. 780] to investigate alleged violations of international human rights law since March 2011, covered investigations conducted from 15 July 2013 to 20 January 2014, including 563 interviews and the collection of other evidence. The commission found that more than 250,000 persons were besieged in the country and subjected to relentless shelling and bombardment. Denied humanitarian aid, food and medical care, they had to choose between surrender and starvation. Government forces and pro-government militia perpetrated massacres and conducted widespread attacks on civilians, systematically committing crimes against humanity such as murder, torture, rape and enforced disappearance. Government forces committed gross violations of human rights and the war crimes of murder, hostage-taking, torture, rape and sexual violence, the recruitment and use of children in hostilities and the targeting of civilians in sniper attacks. Government forces also disregarded the special protection accorded to hospitals, medical and humanitarian personnel and cultural property; used incendiary weapons, causing superfluous injury and unnecessary suffering, in violation of international humanitarian law; and conducted indiscriminate and disproportionate aerial bombardment and shelling causing large-scale arbitrary displacement.

Non-State armed groups, named in the report, committed war crimes, including murder, execution without due process, torture, hostage-taking, enforced disappearance, rape and sexual violence, the recruitment and use of children in hostilities, attacks on protected objects and the forcible displacement of civilians. Medical and religious personnel and journalists were targeted, and armed groups besieged and indiscriminately shelled civilian neighbourhoods, in some instances spreading terror through the use of car bombings in civilian areas. Armed groups also perpetrated massacres. In Al-Raqqa, the widespread detention of civilians and their systematic torture amounted to a crime against humanity. Chemical

weapons, specifically sarin, were used in multiple incidents during the conflict. The report concluded that States that exerted influence on the parties in Syria had to act to ensure that those parties complied with the rules of international humanitarian law. The Security Council bore responsibility for allowing the warring parties to violate those rules with impunity.

Human Rights Council actions. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/23)], by a recorded vote of 32 to 4, with 11 abstentions, the Human Rights Council decided to extend the mandate of the commission of inquiry until the twenty-eighth (2015) session of the Council, and requested the commission to present a written report on the situation of human rights in Syria during an interactive dialogue at its twenty-seventh (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions and to provide an oral update at its twenty-sixth (2014) session. It demanded that the Syrian authorities cooperate with the commission of inquiry, including by granting it immediate, full and unfettered access throughout the country; that all parties demilitarize medical facilities, schools and other civilian facilities, avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and desist from attacks against civilian objects; and that the Syrian authorities meet their responsibility to protect the Syrian population. It condemned the continued gross, systematic and widespread violations of human rights and all violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities and affiliated militias, including those involving aerial bombardment of civilian areas; violations and abuses against children; violence against persons belonging to religious or ethnic groups; the use of chemical weapons and all indiscriminate methods of warfare—prohibited under international law—that had a devastating impact on civilians; the intentional denial of humanitarian assistance to civilians, from whatever quarter, noting especially the responsibilities of the Government in that regard; and all acts of violence against humanitarian actors. It called on the Syrian authorities to accelerate the complete and irreversible destruction of their chemical weapons programme in accordance with their international obligations. The Council expressed grave concern at the spread of extremism and extremist groups, and at the credible reports that thousands of detainees, both Syrian and non-Syrian nationals, had died in government prisons as a result of starvation and torture. It stressed the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights were held to account; reaffirmed that the Syrian people should determine the process and mechanisms to achieve justice, reconciliation, truth and accountability for gross violations and abuses of international law; encouraged the full participation of women in political talks; and urged the international community to provide financial support for the growing humanitarian needs of refugees.

On 27 June [res. 26/23], by a recorded vote of 32 to 5, with 9 abstentions, the Human Rights Council condemned the continued gross, systematic and widespread violations of human rights and all violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities and affiliated militias and demanded the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the commission of inquiry and meet their responsibility to protect the Syrian population. The Council called upon all parties to the conflict to put an end to all forms of violence and to prevent violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses. It condemned incidences of enforced disappearance by the Syrian regime; the use by the Syrian authorities of starvation as a method of combat; and violations and abuse committed against journalists and media activists, and against the civilian population, in particular women and children. It demanded the release of all persons arbitrarily detained, including children, and called upon the Syrian authorities to publish a list of all detention facilities and allow access to those facilities by independent monitors. The Council condemned the use of chemical weapons and indiscriminate methods of warfare in Syria; expressed concern at the allegations of the use of toxic chemicals and supported the fact-finding mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to investigate those allegations; condemned the attack against inspectors of the Organization; and demanded that safe and unfettered access for the mission be ensured throughout the country. It reaffirmed its commitment to international efforts to find a political solution to the crisis; urged those countries with influence over the parties to the Syrian conflict to take measures to encourage them to negotiate constructively; and called upon the international community to respond to the Syrian humanitarian appeal and to fulfil previous pledges. The Council also expressed concern at the growing number of refugees and IDPs fleeing the violence and urged the international community to provide financial support to enable host countries to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees.

Reports of international commission of inquiry. In a July report [A/HRC/27/60] covering the period from 20 January to 15 July, the independent international commission of inquiry on Syria, based on 480 interviews and other collected evidence, found that the conduct of the warring parties in the country had caused civilians immeasurable suffering. Government forces continued to perpetrate massacres and conduct widespread attacks on civilians, systematically committing murder, torture, rape and enforced disappearance amounting to crimes against humanity. Government forces also committed gross violations of human rights and the war crimes of murder, hostage-taking, torture, rape and sexual violence,

the recruitment and use of children in hostilities and the targeting of civilians. Government forces disregarded the special protection accorded to hospitals and medical and humanitarian personnel; carried out indiscriminate and disproportionate aerial bombardment and shelling to spread terror; and used chlorine gas, an illegal weapon. Non-State armed groups, named in the report, committed massacres and war crimes, including murder, execution without due process, torture, hostage-taking, enforced disappearance, rape and sexual violence, the recruitment and use of children in hostilities and attacks on protected objects. Armed groups besieged and shelled civilian neighbourhoods, and members of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) committed torture, murder, enforced disappearance and forcible displacement as part of an attack on the civilian population in Aleppo and Ar Raqqa governorates. The commission concluded with a series of recommendations aimed at urgently finding a political settlement to the war.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/16)], by a recorded vote of 32 to 5, with 10 abstentions, the Human Rights Council demanded that the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the commission and meet their responsibilities to protect the Syrian population. The Council condemned all violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law committed against the civilian population; the reports of the widespread use of sexual violence in government detention centres, including those run by intelligence agencies; practices including abduction, hostage-taking, incommunicado detention, torture and killings carried out by non-State armed groups, most notably ISIL; the intervention in Syria of all foreign terrorist fighters and those foreign combatants fighting on behalf of the regime; the arbitrary arrest, detention, ill-treatment and torture of children by government forces for their, or their relatives', alleged support of opposition groups; the use of chemical weapons and all indiscriminate methods of warfare; and the intentional denial of humanitarian assistance to civilians and in particular the Syrian authorities' denial of medical assistance and the withdrawal of water and sanitation services to civilian areas, stressing that the starvation of civilians as a method of combat was prohibited under international law. It expressed concern at reports from the commission of inquiry on the suffering and torture in detention centres throughout Syria, including on prisoners in government facilities being held in dire conditions, denied medical assistance and food and subjected to torture; at the allegations of torture in detention facilities controlled by non-State armed groups; and at the abduction, incommunicado detention and torture of human rights defenders by Syrian authorities and armed opposition groups. The Council called for international monitoring bodies to be granted access

to detainees in government prisons and detention centres; demanded that all armed groups halt the arbitrary detention of civilians; and demanded that the Syrian authorities end incommunicado detention. The Council also emphasized the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations were held to account, and decided to transmit all reports and oral updates of the commission of inquiry to all relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Secretary-General for appropriate action.

Communications. On 17 January [A/HRC/25/G/3], Syria transmitted to the Human Rights Council its response to the 2013 thematic report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, entitled "Without a trace: enforced disappearances in Syria".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.3], adopted **resolution 69/189** by recorded vote (127-13-48) [agenda item 68 (d)].

Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the principles of the Charter,

Recalling its resolutions 66/176 of 19 December 2011, 66/253 A of 16 February 2012, 66/253 B of 3 August 2012, 67/183 of 20 December 2012 and 67/262 of 15 May 2013, Human Rights Council resolutions S-16/1 of 29 April 2011, S-17/1 of 23 August 2011, S-18/1 of 2 December 2011, 19/1 of 1 March 2012, 19/22 of 23 March 2012, S-19/1 of 1 June 2012, 20/22 of 6 July 2012, 21/26 of 28 September 2012, 22/24 of 22 March 2013, 23/1 of 29 May 2013, 23/26 of 14 June 2013, 24/22 of 27 September 2013, 25/23 of 28 March 2014, 26/23 of 27 June 2014 and 27/16 of 25 September 2014 and Security Council resolutions 2042(2012) of 14 April 2012, 2043(2012) of 21 April 2012, 2118(2013) of 27 September 2013, 2139(2014) of 22 February 2014, 2165(2014) of 14 July 2014, 2170(2014) of 15 August 2014 and 2178(2014) of 24 September 2014 and the statements by the President of the Council of 3 August 2011 and 2 October 2013,

Condemning the grave deterioration of the human rights situation and the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians as such, in violation of international humanitarian law, and acts of violence that may foment sectarian tensions,

Noting with concern the culture of impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights law committed during the present conflict, which has provided a fertile ground for further violations and abuses,

Recalling that, amid expressions of popular discontent over restrictions on the enjoyment of civil, political, economic and social rights, civilian protests erupted in Dar'a in March 2011, and noting that the excessive and violent oppression of civilian protests by the Syrian authorities, which later escalated to the direct shelling of civilian population areas, fuelled the escalation of armed violence and extremist groups,

Expressing outrage at the continuing escalation of violence in the Syrian Arab Republic, which has caused more than 191,000 fatalities, and in particular at the continued widespread and systematic gross violations, as well as abuses, of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving the continued use of heavy weapons and aerial bombardments, such as the indiscriminate use of ballistic missiles, cluster munitions, barrel and vacuum bombs, and chlorine gas, and starvation of civilians as a method of combat by the Syrian authorities against the Syrian population,

Expressing grave concern at the disproportionate use of force by the Syrian authorities against civilians, which has caused immense human suffering and fomented the spread of extremism and extremist groups and which demonstrates the failure of the Syrian authorities to protect the Syrian population and to implement the relevant resolutions and decisions of United Nations bodies,

Expressing grave concern also at the spread of extremism and extremist groups, terrorism and terrorist groups, and strongly condemning all violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic by any party to the conflict, in particular the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, militias fighting on behalf of the regime, Al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist groups and other extremist groups,

Expressing support for the work carried out by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, and strongly condemning the lack of cooperation by the Syrian authorities with the Commission of Inquiry,

Recalling the statements made by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council that crimes against humanity and war crimes are likely to have been committed in the Syrian Arab Republic, noting the repeated encouragement by the High Commissioner for the Security Council to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court, and regretting that a draft resolution was not adopted despite broad support from Member States,

Expressing its deepest concern about the findings of the Commission of Inquiry and also the allegations contained in the evidence presented by "Caesar" in January 2014 regarding the torture and execution of persons incarcerated by the Syrian authorities, and underlining the need for those allegations and similar evidence to be collected, examined and made available for future accountability efforts,

Welcoming Security Council resolutions 2139(2014) and 2165(2014) and expressing grave concern that implementation remains largely unfulfilled, and noting the urgent need to strengthen efforts to address the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including through protection of civilians and rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access,

Recalling its commitment to Security Council resolutions 2170(2014) and 2178(2014),

Expressing deep concern at the more than 3 million refugees who have been forced to flee the Syrian Arab Republic, of whom more than 750,000 are women and more than 1.5 million are children, and at the 10.8 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic requiring urgent humanitarian assistance, of whom 6.45 million are internally displaced, as well as at the impact of the influx of Syrian refugees into neighbouring countries and other countries in the region, and at the risk the situation presents to regional stability,

Expressing its profound indignation at the death of well over 10,000 children and the many more injured since March 2011,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the significant efforts that have been made by neighbouring countries and other countries in the region to accommodate Syrian refugees, while acknowledging the increasing political, socioeconomic and financial impact of the presence of large-scale refugee populations in those countries, notably in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt and Libya,

Welcoming the hosting by the Government of Kuwait of the First and Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conferences for Syria on 30 January 2013 and 15 January 2014, and expressing its deep appreciation for the significant pledges of humanitarian assistance that have been made,

Welcoming also the efforts of the United Nations and the League of Arab States and all diplomatic efforts to achieve a political solution to the Syrian crisis based on the final communiqué of the Action Group for Syria (Geneva communiqué) of 30 June 2012, and welcoming further the appointment of Mr. Staffan de Mistura as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and expressing its full support for his mission,

Expressing its regret that the parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular the Syrian authorities, have failed to take advantage of the opportunities to achieve a political solution and form a transitional government with full executive powers based on the Geneva communiqué,

1. *Strongly condemns* all violations and abuses of international human rights law and all violations of international humanitarian law committed against the civilian population, in particular all indiscriminate attacks, including those involving the use of barrel bombs against civilian populated areas and civilian infrastructure, and demands that all parties immediately demilitarize medical facilities and schools and comply with their obligations under international law;

2. *Deplores and condemns in the strongest terms* the continued armed violence by the Syrian authorities against the Syrian people since the beginning of the peaceful protests in 2011, and demands that the Syrian authorities immediately put an end to all indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas and public spaces, including those involving the use of terror tactics, airstrikes, barrel and vacuum bombs, chemical weapons and heavy artillery;

3. *Also deplores and condemns in the strongest terms* the continued widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and all violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities and the Government-affiliated *shabbiha* militias, including

those involving the use of heavy weapons, aerial bombardments, cluster munitions, ballistic missiles, barrel bombs, chemical weapons and other force against civilians, including starvation of the civilian population as a method of combat, attacks on schools, hospitals and places of worship, massacres, arbitrary executions, extrajudicial killings, the killing and persecution of protestors, human rights defenders and journalists, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, violations of women's and children's rights, unlawful interference with access to medical treatment, failure to respect and protect medical personnel, torture, systemic sexual and gender-based violence, including rape in detention, and ill-treatment, and further strongly condemns all human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law by armed extremists, as well as any human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law by armed anti-Government groups;

4. *Further deplores and condemns in the strongest terms* the terrorist acts and violence committed against civilians by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, its violent extremist ideology and its continued gross, systematic and widespread abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and reaffirms that terrorism, including the actions of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization;

5. *Reminds* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic of the obligations of the Syrian Arab Republic under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, including to take effective measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction, and calls upon all States parties to the Convention to comply with any relevant obligations, including with respect to the extradite or prosecute principle contained in article 7 of the Convention;

6. *Strongly condemns* the reported persistent and widespread use of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, including in government detention centres, including those run by the intelligence agencies, and notes that such acts may constitute violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and in this regard expresses deep concern at the prevailing climate of impunity for sexual violence crimes;

7. *Also strongly condemns* all violations and abuses committed against children in contravention of applicable international law, such as their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and all other forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as their arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, ill-treatment and their use as human shields;

8. *Recalls* the statement made by the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic on 16 September 2014 that the Syrian authorities remain responsible for the majority of the civilian casualties, killing and maiming scores of civilians daily, and decides to transmit the reports of the Commission of Inquiry to the Security Council;

9. *Reaffirms* the Syrian authorities' responsibility for enforced disappearances, and takes note of the assessment of the Commission of Inquiry that the Syrian authorities' use of enforced disappearances amounts to a crime against humanity, and condemns the targeted disappearances of young men following Government-brokered ceasefires;

10. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the Commission of Inquiry, including by granting it immediate, full and unfettered access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic;

11. *Also demands* that the Syrian authorities meet their responsibilities to protect the Syrian population;

12. *Strongly condemns* the intervention in the Syrian Arab Republic of all foreign terrorist fighters and those foreign organizations fighting on behalf of the Syrian regime, particularly militia groups such as Hizbullah, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq and Liwa' Abu al-Fadl al-Abbas, and expresses deep concern that their involvement further exacerbates the deteriorating situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the human rights and humanitarian situation, which has a serious negative impact on the region;

13. *Demands* that all foreign terrorist fighters, including those who are fighting in support of the Syrian authorities, immediately withdraw from the Syrian Arab Republic;

14. *Also demands* that all parties immediately put an end to all violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, recalls, in particular, the obligation under international humanitarian law to distinguish between civilian populations and combatants and the prohibition against indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks and all attacks against civilians and civilian objects, further demands that all parties to the conflict take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including by desisting from attacks directed against civilian objects, such as medical centres, schools and water stations, immediately demilitarize such facilities, avoid establishing military positions in populated areas and enable the evacuation of the wounded and all civilians who wish to do so from besieged areas, and recalls in this regard that the Syrian authorities bear primary responsibility for protecting the population;

15. *Strongly condemns* practices including abduction, hostage-taking, incommunicado detention, torture, brutal murder of innocent civilians and summary executions carried out by non-State armed groups and terrorist groups, most notably the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Nusra Front, and underlines that such acts may amount to crimes against humanity;

16. *Deplores* the suffering and torture in detention centres throughout the Syrian Arab Republic as depicted in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, demands that the Syrian authorities immediately release all persons arbitrarily detained, including the members of the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression, and ensure that detention conditions are consistent with international law, and calls upon the Syrian authorities to publish a list of all detention facilities;

17. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Nusra Front, and all other groups halt the arbitrary detention of civilians and release all civilians detained;

18. *Calls for* the appropriate international monitoring bodies to be granted access to detainees in government prisons and detention centres, including the military facilities referred to in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry;

19. *Strongly condemns* the use of chemical weapons and all indiscriminate methods of warfare in the Syrian Arab

Republic, which is prohibited under international law, and notes with grave concern the Commission of Inquiry's findings that the Syrian authorities have repeatedly used chlorine gas as an illegal weapon, which constitutes a violation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and is prohibited under international law;

20. *Demands* that the Syrian Arab Republic respect fully its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, the decision of 27 September 2013 of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Security Council resolution 2118(2013) requiring it to declare its programme in full and eliminate it in its entirety, and strongly urges the Syrian Arab Republic to provide full cooperation to the fact-finding mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons looking at the allegations of the use of chlorine as a weapon of war and to the declaration assessment team working to verify the chemical weapon declarations of the Syrian Arab Republic and seeking to clarify the gaps and discrepancies discovered therein;

21. *Also demands* that all parties take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including members of ethnic, religious and confessional communities, and stresses that, in this regard, the primary responsibility to protect the Syrian population lies with the Syrian authorities;

22. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights law are held to account through appropriate fair and independent, national or international, criminal justice mechanisms in accordance with the principle of complementarity, and stresses the need to pursue practical steps towards this goal, and for this reason encourages the Security Council to take appropriate action to ensure accountability, noting the important role that the International Criminal Court can play in this regard;

23. *Strongly condemns* the intentional denial of humanitarian assistance to civilians, from whatever quarter, in particular the denial of medical assistance and the withdrawal of water and sanitation services to civilian areas, which has recently worsened, stressing that the starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited under international law and noting especially the primary responsibility of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in this regard, and deplores the deteriorating humanitarian situation;

24. *Reaffirms its commitment* to international efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people for a civil, democratic and pluralistic State, with the full and effective participation of women, and where there is no room for sectarianism or discrimination on ethnic, religious, linguistic, gender or any other grounds, and urges those countries with influence over the Syrian parties, in particular over the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, to take all measures to encourage the parties to the conflict to negotiate constructively and on the basis of the call made in the Geneva communiqué for the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive powers;

25. *Urges* the international community, including all donors, to provide urgent financial support to enable the host countries to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees, while emphasizing the principle of burden-sharing;

26. *Calls upon* all members of the international community, including all donors, to fulfil their previous pledges and continue to provide much-needed support to the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other humanitarian actors to provide humanitarian assistance to the millions of Syrians displaced both internally and in host countries;

27. *Urges* all Syrian parties to the conflict to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, personnel of the specialized agencies and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities as required by international humanitarian law, without prejudice to their freedom of movement and access, stresses the need not to impede or hinder those efforts, recalls that attacks on humanitarian workers may amount to war crimes, and notes in this regard that the Security Council affirmed in its resolution 2165(2014) that it will take further measures in the event of non-compliance with resolutions 2139(2014) or 2165(2014) by any Syrian party.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/189:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yemen.

Against: Belarus, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Iran, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guyana, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia.

Territories occupied by Israel

In 2014, the Human Rights Council addressed cases of human rights violations in the territories occupied by Israel following the 1967 hostilities in the Middle East. Political and other issues in the region were considered by the Security Council, the General

Assembly, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (Committee on Israeli Practices) and other bodies (see PART ONE, Chapter VI).

Report of High Commissioner. In a January report [A/HRC/25/39] submitted pursuant to Council resolution 22/29 [YUN 2013, p. 763], the High Commissioner provided information on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission on the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem [YUN 2012, p. 765], and addressed continued Israeli settlement activity, settler violence and accountability, Palestinian detainees, including children in Israeli custody, as well as business and human rights in relation to the settlements. The report also included summaries of the submissions received from Member States.

Report of Special Rapporteur. In a January report [A/HRC/25/67], the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Richard Falk (United States), addressed Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the wall in the context of the tenth anniversary of the 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) [YUN 2004, p. 465], and considered the policies and practices of Israel in occupied Palestine in light of the prohibition on segregation and apartheid. He also addressed concerns in relation to the deterioration of the human rights situation of Palestinians living under the Israeli blockade in the Gaza Strip. The Special Rapporteur recommended that Palestinian rights be fully respected in attempts to reach a peaceful and just resolution of the conflict between the two peoples. He recommended that the General Assembly request the ICJ to issue an advisory opinion on the legal status of the prolonged occupation of Palestine, and that the Human Rights Council appoint an expert group to propose a special protocol to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 with the purpose of proposing a legal regime for any occupation that lasts for more than five years. The international community should investigate the business activities of companies and financial institutions registered in their own respective countries, which profit from the settlements of Israel and other unlawful Israeli activities, and take appropriate action to end such practices and ensure appropriate reparation for affected Palestinians; and the Government of Israel should cease expanding and creating settlements in occupied Palestine, start dismantling existing settlements and returning its citizens to the Israeli side of the Green Line, lift the unlawful blockade of Gaza, cease military incursions,

allow Gazans to benefit from their natural resources situated within their borders or off the coast of Gaza and take account of the deepening emergency in Gaza. He recommended that the Human Rights Council pay increased attention to the failure by Israel to cooperate with the normal functioning of the United Nations by way of the Special Rapporteur and to the protection of Special Rapporteurs from defamatory attacks diverting attention from issues integral to the mandate.

Human Rights Council actions. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/27)], by a recorded vote of 46 to 1, with no abstentions, the Human Rights Council reaffirmed its support for the solution of two States, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security; and the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity, and to establish their sovereign, independent, democratic and viable contiguous State. It stressed the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; confirmed that the right of the Palestinian people to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources had to be used in the interest of their national development, the well-being of the Palestinian people and as part of the realization of their right to self-determination; urged all Member States and relevant bodies to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination; and decided to continue the consideration of the question at its twenty-eighth (2015) session.

On the same date [res. 25/29], by a recorded vote of 46 to 1, with no abstentions, the Council stressed the need for Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian Territory to enable the Palestinian people to exercise the universally recognized right to self-determination, and reiterated the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within that territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world. It demanded that Israel comply with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and cease all measures and actions taken in violation of that Convention; cease all practices and actions that violated the human rights of the Palestinian people; cease its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip; cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and comply with its legal obligations under international law.

The Council expressed concern at the confiscation and damage by Israel of fishing nets in the Gaza Strip; the conditions of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails and detention centres; the restrictions imposed by Israel that impeded the access of Christian and Muslim worshippers to holy sites; and the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law adopted by the Knesset, which suspended the possibility, with certain rare exceptions, of family reunification between an Israeli citizen and a person residing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It condemned the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and in the context of peaceful protests in the West Bank, which resulted in extensive loss of life and vast numbers of injuries; the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas; and all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction by Israeli settlers. It urged States to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation; and requested the Secretary-General report on the implementation of the resolution at its twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Human Rights Council special session. On 18 July [A/HRC/S-21/1], the Group of Arab States, the Group of African States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the State of Palestine requested the holding, on 23 July, of a special session of the Human Rights Council to address the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The request was supported by 17 States Members of the Council and five observer States. The Council held its twenty-first special session on 23 July [A/HRC/S-21/2].

Human Rights Council action. On 23 July [A/69/53 (res. S-21/1)], by a recorded vote of 29 to 1, with 17 abstentions, the Council condemned the widespread, systematic and gross violations of international human rights and fundamental freedoms arising from the Israeli military operation carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 13 June, particularly the Israeli military assault on the occupied Gaza Strip, by air, land and sea, which involved disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks, including aerial bombardment of civilian areas, the targeting of civilians and civilian properties in collective punishment contrary to international law. It condemned violence against civilians wherever it occurred, including the killing of two Israeli civilians as a result of rocket fire, and urged all parties concerned to respect their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law; called for an immediate cessation of Israeli military assaults throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and demanded Israel to end its illegal closure of the occupied Gaza Strip.

The Council expressed concern at the rising number of incidents of violence, destruction, harassment, prov-

ocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers illegally transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory against Palestinian civilians and their properties; and at the condition of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails and detention centres, in particular following the arrest by Israel of more than 1,000 Palestinians since 13 June. It recommended that the Government of Switzerland, in its capacity as depositary of the Fourth Geneva Convention, reconvene the conference of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; requested that all relevant special procedures mandate holders seek and gather information on all human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; and decided to dispatch an independent, international commission of inquiry, to be appointed by the President of the Council, to investigate all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, in the context of the military operations conducted since 13 June. The Council requested that other relevant UN bodies cooperate with the commission of inquiry to carry out its mission, and also requested the assistance of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, including in the provision of administrative, technical and logistical assistance to enable the commission of inquiry and special procedures mandate holders to fulfil their mandates promptly. It further requested the High Commissioner to report on the implementation of the resolution to the Council at its twenty-seventh (2014) session.

Communication. In a letter dated 28 July [A/HRC/S-21/G/1], Israel highlighted its concerns regarding the level of transparency and timeliness observed in the process of organizing the special session of the Human Rights Council.

Reports of Special Rapporteur. In August, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), submitted his first report [A/69/301 & Corr.1], based on consultations held with the relevant States and other stakeholders in Geneva, and outlined his next steps towards the fulfilment of the mandate.

On 18 December (**decision 69/536**), the General Assembly took note of the report.

Reports of High Commissioner. An October report [A/HRC/27/76] of the High Commissioner, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1 (see above), reviewed the status of implementation of that resolution. The report provided an update on the steps taken by the Government of Switzerland to resume consultations on the question of reconvening a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention [YUN 1999, p. 415]; outlined the steps taken by OHCHR to support the establishment of the commission of inquiry to

investigate violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; contained information on the activities of special procedures mandate holders in relation to their efforts to gather information on all human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and presented preliminary information, covering the period from 12 June to 26 August, gathered by OHCHR on the situation of human rights in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the Gaza Strip.

The deterioration in the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, remained a cause for concern. With regard to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, the actions of the Israeli forces included excessive use of force, including use of live ammunition against unarmed demonstrators; the arrest and detention of hundreds of Palestinians, in violation of fair trial rights; and restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians. Between 1,100 and 1,500 Palestinians were detained, including 27 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, following the kidnapping of three Israeli youths on 12 June. The bodies of the three youths were discovered on 30 June, followed by the resumption of punitive house demolitions by the Israeli authorities and, on 31 August, the declaration by the Israeli Civil Administration of 988 acres of Palestinian land, south of Bethlehem, as State land, reportedly in response to the kidnapping and murders. Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli Security Forces took place throughout the reporting period and resulted in a high number of killings and injuries, and some actions by the Israeli authorities, especially in the Hebron area, potentially amounted to collective punishment. In Gaza, increased hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups were noted since early June. Preliminary data indicated that as of 9 September, 2,142 Palestinians were killed or died from injuries in the period between 7 July and 26 August. Those casualties included 1,474 civilians, including 501 children and 257 women. According to Israeli media reports, four Israeli civilians, including one child; one foreign civilian; 66 soldiers; and one person of unknown status, were killed during the reporting period. As at 26 August, 18,080 housing units were destroyed, leaving approximately 108,500 people homeless. More than a quarter of the entire population of Gaza—479,000 Palestinians—had been displaced.

In response to Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 [YUN 2009, p. 780] and S-12/1 [*ibid.*, pp. 785 & 787], the High Commissioner issued the seventh periodic report [A/HRC/28/80] on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, covering the period from 9 November 2013 to 31 October 2014, which highlighted issues of concern with regard to each of the main duty bearers in the Territory, namely the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the authorities in Gaza. With regard to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the High Commis-

sioner examined the excessive use of force by Israeli and Palestinian security forces, which resulted in an increase in deaths during the year. With regard to Gaza, he addressed the ongoing blockade and the enforcement of access-restricted areas, noting the hardships and human rights violations those measures created. He drew particular attention to the impact of the blockade on freedom of movement and reconstruction and economic development in Gaza. The High Commissioner recommended that the Government of Israel lift the Gaza blockade in order to halt the ongoing punitive measure against civilians; ensure that the use of force by its security forces in situations other than hostilities was in compliance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials; carry out prompt, effective, independent, impartial, thorough and transparent investigations of alleged unlawful killings and injuries of Palestinians, and of allegations of torture and ill-treatment; and halt plans that would result in the forcible transfer of Palestinian Bedouin communities and herders currently residing in Area C of the West Bank.

The Government of the State of Palestine should take measure to protect the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, particularly the rights of physical integrity, to a fair trial and to due process of law; conduct prompt, effective, independent, impartial, thorough and transparent investigations of allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice; either charge and bring to trial or release all detainees under the governor orders, and end the practice of detention based on governor orders; ensure periodic and effective judicial review of a person's detention in all cases; and take all necessary measures to ensure that perpetrators of all acts involving violence against women, including so-called "honour killings", were prosecuted and appropriately sentenced. Authorities in Gaza should respect international humanitarian law, particularly the principle of distinction, proportionality and precaution, and ensure accountability for violations; take all the necessary measures to ensure that the rights of persons deprived of liberty were respected, including by ensuring effective, independent, impartial, thorough and transparent investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment; investigate allegations of summary executions and cases of death of persons in the custody of the authorities; and refrain from unlawful restrictions on the freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly. The High Commissioner also called on Palestinian armed groups in Gaza to respect international humanitarian law, particularly the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, and to ensure accountability for violations.

In an addendum to the report [A/HRC/28/80/Add.1], the High Commissioner provided information on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory between 12 June and 26 August, includ-

ing the escalation in hostilities between the State of Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza, the consequences of which would continue to be felt by Palestinians across the Gaza Strip for some time. The High Commissioner concluded that effective accountability was a key means to break the cycle of violence, human rights violations and impunity. Violations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continued to drive the conflict with wider implications for peace and security in the region. The protracted conflict was at a critical juncture, with the heightened tensions emphasising the imperative for an end to the recurrent human rights violations by all parties and to the prolonged occupation, as well as the full realization of the right to self-determination.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 25/29 (see p. 928), the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/HRC/28/45] on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, covering the period from 26 May 2013 to 31 October 2014. He presented an analysis of how violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights by all duty bearers drove the conflict and violence, and explained how an end to those violations and abuses was a key component of any enduring peace. The Secretary-General concluded that the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remained of grave concern. The murders of the Israeli teenagers and the Palestinian boy in June and July 2014, and the subsequent security operations in the West Bank, followed by rocket fire and the escalation in Gaza, heightened the already entrenched tensions and divisions that characterized the situation. The settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, violated international law and ran counter to the two-State solution. They were at the centre of many other human rights violations in the occupied West Bank, and were a source of demonstrations, incidents involving the excessive use of force by Israeli security forces, settler violence and widespread discriminatory policies affecting Palestinians' enjoyment of their human rights. On the Palestinian side, attacks on Israelis provided material for a justification of hard-line measures that reinforced the cycle of violence. The ongoing blockade in Gaza—a collective penalty against the affected population—weakened links between Gaza and the West Bank and should end. Impunity for violations and abuses by all sides reinforced those problems, and for the tension to be diffuse in a meaningful way, all sides must address the human rights dimensions of the conflict.

The Secretary-General recommended that all duty bearers comply fully with international law, including by adequately remedying, and ensuring accountability for, violations and abuses. Obstacles to peace and to Palestinians' enjoyment of their human rights, including their right to self-determination, had to be removed, including by ending and reversing set-

tlement activity in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, lifting the blockade on Gaza and ending the occupation of Palestinian land. At the same time, due consideration should be given to ensuring the legitimate security needs of Israel with due respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. All parties should refrain from unilateral actions that exacerbate tensions and resentment, and promote an environment conducive to peace, mutual understanding and respect for human rights.

Occupied Syrian Golan

Human Rights Council actions. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/31)], by a recorded vote of 33 to 1, with 13 abstentions, the Council called on Israel to comply with UN resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, and to desist from the continuous building of settlements and from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan. The Council emphasized that the displaced persons of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan must be allowed to return to their homes and recover their property. It further called on Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and from its repressive measures against them. Israel should release the Syrian detainees in Israeli prisons, some of whom had been detained for more than 27 years, and to treat them in conformity with international humanitarian law; and allow delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Syrian prisoners of conscience and detainees in Israeli prisons accompanied by specialized physicians to assess the state of their physical and mental health and to protect their lives. The Council requested that the Secretary-General bring the resolution to the attention of all Governments, UN organs, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations to disseminate it as widely as possible and to report on the matter at its twenty-eighth (2015) session.

On 28 March [res. 25/28], by a recorded vote of 46 to 1, with no abstentions, the Council condemned the continued settlement and related activities by Israel, including the expansion of settlements, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, the confiscation and destruction of property and the construction of bypass roads, which changed the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan, and constituted a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention; called on Israel to reverse the settlement policy in the occupied territories and to end all human rights violations linked to the presence of settlements, especially the right to self-determination; demanded

that Israel comply fully with its legal obligations; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the resolution at its twenty-eighth (2015) session. The Council also requested that all parties implement the recommendations in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory [YUN 2012, p. 765], and requested the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its twenty-eighth (2015) session on the status of implementation of those recommendations (see below).

Reports of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Council resolution 25/31 (see p. 931), the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/HRC/28/46] on the implementation of that resolution. The Secretary-General indicated that OHCHR, on 3 September, had addressed notes verbales to the Government of Israel and to the Governments of Member States that requested information on steps taken or envisaged to be taken concerning the implementation of resolution 25/31. No reply was received from Israel. Replies from Cuba (15 September), Denmark (17 September) and the Syrian Arab Republic (16 October) were summarized in the report.

Pursuant to Council resolution 25/28 (see p. 931), the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/HRC/28/44] on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which covered the period from 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2014. The report analysed the impact of Israeli settlements and settler violence on the human rights of Palestinians, and addressed the issues related to Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan, including the exploitation of natural resources. The Secretary-General concluded that Israel continued to fail to comply with its international obligation to protect the Palestinian population from violent acts committed by Israeli settlers, and to effectively prevent, and ensure accountability for, such violence. Israeli policies and practices regarding access to Palestinian land had a negative impact on the rights of Palestinians, in particular their rights to an adequate standard of living and to work.

He recommended that Israel cease all settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan; implement the relevant UN resolutions; withdraw from the territories occupied since 1967; and cease the exploitation of natural resources from those territories.

Follow-up to the 2012 fact-finding mission on the implications of Israeli settlements on Palestinian rights

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 25/28 (see p. 931), the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/28/43 & Corr.1] on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission on the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem [YUN 2012, p. 765]. The High Commissioner addressed the continued Israeli settlement activity; settler violence and accountability; Palestinian detainees, including children in Israeli custody; and business and human rights in relations to the settlements. The report also reflected submissions received from Member States on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the fact-finding mission.

Follow-up to the 2009 Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict

Human Rights Council action. On 28 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/30)], by a recorded vote of 46 to 1, with no abstentions, the Council renewed its recommendation that the General Assembly remain apprised of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict until it was satisfied that appropriate action with regard to implementing the recommendations contained in report [YUN 2009, p. 783] of the Fact-Finding Mission was taken at the domestic or international level in order to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators, and to remain ready to consider whether additional action within its powers was required in the interests of justice.

PART THREE

Economic and social questions

Development policy and international economic cooperation

In 2014, the global economy continued to expand at only a moderate estimated pace of 2.6 per cent. Recovery was hampered by new challenges, including a number of unexpected shocks, such as the heightened geopolitical conflicts in different parts of the world. Most economies had seen a shift in gross domestic product growth to a noticeably lower path compared to pre-crisis levels, raising the spectre of longer-term mediocre economic growth. In developing countries and economies in transition, growth rates had become more divergent during the year, with a sharp deceleration in a number of large emerging economies, particularly in Latin America and the Commonwealth of Independent States. At the same time, inequality within countries had increased markedly, and global inequality remained very high. Public policy actions by national Governments and other stakeholders were an important starting point for tackling and reducing inequality, and policy frameworks for reducing inequality needed to be designed and implemented in accordance with country-specific circumstances. At the United Nations, accelerating progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as steps for advancing the development agenda beyond 2015, were major focus areas in development policy and international economic cooperation.

The high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council 2014 session, held in July, included the three-day ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council. The segment discussed the theme of addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future. The high-level political forum on sustainable development, which replaced the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as the main UN platform on sustainable development, considered the theme of achieving the MDGs and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ministerial Declaration adopted at the high-level segment and the high-level political forum called for the urgent implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development so as to overcome the gaps identified in the reports of the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force. They called upon developed countries to fulfill the official

development assistance commitments. In September, the General Assembly decided that the proposal on SDGs submitted by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals would be the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda. In December, the Assembly decided that the UN summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda would be held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015. Further activities by the UN system in the field of sustainable development were related to sustainable tourism, and the role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development. In November, the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to mark the end of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), adopted the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development.

The Assembly reviewed progress made in implementing the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) and stressed the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment.

In June, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development reviewed progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. It also considered two priority themes: “Science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda” and “Information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development”.

With regard to development policy and public administration, the Committee for Development Policy, in March, addressed four themes: global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era; review and fine-tuning of the criteria for the identification of least developed countries (LDCs); monitoring of countries that were graduating and had graduated from the list of LDCs; and the role of country groupings for development.

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its April session, considered transforming public administration for sustainable development by strengthening national and local capacities for

sustainable development management; promoting leadership, innovation and risk management for sustainable development; and invigorating the professionalism and morale of the public service.

The United Nations continued to address the development problems of groups of countries in special situations, including the follow-up on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; UN system support to small island developing States, as well as progress in implementing the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the follow-up 2005 Mauritius Strategy; and the 2003 Almaty Programme of Action for assisting landlocked developing countries. At the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in September, participants adopted the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway), which was endorsed by the General Assembly in a November resolution. The 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries), in November, adopted the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, both of which were endorsed by the Assembly in December.

International economic relations

Economic and social trends

The *World Economic and Social Survey 2014: Reducing Inequality for Sustainable Development* [E/2014/50], published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), discussed trends in the evolution of inequality and alternative ways to reduce inequality. The Survey focused on four key areas in which policies could have a significant impact in reducing inequality: the environment, employment, redistributive policies, and global measures affecting climate change, taxation and migration. It also investigated the channels through which income inequality would impact the environment. The Survey explored inequality within countries and provided references to the broader global context, as many of the drivers of national inequality related to global processes, including technological developments and international flows of people, goods, services and finance, threats to environmental sustainability and climate change, among others.

The Survey noted that inequality within countries had increased markedly in preceding decades. The majority of the world's population lived in countries where inequality in 2010 was higher than it was in

1980. The standardized and updated indicators used in the Survey showed that inequality in Asia had increased, reaching levels similar to those in Latin America, which at that time was the region with the highest inequality in the world. Countries in Europe, including the Russian Federation and Eastern European economies in transition, experienced a sharp increase in inequality during the 1990s, whereas countries in North America and Oceania experienced a marked increase in inequality since the 1980s. Global inequality, which combined between- and within-country inequality, remained very high.

On the positive side, within-country inequality had decreased in Latin America and Africa, although uncertainty about inequality trends in Africa remained, owing to poor data. Overall, however, the weight of inequality reductions in those regions had not surpassed that of the increases in the other regions.

With regard to the links between inequality and environmental sustainability, qualitative analysis showed that the influence of inequality on the environment ran along four channels—individual, community, national and international—which often overlapped, and their overall impact depended on the sum total of their interactions. Therefore, a vicious circle could arise, with inequality causing ecological damage, which would then exacerbate inequality.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (see p. 1191) highlighted the serious risks arising from climate change, including coastal and inland flooding; breakdown of infrastructure networks; threats to food systems and food security; loss of rural livelihoods and income; and loss of ecosystems and biodiversity. Those risks disproportionately affected the least developed countries (LDCs) and vulnerable communities, which had the least capacity to cope with the consequences, implying an increase in inequality. The Survey stated that, from the perspective of development and inequality, as well as environmental sustainability, it was imperative to secure a binding global agreement designed to limit global carbon emissions to a sustainable level, while ensuring that development was not impeded.

The Survey emphasized that public policy actions by national Governments and other stakeholders were an important starting point for tackling and reducing within-country inequality. Policy frameworks would need to be designed and implemented in accordance with country-specific circumstances. Reducing inequality in the context of sustainable development might require, among other things, an integrated employment framework supporting decent jobs; increased progressivity of the tax system; the taxation of negative externalities arising from unsustainable production and consumption patterns; a greater empowerment of women in managing common-property resources, as in other areas of sustainable

development; and international tax cooperation involving developing countries.

The *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014* [Sales No. E.14.II.C.2], jointly produced by DESA, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five UN regional commissions, found that the world economy had begun to show signs of improvement. The euro area had finally come out of a protracted recession; the economy of the United States continued to recover; and a few large emerging economies, including China, had either stopped a further slowdown or would see accelerated growth. The world economy was projected to grow at a pace of 3.0 and 3.3 per cent in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Those rates were revised downwards to 2.8 per cent and 3.2 per cent in the mid-year update [E/2014/70], mostly due to a downward revision in growth projections for developing economies and economies in transition, as the situation in a number of countries in those two groups had deteriorated. Growth in the developed economies was projected to be 2.0 per cent and 2.4 per cent for 2014 and 2015, respectively—about one percentage point higher than in the previous two years. For the first time since 2011, all major developed economies in North America, Europe and developed Asia were aligned together on the same upward growth trajectory. Nevertheless, those projected growth rates were insufficient to recuperate the output and job losses in most of those economies.

The report identified a number of risks and uncertainties for the world economy, including international spillovers from the future unwinding of monetary easing by major developed economies; vulnerabilities of emerging economies on both the external and domestic fronts; remaining fragilities in the euro area; unsustainable public finance in the longer term for many developed countries; and risks associated with geopolitical tensions. With regard to employment rates, a main challenge across developing countries remained the level of informal employment which, on average, had reached between 40 and 50 per cent in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Global employment was expected to continue to grow at a slow pace.

After assessing policy challenges facing different groups of economies in the monetary and fiscal areas, the report called for the strengthening of international policy coordination to support a robust recovery of output and jobs; cooperation in international financial reforms; and the provision of sufficient development financing resources to the least developed countries.

UNCTAD *Trade and Development Report 2015* [Sales No. E.15.II.D.4] (see p. 1102) examined trends in the world economy and focused on financialization and its macroeconomic discontents, systemic challenges in the international monetary system, financial regula-

tory reform after the crisis, external debt and debt crises and new challenges, and long-term international finance for development.

Development and international economic cooperation

International economic cooperation issues were considered by various UN bodies, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

The Council held a special high-level meeting (New York, 14–15 April) with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNCTAD on the overall theme “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda” (see p. 1114). It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the subject [E/2014/53]. The Council also held a ministerial segment on the theme “World economic situation and prospects”.

On 19 December (**decision 69/542**), the Assembly took note of the report of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee regarding macroeconomic policy questions [A/69/466].

High-level segment of Economic and Social Council

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 67/290 [YUN 2013, p. 782] and 68/1 [*ibid.*, p. 1413] and Economic and Social Council **decision 2014/202** of 30 January (see p. 1603), the Council held the high-level segment of its substantive 2014 session (New York, 7–11 July) [A/69/3/Rev.1], including the three-day ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (7–9 July) (see p. 994). As decided in decision 2011/208 [YUN 2011, p. 791], the Council discussed the theme: “Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”. On 8 July, the Council also held a ministerial panel discussion on integrating employment-centric sustainable development into the post-2015 development agenda.

The Council had before it the Secretary-General’s reports on the subject [E/2014/61] (see p. 960); on options for the scope and methodology for a global sustainable development [E/2014/87] (see p. 944); on trends and progress in international development cooperation [E/2014/77] (see p. 938); and on effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization [E/2014/67] (see p. 938).

It also had before it the *World Economic and Social Survey 2014: Reducing Inequality for Sustainable Development* [E/2014/50] (see p. 936); the report on the

world situation and prospects 2014: as at mid-2014 [E/2014/70]; and the summary report of the parliamentary hearing-note by the President of the General Assembly [A/68/790-E/2104/52].

On 9 July, the Council adopted a draft ministerial declaration on the theme of the high-level segment and the high-level political forum [E/2014/L.22] (see p. 944).

On 25 July (**decision 2014/248**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the reports submitted by the Secretary-General under the high-level segment item.

Policy-dialogue. On 7 July [A/69/3/Rev.1], the Council held a high-level policy dialogue on macro-economic policies in support of a post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Development Cooperation Forum. As part of its high-level segment, the Council held the fourth biennial Development Cooperation Forum (10–11 July). Outcome documents of high-level symposiums held in preparation for the Forum were submitted to the Council President by Switzerland [E/2014/88] and Mexico [A/68/944-E/2014/89]. The Forum considered the Secretary-General's report [E/2014/77] on trends and progress in international development cooperation, submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 61/16 [YUN 2006, p. 1589], which underscored the need for a new narrative of development cooperation to fit the transformation envisaged in the emerging post-2015 development agenda. The report reviewed recent trends in international development cooperation, focusing on progress in and allocation of official development assistance (ODA), and trends in other development cooperation sources—public and private, international and domestic resources—that would be needed to support implementation of an ambitious post-2015 development agenda. It also examined the principles of quality and effectiveness of development cooperation; reviewed South-South cooperation and features of a renewed global partnership for development; and addressed how to strengthen mutual accountability and the availability of user-friendly information, looking ahead to a global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation after 2015. The report found that, while ODA would remain crucial, its use would have to be adapted to meet new demands and respond to a post-2015 development agenda. Progress towards the UN target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income needed to be accelerated. More ODA should be provided to support efforts to mobilize domestic resources, build productive capacity and incentivize private investment otherwise deemed too risky or unprofitable. Continued global policy dialogue and effective monitoring were needed for intensified collective action on the effectiveness of development cooperation. While Governments should take the lead in renewing the global partnership for development,

the breadth of development actors had to be engaged from the outset in its design and implementation. A basic global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation should function as an integral part of the monitoring and accountability of the broader post-2015 development agenda, and should be linked to a renewed global partnership for development, global enabling environment and systemic issues.

Thematic discussion. On 18 March (**decision 2014/209**), the Economic and Social Council decided that the theme for the thematic discussion during its 2014 session would be “Effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization”; and that it would take place during the integration segment (27–29 May). The Council had before it the Secretary-General's report on the topic [E/2014/67], which addressed the increasing contribution made by urban management to sustainable urbanization. According to the report, many cities were struggling to meet the development needs of the world's growing urban population that was expected to reach 6.25 billion in 2050. Of that total, 73 per cent would reside in the developing regions in Africa and Asia. Cities faced challenges in providing adequate social services, job opportunities and security without straining the urban infrastructure and imposing unsustainable demands on local and global natural resources and systems. Those challenges included congestion, pollution, access to energy, provision of basic services, adequate housing, infrastructure maintenance, crime and security, environmental degradation and natural disasters. Policy, planning and management approaches to effectively deal with the conflicts and contradictions of modern urban living were critical to addressing those challenges. While current models had made some headway in that regard, issues of fragmented decision-making, conflicting policy targets and insufficient coordination among city stakeholders continued to present obstacles to a more effective and sustainable management of rapidly changing urban areas.

To be effective, urban governance models, policies and planning tools had to address the scope and impact of urban activities across policy areas and spatial boundaries and involve an increasing number of urban stakeholders. They also needed to be strategic, participatory and action-oriented. With that in mind, the following policy initiatives were recommended: a whole-of-government approach to address complex urban challenges more holistically; inclusive, participatory mechanisms for decision-making; inclusive mechanisms to monitor the implementation of urban priorities and related initiatives and hold politicians accountable; strong partnerships with the private sector and other civil society organizations; effective coordination between national and local interventions; and a clear division of responsibilities among local authorities and between local and national authorities.

Communication. On 30 September, Bolivia transmitted the Ministerial Declaration [A/69/423], adopted at the thirty-eighth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China (New York, 26 September), which underlined the need for a coherent approach to the post-2015 development agenda that should reinforce the commitment of the international community to poverty eradication and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner.

Globalization and interdependence

On 19 September, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled: “Globalization and interdependence: International migration and development; and culture and sustainable development”, and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

New International Economic Order

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 3201(S-VI) [YUN 1974, p. 324], and 3202(S-VI) [ibid., p. 326], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/69/203], provided an updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and of the role of the United Nations in addressing those issues in the light of the New International Economic Order. The report analysed the most recent global growth trends and macroeconomic policies, as well as international trade flows, commodity prices, developments in the multilateral trading system and regional trade agreements, international financial capital flows, policy measures for managing volatility in short-term capital flows, and reforms to international and domestic financial systems. It focused on policies to promote equitable, inclusive and sustained growth, and discussed measures to reduce inequality, both across and within countries. It also analysed the connection between income inequality and economic growth, and policy options for reducing inequality. It emphasizes the importance of employment and decent work in promoting inclusive growth. The report also discussed challenges for ensuring sustainable development, and the central role of the United Nations in managing global sustainable development for all.

According to the report, over the past few decades, the world economy had undergone significant changes, with the share of developing countries in global output increasing steadily. With respect to developing countries, however, the world economy continued to face challenges for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustained growth in the aftermath of the global financial crisis and for ensuring global sustainable development. Six years after the erup-

tion of that crisis, the world economy had still not fully recovered, particularly with respect to employment. International policy coordination was needed to support demand, output and jobs; mitigate negative international policy spillover effects; and push forward reforms of the international financial system. While there was some convergence in per capita income across countries, large inequality persisted in the world along economic, social and environmental dimensions. Country-specific redistributive policies were useful instruments for reducing income inequality. Achieving sustainable development required global actions to deliver on the legitimate aspiration towards further economic and social progress, robust growth and employment, and environmental protection. The United Nations had to play a central role in managing global sustainable development, reducing threats to international peace and security, and promoting human rights. The Organization had played a leading role in promoting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and would also play a leading role in promoting the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/470], adopted **resolution 69/227** by recorded vote (131-46-3) [agenda item 21].

Towards a New International Economic Order

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations to promote the economic advancement and social progress of all peoples,

Recalling the principles of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as set out in resolutions 3201(S-VI) and 3202(S-VI), respectively, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session, on 1 May 1974,

Recalling also its resolutions 63/224 of 19 December 2008, 64/209 of 21 December 2009, 65/167 of 20 December 2010 and 67/217 of 21 December 2012,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling further the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the development goals and objectives contained therein, and recognizing the vital role played by those conferences and summits in shaping a broad development vision and in identifying commonly agreed objectives,

Stressing the need to fulfil all financing for development commitments, including those contained in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and other relevant outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits,

Noting that there have been systemic challenges to the global economic architecture demanding a review of global economic governance,

Concerned about the multiple interrelated and mutually exacerbating current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices, the food crisis and the challenges posed by climate change, which have a negative impact on the development prospects of developing countries and threaten to further widen the gap between developed and developing countries, including the technological and income gap, and which could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Also concerned, in this regard, that, although certain regions have made some progress, more than half of the workers in the developing world, about 1.5 billion people, live in vulnerable employment situations, and approximately one in five people in the developing regions live on less than 1.25 United States dollars a day,

Underlining the need for a more sustainable economic growth and recovery, and recognizing that this goal can be achieved through inclusive multilateralism and the equal participation of all countries, as envisioned, inter alia, in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Recognizing that innovative and enhanced approaches to financing for development are needed to address the challenges posed by the current global economic situation, poverty and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and stressing that these approaches should neither be a substitute for nor negatively affect the level of traditional sources of development financing, including official development assistance, and that they need to be developed in a spirit of partnership, cooperation and solidarity, bearing in mind the common interests and national priorities of each country,

Recognizing also that many relevant aspects of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order have not been implemented and that, consequently, many developing countries continue to face significant challenges to their development prospects, including vulnerability to external shocks and lack of adequate representation in global economic governance,

Recognizing further the role played by regional, sub-regional and interregional cooperation as well as regional economic integration, based on equality of partnership, in strengthening international cooperation with the objective of facilitating economic coordination and cooperation for development, the achievement of development goals and the sharing of best practices and knowledge,

Recognizing that widespread financial deregulation has contributed to larger net capital outflows from developing countries to developed countries,

Concerned that excessively expansionary monetary policies and the ensuing competitive currency evaluations pursued by developed countries have an effect equivalent to an across-the-board export subsidy and a generalized increase in import tariffs, which thus nullify or impair existing World Trade Organization market access commitments and further hinder the capacity of developing countries to fulfil their commitments to implement all the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the need for policy space to allow for the formulation of national development strategies by developing countries, aimed at bringing prosperity for all,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and of the role of the United Nations in addressing these issues in the light of the New International Economic Order";

2. *Reaffirms* the need to continue working towards a new international economic order based on the principles of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest, cooperation and solidarity among all States;

3. *Also reaffirms* the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

4. *Further reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;

5. *Decides* to continue considering the international economic situation and its impact on development at its seventy-first session, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", an updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development and of the role of the United Nations in addressing those issues, as well as possible ways and means to overcome those challenges, bearing in mind the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and the principles contained therein, and the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda, in the light of the relevant principles contained in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/227:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait,

Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Republic of Korea, Tonga, Turkey.

New global human order

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/230 [YUN 2012, p. 776], the Secretary-General, submitted a September report [A/69/410] on the UN role in promoting a new global human order. The report discussed progress in human well-being, with attention to poverty, employment and social integration, and the significance of inequality in the global development agenda. Paying particular attention to the ongoing deliberations of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the report noted the work of the UN system and other actors in taking better account of inequality and its impacts on human well-being.

According to the report, much progress had been made since the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action [YUN 1995, p. 1114] and the Second South Summit [YUN 2005, p. 983]; however, transformations in human well-being had been too slow for too many. Progress in both poverty eradication and gender equality was varied, and significant disparities remained. In the area of employment, progress was stymied by the impact of and slow recovery from the 2008 global financial and economic crisis. While the employment crisis affected developed countries more directly than other countries, the impact on the global marketplace was not negligible. Similarly, progress towards equitable growth and social integration was mixed, with the reality and perception of rising inequality threatening social and economic stability in many parts of the world. With the growing attention to inequality within the international community, the project of promoting a new global human order, in which no one was left behind, had taken on renewed fervour, and the post-2015 development agenda was likely to feature the reduction and prevention of high

inequality. Those goals were supported by UN system agencies and were featured in the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals [A/68/970] (see p. 945).

The Secretary-General recommended that countries and the international community improve the employability of all members of society and ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work; and create an enabling environment for the development of a vibrant, representative and accountable civil society sector as a means of strengthening the efficiency, equity and effectiveness of investments in human well-being and social integration.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/202** [draft: A/69/L.45 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 15].

The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/48 of 29 November 2000, 57/12 of 14 November 2002, 62/213 of 21 December 2007, 65/120 of 10 December 2010 and 67/230 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",

Acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being and that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that development is a central goal by itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

Recognizing that the well-being of people and the full development of their potential is pivotal to sustainable development, and convinced of the urgency of international cooperation towards that end,

Deeply concerned about persistent and considerable disparities between rich and poor, both within and among countries, and about the adverse implications of these disparities for the promotion of human well-being and development throughout the world,

Recalling resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly,

Taking account of the significance of inequality in the global development agenda and the importance of continued efforts to strive for inclusive and equitable development approaches to overcome poverty and inequality,

Taking note of the work of the United Nations system and other actors in taking better account of inequality,

Stressing the multidimensional nature of inequality and unequal access to social and economic opportunities and their complex interrelationship with efforts to eradicate poverty and promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development and the full enjoyment of human rights, especially for those people living in situations of vulnerability,

Concerned by the prevalence of gender inequality in various forms worldwide, which is often expressed in poorer outcomes for women relative to men on many social development indicators,

Considering that inequality continues to pose major barriers to attaining the Millennium Development Goals and that efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, often take inadequate account of the relationship and impact of inequality on sustainable development,

Reaffirming the need to achieve sustainable development by, inter alia, promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems,

Noting the successes and challenges in recent years in promoting a new global human order at national and international levels,

Recognizing the need to strengthen national capacities for robust data collection and effective data utilization in support of policy formulation, implementation and monitoring,

Recognizing also the need to encourage coherent and complementary policies to reduce inequality, to mainstream them into the activities of United Nations organizations and programmes and more effectively to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recognizing further the action already under way by all Member States, the United Nations system and other international, regional and national forums and organizations and the progress made to implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, including its recommendations for promoting a new global human order;

2. *Underlines* the continued relevance of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and the commitments set out therein, including the Millennium Development Goals, which have raised awareness and continue to generate real and important development gains, have played a vital role in shaping a broad development vision and constitute the overarching framework for the development activities of the United Nations, and strongly reiterates its determination to ensure the timely and full implementation of those outcomes and commitments;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the convening by the President of the General Assembly of the informal thematic debate on 8 July 2013 to address the issue of inequality;

4. *Recognizes* that attention must be focused on the particular needs of the people in developing countries and on the large and increasing economic and social inequality that exists, and further recognizes that disparities both within and among countries, including between developed

and developing countries, and inequality between the rich and the poor and between rural and urban populations, inter alia, remain persistent and significant and need to be addressed;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to accelerate efforts to promote human well-being and the full realization of human potential;

6. *Notes* that the new global human order is premised on a spirit of partnership that puts the needs, rights and aspirations of people at the centre of decisions and joint actions and is about making equitable and inclusive improvements in human well-being and establishing a cooperative and integrated approach to achieving this in a fair and balanced manner;

7. *Reaffirms* that national ownership and leadership are indispensable in the development process and that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, and reiterates that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized; domestic economies are now interwoven with the global economic system and, therefore, the effective use of trade and investment opportunities can help countries to fight poverty, and development efforts at the national level need to be supported by an enabling national and international environment that complements national actions and strategies;

8. *Also reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlines the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment generation and decent work for all;

9. *Stresses* the critical need for the expansion of and access to education and training, and encourages programmes to promote universal access to secondary education and to expand access to quality higher education, which is relevant to the needs of the labour market, in accordance with each country's specific realities and development challenges;

10. *Invites* Member States to adopt a multisectoral approach and to work on determinants of health within sectors including, as appropriate, through the health-in-all-policies approach, while taking into consideration the social, environmental and economic determinants of health, with a view to reducing health inequities and enabling sustainable development, and stresses the urgent need to act on social determinants for the final push towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

11. *Encourages* Member States, in collaboration with other stakeholders where applicable, to plan or pursue the transition of their health systems towards universal coverage, while continuing to invest in and strengthen health-delivery systems to increase and safeguard the range and quality of services and to adequately meet the health needs of their populations;

12. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to develop systems of social protection that support labour-market participation and address and reduce inequality and social exclusion, and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, invites

the International Labour Organization to strengthen its social protection strategies and policies on extending social security coverage, and urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in or vulnerable to poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, including the implementation of social protection floors which can provide a systemic base for addressing poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, to mobilizing domestic resources, fostering international financial flows, assuring long-term investment in human capital and infrastructure, promoting international trade as an engine for economic growth and development and increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief, and to enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems;

14. *Recognizes* that inequality within and among countries is a concern for all countries regardless of their level of development and that it represents a growing challenge with multiple implications for the realization of economic and social potential and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

15. *Also recognizes* the need to continue and intensify efforts to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, and reiterates the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national development efforts to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of efforts to address all aspects and dimensions of inequality, and calls upon Member States to pursue ambitious efforts to address inequality;

17. *Recognizes* the efforts of many countries in addressing inequality, and acknowledges the need for strengthened international efforts to complement national efforts in this area;

18. *Encourages* Member States in their efforts to address inequality and in partnership with relevant stakeholders to consider as appropriate, inter alia, programmes to promote the participation and empowerment of all members of society, implementing social protection floors or extending the scope of existing social protection programmes;

19. *Encourages* greater consideration of the impact of inequalities in development, including in the design and implementation of development strategies, and in this regard also encourages further analytical and empirical research, in particular by the relevant institutions of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions and other national and international organizations;

20. *Also encourages* giving due consideration to the need to reduce inequality in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

21. *Recognizes* that regional, subregional and inter-regional cooperation can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience and promote the most effective use of

resources aimed at achieving human development and reducing inequality;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, highlighting the efforts of the United Nations system to reduce inequality and promote human development globally, in particular in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled "The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order".

Human security

The Helsinki Citizen's Assembly hosted a conference entitled "Humanizing Security" (Istanbul, Turkey, 31 January–1 February) to raise awareness of local and regional human security issues, including social inclusion, inter-communal reconciliation and good governance. The conference marked the launch of the "Crossborder Citizens' Network on Human Security" project, intended to build a citizens' network for peace, reconciliation and human security across Turkey and Balkans.

On 18 June, the General Assembly President convened a thematic debate on human security entitled "Responding to the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century: Human security and the post-2015 development agenda" to exchange views on the third report of the Secretary-General on human security [YUN 2013, p. 779] and to discuss how human security might be included in the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960). On 21 July, the United Nations Human Security Unit announced the release of its *Strategic Plan for the period 2014–2017*, which laid out the strategies to mainstream the concept in UN activities and extend its global awareness over the next four years.

The Human Security Network held its annual high-level meeting (New York, 26 September) that focused on how the human security approach could be included in the next development framework, and on efforts to continue mainstreaming the approach into other areas of the UN system.

The fourth Istanbul Conference on Human Security (Istanbul, Turkey, 23–24 October), entitled "Twenty Years On: Human Security at Crossroads" was held to explore the development of the human security approach, while reflecting on and examining how human security had evolved, both within theory and practice.

Sustainable development

In 2014, various UN bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development considered the implementation of the outcomes of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustain-

able Development [YUN 2012, p. 780], the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development [YUN 2002, p. 821], particularly the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, which outlined actions and targets for stepping up implementation of Agenda 21—a programme of action for sustainable development worldwide, adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 672]—and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 792].

High-level political forum on sustainable development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290 [YUN 2013, p. 782] and Economic and Social Council **decision 2014/202** (see p. 1603), the first meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development was convened (New York, 30 June–9 July) under the auspices of the Council [E/HLPF/2014/2]. The theme for the high-level forum for 2014, as decided by the Council in **decision 2014/208**, was “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals.” The high-level forum held 11 moderated dialogues on the following themes: From the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to the post-2015 period: towards an integrated and universal sustainable development agenda; means of implementation for sustainable development; how sustainable consumption and production could contribute to the SDGs; scope and methodology for a global sustainable development report; ideas and trends; promoting genuine and durable partnerships; countries in special situations: building resilience; from silos to integrated policymaking; reviewing progress and implementation: making the most of the forum’s reviews after 2015; unlocking and reshaping development and enhancing implementation: the regional context; and shaping the forum for the post-2015 period. The forum also held a dialogue with the Chair of the Board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production. It also held six ministerial dialogues on the following: A universal integrated policy agenda to implement the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780] and realize the future we want; weaving regional realities and regional priorities into the post-2015 development agenda; long-term measures to make poverty eradication irreversible and reduce inequalities; international cooperation for sustainable development; multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments for sustainable development: ensuring accountability for all; preparing the high-level political forum for the post-2015 period: steering implementation of the

development agenda and reviewing progress; and charting pathways to the future we want.

The forum had before it reports of the Secretary-General on options for the scope and methodology for a global sustainable development [E/2014/87] and on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the UN system [A/69/79-E/2014/66] (see p. 947). It also considered inputs from the Economic Commission for Europe [E/2014/CRP.1], the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean [E/2014/CRP.2], the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia [E/2014/CRP.3], and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific [E/2014/CRP.4].

On 9 July, the forum adopted the ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development [E/HLS/2014/1] at its first meeting (below), and the theme for its 2015 session: “Strengthening integration, implementation and review: the high-level political forum after 2015”.

Ministerial declaration. Ministers welcomed what had been achieved through implementation of the MDGs, and expressed their determination to address the remaining unevenness and gaps in achievement and the challenges that remained, in particular, for the most off-track MDGs, and those where progress had stalled. They declared their commitment to establish a strong, ambitious, inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda that would build on the foundations laid and experiences gained during the MDGs process, and complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges. They reaffirmed that poverty eradication should be central to the post-2015 development agenda.

Ministers acknowledged the processes mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 782] being undertaken, in particular, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (see p. 945); the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing; and the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism, as well as the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in July 2015. The Ministers looked forward to the submission of the Secretary-General’s report before the end of 2014 synthesizing the full range of available inputs to the intergovernmental negotiations that would culminate in a high-level summit in September 2015. The Ministers reiterated that, starting in 2016, the high-level political forum on sustainable development should conduct regular reviews on the follow-up to, and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to implementation within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The reviews should be voluntary, while encourag-

ing reporting, and include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant UN entities; be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants; provide a platform for partnerships; and replace the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the Council's annual ministerial-level substantive reviews, as well as experiences and lessons learned in that context. The reviews should take into account the lessons learned from and the experiences of relevant review mechanisms, including the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the annual ministerial reviews. Acknowledging the importance of the regional dimension for sustainable development, the Ministers invited the UN regional commissions to contribute to the work of the Council and the forum through, inter alia, annual regional meetings with other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

Follow-up to UN Conference on Sustainable Development

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

The Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, established by Assembly resolution 66/288 [YUN 2012, p. 782] to develop a set of SDGs for consideration and action by the Assembly at its sixty-eight session, held its seventh (6–10 January), eighth (3–7 February), ninth (3–5 March), tenth (31 March–4 April), eleventh (5–9 May), twelfth (16–20 June) and thirteenth (14–19 July) sessions.

The Working Group report, submitted by its Co-Chairs in August [A/68/970 & Corr.1], contained 17 SDGs and targets: Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries; Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable

development; Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The goals and targets would be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes, and would take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and build on the foundation laid by the MDGs. Targets were defined as aspirational global targets, with each Government setting its own national targets.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 September [meeting 108], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/309** [draft: A/68/L.61] without vote [agenda item 14].

Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", contained in resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which Heads of State and Government, inter alia, resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly,

1. *Acknowledges* the conclusion of the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes its report;

2. *Decides* that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing

The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, established by General Assembly decision 67/559 [YUN 2013, p. 781] to develop options for a sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives, held its third (3–7 March), fourth (12–16 May) and fifth (4–8 August) sessions [A/69/315], all in New York. On 5 March, it held a joint meeting with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee assessed sustainable development financing needs, financing flows and potential sources of financing. It found that needs were huge and the challenges in meeting them were enormous, but surmountable. Yet, it was clear that the financing and investment patterns would not deliver sustainable development. The solution included better aligning private incentives with public goals and creating a policy framework that encouraged for-profit investment in those areas, while also mobilizing public resources for essential sustainable development activities. Efforts to reduce corruption and adopt more economically and socially effective public sector policies were thus important, as well as policies that would better match investor preference with investment needs. The Committee concluded that there was no one simple policy solution. Instead, a basket of policy measures would be necessary, encompassing a toolkit of policy options, regulations, institutions, programmes and instruments. The Committee recommended a cohesive approach, with national financing strategies as an integral part of national sustainable development strategies. While the design and implementation of policies would be at the national level, achieving sustainable development would require international support and cooperation. The Committee found that a concerted effort that drew on all actors and mobilized all resources would allow the Committee to finance the investments necessary to achieve sustainable development for all. Specifically, it considered policy options to strengthen the four basic categories of financial resource mobilization available for financing sustainable development, namely, domestic public, domestic private, international public and international private finance, with an additional focus on means for blending official and private resources and collaboration between various actors. It further addressed international policy imperatives for a strong international economic environment and its governance, and concluded with a discussion of options for the way forward.

On 8 December [A/69/PV.65], the General Assembly held a meeting which provided an opportunity for Member States to express views and make statements on the contents of the report and the options contained therein.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/108** [draft: A/69/L.32] without vote [agenda item 13 (a) and 115].

Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, contained in resolution 66/288 of 27 July

2012, in which Heads of State and Government agreed, inter alia, to establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly, to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives,

Recalling also resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014 on modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development in its entirety,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and takes note with appreciation of its report;

2. *Notes* the holding of a meeting of the General Assembly, on 8 December 2014, to take action on the report of the Committee, which provided an opportunity for Member States to express views and make statements on the contents of the report and the options contained therein, without prejudice to further discussions on the report in the forthcoming processes;

3. *Reaffirms* that the report of the Committee, the outcome of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want,” and the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, as mandated by its resolution 68/6 of 9 October 2013, will serve as important inputs for the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the outcome of which should constitute an important contribution to and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns was established by General Assembly resolution 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811]. The 10-member board governing the framework held meetings in New York on 2 October 2013 and 30 March 2014. The board adopted its terms of reference; guided development of the 10-year framework programmes; set up criteria and processes for the adoption of new programme areas; approved the establishment of a sixth programme; and guided the operationalization of the framework trust fund. A third meeting was planned to take place in Santiago, Chile (15–16 October). After its first meeting in October 2013, key milestones for the next year were to accelerate the consultation process and launching of the five initial framework programmes; hold the first five regional consultations; and undertake fundraising activities to secure resources for the 10-year framework trust fund. Financial support for the framework, amounting to \$4.4 million, was provided in the period 2012–2014 by Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the European Commission. Further official pledges

totalling \$3.5 million were made at the United Nations Environment Assembly in June (see p. 1170), comprised of \$2.5 million from Japan and \$1 million from Brazil. The United Nations Environment Programme served as the secretariat of the 10-year framework, while the Inter-Agency Coordination Group provided inputs for the development of the framework.

Board membership. In response to Assembly resolution 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811], the Secretary-General, in a September note [A/69/379], proposed that for the duration of the subsequent terms of the board of the 10-year framework, members serve for a period of two years, effective 16 September of every second year. UN regional groups might wish to re-nominate one of their existing two board members, in which case they should be able to do so for one further consecutive term, taking into account the importance of ensuring continuity in the board's work. No Member State might be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms.

On 19 December, (**decision 69/545**), the Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note on the term of the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (see above).

Progress report. By a September note [E/2014/93], the Secretary-General transmitted the progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (see p. 1171), prepared in response to Assembly resolutions 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811] and 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787]. According to the report, the adoption of the 10-year framework created important momentum for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, placing the topic on the agenda of global and regional ministerial meetings, as well as at the sessions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The nomination of over 110 national focal points for the framework and the engagement of six major groups signalled widespread interest in engaging in framework implementation. While progress had been achieved, there was still the challenge to communicate and demonstrate the added value of sustainable consumption and production and its potential contributions to competitiveness, social development, poverty eradication and climate change mitigation. Attracting funding and enhancing the participation of the private sector and financial institutions were additional related challenges. It was recommended that the Economic and Social Council call upon all countries and other stakeholders to secure predictable and adequate financial contributions to the 10-year framework trust fund. Among the recommendations to the Economic and Social Council were for the UN system to ensure that the development of the 10-year framework and its programmes was consistent with and supportive of the post-2015 development agenda; and to strengthen communication to facilitate the exchange of best practices and share the progress made on

the implementation of 10-year framework programmes through the sustainable consumption and production global clearinghouse and the framework website.

On 17 November, (**decision 2014/254**), the Economic and Social Council took note the Secretary-General's note.

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Reports of Secretary-General. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787], the Secretary-General submitted an April report [A/69/79-E/2014/66] on mainstreaming the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in UN work. The report examined processes and tools that could boost mainstreaming; pointed to the creation of the high-level political forum on sustainable development as an important development; and analysed whether sustainable development approaches were guiding the strategic plans of funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and their operational activities for development in developing countries. It reviewed developments in quality assurance and safeguard mechanisms as a tool for mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development; and considered the role of inspections and independent evaluations in the UN system.

The Secretary-General found that strengths, challenges and gaps identified in his previous report [YUN 2013, p. 786] remained relevant to the discussion on mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development. While there was some progress in updating the strategic plans of the funds, programmes and agencies, more work remained to be done to mainstream sustainable development in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and the "Delivering as one" programmes at the country level. The Secretary-General recommended that Member States welcome efforts by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to continue promoting policy coherence and system-wide coordination for accelerating the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the work of the UN system; call upon the UN system to accelerate efforts to mainstream sustainable development into strategic plans and programmes at the country level; encourage efforts by the United Nations Evaluation Group to study how evaluation could best contribute to mainstreaming sustainable development in the work of the UN system; call upon the UN system to establish a common repository of environmental and social assessments and related lessons learned; and request the Secretary-General to report on progress on sustainable development.

On 17 November (**decision 2014/250**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system.

In August, the Secretary-General provided a report [A/69/312] on the progress made in implementing Assembly resolution 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787] on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780]. The report focused on the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (see p. 945); the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ibid.); the General Assembly process to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promoted the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies (see p. 964); and the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (see p. 995). The report also highlighted the role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in reviewing the overall follow-up to the Conference in the context of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda; and examined how coherence and synergies across the different functions of the forum could be achieved in order to best support the agenda. In particular, the report looked at agenda-setting; follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits; national voluntary reviews; increasing transparency and strengthening civil society participation; strengthening the science-policy interface; promoting the coordination of sustainable development policies; and improving cooperation and coordination within the UN system on sustainable development programmes and policies.

The report attested that the 2014 session of the forum had proved its potential to fulfil the mandates of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 783] and Assembly resolution 67/290 [YUN 2013, p. 782]. It also proved capable of helping to set the agenda of the entire UN system and the international community in relation to sustainable development, and was expected to be the main platform for reviewing and monitoring the SDGs in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The Assembly could consider calling upon relevant actors, including Governments, UN system organizations, other relevant intergovernmental organizations, including WTO, major groups and other relevant stakeholders to fully engage in and support the work of the forum; fully implement relevant resolutions and enhance the forum as a dedicated platform for leadership and implementation of sustainable development commitments; ensure that the forum maintained a focused, relevant and flexible

agenda; ensure also that the forum followed up on the processes launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and bring cohesion and complementarity among them; and propose possible themes and areas, including new and emerging issues, for discussion at the high-level political forum. The Assembly could also call upon the UN system to make further efforts to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its work and invite the Secretary-General to continue reporting on further progress in that regard. The forum could provide detailed guidance on that topic at its 2015 meeting. The UN system should be invited to discuss the best ways to conduct reviews of its implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the context of the forum.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/214** without vote [agenda item 19 (d)].

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/270 A of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 64/236 of 24 December 2009, 65/152 of 20 December 2010, 66/197 of 22 December 2011, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, 67/203 of 21 December 2012, 68/210 of 20 December 2013, 68/309 of 10 September 2014, 68/310 of 15 September 2014 and 69/108 of 8 December 2014 and all other relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Programme of Action of the

International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action),

Recalling also the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the Vienna Declaration,

Recalling further the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Declaration and state of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,

Reaffirming the commitment to implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming also other internationally agreed goals in the economic, social and environmental fields since 1992, as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Reaffirming the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions, and reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development

are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, as well as the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality and women's empowerment, and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development,

1. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and urges its speedy implementation;

2. *Recalls* its resolution 68/309, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

3. *Also recalls* its resolution 69/108 on the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing established pursuant to its resolution 66/288;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Welcomes* the adoption, at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the theme of which was "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships", of the outcome document, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), which represents the renewed political commitment of the international community to support the efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and in which Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, inter alia, reaffirmed that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, also welcomes the partnerships discussed at the Conference, which are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of small island developing States, and in this regard calls for the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and highlights the need to continue to give due consideration to the priorities of small island developing States in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Reaffirms* its resolution 68/1, recalls the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to strengthen the Economic and Social Council within its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizes its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

7. *Also reaffirms* its resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and welcomes the inaugural meeting of the forum, held under the auspices of the General Assembly on 24 September 2013, as well as the meeting of the forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council from 30 June to 9 July 2014;

8. *Takes note* of the report on the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development held under

the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and affirms that the forum, at its 2015 meeting, to be held under the auspices of the Council, shall discuss its role and ways to implement its functions in following up on and reviewing the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 61/16, 67/290 and 68/1, taking account of and in order to contribute to the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Acknowledges* the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

10. *Recognizes* the need to consider the realignment of the current cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda to ensure an integrated and coherent follow-up to and review of progress made in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, taking into account all relevant processes, including the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to continue to coordinate with the bureaux of the relevant committees of the Assembly and with the Bureau of the Council to organize the activities of the high-level political forum on sustainable development so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and encourages broad consultations on the organization of the meeting of the forum under the auspices of the Council in 2015;

12. *Recalls* its resolution 68/310, in which it took note of the summary prepared by the President of the General Assembly of the discussions and recommendations that emerged from the four one-day structured dialogues held during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote clean and environmentally sound technologies, and in this regard stresses its resolve to continue consultations based on the above-mentioned recommendations contained in the summary prepared by the President of the Assembly, with the aim of reaching a conclusion during its sixty-ninth session in the context of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

13. *Also recalls* paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/203, in which it decided to review the arrangement to designate the Economic and Social Council as the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from the board and the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes, as elaborated in the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as its resolution 68/210 in this regard, also recalls the interactive discussions on sustainable consumption and production at the July 2014 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held under the auspices of the Council, requests the board and the secretariat to submit updated reports, through the Council, for the consideration of the forum in 2015, and decides that such an ad interim arrangement shall be reviewed at the seventieth session of the General Assembly with a view to establishing a permanent arrangement;

14. *Reaffirms* its resolution 67/203, and decides that the duration of subsequent terms for members of the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns shall continue to be two years, starting on 16 September of every second year, and that the United Nations regional groups may renominate one of their existing two members of the board for one consecutive term, while ensuring that no Member State may be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms and taking into account the importance of ensuring continuity and rotation in the work of the board;

15. *Recalls* its decision that the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall strengthen the science-policy interface, also recalls the interactive discussions at the forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council held in July 2014 on the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the options for such a report, and affirms that the forum shall further consider the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report at its next meeting under the auspices of the Council, taking account of and in order to contribute to the intergovernmental process of the post-2015 development agenda;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system, reiterates the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for the further mainstreaming of the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made, including for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

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

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development".

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on sustainable development—Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development—would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Facilitation mechanism for clean and environmentally sound technologies

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787], four structured dialogues (New York, 29–30 April, 4 June, 23 July) [A/69/554] were convened by the Assembly President to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to

promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

At the first two dialogues (29–30 April), participants took stock of the consideration by the United Nations of a possible technology facilitation mechanism; reviewed developments in existing mechanisms and processes; and discussed the scope and extent of fragmentation among them and options for enhancing synergy and coherence. It was agreed that, while a wide range of activities regarding the development, dissemination and transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies existed, more needed to be done to address fragmentation and strengthen synergies of efforts in that area.

The third dialogue (4 June) identified possible functions that could be undertaken by technology facilitation and options for the way forward. Proposals by Member States included improving synergy and coherence, improving data and information, and the analysis of needs and gaps.

At the fourth dialogue (23 July), participants discussed concrete options regarding the possible functions, modalities and organization of a technology facilitation mechanism that included better information on and mapping of existing facilitation activities; improving coherence and synergy between existing facilitation activities; conducting analyses of technology needs and gaps in addressing them; and promoting the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies through a technology facilitation mechanism. Participants recommended that the next step was to facilitate the launch of the technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism for the least developed countries, as mandated in Assembly resolution 68/224 [YUN 2013, p. 822]. The Secretary-General should make a proposal to the Assembly with regard to developing an online platform to undertake a thorough mapping of existing technology facilitation mechanisms, frameworks and processes for clean and environmentally sound technologies; improving coordination within the UN system on clean and environmentally sound technologies; analysing technology needs and gaps in addressing them; and including certain elements for continued discussions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 September [meeting 109], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/310** [draft: A/68/L.62] without vote [agenda item 19 (a)].

Four one-day structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the convening of four structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to

promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, on 29 and 30 April, 4 June and 23 July 2014, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/210 of 20 December 2013,

Taking note of the summary prepared by the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the discussions and recommendations that emerged from the four one-day structured dialogues to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote clean and environmentally sound technologies, held during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly,

Noting the views expressed by and the active participation of Member States and other stakeholders, as well as experts and panellists, during the dialogues,

1. *Requests* the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly to continue consultations based on the above-mentioned recommendations prepared by the President of the sixty-eighth session, with the aim of reaching a conclusion during the sixty-ninth session in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take into account the recommendations that emerged from the structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, contained in the summary prepared by the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, when preparing his synthesis report.

International cooperation for sustainable development

On 8 August, the Secretary-General announced the membership of a High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport to provide recommendations on sustainable transport actionable at global, national, local and sector levels. The Advisory Group was established for a period of three years to work with governments, transport providers, businesses, financial institutions, civil society and other stakeholders to promote sustainable transport systems and their integration into development strategies and policies, including in climate action; and promote sustainable transport in line with inclusive and equitable growth, social development, protection of the global environment and ecosystems, and addressing climate change.

Communication. On 9 September [A/68/991], Turkmenistan transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ashgabat Declaration on the Role of Transport and Transit Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development, which was adopted at the High-level International Conference on the Role of Transit Transport Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 3–4 September).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee

[A/69/468 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/213** without vote [agenda item 19].

Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Taking note of the Ashgabat Declaration, adopted at the High-level International Conference on the Role of Transit Transport Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development, held in Ashgabat on 3 and 4 September 2014, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the International Road Transport Union,

Noting the establishment of the Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport,

Noting also the initiative to establish the global partnership for sustainable transport, as announced by the participants in the conference entitled “Sustainable Transport as a Driver of Economic Development in the Post-2015 Development Agenda”, organized jointly by the United Nations Global Compact and the International Road Transport Union and held in New York on 10 October 2014,

Recognizing the important role of environmentally sound, safe, efficient, reliable and affordable transport and transit corridors for the efficient movement of goods and people in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare of people and enhancing international cooperation and trade among countries,

Highlighting the role of international roads and railways, intermodal logistics centres and dry ports, global logistics and supply chains, the integration of transport modes, appropriate technologies and the maintenance and upgrading of infrastructure in promoting seamless international transit transport,

Emphasizing the need to harmonize and improve transport and border-crossing infrastructure and facilities and services along the international transport and transit corridors,

Noting the importance of United Nations Development Account projects focused on developing broader transport corridors, which are being implemented by the five United Nations regional commissions, and identifying the physical and institutional infrastructure requirements that would be needed to make them operational,

Recalling its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003, 58/289 of 14 April 2004, 60/5 of 26 October 2005, 62/244 of 31 March 2008, 64/255 of 2 March 2010, 66/260 of 19 April 2012 and 68/269 of 10 April 2014, on improving global road safety, and the need to develop plans to improve road safety along international road transit corridors in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020,

Welcoming, in this regard, the second High-level Global Conference on Road Safety, to be held in Brasilia on 18 and 19 November 2015, to review progress in implementing the

Global Plan for the Decade of Action and in meeting the goal of the Decade of Action,

Recognizing the importance of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient transit transport systems that link them to international markets, and in this regard underlining the importance of partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, sub-regional, regional and global levels,

1. *Recognizes* the need for continued international cooperation to address the issues relating to transport and transit corridors as an important element of sustainable development;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations, in particular the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, the International Road Transport Union, the International Union of Railways, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to develop and operationalize international transport and transit corridors;

3. *Calls for* efforts to promote regional economic integration and cooperation, including by improving cross-border transportation infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity and facilitating regional trade and investment;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and international and regional organizations to further encourage enhanced networking and periodic consultation among related stakeholders involved in the development and operation of international transport and transit corridors;

5. *Invites* all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations conventions and agreements on transport and transit facilitation;

6. *Underscores* the need to mobilize, as appropriate, additional financial resources for the development of transport infrastructure and services, including through the promotion of public-private partnerships, so as to achieve inclusive and sustainable development;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations system organizations, related international financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors, the private sector and international organizations to further coordinate their efforts and collaborate in mobilizing financial and technical assistance to countries for the sustainable and inclusive development of transport and transit corridors;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, relevant regional and international organizations and entities of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, on issues relating to the development of transport and transit corridors and to communicate such views in a summary report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Education for sustainable development

In an August note [A/69/76], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a letter from the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), forwarding the Global Action Programme on Education

for Sustainable Development as follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development after 2014. The Global Action Programme was developed in consultation with all education for sustainable development stakeholders, with particular focus on actions on the ground and on the identification of policymakers, institutional leaders, youth, educators and local authorities as priority target and participating groups. The Programme was to be the major contribution of UNESCO to the implementation of paragraph 233 on education for sustainable development contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288 [YUN 2012, p. 782]. The Global Action Programme focused on five priority action areas: policy support, whole-institution approaches, educators, youth, and local communities.

UNESCO World conference. The World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 10–12 November) marking the end of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 57/254 [YUN 2002, p. 826], endorsed the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/211** without vote [agenda item 19].

Follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014): Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/163 of 20 December 2010 and other previous resolutions on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

Recalling also that at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Brazil from 20 to 22 June 2012, Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives resolved to promote education for sustainable development and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education beyond the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

Noting the organization by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 10 to 12 November 2014, hosted by the Government of Japan,

1. *Takes note* of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, as a follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development after 2014, as endorsed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-seventh session and transmitted by the Secretary-General;

2. *Invites* Governments to take steps to implement the Global Action Programme;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the lead agency for education for sustainable development, to continue to provide coordination for the implementation of the Global Action Programme, in cooperation with Governments, United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in the review of the implementation of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Sustainable tourism

In August [A/69/223 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection, submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 67/223 [YUN 2012, p. 813].

The report updated the previous report on the subject [ibid.] to assist in the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as an element of sustainable livelihoods to fight poverty and promote environment protection. It was based on the responses received and information acquired through a follow-up survey among UN Member States, conducted, early in 2014, to monitor implementation of resolution 67/223. Seventy-nine per cent of respondents indicated that they had strengthened environmental protection and natural and cultural heritage frameworks, while four countries reported the adaptation of new frameworks or the enhancement of policies and programmes that had a direct impact on local community and small tourism entrepreneurs in order to assure the sustainable development of tourism. Eighty-five per cent of respondents reported conducting impact assessments or evaluations of the impact of sustainable tourism. Aside from integrating sustainable tourism into national legislation and policies, a majority of the countries highlighted initiatives targeting the increased participation of indigenous and local communities and women. According to many Member States, a key challenge in the promotion of sustainable tourism for poverty eradication and environment protection was facilitating access by small- and medium-sized enterprises to financial capital.

The report concluded that progress in promoting ecotourism had resulted in its incorporation into national policy and priorities. States and international development institutions were increasingly recognizing the importance of cooperation in ecotourism as a means to achieve economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve livelihoods in developing countries. A majority of countries were engaged in cooperative initiatives and some States responded that they wanted

regional and international institutions to prioritize the provision of adequate support to programmes and projects relating to ecotourism, which included both financial and technical assistance. The Assembly might wish to recommend that all Member States review their current tourism frameworks and policies; invite governments and relevant stakeholders to consider using tourism to engage indigenous and local communities in order to preserve indigenous knowledge and know-how; establish and join the framework of the UNWTO Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism; encourage all relevant stakeholders to provide more evidence-based information on how women were integrated into the planning of and decisions on tourism development; and encourage governments, the tourism sector and relevant organizations to adopt policies and practices to promote the full participation and involvement of local and indigenous communities, in addition to the full empowerment of women, in all tourism operations and development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/472], adopted **resolution 69/233** without vote [agenda item 23].

Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the report of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”,

Recalling further its resolutions 53/200 of 15 December 1998, entitled “Proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism”, 65/148 of 20 December 2010, entitled “Global Code of Ethics for Tourism” and 68/207 of 20 December 2013, entitled “Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America”,

Recalling its resolution 67/223 of 21 December 2012, entitled “Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection”,

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Stressing also that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, is a cross-cutting activity that can contribute to the fight against poverty, the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development,

Stressing further the role of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in promoting rural development and better living conditions for sustainable rural populations,

Welcoming the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, the achievements of the International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development and the objectives of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, which was launched in 2011 as a permanent successor to the International Task Force,

Noting the initiatives launched and the events organized at the subregional, regional and international levels in the field of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization transmitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

2. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation, that it can have a positive impact on income generation and education, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger, and that it can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Also recognizes* the potential of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to reduce poverty by improving individual livelihoods in local communities and to generate resources for community development projects;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to optimize the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits stemming from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, in all countries, particularly developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States;

5. *Also emphasizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, can contribute to sustainable development, in particular environment protection, and can improve the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities;

6. *Recognizes* that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, creates significant opportunities for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and of natural areas by encouraging indigenous peoples and local communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage;

7. *Underlines*, in this regard, the importance of establishing, at the national level, where necessary, appropriate policies, guidelines and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, for promoting and sup-

porting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and minimizing any potential negative impact;

8. *Invites* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to encourage and support best practices in relation to the implementation of relevant policies, guidelines and regulations in sustainable tourism, including the ecotourism sector, and to implement and disseminate existing guidelines;

9. *Encourages* Governments at all levels to use sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool to support poverty eradication, environmental protection and/or conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and to base tourism components on clear evidence of market demand and on a sound economic and environmental foundation;

10. *Encourages* Member States to promote investment in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, in accordance with their national legislation, which may include creating small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting cooperatives and facilitating access to financing through inclusive financial services, including microcredit initiatives for the poor, for indigenous peoples and for local communities in areas, including rural areas, with high potential for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

11. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to support the coordination of regional and/or international sustainable tourism development frameworks, as appropriate, in order to assist countries in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection;

12. *Underlines* the importance of conducting an environmental impact assessment, in accordance with national legislation, for the development of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism opportunities;

13. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, in all their aspects, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in policy development for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and underlines the importance of promoting the full and early participation and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating their knowledge, heritage and values in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, as appropriate;

14. *Emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to ensure the full empowerment of women, including the equal participation of women and men at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas;

15. *Also emphasizes* the need for effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to help ensure the equal participation of youth, persons with disabilities and older persons at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas and to promote the effective economic empowerment, including through international cooperation, of women, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons, in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, mainly through decent job and income creation;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in the context of the global campaign for the Millennium Development Goals, to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as an instrument that can contribute to achieving those Goals, in particular the Goals of

eradicating extreme poverty and of ensuring environmental sustainability, and to support the efforts and policies of developing countries in this field;

17. *Encourages* the regional and international financial institutions to provide adequate support to programmes and projects related to sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, taking into account the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of such activities;

18. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, in particular the World Tourism Organization, United Nations bodies and other organizations, to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request, and to assist, as appropriate, in strengthening legislative or policy frameworks for sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, including those for environment protection and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage;

19. *Invites* relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, other organizations and multilateral financial institutions to provide technical assistance to Governments, upon request and as appropriate, in identifying needs as well as opportunities to improve the contribution of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, to poverty eradication, including through securing wider community benefits from sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, as a viable and sustainable economic development option;

20. *Encourages* all stakeholders to cooperate in supporting, as appropriate, the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities;

21. *Encourages* the public and private sectors and relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request, assistance for capacity-building, the development of specific guidelines and awareness-raising materials and training for people involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities, such as language training and training in specific skills in tourism services, as well as to develop or strengthen partnerships, especially in protected areas;

22. *Invites* relevant stakeholders to provide, upon request and as appropriate, technical assistance to assist in building the capacity, including for marketing and product positioning, of local communities, cooperatives and small and medium-sized businesses involved in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism activities;

23. *Recognizes* the role of North-South cooperation in promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a means to achieve economic growth, to reduce inequalities and to improve living standards in developing countries, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, have the potential to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism;

24. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to consider joining the framework of the Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization as a way to promote socioeconomic and environmentally sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, and to support better informed sustainable tourism policies around the world, mainly through the identification and dissemination of best practices and enhanced awareness of and capacity-building for sustainability among tourism stakeholders;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and other rel-

evant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development, taking into account relevant reports prepared by the World Tourism Organization in this field.

Eradication of poverty

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

As requested in General Assembly resolution 68/226 [YUN 2013, p. 795], the Secretary-General, in August [A/69/204], submitted a report on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), proclaimed by the Assembly in resolution 62/205 [YUN 2007, p. 847]. The report discussed progress and challenges to poverty eradication, presented some policy considerations, and highlighted the latest UN system activities in that area. According to the report, while progress in reducing poverty was remarkable in some regions and countries, the uneven progress across regions and within countries remained a major concern. Much more had to be done to ensure that the goal of poverty eradication was linked to the formulation of social, economic and environmental policies at all decision-making levels. To eliminate extreme poverty, policy efforts at all levels had to go beyond addressing its symptoms to building the physical, social, economic and political infrastructure needed to sustain eradication efforts. Macroeconomic policies had to be consistent with other policies to address social and environmental realities as part of an integrated effort towards inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth that generated decent and productive employment. Public spending should prioritize investment in human development, improving access to social services and building universal systems of social protection. The ongoing deliberations on the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda provided an opportunity to reframe the approach to poverty eradication in a way that fostered more balanced and inclusive progress at national and international levels. The multidimensional nature of poverty should be adequately reflected in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, with full employment and decent work being an essential element of that holistic approach. Countries, in pursuing poverty eradication might consider setting national strategies for achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, especially women, young people, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and other marginalized and vulnerable groups; continuing the pursuit of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth that supported the structural transformation of economies towards progressively higher levels of productivity in all sectors and activities; reducing inequality of oppor-

tunity and outcomes among social and populations groups, including economic, social and environmental inequalities; ensuring that all people were empowered through access to quality education, skills development and vocational training aligned with labour market needs; and creating a culture of sustainable lifestyles, including through consumer awareness-raising, tax incentives and other behaviour-changing policies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/472/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/234** without vote [agenda item 23 (a)].

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/226 of 20 December 2013 and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one United States dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, with a main aim of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009, entitled “Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development”,

Taking note with appreciation of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development and also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 of 28 July 2011, entitled “Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact”,

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, and its outcome document, and the special

event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Acknowledging the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing processes in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and also acknowledging the central imperative of poverty eradication in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty,

Expressing concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizing that there is a need to promote recovery, and acknowledging that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires the timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments,

Concerned that, midway into the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, such progress has been uneven and that the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Recognizing also that corruption at all levels, including the illicit transfer of funds and assets, is an obstacle to development, and stressing the need for the return of such funds and assets to their countries of origin,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of all humankind,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment generation and decent work for all,

Reaffirming also that women make significant contributions to the economy, that they are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequality through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that gender equality and the empowerment of women are critical factors in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities,

Recognizing also that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing further that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern that aggregate official development assistance fell in 2012 for the second consecutive year, cognizant of the increase in aggregate official development assistance in 2013, and calling upon those Member States that have made commitments to fulfil their commitments and continue this positive momentum,

Acknowledging that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and recognizing the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging also that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work for all, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication, involving more than 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”;

2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

3. *Also reaffirms* that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and in this regard commits itself to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency;

4. *Further reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that

the role of national policies and strategies for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty;

5. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to urgently take measures to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger because of their negative impacts on sustainable development;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

7. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and its role at the regional level, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

8. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of regional, sub-regional and interregional cooperation can have a catalytic impact on poverty eradication efforts and offers many benefits, including the exchange of best policies, experiences and technical expertise, the mobilization of resources and the expansion of economic opportunities and conditions favourable to job creation;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard through adequate, predictable financial resources on bilateral and multilateral bases;

10. *Stresses* the importance of public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, as appropriate;

11. *Acknowledges* the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, emphasizes that, in accelerating poverty eradication, the organizations of the United Nations development system must be driven by national priorities and be operated in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates, making full use of the interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations development system, and encourages the use of diverse strategies;

12. *Recognizes* the role of the specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty, including through education and training;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent

of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach a level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

14. *Notes* that a few developed countries have fulfilled the commitment made by many countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance, and in this regard calls upon these countries to urgently fulfil those commitments;

15. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, *inter alia*, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

16. *Recognizes* the urgent need to address poverty, hunger and food security, and encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of agricultural and rural development and food production and productivity, including of smallholder producers, in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries;

17. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to strengthen United Nations funding for the eradication of poverty through voluntary contributions to existing poverty-related system-wide funds;

18. *Recognizes* that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies at all levels;

19. *Reaffirms* the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

20. *Also reaffirms* that, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, poverty eradication shall be central to the post-2015 development agenda;

21. *Stresses* the resolve to end poverty, including eradicating extreme poverty, currently measured as living on less than 1.25 dollars a day, for all people everywhere, and the efforts to reduce by at least half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions;

22. *Takes note* of proposed goal 1, contained in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, entitled "End poverty in all its forms everywhere", and all of its targets;

23. *Recognizes* that poverty is multidimensional, invites national Governments, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measurements that better reflect this multidimensionality, and emphasizes the importance of developing a common understanding among national Governments and other stakeholders of the multidimensional nature of poverty and giving it due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

24. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequalities on poverty, emphasizes the importance of improving access to quality education, health care and social protection;

25. *Acknowledges* that the eradication of poverty through the development of national capacities in developing countries should continue to be a core area of focus for the United Nations development system and that its development programmes and projects should attempt to address this greatest global challenge as their underlying objective;

26. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and informing the discussions on the way forward after 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals a compilation of such good practices;

27. *Reiterates its call upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

28. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work for all remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

29. *Urges* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and in this context stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment, building upon, inter alia, the Global Jobs Pact and the call for action of the International Labour Organization;

30. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable

situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, improving access to finance, microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by national efforts on effective social policies, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection;

31. *Stresses* the importance of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, and of achieving substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable, and encourages Member States to continue developing and implementing social protection floors based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

32. *Notes* the reference in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to the need to ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions;

33. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure that the eradication of poverty is duly reflected in the deliberations of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015;

34. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

35. *Also urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

36. *Stresses* that the impacts of natural disasters and conflicts are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty eradication, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to give priority to addressing them;

37. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication, and stresses that efforts in this area should be scaled up to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

38. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Second Decade;

39. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding duplication of efforts;

40. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda

The *Millennium Development Goals Report 2014*, published by DESA [Sales No. E.14.I.10], evaluated the progress made on MDG indicators. The report stated that important progress had been made across all goals set out in the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 51], and some targets had been met well ahead of the 2015 deadline. The world had reduced extreme poverty by half, reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty by 700 million in 2010. Progress on poverty reduction nevertheless was uneven. While some regions, such as Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, had met the target, others, such as sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, still lagged behind. According to World Bank projections, sub-Saharan Africa was not expected to meet the target by 2015. With regard to employment, the weak and uneven global economic recovery continued to take its toll on labour markets, particularly in the developing world. That was reflected in limited progress in the reduction of low-quality employment, which was widespread in most developing countries. Hunger continued to decline, but major efforts were needed to achieve the hunger target globally by 2015. Efforts in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis had shown results, and access to an improved drinking water source had become a reality for 2.3 billion people.

Substantial gains were made towards reaching gender parity in school enrolment at all levels of education in all developing regions. The political participation of women continued to increase, with 46 countries having more than 30 per cent female members of parliament in at least one chamber. Official development assistance stood at \$134.8 billion in 2013, the highest level ever recorded; however, aid was shifting away from the poorest countries. The debt burden of developing countries remained stable at three per cent of export revenue.

The report concluded that much had been accomplished through the concerted efforts of all, saving and improving the lives of many people, but the agenda remained unfinished. Continued progress towards the MDGs in the remaining year was essential to provide a solid foundation for the post-2015 development agenda.

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with the outcome document of the General Assembly 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, adopted

by the Assembly in resolutions 65/1 [YUN 2010, p. 815] and 65/10 [ibid., p. 829], the Secretary-General, in July, submitted the annual report [A/69/201] on accelerating progress towards the MDGs: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

The Secretary-General stated that remarkable progress had been made in achieving the MDGs, particularly regarding the targets related to poverty reduction, improved drinking water sources, primary education and health. Nevertheless, significant shortfalls remained in the targets related to the reduction of hunger and child and maternal mortality, gender equality, environmental sustainability and the delivery of global partnership commitments. Progress was uneven across countries and among different population groups and regions within countries. In the world's poorest countries in particular, progress often failed to keep up with rapidly changing demographics. Many initiatives and actions to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs had been taken at the national, regional and global levels, involving a large number of different stakeholders; and while they had produced encouraging results, efforts needed to be redoubled. Policy options for supporting sustained, inclusive and equitable growth were proposed, including advancing the reforms in financial regulation to reduce risks of financial and economic crisis; strengthening countercyclical policy space; incentivizing long-term investment for sustainable development; enhancing international policy coordination and cooperation; promoting employment with decent wages, and in particular, the employment of women and young people; reducing inequality through social protection and other redistributive measures; and sharing the benefit derived from natural resources more inclusively among the population.

Annual ministerial review. From 7 to 9 July, during the high-level segment of its 2014 substantive session [A/69/3/Rev.1] (see p. 1028), the Economic and Social Council held its annual ministerial review on the theme “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”, in accordance with decision 2011/208 [YUN 2011, p. 791].

It also had before it a report [E/2014/61] of the Secretary-General on the topic, which addressed ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future. It highlighted opportunities for accelerating the achievement of the goals through key facilitators and enablers of development at all levels, including effective leadership and conducive policy frameworks. The report stated that although significant and substantial progress had been made in meeting many of the targets, progress had also been unequal, and new challenges had emerged. A new development agenda would need to take into account an international environment that

had changed dramatically since 2000. It will need to contain a vision that integrated a broader scope of issues and the three dimensions of sustainable development with universal applicability, while taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Overcoming the significant challenges to meeting the MDGs in 2015 and sustaining development gains in the future would require addressing some of the main facilitators and enablers of development; promoting inclusive development; and enhancing measurement, monitoring and review. International cooperation and coordination would be essential to the success of that approach. Among the recommendations made were that the international community should design a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda that was guided by the intrinsic linkage between poverty reduction and sustainable development. The post-2015 framework should include an intergenerational approach towards inclusive development, addressing equally the needs of children, their parents, those in the labour force and ageing populations, in order to combat inequalities that could become cumulative over time. The international community should undertake global economic and financial coordination to reduce macroeconomic volatility and risks, many of which inordinately affected developing countries and made it very difficult for them to integrate successfully into the global economy.

Communication. On 14 May [E/2014/74], Nepal, in its capacity as Chair of the Commission for Social Development, forwarded to the President of the Economic and Social Council the summary of the discussion held during the fifty-second session of the Commission on the theme “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all” (see p. 1228), which was closely linked to the main theme of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council for 2014.

On 29 December, by **decision 69/554**, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Organization of UN summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

On 29 December, (**decision 69/550**), the General Assembly decided on the dates in 2015 for the meetings of the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda (19–21 January; 17–20 February; 23–27 March; 20–24 April; 18–22 May; 22–25 June; 20–24 and 27–31 July 2015); invited all Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to all relevant UN trust funds to support the travel and participation of the representatives from developing countries, in par-

ticular Least Development Countries (LDCs), in those meetings; requested the Secretary-General to provide timely and regular updates on the availability of financial resources from the relevant trust funds; and stressed the need for flexibility in convening meetings of the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, and noted the possibility of convening additional meetings of up to five days duration.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/244** [draft: A/69/L.43] without vote [agenda items 13 (a) & 115].

Organization of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/2 of 8 September 2000, 60/1 of 16 September 2005 and 65/1 of 22 September 2010, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the outcome of the 2010 United Nations summit on the Millennium Development Goals, respectively,

Recalling also its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, by which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling further the outcome document of the special event of the President of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/6 of 9 October 2013, including the decision to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations, which will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and the request to the Secretary-General to synthesize the full range of inputs then available and to submit a synthesis report before the end of 2014, as an input to intergovernmental negotiations,

Recalling its resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014, by which it decided to convene the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, from 13 to 16 July 2015,

Mindful of the processes mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, as well as the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism,

Taking note of other relevant inputs received and under way from United Nations intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations system and relevant United Nations meetings and processes, which could serve as useful inputs to the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda,

Bearing in mind that the summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda coincides with the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* that the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York, and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly;

2. *Also decides* that the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly shall apply for the summit unless otherwise decided in the present resolution and the annexes thereto;

3. *Further decides* that the general debate of the General Assembly at its seventieth session will begin on 28 September 2015, on the understanding that these arrangements shall in no way create a precedent for the general debate at future sessions;

4. *Decides* that the summit will be composed of plenary meetings concurrent with interactive dialogues;

5. *Invites*, owing to the importance of the summit, the Head of State of the country of the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session and the Head of State or Government of the country of the President of the Assembly at its seventieth session to jointly preside over the summit;

6. *Reiterates* that the 2015 summit will be held with the participation of Heads of State or Government, and encourages all Member States to be represented at that level;

7. *Invites* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, including the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the regional development banks, the regional commissions of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, academia, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, major groups and the private sector, to participate in the summit, including in its interactive dialogues and preparatory process, according to the modalities specified in the annexes to the present resolution, and encourages them, as well as Member States and observers, to consider initiatives and activities in the preparation and the lead up to the summit;

8. *Reiterates* that, to arrive at an inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda, the summit should engage all relevant stakeholders;

9. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union, including through the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to develop and submit a contribution to the summit;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, with early preparations and in the most effective and efficient way, and to preside over two days of informal interactive hearings, before June 2015, with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, major groups and the private sector, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings, to be made available prior to the summit;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to use the existing United Nations trust funds established prior to the high-level meetings of 2005 and 2010, as appropriate, to enhance the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations and major groups from developing countries in the hearings and the summit itself, and encourages Member States and others, as appropriate, to provide further support to the trust funds;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to enhance the active participation in the summit of representatives from developing countries, particularly from the least developed countries, to make efforts to use, in an efficient and effective manner, the limited available resources for that purpose;

13. *Reaffirms* the decision to consider at its sixty-ninth session the need to convene a meeting of the high-

level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2015 in relation to the launch of the post-2015 development agenda, with a view to reaching agreement by the end of 2014 in this regard;

14. *Requests* the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly to hold open, inclusive and transparent intergovernmental consultations with all Member States through the appointment, by the end of September 2014, of two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, with a view to reaching agreement on all remaining issues relating to the intergovernmental negotiation process, including the summit;

15. *Requests* that the organization and modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations be established by the end of December 2014, keeping in mind the need for effective coordination and coherence in order to build synergies with other relevant United Nations intergovernmental processes.

ANNEX I

Organization of the plenary meetings and establishment of the list of speakers for the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

1. The summit will consist of plenary meetings as follows:

25 September 2015, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

26 September 2015, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

27 September 2015, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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

3. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit will be established in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly. The initial list of speakers for the summit will be available in May 2015.

4. At the opening plenary meeting, on Friday morning, 25 September 2015, the initial speakers will include the two Co-Chairs, the Secretary-General and the head of the delegation of the host country of the Organization.

5. A representative from civil society of appropriate stature and level will be included in the list of speakers as keynote speaker after the opening statements.

6. Representatives of the intergovernmental groupings, the President of the World Bank Group, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization and the heads of the United Nations system may also be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit.

7. Without prejudice to other organizations which have observer status in the General Assembly, a representative of each of the following may also be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit:

League of Arab States

African Union

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

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

8. In order to accommodate all speakers at the summit, statements will be limited to five minutes, on the

understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts.

9. Other than for Member States, the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit will be closed on Monday, 3 August 2015.

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

ANNEX II

Organization of the interactive dialogues for the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda

1. The summit will hold six interactive dialogues, as follows:

25 September 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

26 September 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

27 September 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

2. The six dialogues will be co-chaired by two Heads of State or Government.

3. The interactive dialogues will be guided by the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly.

4. The chairs of the interactive dialogues will be from the African States, the Asia-Pacific States, the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and other States. The chairs will be selected by their respective regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

5. Following the selection of chairs of the dialogues, participation will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, ensuring that equitable geographical distribution is maintained, allowing for some flexibility. Member States are encouraged to be represented at the interactive dialogues at the level of Head of State or Government.

6. While retaining the intergovernmental character of the interactive dialogues, the United Nations system and other stakeholders, in accordance with annex IV below, are also invited to participate in the interactive dialogues. Arrangements will be made through existing and appropriate United Nations information and communications technology platforms to facilitate in this regard.

7. The themes for the interactive dialogues will be decided through the intergovernmental negotiation process for the summit.

8. The list of participants in each interactive dialogue will be made available prior to the meeting.

9. Summaries of the deliberations of the interactive dialogues will be presented orally by the chairs of the interactive dialogues or their representatives during the concluding plenary meeting of the United Nations summit.

ANNEX III

Organization of the informal interactive hearings

1. The President of the General Assembly will preside over two days of informal interactive hearings to be held before June 2015. The hearings will include participation from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector and major groups and an exchange of views with Member States.

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

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

4. The themes of the hearings will be informed by the synthesis report of the Secretary-General and decided on by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States.

ANNEX IV

Other participants

1. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, including those on the roster through the list of the Commission on Sustainable Development, representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations that have participated in previous United Nations summits and non-governmental organizations and other major groups that were accredited to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 1992 and in 2002, respectively, will be invited to participate in the plenary meetings and interactive dialogues of the summit.

2. The President of the General Assembly will draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the plenary meetings and interactive dialogue of the summit, taking into account the principle of transparency and the principle of equitable geographical representation, and submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis.

3. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, major groups and the private sector, one from each grouping, selected through a transparent and inclusive process during the informal interactive hearings, may also be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings of the summit, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

4. In addition, interested non-governmental organizations that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and private sector representatives may apply to the General Assembly following the procedures detailed in this annex. The complete list of applicants will be circulated to Member States.

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

Entrepreneurship for development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/202 [YUN 2012, p. 820], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/320] on entrepreneurship for development, prepared by UNCTAD, with inputs

from DESA, UN agencies and relevant stakeholders. The report assessed progress in the implementation of resolution 67/202, taking stock of policy trends, good practices and lessons learned. It was structured around six priority areas: formulating a national entrepreneurship strategy; optimizing the regulatory environment; enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development; facilitating technology exchange and innovation; improving access to finance; and promoting awareness and networking. The report highlighted efforts to develop entrepreneurship policy through a bottom-up approach, building on inputs from subnational regions, cities and all types of communities, as well as on institution-building and the participation of a broad spectrum of stakeholders in policymaking. The report proposed measures to leverage national and regional policy networks in order to scale up and transfer their experiences, and encouraged the adoption of common impact indicators. It also suggested measures to enhance access to finance and to develop entrepreneurship promotion among women, youth and minorities—offering guidance on how to establish national centres of excellence in entrepreneurship, and encouraging networking and the sharing of good practices.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/210** by recorded vote (133-30-7) [agenda item 19].

Entrepreneurship for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/202 of 21 December 2012,

Reaffirming the commitments to development and poverty eradication emanating from the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit, the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions,

Recalling the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Recalling also the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and recognizing the potential of entrepreneurship to contribute to specific sustainable development objectives,

Reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development in its holistic approach and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling also the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the agreed conclusions adopted by the

Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session, and stressing that women, particularly in developing countries, are important drivers of entrepreneurship,

Taking note of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council, entitled “Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals”,

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the important contribution entrepreneurship can make to sustainable development by creating jobs and driving economic growth and innovation, improving social conditions and contributing to addressing environmental challenges, and stressing the importance of giving appropriate consideration to the promotion of entrepreneurship in the context of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing also the importance of developing comprehensive and comparable data to monitor progress in the implementation of entrepreneurship policies,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Emphasizes* the need for improved regulatory environments and policy initiatives that promote entrepreneurship and foster small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as microenterprises, and stresses the positive role entrepreneurship plays in driving job creation and expanding opportunities for all, including for women and youth;
3. *Encourages* Governments to take a coordinated and inclusive approach to promoting entrepreneurship involving all stakeholders, while noting initiatives of civil society, academia and the private sector as important entrepreneurship drivers, and to develop policies, taking into account national priorities and circumstances, that address the legal, social and regulatory barriers to equal, effective economic participation, and stresses the need for a comprehensive approach to entrepreneurship that includes support from development partners in the areas of technology transfer on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, finance and capacity-building, with a focus on education and skills development;
4. *Acknowledges* the important role trade plays in enhancing the capacity of enterprises, and reaffirms in this regard the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development as they advance towards sustainable development;
5. *Emphasizes* that partnerships with the private sector play an important role in promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing revenue potential, developing new technologies and innovative business models and enabling high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth while protecting workers' rights;

6. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the capacity of national financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, and encourages them to adopt regulatory and supervisory frameworks that facilitate the safe and sound provision of services to such populations, increase access to information and promote financial literacy, particularly for women;

7. *Encourages* Member States to expand alternative sources of financing and diversify the retail financial service system to include non-traditional providers of financial services, such as microcredit and microfinance, stresses the value of a sound regulatory framework in this regard, and also encourages the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering sound financial services to the poor, with a particular emphasis on women;

8. *Emphasizes* the important role of national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy and integrating them into national social security systems;

9. *Recognizes* that technological improvement, particularly through the diffusion of technology, can provide new opportunities for businesses to improve their competitiveness, and in this regard encourages Member States to increase cooperation in support of technology exchange and transfer, innovation and capacity-building programmes for promoting entrepreneurship;

10. *Also recognizes* the value of teaching entrepreneurial skills at all levels of education, ensuring the full and equal participation of women and girls, and encourages entrepreneurship education through skills development, capacity-building, training programmes and business incubators;

11. *Acknowledges* the role of entrepreneurship in enabling youth to turn their creativity, energy and ideas into business opportunities by helping to facilitate their entry into the labour market;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system, in cooperation with Member States, to identify indicators that can be used to evaluate the success of entrepreneurship policies;

13. *Recognizes* that democratic political institutions, transparent and accountable public and private entities, effective anti-corruption measures and responsible corporate governance are key conditions for making market economies and enterprises more responsive to the values and long-term goals of society;

14. *Acknowledges* that the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and support national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of responsible business practices and corporate social responsibility;

15. *Encourages* the international community to support the efforts of countries in promoting entrepreneurship and fostering the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as microenterprises, taking into account the challenges and opportunities of increased trade liberalization;

16. *Encourages* countries to consider establishing or strengthening national centres of excellence in entrepreneurship and similar bodies, and also encourages

cooperation and networking and the sharing of best practices between them;

17. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to further recognize and integrate entrepreneurship in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports and to support national efforts in this regard, as appropriate;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the progress made in implementing the present resolution, highlighting indicators based on existing work, as well as identifying best practices and possible measures that could be taken at all levels in support of entrepreneurship.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/210:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia.

Against: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen.

Abstaining: China, Ecuador, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, South Africa, Sri Lanka.

Industrial development cooperation

In an August note [A/69/331], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/225 [YUN 2012, p. 822]. The report reviewed the most recent trends in industrial development, including manufacturing value added and growth in countries, the universal demand for innovative industrial policies and strategies and the relationship of industrialization with the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It also analysed the importance of industrial development in the context of

the emerging development agenda beyond 2015; and described the role and recent contributions of UNIDO, as the UN specialized agency mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development and international industrial cooperation.

UNIDO statistics demonstrated that the global industrial landscape had changed dramatically, with industrial growth figures in the fourth quarter of 2013 indicating a boost in the manufacturing sector of emerging industrial countries, and more sustained growth among industrialized markets. Industry in developing countries had undergone major structural changes, which were expected to significantly benefit the industrial performance of those countries in terms of productivity and competitiveness in the medium and longer term. According to UNIDO, major efforts would be needed to ensure the increased inclusiveness of the benefits of industrialization and to achieve a more equitable distribution of those benefits among women and men and across all groups, countries and regions. In considering the development agenda beyond 2015, Member States should consider adopting a goal on inclusive and sustainable industrialization, resilient infrastructure and innovation. Technology transfer and knowledge networking should be supported as key means of achieving inclusive and sustainable industrialization. The Green Industry Platform, the Accelerated Agribusiness and Agro-Industry Development Initiative, the Institute for Capacity Development, the Networks for Prosperity initiative and the global forums on inclusive and sustainable industrial development could serve as valuable models in that regard. UNIDO should strengthen its work in advancing industry-related innovation networks and systems; support Governments in addressing key determinants for future industrial growth and prosperity; and further strengthen all four enablers: technical cooperation, analytical and policy advisory services, normative activities and convening for knowledge transfer and networking.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/472/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/235** without vote [agenda item 23 (b)].

Industrial development cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/108 of 19 December 1994, 51/170 of 16 December 1996, 53/177 of 15 December 1998, 55/187 of 20 December 2000, 57/243 of 20 December 2002, 59/249 of 22 December 2004, 61/215 of 20 December 2006, 63/231 of 19 December 2008, 65/175 of 20 December 2010 and 67/225 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, enti-

tled “The future we want”, and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling further the fifteenth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, held in Lima from 2 to 6 December 2013, and the Lima Declaration: towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, in which the General Conference notably reaffirmed the unique mandate of the Organization and laid the foundation for its upcoming work to support Member States in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development,

Recalling the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and its outcome document, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”,

Recalling also its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting that inclusive and sustainable industrial development can effectively contribute to the achievement of a transformative agenda, integrating, in a balanced manner, the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Acknowledging the industrial development reports prepared by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, which examine structural change and policies in relation to industrial development to improve the contribution of industry to sustainable development, social inclusion, decent work, productivity growth and energy efficiency,

Emphasizing the essential role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development as part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation in eradicating poverty and supporting sustained economic growth, and thus in contributing to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, and in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, while recognizing the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, and emphasizing further that countries in situations of conflict also need special attention,

Recognizing the diversity of ways to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development and, in this connection, that each country has the primary responsibility for its own development and the right to determine its own development paths and appropriate strategies,

Stressing the importance of international industrial cooperation to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and to address major challenges and issues such as poverty eradication, growth and decent jobs, resource efficiency, energy, pollution and climate change, shifting demographics, knowledge networking and the narrowing of growing inequalities,

Underscoring the importance of using science, technology and innovation to build and maintain resilient industrial infrastructure and achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development,

Recognizing the role of the business community, including the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector, underlining the importance of the benefits of foreign direct investment in that process, and recognizing also in this regard that an enabling national environment is vital for mobilizing national resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and making effective use of international investment and assistance and that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption, on 2 December 2013, of the Lima Declaration: towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development;

3. *Encourages* giving due consideration to the issue of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Recognizes* the unique mandate of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, within the United Nations system, to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the critical contribution made by that Organization;

5. *Also recognizes* that the mobilization of national and international resources and an enabling national and international environment are key drivers for sustainable development;

6. *Underlines* the potential benefits, for developing countries, of stepping up their efforts to finance their own development by improving domestic resource mobilization and promoting financing, spurred by a robust and vibrant industrial sector, in order to achieve a long-term impact through local, national and regional ownership;

7. *Emphasizes* that each country must take the primary responsibility for its own industrial development, that national ownership and leadership are indispensable in the development process and that the role of national policies, resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

8. *Recognizes* that ensuring inclusive and sustainable industrial development requires consistent industrial policies and institutional frameworks that are duly supported by the necessary investment in industrial infrastructure, innovation, environmental technologies and skills development;

9. *Also recognizes* that inclusive and sustainable industrial development can play a crucial role in the realization of other major development objectives since, through inclusive and sustainable approaches to industrial development, countries can achieve self-sustaining economic and social development in an environmentally sustainable framework;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to promote, in the context of industrial development, gender equality and the empowerment of women at all levels, including in decision-making processes;

11. *Also emphasizes* that national efforts should be supported by development partners, as appropriate, and need to be complemented by a rules-based multilateral trading system that facilitates trade and provides opportunities for developing countries to broaden their competitive export base by strengthening their capacities and facilitating the

structural transformation and diversification of their economies, which can help to promote economic growth and development;

12. *Further emphasizes* the need for the international community and the private sector, as appropriate, to contribute to creating an enabling environment for sustainable industrial development;

13. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening existing and forging new partnerships and networks at the global, regional and subregional levels, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development;

14. *Stresses* that the lack of a dynamic industrial and manufacturing sector is one of the factors that can lead to a widening of the income gap between rich and poor and to the erosion of social protection systems;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to promote dialogue and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to monitor and foster progress towards the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in leveraging the private sector as a partner for development, including through the organization of global dialogues;

17. *Notes* the continuing cooperation of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization with the entities of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes;

18. *Underscores* the continuing work of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a global forum to disseminate knowledge and provide advice on industrial policies and strategies, successful industrialization experiences and best practices;

19. *Recognizes* the key role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in promoting sustainable industrial development and industrial innovation and mainstreaming science and technology into national productive systems;

20. *Encourages* regional, subregional and interregional cooperation as a platform for international industrial cooperation aiming to promote investments and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, to disseminate good policies and practices as well as to foster decent work, including for youth and women;

21. *Calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to play an active role in implementing the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development and General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence;

22. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue, upon request, to support developing countries in achieving enhanced levels of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, notably in building productive capacities in an inclusive manner, building trade capacities in industries and building institutional capacities for making industries sustainable through cleaner production technologies and resource efficiency methodologies;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to assist developing

countries, including the least developed countries and African countries, in participating in productive activities through, inter alia, the development of sustainable agro-industry and agribusiness that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically viable, the promotion of South-South cooperation and the transfer, diffusion and adoption of technology on mutually agreed terms, in building their engagement in international trade through the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and in supporting, as appropriate, the meeting of international product and process standards and the integration of women and youth into the development process;

24. *Also encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to support developing countries, upon request, in achieving sustainable development, including through support for policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to promote environmentally sound and sustainable production, including through programmes on cleaner production, industrial water management, industrial energy efficiency and the utilization of efficient, modern and affordable forms of energy for productive use, especially in rural areas, and through continued cooperation with United Nations organizations and other organizations in order to support the achievement of multilateral environmental agreements and promote global goals on access to modern forms of energy, on energy efficiency and on renewable energy;

25. *Further encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to strengthen its role in assisting developing countries to create and disseminate knowledge by, inter alia, making use of its global network of centres for investment and technology promotion, resource-efficient and cleaner production and South-South cooperation, as well as through its Institute for Capacity Development and its Networks for Prosperity initiative;

26. *Reiterates* the importance of promoting the creation and development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as a strategy for achieving industrial development, economic dynamism and poverty and hunger eradication, including through the mobilization of resources and measures to foster sustainable and inclusive development, and in this regard recalls International Labour Organization recommendation No. 189 concerning job creation in small and medium-sized enterprises;

27. *Acknowledges* the importance of reporting on corporate sustainability, encourages companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle, and encourages industry, interested Governments and relevant stakeholders, with the support of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to develop models for best practices and to facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account experiences gained from already existing frameworks and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity-building;

28. *Welcomes* the ongoing support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African (Accelerated) Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and other programmes of the African Union aimed at further strengthening the industrialization process in Africa;

29. *Stresses* the importance of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, within its mandate, to support the efforts of middle-income countries to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and achieve sustainable development;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to develop its effectiveness in each of its four capacities of technical cooperation, research and analysis, normative assistance and global forum activities, with the aim of enhancing the quality of the services it provides to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Science, technology and innovation for development

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

At its seventeenth session (Geneva, 12–16 May) [E/2014/31-E/CN.16/2014/4], the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) reviewed the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) [YUN 2003, p. 857 & YUN 2005, p. 933] at the regional and international levels. It also considered two priority themes: science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda; and information and communications technologies (ICTs) for inclusive social and economic development. The session included a segment on science, technology and innovation policy, and two ministerial round tables on the review of progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes; and on science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda.

CSTD had before it the Secretary-General's report on the priority themes and on progress made in implementing and following up to the outcomes of WSIS at the regional and international levels (see below); and reports by UNCTAD on the meeting of the Commission's intersessional panel on science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda (Washington, D.C., 2–4 December 2013) [E/CN.16/2014/CRP.1]; the secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) on the ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the working group on improvements to the Forum [E/CN.16/2014/CRP.2] (see p. 977); and the Chair of the working group to examine the mandate of WSIS regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda [E/CN.16/2014/CRP.3] (see below).

The Secretary-General, in his report [E/CN.16/2014/2 & Corr.1] on the priority theme of CSTD related to science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda, provided an overview of how

science, technology and innovation (STI) could address key challenges for the post-2015 development agenda. He examined the two subthemes: a decade of CSTD contributions to the MDGs; and science, technology and innovation prospects for the post-2015 development agenda. The report highlighted the work of CSTD during the past decade towards achieving the MDGs and provided a forward-looking insight into the next set of developmental challenges and policy implications surrounding STI applications beyond 2015.

The Secretary-General encouraged CSTD to help articulate the important role of STI in the post-2015 development agenda by acting as a forum for horizon scanning and strategic planning on ways and means to use STI to tackle future challenges, and where practitioners and experts could exchange best practices in using STI for inclusive and sustainable development; and increase communication and cooperation among countries on STI and sustainable development. He also invited Member States, especially developing countries, to consider promoting local innovation capabilities to meet basic needs; encourage local entrepreneurship, eliminating any roadblocks to its operation; and promote the linkages between STI and sustainable development.

The Commission recommended two draft resolutions and one draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. It adopted and brought to the attention of the Council a decision by which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda.

On 16 July (**decision 2014/237**), the Council took note of the Commission's report on its seventeenth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its eighteenth (2015) session.

On 17 November, by **resolution 2014/35** (see p. 1156), the General Assembly endorsed the establishment of an intergovernmental committee on technology for development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2014/31], adopted **resolution 2014/28** without vote [agenda item 16 (b)].

Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and main-

taining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension, until 2015, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of a number of Millennium Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation as a cross-cutting theme of the post-2015 development agenda to continue to address global challenges,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda" and "Information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development",

Noting the need for new approaches that embed science, technology and innovation policies and capacity-building as crucial components of national development plans, inter alia through collaboration between sectoral ministries, science, technology and innovation and information and communications technology agencies and a range of regulatory bodies,

Recognizing the increased regional integration efforts throughout the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, the creation of policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

Recommends the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

- (i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;
 - (ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, including through collaboration with and among national programmes;
 - (iii) To undertake systemic research on new trends in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;
 - (iv) To promote information and communications technologies through a capability-based approach that rests on the foundations of learning, innovation and competence-building systems, rather than a needs-based approach, and by establishing a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, innovation and entrepreneurship;
 - (v) To seek international cooperation opportunities in information and communications technologies, particularly in terms of identifying good practices, for example in e-learning—especially massive open online courses—e-government, e-science, e-health, management of electronic waste and disaster resilience, through existing and new cooperation platforms;
 - (vi) To address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields;
 - (vii) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South and South-South cooperation by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and technical training programmes or courses;
- (b) The Commission is encouraged:
- (i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues;
 - (ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology, innovation and engineering in the post-2015 development agenda by acting as a forum for horizon scanning and strategic planning, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in areas such as food security, the management of water and other natural resources, urbanization, advanced manufacturing and related education and voca-

tional needs, and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies that can potentially affect the achievement of that agenda;

- (iii) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;
 - (iv) To discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means to attract new sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in particular smaller scale, off-grid renewable energy technologies, to address pressing challenges and needs for sustainable development, in collaboration with other organizations where appropriate;
 - (v) To provide a forum for sharing best practices, successful local innovation models, case studies and experiences on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development;
 - (vi) To play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the post-2015 development agenda through substantive inputs to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;
 - (vii) To provide a forum for sharing good practices and experiences to identify and recommend ways and appropriate measures to promote innovation, research and development, creation of new knowledge and transfer of technology, as well as information and communications technologies for capacity-building in science, technology and engineering education, research and entrepreneurship for the benefit of developing countries and, in this context, to explore ways to expand cooperation among all countries, with particular attention to addressing pollution problems in order to protect the environment and share available resources;
 - (viii) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Millennium Development Goals and in the post-2015 development agenda, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals review and the post-2015 development agenda;
 - (ix) To discuss the establishment of a systematic approach for strategy development related to science, technology and engineering for innovation;
- (c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:
- (i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empower-

ing science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

- (ii) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations.

Information and communications technologies

During 2014, the United Nations continued to consider how the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies (ICTs) could be made available to all, in keeping with recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2000 high-level segment [YUN 2000, p. 799], the Millennium Declaration [ibid., p. 49] and the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action [YUN 2003, p. 857] adopted at the first phase of WSIS [ibid.], and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda adopted at its second phase [YUN 2005, p. 933].

Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development

The Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, at its thirteenth session (Rome, Italy, 16–18 September), hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, focused on the theme “Mainstreaming communication for development in policies and programmes: enabling social inclusion to support food and nutrition security, resilient rural livelihoods and family farming”. The recommendations from the meeting were presented to the General Assembly.

On 19 December (**decision 69/541**), the General Assembly took note of the note [A/69/217] by the Secretary-General on communication for development programmes in the UN system, transmitting the report of the UNESCO Director-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 50/130 [YUN 1995, p. 1438] regarding communication for development programmes in the UN system.

Follow-up to World Summit on the Information Society

Reports of Secretary-General. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 [YUN 2006, p. 1001], the Secretary-General, in March [A/69/65-E/2014/12], reported on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes at the regional and international levels.

According to the report, the economic and social impacts of ICTs were widespread and profound. Governments were increasingly recognizing the importance and potential of ICTs in their national social and economic objectives by developing national ICT policies. The fastest growth in Internet usage was in developing countries where people were increasingly becoming “Internet creators”, with around 150,000 Internet-related start-ups on an annual basis. Nevertheless, sizeable gaps in ICT development remained between and within regions. Internet governance was an important aspect of the ICT ecosystem, where all stakeholders had important roles to play. A multi-stakeholder model marked a good first step towards integrating the different kinds of structures—formal and informal, corporate and technologist, and hierarchical and decentralized—that Internet governance comprised. The United Nations and international agencies had begun preparations towards the WSIS+10 review to be undertaken by the General Assembly in 2015, alongside discussions on the post-2015 developmental agenda. To that end, a substantive session on WSIS+10 was to be organized by CSTD during its seventeenth session (see above). According to the Secretary-General, it was essential for the WSIS+10 review to inform the post-2015 development agenda on the complex interlinkages between ICTs and sustainable development, ensuring rights-based development, creating jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, improving education, empowering women and other key benefits.

In his report [E/CN.16/2014/3] on the priority theme of CSTD regarding ICTs for inclusive social and economic development, the Secretary-General summarized developments in the ICT sector and ICT for development (ICT4D) since WSIS, identifying significant trends, experiences and challenges; and considered the implications of five emerging trends in ICTs for development, namely, datafication, big-data analysis, cloud computing, the Internet of things, and smart systems.

The report stated that the digital divide was changing its nature, from ICT access to how ICTs could be used to promote development outcomes. The constant emergence of new applications was creating a rift between those with the ability to benefit from them, and those who were excluded. Although ICTs provided huge benefits to human welfare, only part of their potential had been realized, and spaces of exclusion remained. Moreover, there was unevenness in the production and dissemination of information on the Internet, and zones of exclusion in the world were being amplified.

The Secretary-General recommended that CSTD play an active role in creating awareness on the potential contribution of ICTs to the post-2015 development agenda through substantive inputs to relevant UN processes and bodies, and continue to share findings and best practices on ICTs among member States

and beyond. Member States, especially developing countries, were encouraged to consider conducting systematic research on new ICT trends and their impact on development; promoting ICTs through a capability-based approach rather than a needs-based approach; and seeking international cooperation opportunities in ICTs.

CSTD working group report. The CSTD working group to examine the wsis mandate regarding enhanced cooperation, as contained in the Tunis Agenda, was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/195 [YUN 2012, p. 832]. The working group held four meetings (May 2013–May 2014) [E/CN.16/2014/CRP.3], during which it examined the mandate of enhanced cooperation through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and other stakeholders, as stipulated by the Assembly. Even though consensus emerged in some issues, there was significant divergence of views in others. The complexity and the political sensitivity of the topic did not allow the group to finalize a set of recommendations on fully operationalizing enhanced cooperation.

WSIS high-level event. The wsis+10 high-level event, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, UNESCO, UNCTAD and the United Nations Development Programme as an extended version of the wsis Forum, was held in Geneva from 10 to 13 June. Participants reviewed progress made in the implementation of the wsis outcomes under the mandates of participating agencies and took stock of achievements in the preceding 10 years based on reports of wsis stakeholders. The event resulted in the wsis+10 Statement on the Implementation of the wsis Outcomes and wsis+10 Vision for wsis Beyond 2015.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 46], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development [E/2014/31], adopted **resolution 2014/27** without vote [agenda item 16 (b)].

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2013/9 of 22 July 2013 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013 on information and communications technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development”,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

2. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities, with their respective executive summaries, submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

3. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process, encourages all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

5. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance

Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

6. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the World Summit and, to that end, requested the Council, at its substantive session of 2006, to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission, including considering strengthening the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding in Geneva, from 13 to 17 May 2013, of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2013, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, as a multi-stakeholder platform for the coordination of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and to facilitate the implementation of the World Summit action lines;

8. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

9. *Welcomes* the progress highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, in particular the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants have access to information and communications technologies within their reach, in line with one of the World Summit targets, the value of this progress being enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, m-agriculture, mobile transactions, m-government, e-government, e-business and development services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

10. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

11. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

12. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and

notes with concern that there is a growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with the least developed countries and Africa as a continent lagging behind the rest of the world;

13. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

14. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not available to or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

15. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that, in some instances, the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value that they can derive from it, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

16. *Takes note* of the global report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development on the state of broadband in 2013 and universalizing broadband, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

17. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

18. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

19. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services are essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

Internet governance

21. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

22. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

Enhanced cooperation

23. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues;

24. *Also recognizes* that the process towards enhanced cooperation, to be started by the Secretary-General, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, will proceed as quickly as possible, consistent with legal process, and will be responsive to innovation; that relevant organizations should commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and being responsive to innovation; and that the same relevant organizations shall be requested to provide annual performance reports;

25. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 67/195 of 21 December 2012, the General Assembly invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a working group on enhanced cooperation to examine the mandate of the World Summit regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda, through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders, and to make recommendations on how to fully implement that mandate, and requested the working group to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session, in 2014, as an input to the overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit;

26. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 67/195, the General Assembly requested the Chair of the Commission to ensure that the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation had balanced representation between Governments, from the five regional groups of the Commission, and invitees from all other stakeholders, namely, the private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities and intergovernmental and international organizations, drawn equally from developing and developed countries;

27. *Notes* that the Working Group held four meetings between May 2013 and May 2014, at which it examined the

mandate of enhanced cooperation by issuing a questionnaire and seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and other stakeholders for the purpose of developing draft recommendations, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/195;

28. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation of the Commission, and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and members and other stakeholders that submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

29. *Notes* that consensus emerged on certain issues while a wide divergence of opinions persisted in a number of other issues that prevented the Working Group from making recommendations on how to fully implement enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda, as stipulated in the mandate given to the Working Group by the General Assembly in resolution 67/195;

30. *Also notes* the work initiated by the Working Group to review the identified international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, list where there are existing international mechanisms addressing these issues, identify the status of mechanisms, if any, and whether they are addressing the issues, and attempt to identify gaps in order to ascertain what type of recommendations may be required;

31. *Recommends* that this work may be further continued by the secretariat of the Commission with a view to the submission of findings to the Commission at its intersessional meeting for further discussion and their integration into the 10-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be prepared for consideration by the Commission at its eighteenth session;

Internet Governance Forum

32. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

33. *Also recognizes* that national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

34. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 67/195, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission, in particular on enhancing participation of developing countries;

35. *Notes* the holding of the eighth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Nusa Dua, Bali, from 22 to 25 October 2013, under the main theme, entitled "Building Bridges—Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation for Growth and Sustainable Development";

36. *Welcomes* the holding of the ninth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Turkey and scheduled to take place in Istanbul from 2 to 5 September 2014, and notes that, in

the preparatory process for the meeting, recommendations from the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum have been taken into consideration;

37. *Also welcomes* the offer of Brazil to host the tenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in 2015 and, subject to the decision by the General Assembly on the renewal of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum, further welcomes the offer of Mexico to host a meeting in 2016;

The road ahead

38. *Notes* the substantive discussion on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the seventeenth session of the Commission, held from 12 to 16 May 2014, and the ongoing work of the Commission of collecting input from all facilitators and stakeholders as part of the preparations for its 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and requests the Commission to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

39. *Also notes* the holding of the event, coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union, entitled “wsis+10 High Level Event” as an extended version of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum in Geneva, from 10 to 13 June 2014;

40. *Further notes* the holding of a 10-year review event of the World Summit entitled “Towards knowledge societies for peace and sustainable development”, coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Paris, from 25 to 27 February 2013, and the final statement of the event;

41. *Notes* the holding of the fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum on international Internet-related public policy matters in Geneva, from 14 to 16 May 2013, and its output opinions;

42. *Also notes* the holding of the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, organized by the International Telecommunication Union and hosted by the Government of Costa Rica in San José, from 9 to 11 September 2013, and its declaration;

43. *Urges* United Nations entities still not actively cooperating in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

44. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divide, in its different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divide among and within countries;

45. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband

services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divide;

46. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

47. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

48. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review and modify the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(a) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(b) Also notes the holding, in Mexico City, from 4 to 6 December 2013, of the eleventh World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium;

(c) Encourages Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, so as to be able to respond satisfactorily to surveys such as the World Summit targets survey, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(d) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on poverty and in key sectors to identify the knowledge and skills needed to boost impacts;

(e) Calls upon international development partners to provide financial support to further facilitate capacity-building and technical assistance in developing countries;

49. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland to this fund;

50. *Recalls* paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, in which the General Assembly was requested to make an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015, and paragraph 106, according to which the World Summit implementation and follow-up should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

51. *Also recalls* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 67/195, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its role in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be held by the end of 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda;

52. *Further recalls* paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 68/198, in which the Assembly decided to final-

ize the modalities of the overall review as early as possible, and invited the President of the Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators to convene open intergovernmental consultations for that purpose;

53. *Recommends* that, consistent with the World Summit process and subject to the decision by the General Assembly, an appropriate preparatory process be launched, drawing from the experience of the two phases of the World Summit;

54. *Notes* the role of the Commission, set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

55. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report on the stocktaking of activities related to the World Summit, which serves as one of the valuable tools for assisting with the follow-up, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the World Summit;

56. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

57. *Requests* the Commission to invite further inputs from Member States and all facilitators and stakeholders and to organize, during its eighteenth session, in 2015, a substantive discussion on the 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

58. *Recalls further* paragraph 48 of Council resolution 2013/9, in which the Council requested the Commission to submit, after its eighteenth session, the results of its 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in the other Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

60. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divide, taking into account considerations of gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups;

61. *Also emphasizes* the importance of information and communications technologies for development, and considers that it should be reflected as appropriate in the post-2015 development agenda.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 31 July [meeting 105], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/302** [draft: A/68/L.54] without vote [agenda item 16].

Modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, and endorsed by the General Assembly, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, and endorsed by the Assembly,

Recalling also paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, in which the General Assembly was requested to undertake the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2015, and in this regard reaffirming the centrality of the General Assembly to this process,

Recognizing that the overall review will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Tunis Agenda,

Recalling its resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013 and, in particular, paragraph 22 thereof in which it decided to finalize the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in 2015 in accordance with paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, while at the same time maintaining its original mandate concerning science and technology for development, and the work carried out by the Commission to that effect,

Reaffirming that science, innovation and technology, including information and communications technologies, are essential enablers and drivers for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the promotion of the economic, social and environmental components of sustainable development and should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Noting that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should submit after its eighteenth session, by June 2015, its report on the 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the overall review will be concluded by a two-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, to be preceded by an intergovernmental preparatory process that also takes into account inputs from all relevant stakeholders of the World Summit on the Information Society;

2. *Also decides* to convene the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, at the highest possible level, in December 2015, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

3. *Further decides* that the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, will invite, in addition to all Member and observer States and observ-

ers, representatives of all relevant stakeholders of the World Summit on the Information Society to speak during the high-level meeting, and in this regard also encourages the participation of those stakeholders in the meeting;

4. *Decides* that the overall review by the General Assembly shall take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and address potential information and communications technology gaps and areas for continued focus, as well as addressing challenges, including bridging the digital divide, and harnessing information and communications technologies for development;

5. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in June 2015, to appoint two co-facilitators to lead, on the basis of, among other relevant inputs, submissions from Member and observer States and observers and the final report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, an intergovernmental negotiation process, which will include preparatory meetings, resulting in an intergovernmentally agreed outcome document, for adoption at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* that during the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, the President of the General Assembly will organize informal interactive consultations with all relevant stakeholders of the World Summit on the Information Society, in order to collect their inputs for the intergovernmental negotiation process.

Internet Governance Forum

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held its ninth meeting (Istanbul, Turkey, 2–5 September) on the theme “Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multistakeholder Internet Governance”. The forum was attended by more than 2,000 representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and the technical community. Topics of discussion ranged from the digital divide to digital trust, from management of critical Internet resources to network neutrality, and from cybersecurity to jurisdictional issues, among others. Participants also discussed the continuing value of IGF, the overall evolution of the multi-stakeholder Internet governance arrangements, and the 2015 ten-year review of the WSIS outcome. The IGF Open Consultations and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting was held in December.

Broadband Commission for Digital Development

In 2014, the Broadband Commission for Digital Development [YUN 2011, p. 818] published its report *The State of Broadband 2014: Broadband for All*, which sought to raise awareness and enhance understanding of the importance of broadband networks, services, and applications to guide international broadband policy discussions and support the expansion of broadband where it was most needed. The report, which included a special focus on the importance of integrating ICT skills into education to ensure that the next generation was able to compete in the

digital economy, was structured around four main themes: policies and policy leadership; education and ICT skills; business models; and broadband for development.

According to the report, countries should use appropriate policies and strategies to make broadband available, affordable and accessible, as a vital development enabler for building inclusive, resilient and sustainable modern-day knowledge societies. It was increasingly essential to integrate everyone into modern life, with access to digital education services, culture, entertainment, healthcare, financial and commercial services. To achieve that, the public and private sectors had to work together in close partnership. The report showed that broadband for all could transform policy, social and development outcomes around the world; and stated that the world was on the cusp of fulfilling the potential of high-speed broadband.

The Commission recommended that governments—to help empower their populations and to cope with the challenges of capacity—should initiate and prioritize their National Broadband Planning process and invest in ICTs and digital e-skills as an engine of economic growth and development, taking into account both supply and demand. As regulation was not keeping pace with the changes in the market, governments and policy-makers had to review and update their regulatory frameworks. It was also crucial to evaluate the alternatives to be implemented in order to encourage private sector investment. A “one size fits all” policy to broadband roll-out could have negative implications for the ICT market. A detailed cost-benefit approach should be adopted when evaluating different public policies and regulatory options to promote the growth and development of broadband in different countries around the world.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/465], adopted **resolution 69/204** without vote [agenda item 16].

Information and communications technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010, 66/184 of 22 December 2011, 67/195 of 21 December 2012 and 68/198 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009, 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, 2011/16 of 26 July 2011 and 2012/5 of 24 July 2012, and taking

note of Council resolution 2013/9 of 22 July 2013 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recalling further its resolution 68/302 of 31 July 2014 on the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and welcoming the high-level meeting of the General Assembly for the overall review to be held in December 2015,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, and endorsed by the General Assembly, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, and endorsed by the Assembly,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling further the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document, as well as the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, and General Assembly resolution 68/310 of 15 September 2014,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,

Noting the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the first 10-year review event of the World Summit on the Information Society, coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 25 to 27 February 2013, and the high-level event on the 10-year review of the World Summit coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva from 10 to 13 June 2014,

Noting also the hosting by the Republic of Korea of the Information and Communication Technologies Ministerial Meeting, held in Busan on 19 October 2014,

Noting further the Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development, adopted by the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union, held in Busan from 20 October to 7 November 2014,

Noting the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, taking note of the “Broadband targets for 2015”, which sets targets for making broadband policy universal and for increasing affordability

and uptake in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, taking note also of the report of the Broadband Commission entitled *The State of Broadband 2014: Broadband for All*, which provides a country-by-country evaluation of those targets and the state of broadband deployment worldwide, as well as the report of the Broadband Commission Working Group on Broadband and Gender entitled “Doubling digital opportunities: enhancing the inclusion of women and girls in the information society”, which identifies a digital gender gap of approximately 200 million fewer women online than men, noting that without further action to increase access to broadband for women and girls, this digital gender gap could grow to 350 million by 2015, and taking note of the report of the Broadband Commission Task Force on Sustainable Development entitled “Means of transformation: harnessing broadband for the post-2015 development agenda”,

Noting also the holding of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 12 to 16 May 2014,

Recognizing the need for respect for national sovereignty and applicable international law in the consideration of information and communications technologies for development, noting the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies, and reaffirming that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy, as set out in its resolution entitled “The right to privacy in the digital age”,

Noting that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humankind and that the information society should be founded on and stimulate respect for cultural identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions and foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations, and noting also that the promotion, affirmation and preservation of diverse cultural identities and languages, as reflected in relevant agreed United Nations documents, including the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, will further enrich the information society,

Acknowledging the positive trends in the global connectivity and affordability of information and communications technologies, in particular the steady increase in Internet access to one third of the world’s population, the rapid diffusion of mobile telephony and mobile Internet, the increased availability of multilingual content and the advent of many information and communications technologies services and applications, which offer great potential for the development of the information society,

Noting that progress and many innovations in the field of information and communications technologies, such as mobile Internet, social networking and cloud computing, contribute to a dynamic landscape that requires that all stakeholders continuously adapt to such innovations,

Recognizing ongoing efforts by relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders to conceptualize and articulate the impact of information and communications technologies on development, and encouraging the international community and relevant stakeholders to support the efforts of developing countries in harnessing the benefits of information and communications technologies for achieving the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective for sustainable development,

Stressing, however, that, in spite of recent progress, an important and growing digital divide between countries remains in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies and access to broadband, and stressing also the need to close the digital divide, including with regard to such issues as Internet affordability, and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all,

Reaffirming the need to more effectively harness the potential of information and communications technologies to promote the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, through sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting the references to information and communications technologies contained in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among youth, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains that pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date,

Expressing concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis on the positive trends in the diffusion of information and communications technologies and the investment needed to ensure universal access to those technologies and efforts to bridge the digital divide,

Expressing concern also about the growing gap in broadband provision between developed and developing countries, as well as about the new dimensions that the digital divide has taken on,

Recognizing that the lack of capacity-building for the productive use of information and communications technologies needs to be addressed in order to overcome the digital divide,

Recognizing also that the number of Internet users is growing and that the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value they can derive from the Internet, and recognizing further in this regard that

there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies,

Recognizing further the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which Governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

Recognizing the immense potential that information and communications technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socioeconomic activity,

Reaffirming paragraphs 4, 5 and 55 of the Declaration of Principles adopted in Geneva in 2003, and recognizing that freedom of expression and the free flow of information, ideas and knowledge are essential for the information society and are beneficial to development,

Conscious of the challenges faced by States, in particular developing countries, in combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, including by terrorists, and emphasizing the need to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities, upon their request, for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such use in accordance with international law,

Acknowledging that the Internet is a central element of the infrastructure of the information society and is a global facility available to the public,

Noting the hosting by Brazil of the NETMundial Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance in São Paulo on 23 and 24 April 2014,

Acknowledging the need to continue to improve the existing Internet governance framework,

Recognizing that the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and international organizations, as stated in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

Recognizing also the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, while acknowledging the calls for improvements in its working methods, and taking into account the recommendations of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Reiterating the significance of the process towards enhanced cooperation in full consistency with the mandate provided in the Tunis Agenda, and noting the ongoing work of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Reaffirming that the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct

processes, and recognizing that the two processes may be complementary,

Reaffirming also paragraphs 35 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010, in Nairobi in 2011, in Baku in 2012, in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013 and in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014,

Taking note of the successful meetings of the Internet Governance Forum held to date, and welcoming with appreciation the offer of Brazil to host the next meeting of the Forum in 2015,

Recognizing the unique role, challenges and opportunities for youth in a deeply interconnected world, and taking note of the celebration of the "BYND 2015" Global Youth Summit, hosted by the Government of Costa Rica and organized by the International Telecommunication Union together with other organizations of the United Nations system as well as partners from government, industry, the media and civil society from 9 to 11 September 2013, as a contribution to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda in the field of information and communications technologies for development,

Recognizing also the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, including with respect to enhancing access to information and communications technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Welcoming, in view of the existing gaps in information and communications technologies infrastructure, the Connect Africa summits held in Kigali in 2007 and in Cairo in 2008, the Connect the Commonwealth of Independent States summit held in Minsk in 2009, the meeting of Commonwealth countries held in Colombo in 2010, the first and second Digital Agenda Assemblies of the European Union, held in 2011 and 2012, the Connect Americas summit held in Panama City in 2012, the Connect Arab States summit held in Doha in 2012, the Connect Asia-Pacific summit and the International Telecommunication Union Telecom World 2013 held in Bangkok in 2013, the Transform Africa summit held in Kigali in 2013, the various national and regional Internet governance forums that are held annually around the globe, the Mesoamerican Information Highway, the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway, the Asia Broadband and Universal Service Leaders Forum to be held in India in October 2015, the events of the Alliance for Affordable Internet and the many other regional initiatives aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

2. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and expresses concern about the growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with the least developed countries and Africa, as a continent, lagging behind the rest of the world;

3. *Expresses concern* regarding the digital divide in access to information and communications technologies and broadband connectivity between countries at different levels of development, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in such areas as government, business, health and education, and also expresses concern with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

4. *Acknowledges* the importance of investing in closing the gender gap in information and communications technologies by making them affordable and accessible, including in regard to access to broadband as a tool for the empowerment of women and girls and the exercise of their full range of human rights, access to information, access to markets, networking and increased opportunities;

5. *Notes with concern* the gender gap in women's access to the Internet, and in this regard affirms the need to empower women and girls, in particular in developing countries, through the use of information and communications technologies in education, health care, agriculture, clean drinking water, energy and public services, to enable women entrepreneurs to access services, grow businesses and develop new innovations, to strengthen women's ability to access high-value-added jobs and to increase women's economic, civil and political participation;

6. *Stresses* that, for the majority of the poor, the development promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

7. *Also stresses* the important role of Governments in the effective use of information and communications technologies in their design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

8. *Further stresses* the important role played by private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

9. *Recognizes* that, in addition to financing by the public sector, financing of information and communications technologies infrastructure by the private sector has come to play an important role in many countries and that domestic financing is being augmented by North-South flows and complemented by South-South cooperation, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation can be useful tools for promoting the development of information and communications technologies;

10. *Also recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as insufficient resources,

infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity and issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

11. *Further recognizes* the immense potential that information and communications technologies have in promoting the transfer of technologies in a wide spectrum of socioeconomic activity;

12. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

13. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by Tunisia, host of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant international and regional organizations, for organizing the annual ICT 4 All Forum and technological exhibition as a platform within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit for promoting a dynamic business environment for the information and communications technologies sector worldwide;

14. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

15. *Also notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

17. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer made by Mexico to host the meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in 2016, and recommends that the extension of the mandate of the Forum be considered in the context of the overall review in 2015;

18. *Recognizes* the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology, and in this regard encourages the United Nations development system to continue its efforts to promote the use of information

and communications technologies as a critical enabler of development and a catalyst for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

19. *Also recognizes* the role of the United Nations Group on the Information Society as an inter-agency mechanism of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination designed to coordinate United Nations implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

20. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group, particularly on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

21. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

22. *Recognizes* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome the digital divide, and stresses that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for development".

Development policy and public administration

Committee for Development Policy

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP), at its sixteenth session (New York, 24–28 March) [E/2014/33], addressed the following themes: global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era as its contribution to the discussions on the 2014 annual ministerial review; review and fine-tuning of the criteria for the identification of least developed countries (LDCs); monitoring of countries that were graduating

and had graduated from the list of LDCs; and the role of country groupings for development.

The Committee considered how intergovernmental cooperation could be reformed and strengthened to better manage the increasing interdependence among countries, reduce large inequalities among and within countries, and contribute to the fulfilment of internationally recognized social and environmental standards, while preserving the necessary policy space for government action at the country level. It proposed four main principles in that regard: common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities; subsidiarity; inclusiveness, transparency and accountability; and coherence. In preparation for the 2015 triennial review of the list of LDCs, the Committee re-examined the criteria for the identification of LDCs and their application procedures, and introduced refinements, particularly strengthening the measurement of health-related structural impediments. Thresholds for inclusion in and graduation from the category would be set at absolute rather than relative levels, focusing on the notion of development progress in overcoming absolute structural impediments.

CDP reviewed the development progress of Maldives, which had graduated from the LDC category in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 826], and emphasized the importance of phasing out specific support measures to LDCs and the active participation by graduated countries in monitoring the implementation of their transition strategy. The Committee acknowledged the sustained development progress of Samoa, which graduated in 2014 (see p. 986), and welcomed the country's efforts towards the preparation of its transition strategy. It also noted the continued development progress of Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu, both scheduled to graduate in 2017, and recommended that both countries initiate the preparation of their smooth transition strategy. CDP stressed the urgency of further attention to human development in Equatorial Guinea.

In its analysis of country classifications, CDP noted the proliferation of country groupings based on weak analytical foundations with low levels of effectiveness of interventions, but affirmed that among existing groupings, the LDC category had particularly strong analytical foundations and broad legitimacy. Development partners should consider allocating aid and other measures of support based on sound and objective socioeconomic criteria, preferably without creating new groups of countries. The Committee suggested that that could be achieved by considering the LDC indicators as part of the criteria used by development partners in determining the allocation of assistance. Recommendations were made in support of future discussions related to the creation of new categories.

For its seventeenth session, CDP would follow up on its work on the post-2015 UN development agenda.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 13 June [meeting 24], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/9** [draft: E/2014/L.15] without vote [agenda item 16 (a)].

Report of the Committee for Development Policy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries, and resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/18 of 4 December 2013, by which the Assembly took note of the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy that Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu be graduated from the least developed country category,

Recalling further that graduation becomes effective three years after the date on which the General Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee and that, during the three-year period, the country remains on the list of least developed countries and maintains the advantages associated with membership on that list,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

Recalling its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007 and 2013/20 of 24 July 2013,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its sixteenth session;

2. *Notes* the work done by the Committee on global governance and global rules for development in the post-2015 era, in accordance with the theme of the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2014, on the role of country groupings for development cooperation, on the monitoring of countries graduating and graduated from the least developed country category and on the review and refining of the criteria for classifying countries as least developed in preparation for the triennial review of the least developed country category in 2015;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its seventeenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the programme of work of the Council and the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2015;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to take note of the endorsement by the Council of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu be graduated from the least developed country category;

5. *Requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

6. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly for Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu to prepare their national transition strategy with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with their bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and to report annually to the Committee on the preparation of that strategy;

7. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.

Public administration

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its thirteenth session (New York, 7–11 April) [E/2014/44], considered the main theme of transforming public administration for sustainable development, and three sub-themes: strengthening national and local capacities for sustainable development management; promoting leadership, innovation and risk management for sustainable development; and invigorating the professionalism and morale of the public service. For its consideration, the Committee had before it notes of the Secretariat on the sub-themes [E/C.16/2014/2, E/C.16/2014/3, E/C.16/2014/4].

The Committee concurred with the view that governance, the rule of law and capable institutions were both outcomes and enablers, advancing all three pillars of sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda. It stressed that the means of implementation was integral in achieving sustainable development, and any future sustainable development goals should be translated and adapted at the national level in accordance with the conditions and priorities of each country. The Committee recommended that coordination of capacity-building activities at both international and national levels be strengthened; and capacity-building be monitored, benchmarked, audited and evaluated against declared objectives. In providing assistance to countries in developing public administration and public service capacities, particular attention should be paid to the special needs of LDCs, countries emerging from conflict, those in transition, and those with limited resources. The Committee further recommended that the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and conferences of the parties to UN conventions should include in all resolutions and requests for commitments from parties specifications as to the means of implementation, including identification of the means and sources of finance, requisite transfer of technology, such as information and communications technology

and capacity-building needs, including in the areas of leadership, innovation and risk management.

For its review of the UN Programme in Public Administration and Finance, the Committee had before it a report [E/C.16/2014/5] of the Secretariat on the topic. The Committee discussed its role in addressing public administration and capacity-building and the need for authoritative and insightful advice on governance and public administration, through building strategic partnerships and networks and emphasizing a regional approach to capacity development. There was a need to reach out to Member States to improve awareness of the programme and, with regard to online training services, to pursue partnerships with prestigious universities and public administration institutes. The Committee emphasized the importance of standardization of practices, promotion of partnerships, information and communications technology and e-libraries. It noted that key international issues pertaining to information and communications technology—including big data, open government, cybersecurity, the data revolution, and the growing gap between policy and implementation—would increase in importance, and governments needed to advance policies to facilitate handling those challenges at the global, national and subnational levels as a matter of priority. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat raise awareness of how the implementation of e-government practices could help in the achievement of national goals and internationally agreed development goals; pursue a public accountability agenda; provide advisory services on a range of participatory mechanisms; and continue its work on the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 November [meeting 53], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/38** [draft: E/2014/L.30/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 16 (g)].

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its thirteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2012/28 of 27 July 2012, 2013/23 of 24 July 2013 and other related resolutions on public administration and development,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 66/209 of 22 December 2011 on promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and recognizing that effective governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation

of Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, in the annex to which it is stipulated that the Council shall invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme,

Recognizing the support being provided by the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance to countries on public governance and public administration,

Recognizing also the key role of information and communications technologies and e-government in providing effective platforms to facilitate public service delivery, citizen engagement, knowledge-sharing, transfer of innovative solutions and capacity-building for sustainable development among countries,

Underlining the centrality of transparent, accountable, efficient, effective, citizen-oriented, professional and ethical public administration to the successful implementation of national development policies and the management of development programmes,

Recognizing the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Council on issues related to governance and public administration in development,

Noting the acceleration of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the relevance of the work of the Committee in this respect,

1. *Requests* the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, at its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, in 2015 and 2016, to consider emerging issues in public administration that are related to the annual main themes and the integration segments of the Economic and Social Council and to support the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, as appropriate;

2. *Invites* the Committee to enhance its interaction and coordination with the Council and other subsidiary bodies of the Council with a view to addressing cross-cutting areas through the established working methods of the Council;

3. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the Committee on transforming public administration for sustainable development, contained in the report on its thirteenth session;

4. *Underlines* that service to citizens should be at the centre of transforming public administration, requiring appropriate institutional frameworks, professional and ethical leadership, a focus on diversity and gender equality, harnessing information and communications technologies, innovation, responsibility and public sector capacity-building;

5. *Notes* that political and administrative leadership at all levels is essential to inspire, engage and motivate public servants to achieve the highest quality of performance;

6. *Reaffirms* that the foundations of sustainable development at all levels include transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration;

7. *Also reaffirms* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels were essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty

and hunger, and encourages Member States to continue to support capacity development in public governance and institution-building at all levels, with a view to accelerating progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Further reaffirms* the need for the effective use of information and communications technologies in designing, planning, delivering and monitoring public services that are responsive to international, national and local needs and priorities;

9. *Stresses* that the governance challenges of sustainable development are characterized by growing complexity and dynamism in decision-making and implementation mechanisms, and encourages Member States and international organizations undertaking reforms aimed at promoting an innovative environment, agile approaches and a culture of collaboration, openness and knowledge-sharing to use scientific, technological and analytical tools as instruments to support innovative decision-making and implementation in the public sector and reduce risks to public accountability and trust arising from the governance complexity of public administration;

10. *Reiterates* the need to coordinate capacity-building activities at the international, national and local levels, and encourages all stakeholders to renew efforts to raise awareness and expand the application of the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the outcome document of the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011, to focus on effective and efficient aid and resource allocation;

11. *Acknowledges* the indispensable role of supreme audit institutions and related capacity-building in holding Governments accountable for the use of resources and their performance in achieving development goals, and calls upon Member States to give due consideration to the importance of the independence of supreme audit institutions in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To address gaps in research, monitoring, capacity development and implementation in governance and public administration and, in particular, to further develop its public administration country studies, to continue to address emerging issues in public administration through the United Nations E-Government Survey and the World Public Sector Report and to continue to increase the scope and depth of its capacity-development activities with the aim of better assisting countries, according to their specific contexts and needs, in strengthening participatory governance and citizen engagement, managing development, public accountability and anti-corruption activities, including promoting the independence and strengthening the capacity of supreme audit institutions, strengthening institutional and human capacities in public administration, advancing public-private partnerships, promoting innovation and knowledge transfer in the public sector and better defining e-government strategies and policies;

(b) To promote transformative government and innovation in public governance so as to achieve sustainable development by further promoting advocacy and the transfer of knowledge on good governance at the global, regional, national and local levels, through, inter alia, United Nations Public Service Day, the United Nations

Public Service Awards and the United Nations Public Administration Network;

(c) To further strengthen governance and public administration capacity development through the provision of advisory services, training, including self-assessment and awareness-raising, and technical projects, such as the United Nations Project Office on Governance;

(d) To assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, on issues related to e-government, e-participation, mobile government, open government data and the use of information and communications technologies;

(e) To continue its work on supporting the reconstruction of governance and public administration in post-conflict countries for quick recovery and sustainable development.

Also on the same date, by **decision 2014/257**, the Council decided that the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 20 to 24 April 2015, and approved the provisional agenda for that session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/470], adopted **resolution 69/228** without vote [agenda item 21].

Promoting and fostering the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/209 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling also the commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling further its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013, and the ministerial

declaration of the high-level segment of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the need to improve the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration,

Emphasizing also that efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the need for capacity-building as a tool to promote development, and welcoming the cooperation of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions with the United Nations in this regard,

1. *Recognizes* that supreme audit institutions can accomplish their tasks objectively and effectively only if they are independent of the audited entity and are protected against outside influence;

2. *Also recognizes* the important role of supreme audit institutions in promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration, which is conducive to the achievement of national development objectives and priorities as well as the internationally agreed development goals;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in promoting greater efficiency, accountability, effectiveness, transparency and efficient and effective receipt and use of public resources for the benefit of citizens;

4. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts of 1977 and the Mexico Declaration on Supreme Audit Institutions Independence of 2007, and encourages Member States to apply, in a manner consistent with their national institutional structures, the principles set out in those Declarations;

5. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations institutions to continue and to intensify their cooperation, including in capacity-building, with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in order to promote good governance at all levels by ensuring efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency through strengthened supreme audit institutions, including, as appropriate, the improvement of public accounting systems;

6. *Acknowledges* the role of supreme audit institutions in fostering governmental accountability for the use of resources and their performance in achieving development goals;

7. *Takes note* of the interest of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in the post-2015 development agenda;

8. *Encourages* Member States to give due consideration to the independence and capacity-building of supreme audit institutions in a manner consistent with their national institutional structures, as well as to the improvement of public accounting systems in accordance with

national development plans in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Stresses* the importance of continuing international cooperation to support developing countries in capacity-building, knowledge and best practices related to public accounting and auditing.

Groups of countries in special situations

On 19 September, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/69/471], included in the agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, covering the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries [YUN 2011, p. 827], and the follow-up to the second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries (see p. 1012). The Assembly allocated the agenda item to the Second Committee.

On 19 December (**decision 69/547**), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Second Committee on the subject.

Least developed countries

The special problems of the officially designated least developed countries (LDCs) were considered in several UN forums in 2014, particularly through implementation of the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) [YUN 2011, p. 828], adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs [ibid., p. 827]. In addition to the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also dealt with LDC-related issues.

The *Least Developed Countries Report 2014* [Sales No. E.14.II.D.7], published by UNCTAD, addressed growth with structural transformation—a post-2015 development agenda, and examined the linkages between structural transformation, economic growth and human development. The report also considered what LDCs could do to transform their economies to foster economic growth and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and what the international community could do to support LDCs in their structural transformation.

In 2013, LDCs maintained high economic growth, although they began to show signs of an economic slowdown. Sluggish global economic growth, which

translated into lower international demand for commodities and a consequent decline in their prices, adversely affected the economic growth and export performance of several LDCs, most notably the fuel exporters. That resulted in a substantial deterioration of their current account and merchandise trade. Although foreign direct investment (FDI) reached a record high and inflows of remittances continued unabated, official development assistance (ODA) started to show signs of stagnation and savings rates fell, leading to a greater need of external finance.

The report stated that given that the proposed SDGs were even more ambitious than the MDGs—meeting those goals would require nothing short of a revolution in the economic performance of LDCs. More specifically, it would necessitate their structural transformation on a scale unprecedented for those countries. Employing targeted, selective and more ambitious government policies to modify their economic structure and boost economic dynamism was of critical importance. According to the report, a one-size-fits-all model of development and policymaking was not practical. Rather, a pragmatic approach needed to be considered, based on a mix of policies selected to suit specific conditions. The types of policy instruments that might help foster structural transformation and enable the achievement of the SDGs were related to resource mobilization, industrial policy, macroeconomic framework and international measures. The report’s analysis reinforced the need for concerted efforts by the LDCs and the international community to take effective and coherent policy measures aimed at the structural transformation necessary for enabling LDCs to tackle their enormous development challenges in the post-2015 period.

LDC list

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/20 [YUN 2013, p. 817], CDP at its sixteenth session (see p. 981) monitored the development progress of countries graduating from the LDC category, namely Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu, both scheduled to graduate in 2017; and Samoa, which graduated from the LDC category on 1 January 2014, after a long transition period that was extended by the General Assembly in resolution 64/295 [YUN 2010, p. 843]. The Committee stressed that proper international support measures needed to be provided to Samoa to address vulnerabilities specific to small island developing States (SIDS).

In response to Assembly resolution 67/221 [YUN 2012, p. 842], CDP further reviewed the development progress of Maldives, which had graduated in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 826]. The Committee noted the abrupt termination of trade-related support measures provided to Maldives by its main trading partners after the graduation, or after the end of a transition

period; and urged them to implement a gradual phasing out of support measures specific to LDCs for graduated countries. It recommended that Maldives submit its report on the implementation of the transition strategy for the next monitoring exercise.

At year's end, the list of LDCs comprised the following 48 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

Follow up to the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/220 [YUN 2012, p. 844], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/270] on strengthening investment promotion regimes for FDI in LDCs. The report focused on policies to attract and retain FDI as essential components of national development strategies; provided a brief overview of recent trends and patterns in FDI flows to LDCs; took stock of the policies, programmes and measures pursued by host and home countries and by international organizations to stimulate FDI flows to and increase their benefits for LDCs; and outlined options for strengthening such efforts.

The report concluded that promising trends in FDI flows to LDCs and the nascent shifts in their sectoral distribution towards manufacturing and service activities suggested scope for further efforts by LDCs, home countries, the international community and others for promoting FDI flows that contributed to those countries' productive capacity-building. The international community should consider launching an action plan for promoting FDI in LDCs and strengthening host-country benefits. Greater coordination of such efforts could be achieved through a one-stop arrangement, such as an international investment support centre dedicated to LDCs. Such a facility, as recommended in the Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in LDCs (see below), could provide interrelated services, such as a common information depository containing all relevant information; contract preparation and negotiating support; advisory support in dispute resolution; and risk insurance. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly consider the establishment of a voluntarily funded international investment support centre for LDCs under the auspices of the United Nations and the related institutional and other matters.

Communications. On 17 September [A/69/392], Benin transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ministerial Declaration entitled "Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries," adopted at the ministerial meeting (Cotonou, Benin, 28–31 July) on new partnerships for productive capacity-building in LDCs. The meeting was held on the initiative of the Government of Benin, in its capacity as Chair of the group of LDCs, in close cooperation with the United Nations, represented by OHRLS. In the Declaration, participants invited the Assembly to include an agenda item entitled "New partnerships for building productive capacities in least developed countries" during its sixty-ninth session.

On 8 October [A/C.2/69/2], Benin transmitted to the Secretary-General the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries (New York, 26 September). Participants called for the early operationalization of the International Migrant Remittances Observatory for least developed countries without further delay, and invited UN system organizations, including the World Bank Group, to undertake a feasibility study, in collaboration with OHRLS, with the aim of introducing "diaspora bonds" for least developed countries.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/471/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/231** without vote [agenda item 22 (a)].

Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolutions 68/18 of 4 December 2013 and 68/224 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/29 of 25 July 2014 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Expressing its deep concern over the most severe and complex outbreak of Ebola that has ruthlessly affected three least developed countries, namely Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which exposes the fact that, while all

countries are at risk of such outbreaks, the least developed countries are particularly vulnerable to public health emergencies, with severe impacts on lives and livelihoods and on the economies of those countries,

Emphasizing the need for coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and noting the key role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in this regard, as set out in paragraph 155 of the Programme of Action,

Recalling its resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling also its invitation to development partners to consider the least developed country indicators, gross national income per capita, the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index as part of their criteria for allocating official development assistance,

Noting the conclusion of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and welcoming its contribution to the existing political momentum, with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change,

Taking note of the ministerial declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 26 September 2014,

Taking note also of the report of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, entitled "State of the Least Developed Countries, 2014", with the special theme "Extreme poverty eradication in the least developed countries and the post-2015 development agenda",

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and on strengthening investment promotion regimes for foreign direct investment in the least developed countries;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by many of the least developed countries in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by mainstreaming it into relevant planning documents and development strategies, calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams, to actively support the integration and implementation of the Programme of Action;

3. *Also welcomes* the progress in, and stresses the importance of, mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development

partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to act urgently and decisively to address the outbreak of Ebola in some West African least developed countries, which has highlighted the fundamental need to strengthen national health systems and increase resilience and coordinated responses to public health challenges and emergencies, particularly in the least developed countries, as laid out in priority areas (e) and (f) of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in order to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to infectious diseases and other health emergencies, and calls upon all development partners to continue to provide financial and technical support for the risk mitigation strategies of the least developed countries in order to strengthen their capacity to respond to public health challenges and emergencies;

5. *Expresses its concern* that all countries, particularly the least developed countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, glacial lake outburst floods and ocean acidification, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;

6. *Welcomes* the fact that bilateral net official development assistance to the least developed countries is estimated to have increased by 12.3 per cent in 2013, according to the preliminary estimate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, while noting a decrease of 9.4 per cent in real terms in 2012, reiterates that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of the least developed countries, that it plays an important role in their development and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to the least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

7. *Recalls* the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and in this regard urges donor countries to give high priority to the least developed countries in terms of their allocation of official development assistance, taking into account their needs, complex challenges and the resources gap;

8. *Reaffirms* the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization relating to the least developed countries, takes note of the

decisions taken at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, in particular the decision on duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries, preferential rules of origin for the least developed countries and operationalization of the waiver concerning preferential treatment to services and service suppliers of the least developed countries, calls upon developed countries, and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so, to take steps towards the goal of realizing the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access, on a lasting basis, for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, and in this regard notes with appreciation the realization by some developed and developing countries of duty-free and quota-free market access for all products from all least developed countries;

9. *Underscores* that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in the least developed countries rests with themselves, and also underscores that good governance, inclusiveness and transparency, as well as domestic resource mobilization, are central to the development process of the least developed countries and that these efforts need to be given concrete and substantial international support, in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability, through renewed and strengthened global partnership;

10. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (h) good governance at all levels;

11. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation, within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

12. *Reiterates* the importance of continuing to mainstream South-South cooperation, particularly for the benefit of the least developed countries, through the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in line with decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 67/226 and 67/227 of 21 December 2012 and 68/230 of 20 December 2013, and the strategic plans of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as appropriate;

13. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence, in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

14. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work undertaken thus far by the Secretary-General to constitute a high-level panel of experts to carry out a feasibility study for

a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, welcomes the announcement by the Secretary-General regarding the composition of the panel, and looks forward to the conclusion of the panel's work in line with its resolution 68/224;

15. *Reaffirms* its decision that the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, including through rapid development of infrastructure and energy, should be given appropriate consideration in relation to the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative to continue to extend the necessary substantive support to the least developed countries in preparing their positions on these matters as part of its ongoing work;

16. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

17. *Stresses* that the least developed countries should receive a special focus throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024), with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of ensuring access to energy for all by 2030, as well as other energy goals and targets set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, requests that, in the Secretary-General's coordination of the Decade, within existing resources, the least developed countries receive such special focus throughout, with a view to ensuring the successful realization of the Decade, and in this regard welcomes the renewed focus on least developed countries within the Sustainable Energy for All initiative;

18. *Recalls* paragraph 157 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in which the General Assembly was invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

19. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host the comprehensive high-level midterm review;

20. *Decides* that the comprehensive high-level midterm review:

(a) Shall be held, on an exceptional basis, in Antalya, Turkey, for a period of three days in June 2016, consisting of opening and closing plenary meetings and four additional plenary meetings, as well as four parallel thematic round-table meetings;

(b) Shall be held at the highest possible political level;

(c) Shall result in an intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome in the form of a political declaration;

(d) Shall ensure that the summaries of the plenary meetings and other deliberations of the review are included in the report of the review;

21. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developed country and one from a developing

country, to oversee and direct informal intergovernmental consultations on all issues relating to the review and its preparatory process;

22. *Requests* the co-facilitators to present a draft outcome document in the form of a political declaration, no later than March 2016 and in advance of the preparatory meeting of experts, prepared on the basis of inputs from the national and regional preparatory meetings, the report of the Secretary-General and other inputs, including those from Member States;

23. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize a four-day preparatory meeting of experts, to be chaired by the co-facilitators, with interpretation services on an “as available” basis, in March 2016, with a view to considering the draft outcome document;

24. *Decides* that all negotiations on the outcome document shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and strongly encourages Member States to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document in advance of the comprehensive high-level midterm review;

25. *Also decides* that the comprehensive high-level midterm review and its preparatory process shall be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies and observers in the General Assembly, and that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply;

26. *Invites* the host country to consider hosting, with the assistance of the Office of the High Representative, within its existing mandate and resources, and with the support of extrabudgetary resources, as available and appropriate, a private sector forum on investment opportunities in least developed countries, and encourages relevant representatives of Member States and the private sector to support and participate in the forum;

27. *Underlines* that there will be two regional-level preparatory meetings, taking advantage of the biennial regional meetings already scheduled for 2015, one in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, which will include Haiti, and the other in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which will include Yemen, with the regional-level meetings to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations, and that the outcomes of the regional-level preparatory meetings should be considered in the comprehensive high-level midterm review;

28. *Decides* that the scope of the midterm comprehensive global review shall be as follows:

(a) To undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them, as well as new challenges and emerging issues;

(b) To reaffirm the global commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries made at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to further strengthen the global partnership for development for least developed countries in all priority

areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the Decade, while taking into account the post-2015 development agenda as it relates to the least developed countries;

29. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative, as the focal point, in accordance with mandates given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, has the responsibility for ensuring that the preparations are carried out effectively and efficiently and for mobilizing and coordinating the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

30. *Invites* the Secretary-General to convene a United Nations system high-level event during the comprehensive high-level midterm review, with a view to ensuring the full mobilization of the United Nations system in support of the least developed countries and the coordinated and timely implementation by the United Nations system of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the outcome of the review;

31. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, early in 2016, a one-day special thematic event, with the participation of Member States, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and academic institutions, in order to provide input to the comprehensive high-level midterm review;

32. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider the issue of the comprehensive high-level midterm review as part of its coordination and management meetings in 2016;

33. *Requests* the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where implementation has remained insufficient, and to make proposals for new measures, as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the comprehensive high-level midterm review, and in this regard affirms that appropriate inter-agency meetings should be convened in order to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of the entire United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions;

34. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the comprehensive high-level midterm review and to the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, in this context calls upon the least developed countries to undertake their national reviews on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with a particular focus on progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary to further its implementation, in close collaboration with the Office of the High Representative and the United Nations country teams, as part of their existing workplans, and in this regard invites the United Nations country teams to support the least developed countries in the preparation of their national reports, in close collaboration with the Office of the High Representative;

35. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in her capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement of the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the comprehensive high-level midterm review, in particular at the country level, including in the preparation of national reports;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report, by the first quarter of 2016, on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in lieu of his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session and to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2016;

37. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the least developed countries in the comprehensive high-level midterm review at the national, regional and global levels, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to cover the cost of the participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the review and the preparatory meeting of experts;

38. *Urges* Member States, and invites other multilateral development partners, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004;

39. *Calls upon* all Member States to take a positive interest in the preparation of the comprehensive high-level midterm review and to be represented at a high level in the plenary meeting of the review, with a view to reaching a successful outcome;

40. *Stresses* the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, in the comprehensive high-level midterm review and its preparatory process, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

41. *Notes with appreciation* that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and reiterates its request to all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend the necessary support in this regard in a coordinated and coherent manner;

42. *Invites* the Committee for Development Policy to continue to give due consideration to the specific constraints and vulnerabilities faced by each least developed country, including small island and landlocked least developed countries, the least developed countries with mountains and fragile ecology, low-lying coastal least developed countries and the least developed countries with large segments of the population living in extreme poverty, high dependency on primary commodity exports, low agricultural productivity and food insecurity, climate, environmental and natural disaster vulnerability, public health insecurity and energy insecurity, as well as those least developed countries caught in and emerging from conflict;

43. *Notes* the offer of the Government of Nepal to host a ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific least developed countries on graduation and the post-2015 development agenda, which was held in Kathmandu from 16 to 18 December 2014, and looks forward to a successful outcome, agreed upon by the ministers of those countries, which reflects their various issues and concerns;

44. *Recognizes* that private capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment, play a complementary and catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in the least developed countries, also recognizes that many

least developed countries have made strong efforts to improve investment climates to attract increased foreign direct investment flows and enhance the benefits of these flows for their economies, which have been complemented by actions by their development partners, which appear to have had a positive impact, as indicated by a significant rise in foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries in recent years, and expresses its concern that levels of investment, both foreign and domestic, in the least developed countries have yet to reach their potential, underscoring that much more needs to be done;

45. *Underlines* the need for stronger and more focused policies and strategies by the least developed countries, the home countries of foreign direct investment, international organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to substantially increase foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries in the coming years, and in this regard decides to consider those needs in the context of the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, focusing on, inter alia, the potential importance to the least developed countries of:

(a) Access to information on existing investment facilities and foreign direct investment support programmes;

(b) Technical support to assist the least developed countries in negotiating complex large-scale contracts;

(c) Access to and further strengthening of advisory support in investment-related dispute resolution;

(d) Risk insurance and guarantees, in close collaboration with the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(e) Regulatory and legal frameworks that can attract foreign direct investment by improving investment climates and promoting enabling environments at all levels;

46. *Recognizes* the importance of building productive capacity as a critical enabler for the development and graduation of the least developed countries, as defined in priority area (a) of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and calls upon the least developed countries and their development partners to ensure enhanced focus on policies and means to address productive capacity-building, takes note in this regard of the Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries, adopted by the ministers of the least developed countries at the ministerial meeting held in Cotonou, Benin, from 28 to 31 July 2014, and invites all stakeholders to give due consideration to productive capacity-building in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council;

47. *Also recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support for the realization of the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

48. *Takes note* of the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for least developed countries, led by the Office of the High Representative, reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to appropriately integrate it within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for

Coordination, notes the steps taken by the Chief Executives Board and the High-level Committee in supporting the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board, encourages the Office of the High Representative, in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Board, to finalize a toolkit for mainstreaming the Programme of Action into the work programmes of the organizations of the United Nations system, and requests the Secretary-General to report on further progress made in this regard;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Programme of Action (2011–2020)

As requested in General Assembly resolution 68/224 [YUN 2013, p. 822] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/46 [ibid., p. 825], the Secretary-General, in May, submitted a progress report [A/69/95-E/2014/81] on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 [YUN 2011, p. 828]. The report assessed the performance and prospects of LDCs; and provided an analysis of progress made with respect to the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and an overview of measures deployed by LDCs, development partners and other stakeholders, including the UN system, in advancing implementation of the Programme of Action. It also included measures related to graduation and smooth transition, as well as South-South cooperation.

The report concluded that LDCs continued to make progress towards achieving the goals and targets agreed upon in Istanbul; however, many of them were unlikely to reach the MDGs and the targets of the Programme of Action. It was important that the Istanbul Programme of Action be firmly integrated into the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. The focus on building robust and sustainable productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services in LDCs had to continue and development partners needed to strengthen their support for LDCs in that area. The trends of increasing government revenues in LDCs, as well as the actions of those countries to combat corruption and increase transparency, had to be strengthened. More priority needed to be given to LDCs in the allocation of ODA and other resources at a level commensurate with their needs and complex challenges. With respect to mutual accountability, more structured dialogue between LDCs and their development partners on the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in the aid relationship was vitally important, and providing appropriate space

and platforms for such dialogue was essential. Given the deepening relationships between LDCs and emerging economies and the significant potential for further expansion, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation should be strengthened in all areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action. Continued coordinated support for LDCs, led by OHRLLS, remained critical in order for those countries to effectively articulate their needs and concerns in the process of formulating the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. The midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, scheduled for 2016, was expected to be a central element of mutual accountability with respect to the Programme of Action and would help guide the UN system towards its effective implementation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/29** [draft: E/2014/L.28] without vote [agenda item 9 (b)].

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolution 2013/46 of 26 July 2013 on the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 68/18 of 4 December 2013 and 68/224 of 20 December 2013,

Emphasizing the need for coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and noting the key role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in this regard, as set out in paragraph 155 of the Programme of Action,

Recognizing that, over the years, the responsibilities of the Office of the High Representative have increased considerably in their scope and complexity,

Noting the theme of the 2014 annual ministerial review, “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”, and the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious

post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals”;

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment, made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

3. *Reaffirms* that building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services is essential if the least developed countries are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase their resilience to shocks, sustain inclusive and equitable growth and eradicate poverty, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

4. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries have made some progress on many of the goals and targets in the Istanbul Programme of Action, leading to structural change in a few of them, expresses its concern that most least developed countries continue to face pervasive poverty, serious structural impediments to growth, low levels of human development, inequality and high exposure to shocks and disasters, and also expresses its concern that the challenges presented by the global economic environment are putting at risk the hard-won gains achieved so far and the ability to expand those gains to all least developed countries;

5. *Welcomes* the progress made by many least developed countries in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by mainstreaming it into relevant planning documents and development strategies, calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and implementation of the Programme of Action;

6. *Also welcomes* the progress in, and stresses the importance of, mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action,

and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

7. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by implementing enhanced substantive and technical assistance to the least developed countries in a timely manner, and to integrate the Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this regard invites them to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action as part of their annual reporting to their respective governing bodies;

8. *Welcomes* the fact that the bilateral net official development assistance to the least developed countries is estimated to have increased by 12.3 per cent in 2013, according to the preliminary estimate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, while noting a 9.4 per cent decrease in real terms in 2012, reiterates that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of the least developed countries and plays an important role in their development and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to the least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

9. *Also welcomes* steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in the least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid to the least developed countries by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency, and results orientation;

10. *Recalls* the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and in this regard urges donor countries to give high priority to the least developed countries in terms of their allocation of official development assistance, taking into account their needs, complex challenges and resources gap;

11. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial

resources for development and capacity-building, and (b) good governance at all levels;

12. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms, including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

13. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

14. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

15. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by various entities of the United Nations system to mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action and integrate its relevant provisions into their programmes of work, and in this regard reiterates its invitation to the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to do the same in an expeditious manner, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

17. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

18. *Recalls* the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/224 to the Secretary-General to constitute a high-level panel of experts to carry out a feasibility study on a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, with secretariat support provided by the Office of the High Representative, in order to examine its scope, functions, institutional linkage with the United Nations and organizational aspects, and requests the Secretary-General to constitute the panel at the earliest possible date, to facilitate the conclusion of its work within the time frame and to transmit its report and recommendations to the Assembly for its consideration, with a view to operationalizing the technology bank during the seventieth session of the Assembly, if so recommended by the panel;

19. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space

and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

20. *Reaffirms* its decision to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, invites the organizations of the United Nations system, including the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, the regional commissions, the functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies and follow-up mechanisms, as well as regional development banks, to contribute to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the Programme of Action and to contribute substantively to the discussions and decisions of the Council on the specific priorities of the least developed countries in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit a programme to the Council for its consideration at its 2015 session;

21. *Expresses its concern* that, although the least developed countries have made some progress in social and human development, including in primary school enrolment and gender parity in primary education, many of the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals have yet to be achieved, and calls upon the international community to give special priority to the least developed countries in order to accelerate the progress in attaining the Goals in the least developed countries by 2015;

22. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly in paragraph 24 of its resolution 68/224 that the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive-capacity-building, including through rapid development of infrastructure and energy, should be given appropriate consideration in the processes devoted to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

23. *Notes* the biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action undertaken by the relevant United Nations regional commissions in 2013, and invites them to continue to carry out such reviews in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

24. *Notes with appreciation* that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant entities of the United Nations system, in particular the Office of the High Representative, to extend the necessary support in this regard;

25. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring of and follow-up to the Istanbul Programme of Action led by the Office of the High Representative and to provide well-coordinated support for realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

26. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the Trust Fund in support of the activities undertaken

by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Programme of Action, held by the Council, as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

27. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Benin to host a ministerial conference on new partnerships for productive-capacity-building in the least developed countries, which will be held in Cotonou from 28 to 31 July 2014, and looks forward to its successful outcome;

28. *Invites* the General Assembly to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in accordance with the Programme of Action, encourages the Assembly to take a decision at its sixty-ninth session, and in this regard notes with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host a midterm review meeting;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2015, under the sub-item entitled “Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020” of the item entitled “Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits”, a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Small island developing states

During 2014, UN bodies continued to review progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action), adopted in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 783]. Member States also reviewed the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the 2005 International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action [YUN 2005, p. 946].

Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States was held (Apia, Samoa, 1–4 September) [A/CONF.223/10], in accordance with General Assembly decision 67/558 [YUN 2013, p. 828] and resolutions 67/207 [YUN 2012, p. 849] and 68/238 [YUN 2013, p. 828]. The Conference was attended by representatives of Member States and the European Union, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, associate members of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations, and a number of UN organs. On 4 September, on the recommendation of its Credentials Committee [A/CONF.223/6], the Conference adopted a resolution on the credentials of representatives to the

Conference. The Conference elected its President and Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur-General, and adopted its rules of procedure, agenda [A/CONF.223/1] and organization of work [A/CONF.223/4].

The Conference had before it the summaries of the Chairs of the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues [A/CONF.223/11], and the draft outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States [A/CONF.223/3].

It also received communication from Argentina [A/CONF.223/7], rejecting the identification of representatives of the Malvinas Islands in the official list of participants of the delegation of the United Kingdom; communication from Nauru [A/CONF.223/8], forwarding the Alliance of Small Island States Leaders’ Declaration 2014, endorsed by the leaders of the Alliance on 1 September; and communication from the United States [A/CONF.223/9], transmitting to the Conference a statement for the record on the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The Conference held eight plenary meetings and six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues on sustainable economic development; climate change and disaster risk management; social development in small island developing States, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women; sustainable energy; oceans, seas and biodiversity; and water and sanitation, food security and waste management.

On 4 September, the Conference adopted its outcome document, “The Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)”, and recommended it to the Assembly for endorsement. It also adopted a resolution on expression of thanks to the people and Government of Samoa.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 November [meeting 51], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/15** [draft: A/69/L.6] without vote [agenda item 13 (a)].

SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it decided to organize, in 2014, the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States at the highest possible level, as well as its resolutions 67/207 of 21 December 2012 and 68/238 of 27 December 2013 and its decision 67/558 of 17 May 2013,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Samoa for hosting the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 and for providing all the necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the outcome document of the Conference, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”, which is annexed to the present resolution.

ANNEX

SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway**Preamble**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, having met in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, with the full participation of civil society and relevant stakeholders, reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development of small island developing States. This can be achieved only with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector all working together to achieve the future we want for present and future generations.

2. We reaffirm the commitments we made at United Nations conferences and summits on sustainable development: the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy), and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want". We further underscore that these processes are still being implemented and that there is a need for a more integrated approach to the sustainable development of small island developing States, with the support of the international community and all stakeholders.

3. We recall as well our commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

4. We reaffirm that we continue to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with full respect for international law and its principles.

5. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development. We recognize the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, but stress that, in

the absence of international cooperation, success will remain difficult.

6. We recognize that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, *inter alia*, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.

7. We reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment, reducing inequalities and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development.

8. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

9. We reaffirm our commitment to move the sustainable development agenda forward, and in this regard we urge all parties to take concrete measures to expeditiously advance the sustainable development of small island developing States, including through the internationally agreed development goals, in order for them to eradicate poverty, build resilience and improve the quality of life. We recognize the need to implement expeditiously, through genuine and durable partnerships, the global effort in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States through concrete, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented programmes.

10. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

11. We recognize that sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through the loss of territory.

12. With the theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States being "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships", we recognize that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of small island developing States. Such partnerships should be

based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability.

13. We acknowledge that the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States would require appropriate consideration in the post-2015 development agenda.

14. We recognize that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, and some have regressed economically. A number of significant challenges remain.

15. We recognize that the adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges in small island developing States and have placed additional burdens on their national budgets and their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals. We note the views expressed by small island developing States that the financial resources available to date have not been adequate to facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, and we also recognize that, at times, complex application procedures have prevented some small island developing States from gaining access to funds that are available internationally. In this regard, we welcome the recent Green Climate Fund Board decision to aim for a floor of 50 per cent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including small island developing States, and we note the importance of continued support to address gaps in the capacity to gain access to and manage climate finance.

16. We note that small island developing States consider that the level of resources has been insufficient to ensure their capacity to respond effectively to multiple crises and that, without the necessary resources, they have not fully succeeded in building capacity, strengthening national institutions according to national priorities, gaining access to and developing renewable energy and other environmentally sound technologies, creating an enabling environment for sustainable development or fully integrating the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy into national plans and strategies.

17. We underscore the need for adequate and coordinated support from the United Nations system and the importance of accessible and transparent support from the international financial institutions that take fully into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, and we call for a renewed dedication of United Nations system support for cooperation among small island developing States and national, regional and interregional coordination.

18. We recognize that small island developing States have made significant efforts at the national and regional levels to implement the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. They have mainstreamed sustainable development principles into national and in some cases regional development plans, policies and strategies, and undertaken political commitments to promote and raise

awareness of the importance of sustainable development issues. They have also mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base. Small island developing States have demonstrated strong leadership by calling for ambitious and urgent action on climate change, by protecting biodiversity, by calling for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources and by adopting strategies for the promotion of renewable energy.

19. We recognize and call for the strengthening of the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community in assisting small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and supporting their sustainable development efforts.

20. Mindful of the importance of ensuring that the graduation of a country from least developed country status does not disrupt the development progress which that country has achieved, we reaffirm the need for the smooth transition of small island developing States that have recently graduated, and emphasize that a successful transition needs to be based on the national smooth transition strategy elaborated as a priority by each graduating country, which can, inter alia, mitigate the possible loss of concessionary financing and reduce the risks of falling heavily into debt.

21. While the well-being of small island developing States and their peoples depends first and foremost on national actions, we recognize that there is an urgent need to strengthen cooperation and enable strong, genuine and durable partnerships at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels to enhance international cooperation and action to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States so as to ensure their sustainable development.

22. We reaffirm our commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and we underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Samoa Pathway. With renewed political will and strong leadership, we dedicate ourselves to working in meaningful partnership with all stakeholders at all levels. It is in this context that the present Samoa Pathway presents a basis for action in the agreed priority areas.

Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all

Development models in small island developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication

23. We recognize that the ability of the small island developing States to sustain high levels of economic growth and job creation has been affected by the ongoing adverse impacts of the global economic crisis, declining foreign direct investment, trade imbalances, increased indebtedness, the lack of adequate transportation, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure networks, limited human and institutional capacity and the inability to integrate effectively into the global economy. The growth prospects of the small island developing States have also been hindered by other factors, including climate change,

the impact of natural disasters, the high cost of imported energy and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and sea-level rise.

24. As it is vitally important to support the efforts of small island developing States to build resilient societies and economies, we recognize that, beyond the rich ecosystems of those States, people are their greatest resource. In order to achieve sustained, inclusive and equitable growth with full and productive employment, social protection and the creation of decent work for all, small island developing States, in partnership with the international community, will seek to increase investment in the education and training of their people. Migrants and diaspora communities and organizations also play an important role in enhancing development in their communities of origin. Sound macroeconomic policies and sustainable economic management, fiscal predictability, investment and regulatory certainty, responsible borrowing and lending and debt sustainability are also critical, as is the need to address high rates of unemployment, particularly among youth, women and persons with disabilities.

25. We affirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, which is our overarching goal. In this regard, we consider the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. We call upon the United Nations system, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to strengthen its coordination and support of small island developing States that want to pursue green economy policies.

26. We acknowledge that the implementation of sustainable development depends primarily on national action and leadership. We recognize that the private sector plays an increasingly important role in achieving sustainable economic development, including through public-private partnerships. We recognize that sustainable development will also depend, *inter alia*, on intergovernmental and international cooperation and the active engagement of both the public and private sectors.

27. Taking into full account their national development priorities and individual country circumstances and legislation, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States to take the following actions:

(a) Enhancing international cooperation, exchanges and investments in formal and non-formal education and training to create an environment that supports sustainable investments and growth. This includes the development of entrepreneurial and vocational skills, support for transitions from basic to secondary education and from school to work, the building and strengthening of education infrastructure, better health, active citizenship, respect for cultural diversity, non-discrimination and environmental consciousness for all people, including women, youth and persons with disabilities;

(b) Enhancing the enabling environment at the national and regional levels to attract more public and private investment in building and maintaining appropriate infrastructure, including ports, roads, transportation, electricity and power generation and information and communications technology infrastructure, and also en-

hancing the development impact of the private sector and the financial services industry;

(c) Fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, building capacity and increasing the competitiveness and social entrepreneurship of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and State-owned enterprises in small island developing States, as well as encouraging inclusive and sustainable industrial development with the participation of all people, including the poor, women, youth and persons with disabilities;

(d) Supporting national, regional and international initiatives that develop and increase the capacity and development impact of the financial services industry in small island developing States;

(e) Creating local decent jobs through private and public projects and encouraging entrepreneurs to start up environmentally sound businesses through adequate and appropriate incentives;

(f) Promoting and fostering an environment conducive to increased public and private sector investment and the creation of decent jobs and livelihoods that contribute to sustainable development, with full respect for international labour standards;

(g) Promoting and enhancing the use of information and communications technologies for, *inter alia*, education, the creation of employment, in particular youth employment, and economic sustainability purposes in small island developing States;

(h) Promoting and enhancing gender equality and women's equal participation, including in policies and programmes in the public and private sectors in small island developing States;

(i) Setting national regulatory and policy frameworks, as appropriate, that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of transparency, accountability and corporate social responsibility.

28. Acknowledging the way in which debt servicing limits the fiscal space of highly indebted small island developing States, we support the consideration of traditional and innovative approaches to promote the debt sustainability of highly indebted small island developing States, including their continued eligibility for concessional financing from international financial institutions, as appropriate, and the strengthening of domestic revenue mobilization.

29. We acknowledge the importance of addressing debt sustainability to ensure the smooth transition of those small island developing States that have graduated from least developed country status.

Sustainable tourism

30. Recognizing that sustainable tourism represents an important driver of sustainable economic growth and decent job creation, we strongly support small island developing States in taking the following actions:

(a) Developing and implementing policies that promote responsive, responsible, resilient and sustainable tourism, inclusive of all peoples;

(b) Diversifying sustainable tourism through products and services, including large-scale tourism projects with positive economic, social and environmental impacts and the development of ecotourism, agritourism and cultural tourism;

(c) Promoting policies that allow local communities to gain optimum benefits from tourism while allowing them to determine the extent and nature of their participation;

(d) Designing and implementing participatory measures to enhance employment opportunities, in particular of women, youth and persons with disabilities, including through partnerships and capacity development, while conserving their natural, built and cultural heritage, especially ecosystems and biodiversity;

(e) Leveraging the expertise of, *inter alia*, the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, the Global Observatories on Sustainable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism and other United Nations bodies, as well as the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, to provide platforms for the exchange of best practices and direct and focused support to their national efforts;

(f) Establishing, upon request, an island, food and sustainable tourism support initiative based on community participation, which takes into consideration ethical values, livelihoods and human settlements, the landscape, the sea, local culture and local products, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, regional development banks and regional and national agricultural, cultural, environmental and tourism authorities where they exist;

(g) Establishing and maintaining, where necessary, the governance and management structures for sustainable tourism and human settlements that bring together responsibilities and expertise in the areas of tourism, environment, health, disaster risk reduction, culture, land and housing, transportation, security and immigration, planning and development, and enabling a meaningful partnership approach among the public and private sectors and local communities.

Climate change

31. We reaffirm that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and we acknowledge that climate change and sea-level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability.

32. We also reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. We are deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this regard, we emphasize that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

33. We acknowledge the leadership role of small island developing States in advocating for ambitious global efforts to address climate change, raising awareness of the need for

urgent and ambitious action to address climate change at the global level and making efforts to adapt to the intensifying impacts of climate change and to further develop and implement plans, policies, strategies and legislative frameworks with support where necessary.

34. We stress that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change in order to protect the global climate.

35. We recall the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and underscore that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. We recall that the Convention provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

36. We note with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of mitigation pledges by parties in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

37. We reaffirm the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on long-term climate finance, noting the importance of climate finance in addressing climate change.

38. We look forward to the full operationalization and initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund, including the expeditious implementation of its initial resource mobilization process, taking into account that the Fund will play a key role in channelling new, additional, adequate and predictable financial resources to developing countries and will catalyse climate finance, both public and private, at the international and national levels.

39. We urge developed country parties to increase technology, finance and capacity-building support to enable increased mitigation ambition and adaptation actions on the part of developing country parties.

40. We reaffirm the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, subregional, national and local levels, including national, subnational and local governments and the scientific community, private businesses and civil society, and also including youth and persons with disabilities, and also reaffirm that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change.

41. We reaffirm the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, to be held in Paris in December 2015, and for it to enter into effect and be implemented as from 2020.

42. We note the convening by the Secretary-General of the Climate Summit in New York on 23 September

2014, aimed at mobilizing actions and ambition in relation to climate change.

43. We will work together to implement and operationalize the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts through comprehensive, inclusive and strategic approaches to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in developing countries, including small island developing States, that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

44. We call for support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To build resilience to the impacts of climate change and to improve their adaptive capacity through the design and implementation of climate change adaptation measures appropriate to their respective vulnerabilities and economic, environmental and social situations;

(b) To improve the baseline monitoring of island systems and the downscaling of climate model projections to enable better projections of the future impacts on small islands;

(c) To raise awareness and communicate climate change risks, including through public dialogue with local communities, to increase human and environmental resilience to the longer-term impacts of climate change;

(d) To address remaining gaps in capacity for gaining access to and managing climate finance.

45. We recognize that the phasing out of ozone-depleting substances is resulting in a rapid increase in the use and the release into the environment of hydrofluorocarbons with a high potential for global warming. We support the gradual phasing down of the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons.

46. We recognize the importance of scaling up support for activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the context of the REDD-plus mechanism in small island developing States, including the implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus.

Sustainable energy

47. We recognize that dependence on imported fossil fuels has been a major source of economic vulnerability and a key challenge for small island developing States for many decades and that sustainable energy, including enhanced accessibility to modern energy services, energy efficiency and use of economically viable and environmentally sound technology, plays a critical role in enabling the sustainable development of small island developing States.

48. We highlight the efforts of small island developing States concerning sustainable energy, including through the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States, aimed at promoting transformational and innovative activities in such areas as access to affordable modern energy services, renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies and low carbon development, in the context of sustainable development, including, on a voluntary basis, the commitments by many small island developing States to undertake the actions contained in annex I to the Declaration. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, complemented by international commitments, provides a useful framework.

49. We urge the international community, including regional and international development banks, bilateral donors, the United Nations system, the International Renewable Energy Agency and other relevant stakeholders to continue to provide adequate support, including in the areas of capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for the development and implementation of national, regional and interregional energy policies, plans and strategies to address the special vulnerabilities of small island developing States. We welcome the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which helps small island developing States by pooling knowledge and sharing best practices.

50. We strongly support actions:

(a) To develop a strategy and targeted measures to promote energy efficiency and foster sustainable energy systems based on all energy sources, in particular renewable energy sources, in small island developing States, such as wind, sustainable biomass, solar, hydroelectric, biofuel and geothermal energy;

(b) To facilitate access to existing financing mechanisms to increase capital flows for the implementation of sustainable energy projects in small island developing States on renewable energy and energy efficiency;

(c) To support investment in initiatives by and for small island developing States, in particular the "SIDS DOCK" indicative project pipeline of renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation projects, as well as in the areas of capacity-building and human resources development and public education and awareness;

(d) To promote international collaboration to ensure the access of small island developing States to energy by, inter alia, strengthening their integration with regional and international energy markets and increasing the use of locally available sources of energy in the energy mix, joint infrastructure development projects and investment in production and storage capacities, in accordance with national legislation;

(e) To fulfil their bold and ambitious renewable energy and energy efficiency targets in small island developing States for the next decade, taking into account national circumstances, the diversification of energy systems and the provision of funds and technology on mutually agreed terms;

(f) To enhance international cooperation and cooperation among small island developing States for research and technological development and for the implementation of appropriate renewable energy and energy-efficient and environmentally sound technologies for small island developing States, including cleaner fossil fuel technology and smart grid technology, through the provision of, inter alia, financing from a variety of sources, the exchange of best practices and access to efficient technologies on mutually agreed terms;

(g) To access existing mechanisms, or, in regions with no existing mechanism, to encourage the establishment of user-friendly, accurate and comprehensive regional data repositories as online databases on energy, and to conduct technical studies and gather information on grid stability and management, including maximizing the integration of renewable energy and innovative storage mechanisms;

(h) To work on an integrated approach to establishing and strengthening innovative energy road maps

in small island developing States, with detailed resource planning, which takes into account social, environmental and economic considerations, as well as access to energy for the poor and people in remote areas.

Disaster risk reduction

51. We recognize that small island developing States continue to grapple with the effects of disasters, some of which have increased in intensity and some of which have been exacerbated by climate change, which impede their progress towards sustainable development. We also recognize that disasters can disproportionately affect small island developing States and that there is a critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increase preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters.

52. In consideration of the special case of small island developing States and their unique and particular vulnerabilities, we are committed to supporting their efforts:

(a) To gain access to technical assistance and financing for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and post-disaster response and recovery, risk assessment and data, land use and planning, observation equipment, disaster preparedness and recovery education programmes, including under the Global Framework for Climate Services, and disaster risk management;

(b) To promote cooperation and investment in disaster risk management in the public and private sectors;

(c) To strengthen and support contingency planning and provisions for disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and population evacuation, in particular for people in vulnerable situations, women and girls, displaced persons, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

(d) To implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and work for an ambitious renewed international framework for post-2015 disaster risk reduction that builds on previous achievements, prioritizes prevention and mitigation and incorporates implementation frameworks to address implementation gaps if and when they exist;

(e) To mainstream policies and programmes related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development, as appropriate;

(f) To harmonize national and regional reporting systems, where applicable, to increase synergies and coherence;

(g) To establish and strengthen risk insurance facilities at the national and regional levels and place disaster risk management and building resilience at the centre of policies and strategies, where applicable;

(h) To increase participation in international and regional disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Oceans and seas

53. We acknowledge that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, including that of small island developing States. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island

developing States. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal tourism, the possible use of seabed resources and potential sources of renewable energy are among the main building blocks of a sustainable ocean-based economy in small island developing States.

54. Recognizing that small island developing States have large maritime areas and have shown notable leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and their resources, we support their efforts to develop and implement strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of those areas and resources. We also support their efforts to conserve their valuable underwater cultural heritage.

55. We reaffirm that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.

56. Recognizing the concern that potential oil leaks from sunken State vessels have environmental implications for the marine and coastal ecosystems of small island developing States, and taking into account the sensitivities surrounding vessels that are marine graves, we note that small island developing States and relevant vessel owners should continue to address the issue bilaterally on a case-by-case basis.

57. We recognize that an integrated ecosystem approach to ocean-related activities is needed to optimize opportunities. It should be based on the best available science, give due regard to conservation efforts and precautionary approaches and ensure coherence and balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development.

58. With this in mind, we strongly support action:

(a) To promote and support national, subregional and regional efforts to assess, conserve, protect, manage and sustainably use the oceans, seas and their resources by supporting research and the implementation of strategies on coastal zone management and ecosystem-based management, including for fisheries management, and enhancing national legal and institutional frameworks for the exploration and sustainable use of living and non-living resources;

(b) To engage in national and regional efforts to sustainably develop the ocean resources of small island developing States and generate increasing returns for their peoples;

(c) To implement fully and effectively the regional seas programmes in which small island developing States participate;

(d) To address marine pollution by developing effective partnerships, including through the development and implementation of relevant arrangements, such as the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and, as appropriate, instruments on marine debris and on nutrient, wastewater and other marine pollution, and through the sharing and implementation of best practices;

(e) To undertake urgent action to protect coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated approaches for the management and the enhancement of their resilience to withstand pressures, including from ocean acidification and invasive species, and by drawing on measures such as those identified in the Framework for Action 2013 of the International Coral Reef Initiative;

(f) To undertake marine scientific research and develop the associated technological capacity of small island developing States, including through the establishment of dedicated regional oceanographic centres and the provision of technical assistance, for the delimitation of their maritime areas and the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf;

(g) To enhance and implement the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels so as to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through institutional capacity-building at the appropriate levels;

(h) To support the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries, improved mechanisms for resource assessment and management and enhanced facilities for fisheries workers, as well as initiatives that add value to outputs from small-scale fisheries, and to enhance access to markets for the products of sustainable small-scale fisheries of small island developing States;

(i) To strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2001 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

(j) For States that have not done so, to consider becoming parties to the 2001 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;

(k) To promote the conservation, sustainable use and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, including through measures that benefit small island developing States that are adopted by relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

(l) To enhance the capacity of small island developing States to sustainably use their fisheries resources and develop fisheries-related industries, enabling them to maximize benefits from their fisheries resources and ensure that the burden of conservation and management of ocean resources is not disproportionately transferred to small island developing States;

(m) To urge the cooperation of the international community in implementing shared responsibilities under regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to enable small island developing States to benefit from and sustainably manage straddling and highly migratory fish stocks covered by those organizations and arrangements;

(n) To enhance local, national, regional and global cooperation to address the causes of ocean acidification and to further study and minimize its impacts, including through information-sharing, regional workshops, the integration of scientists from small island developing States into international research teams, steps to make marine ecosystems more resilient to the impacts of ocean acidification and the possible development of a strategy for all small island developing States on ocean acidification;

(o) To conserve by 2020 at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas in small island developing States, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and for ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based

conservation measures in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment;

(p) To address concerns about the long-term effects of munitions dumped at sea, including their potential impact on human health and safety and on the marine environment and resources.

Food security and nutrition

59. We recognize that small island developing States, primarily net food-importing countries, are exceptionally vulnerable to the fluctuating availability and excessive price volatility of food imports. It is therefore important to support the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, the eradication of hunger and the provision of livelihoods while conserving, protecting and ensuring the sustainable use of land, soil, forests, water, plants and animals, biodiversity and ecosystems. We stress the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food and in providing for the livelihoods of the people of the small island developing States.

60. We also recognize the danger caused by an unhealthy diet and the need to promote healthy food production and consumption.

61. We recognize the call, in the outcome of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, adopted in Bridgetown on 28 August 2013, to facilitate a meeting on food and nutrition security in small island developing States in order to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing those States, and we invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate this biennial forum.

62. We note the convening of the Second International Conference on Nutrition in Rome in November 2014, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, which has important implications for small island developing States, and look forward to its outcome.

63. In this regard, we are committed to working together to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To promote the further use of sustainable practices relating to agriculture, crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture to improve food and nutrition security while ensuring the sustainable management of the required water resources;

(b) To promote open and efficient international and domestic markets to support economic development and optimize food security and nutrition;

(c) To enhance international cooperation to maintain access to global food markets, particularly during periods of higher volatility in commodity markets;

(d) To increase rural income and jobs, with a focus on the empowerment of smallholders and small-scale food producers, especially women;

(e) To end malnutrition in all its forms, including by securing year-round access to sufficient, safe, affordable, diverse and nutritious food;

(f) To enhance the resilience of agriculture and fisheries to the adverse impacts of climate change, ocean acidification and natural disasters;

(g) To maintain natural ecological processes that support sustainable food production systems through international technical cooperation.

Water and sanitation

64. We recognize that small island developing States face numerous challenges with respect to freshwater resources, including pollution, the overexploitation of surface, ground and coastal waters, saline intrusion, drought and water scarcity, soil erosion, water and wastewater treatment and the lack of access to sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, changes in rainfall patterns related to climate change have regionally varying and potentially significant impacts on water supply.

65. In this regard, we are committed to supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To develop institutional and human capacities for the effective, inclusive and sustainable implementation of the integrated management of water resources and related ecosystems, including supporting women's engagement in water management systems;

(b) To provide and operate appropriate facilities and infrastructure for safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management systems, including the exploration of desalination technology where economically and environmentally feasible;

(c) To facilitate the expansion of wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse in the context of the sustainable and efficient use of water resources;

(d) To improve water-use efficiency and work towards eliminating over-extraction, especially of groundwater, and to mitigate the effects of saltwater intrusion.

Sustainable transportation

66. We recognize that transportation and mobility are central to the sustainable development of small island developing States. Sustainable transportation can enhance economic growth, promote trade opportunities and improve accessibility. Sustainable, reliable and safe transportation achieves better integration of the economy while respecting the environment. We also recognize the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods in fostering full engagement in local, regional and global markets and the potential for sustainable transportation to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas of small island developing States.

67. In this regard, we are committed to continuing and enhancing support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To gain access to environmentally sound, safe, affordable and well-maintained transportation;

(b) To advance the safety of land, sea and air transportation;

(c) To develop viable national, regional and international transportation arrangements, including improved air, land and sea transport policies that take a life-cycle approach to the development and management of transport infrastructure;

(d) To increase energy efficiency in the transport sector.

Sustainable consumption and production

68. As promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an overarching objective of and

essential requirement for sustainable development, we recall the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and its vision, and we recognize that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process. This should be done in accordance with national objectives, needs and priorities, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development, and in a manner that protects the poor and affected communities.

69. In this regard, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States to develop and implement programmes under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns to advance sustainable consumption and production, with an emphasis on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable tourism, waste management, food and nutrition, lifestyles, education for sustainable development and linkages in the supply chain to promote rural development.

Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste

70. We recognize that the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment. For small island developing States, as for all countries, environmentally sound waste management is also crucial for human health and environmental protection, and the small land area and remoteness of many small island developing States pose particular challenges for the sound disposal of waste.

71. In this regard, we acknowledge the following actions to improve the management of chemicals and waste:

(a) Enhancing technical cooperation programmes, including those under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management of the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the London Convention and Protocol and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, to strengthen national, regional and international mechanisms for the management of waste, including chemical and hazardous waste, ship- and aircraft-generated waste and marine plastic litter, and further strengthening and expanding geographic coverage of oil spill contingency plans;

(b) For States that have not done so, considering becoming parties to and ensuring an enabling environment for the implementation, including with technical and other appropriate support, of the multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste and implementing, as appropriate, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

(c) Facilitating improved access to existing capacity-building programmes, such as those under the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization, which call for strengthened management of specific risks, including control programmes for chemical and other toxic and environmental events;

(d) Implementing reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and return approaches in accordance with national capacities and priorities, inter alia, through capacity-building and environmentally appropriate technologies.

Health and non-communicable diseases

72. We recognize that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. Sustainable development can be achieved only in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases, including emerging and re-emerging diseases, and when populations can reach a state of physical, mental and social well-being.

73. We recognize that the burden and threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases remain serious global concerns and constitute one of the major challenges for small island developing States in the twenty-first century. While prevention, treatment, care and education are critical, we call upon the international community to support the national actions of small island developing States in addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases.

74. We take note of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

75. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To develop and implement comprehensive, whole-government multisectoral policies and strategies for the prevention and management of diseases, including through the strengthening of health systems, the promotion of effective universal health coverage implementation, the distribution of medical and drug supplies, education and public awareness and incentivizing people to lead healthier lives through a healthy diet, good nutrition, sports and education;

(b) To develop specific national programmes and policies geared towards the strengthening of health systems for the achievement of universal coverage of health services and the distribution of medical and drug supplies, with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, key development partners and other stakeholders, at the invitation of small island developing States;

(c) To take urgent steps to establish, for the period from 2015 to 2025, 10-year targets and strategies to reverse the spread and severity of non-communicable diseases;

(d) To implement well-planned and value-added interventions that strengthen health promotion, promote primary health care and develop accountability mechanisms for monitoring non-communicable diseases;

(e) To enable cooperation among small island developing States on diseases by using existing international and regional forums to convene joint biennial meetings of ministers of health and other relevant sectors to respond in particular to non-communicable diseases;

(f) To achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as to renew and strengthen the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and neglected emerging and re-emerging tropical diseases, including chikungunya and dengue;

(g) To reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality and improve the health of mothers, infants and children.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

76. We recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment and the full realization of human rights for women and girls have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development and are a driver of economic growth in small island developing States. Women can be powerful agents of change.

77. In this regard, we support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls;

(b) To integrate a gender perspective in priority areas for sustainable development;

(c) To strengthen women's economic empowerment and ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work;

(d) To end all forms of violence against women and girls;

(e) To continue to take measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation in all fields and leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors through such policies and actions as temporary special measures, as appropriate, and by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks;

(f) To guarantee equal access to good-quality education and health care;

(g) To ensure in small island developing States the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

(h) To tackle the structural and socioeconomic inequalities and multiple intersecting forms of discrimination that affect women and girls, including those with disabilities, that hinder progress and development;

(i) To give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to, ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technologies.

Social development

78. We recognize that social development, as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development, is crucial to ensuring development progress by small island developing States both now and in the future. We therefore support efforts to enhance social protection and inclusion, to improve well-being and to guarantee opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

79. We support small island developing States in their commitment to an approach to development that is focused on poverty eradication, which should ensure that people, particularly those living in poverty, have equal access to education, health, food, water and sanitation and other public and social services and access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, knowledge, information and know-how. That approach enables citizens and local communities to participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes.

Culture and sport

80. We recognize that small island developing States possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and an enabler for sustainable development. In particular, indigenous and traditional knowledge and cultural expression, which underscores the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the natural environment, can meaningfully advance sustainable development and social cohesion.

81. In this regard, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and international cooperation in the cultural field in line with applicable international conventions, in particular those of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(b) To leverage and build on the joint work of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(c) To develop and strengthen national and regional cultural activities and infrastructures, including through the network of World Heritage sites, which reinforce local capacities, promote awareness in small island developing States, enhance tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including local and indigenous knowledge, and involve local people for the benefit of present and future generations;

(d) To develop cultural and creative industries, including tourism, that capitalize on their rich heritage and have a role to play in sustainable and inclusive growth;

(e) To develop domestic mechanisms to conserve, promote, protect and preserve their natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage practices and traditional knowledge.

82. Recognizing the strong capacity of small island developing States in sport, we support the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development, social inclusion and peace, strengthen education, promote health and build life skills, particularly among youth.

Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities

83. We recognize the importance of supporting small island developing States in their ongoing efforts to ensure peaceful societies and safe communities, including through building responsive and accountable institutions and ensuring access to justice and respect for all human rights, taking into account their national priorities and legislations.

84. We recognize that the sustainable development of small island developing States can be negatively affected by crime and violence, including conflict, gang and youth violence, piracy, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. In particular, the lack of sustainable livelihoods and opportunities for further education and the breaking down of community support structures can lead to increasing numbers of young men and women becoming involved in violence and crime.

85. We support the efforts of small island developing States to combat trafficking in persons, cybercrime, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and international piracy by promoting the accession, ratification and implementation of applicable conventions, enacting and using legislation that prohibits trafficking, promoting strong institutions and improving protection mechanisms to ensure adequate care for victims of sex trafficking and

forced labour in accordance with relevant national and international agreements and treaties.

86. We support the development of action plans in small island developing States to eliminate violence against women and girls, who are often targets of gender-based violence and are disproportionately affected by crime, violence and conflict, and to ensure that they are centrally involved in all relevant processes.

Education

87. We reaffirm that full and equal access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development and the importance of local, national, regional and international efforts in this regard.

88. We are committed, in this regard, to strongly supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To provide high-quality education and training for youth and girls with a focus on the most vulnerable, in particular persons with disabilities, including in creative, cultural and environment-related fields, so that all people have the necessary skills and can take advantage of employment opportunities to lead productive lives;

(b) To ensure that education contributes to further building peace and promoting social inclusion;

(c) To increase their investment in education, training and skills development for all, including vocational training, and to improve their access to formal and non-formal education, including to gain entrepreneurial skills, through both formal and non-formal means, such as the use of distance teaching and the development of training approaches appropriate for small island developing States.

Biodiversity

89. We agree to promote international cooperation and partnerships, as appropriate, and information exchange, and in this context we welcome the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, 2011–2020, for the purpose of encouraging the active involvement of all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, with the vision of living in harmony with nature.

90. We recognize that, overall, small island developing States have extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity that in many cases is fundamental to their livelihoods and identity. Noting that this valuable biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are at grave risk, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To conserve biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

(b) To export organic, natural, sustainably produced and locally grown products;

(c) To access financial and technical resources for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

91. We invite parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider ratifying and implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, while acknowledging that having access to and sharing the benefits of genetic resources contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Desertification, land degradation and drought

92. We recognize that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought challenges will be critical for the achievement by small island developing States of food security and nutrition, their adaptation to climate change, the protection of their biodiversity and the development of resilience to natural disasters. We also strongly support the efforts of small island developing States in designing and implementing preparedness and resilience policies relating to desertification, land degradation and drought as a matter of priority and in catalysing financial resources from a range of public and private sources, as well as in promoting the sustainability of their limited soil resources.

93. We acknowledge the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa entitled "Follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)", in which the Conference of the Parties established an intergovernmental working group to, inter alia, establish a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

Forests

94. Recognizing that forests are vital to livelihoods and ecosystems, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(b) To slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, including by promoting trade in legally and sustainably harvested forest products;

(c) To achieve appropriate and effective reforestation, restoration and afforestation;

(d) To address obstacles and pursue opportunities to mobilize financing from all sources to support national sustainable forest management policies and improve the state of biological diversity by conserving and safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;

(e) To participate in the review of the international arrangement on forests under the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to explore the full range of options on the future of the arrangement;

(f) To strengthen their legal, institutional and human capacity for sustainable forest management on the basis of a holistic and integrated approach to the sustainable use of forest resources.

Invasive alien species

95. Noting that invasive alien species pose a threat to sustainable development and undermine the efforts of small island developing States to protect biodiversity and livelihoods, preserve and maintain ocean resources and ecosystem resiliency, enhance food security and adapt to climate change, we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To enhance multisectoral collaboration at the national, regional and international levels, including through expanded support to existing structures, to effectively address invasive alien species;

(b) To improve efforts to eradicate and control invasive alien species, including through the provision of support for

research on and the development of new technologies by expanding collaboration and supporting existing regional and international structures;

(c) To develop and strengthen their capacity to address invasive alien species issues, including prevention, as well as increasing public awareness in small island developing States about this issue.

Means of implementation, including partnerships

96. While acknowledging the primary responsibility of small island developing States for their own sustainable development, we recognize that the persistent development challenges of the small island developing States require enhanced global partnership for development, adequate provision and mobilization of all means of implementation and continued international support to achieve internationally agreed goals.

Partnerships

97. We call for an increase in all forms of partnership with and for small island developing States.

98. We recognize that, given the vulnerabilities and the need to build the resilience of small island developing States, and keeping in mind the theme of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, there is an urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and ensure genuine and durable partnerships at the national, regional and international levels to address issues related to their sustainable development priorities and needs.

99. We also call for enhanced international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and especially cooperation among small island developing States. We reaffirm that North-South cooperation remains the core type of international cooperation and that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. We recognize that genuine and durable partnerships will play an important role in advancing sustainable development by harnessing the full potential of engagement between governments at all levels, businesses, civil society and a wide range of other stakeholders. We further recognize that partnerships are effective instruments for mobilizing human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge and can be powerful drivers for change, innovation and welfare.

100. We reaffirm that small island developing States are equal partners and that empowered, genuine and durable partnerships are based on mutual collaboration and ownership, trust, alignment, harmonization, respect, results orientation, accountability and transparency and that political will is required to undertake and implement long-term, predictable commitments. Partnerships in all their forms, regardless of size and economic value, should be utilized, enhanced and strengthened to ensure the meaningful engagement of various actors (including local authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations, foundations, the private sector and international financial institutions) and should work to achieve the small island developing States' vision of self-reliance and to cooperate in the implementation of national policies that help to fulfil the commitments made in the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, the Samoa Pathway, the Millennium Development Goals and other international declarations and instruments.

101. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to present recommendations, including through the use of existing intergovernmental mechanisms, for a partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States. The framework should ensure that partnerships focus on the priorities of small island developing States, identify new opportunities to advance their sustainable development of and ensure the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway. The recommendations should be presented to the General Assembly for consideration and action at its sixty-ninth session.

Financing

102. We recognize that financing from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, the development and transfer of reliable, affordable, modern technology on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building assistance and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of advancing sustainable development in small island developing States. As those States have unique and particular vulnerabilities that require dedicated attention, they will continue to make use of a wide range of available financing mechanisms to implement the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway.

103. We recognize that international financing plays an important role in increasing the capacity of small island developing States to mitigate and effectively respond to multiple crises by increasing the impact of existing funds and mobilizing, catalysing and directly providing financial resources from a variety of public and private sources, including international financial institutions, to support the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway.

104. We urge all countries to fulfil their commitments to small island developing States, including through the provision of financial resources, to support the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway. In this regard, the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments to developing countries, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, is crucial.

105. We welcome increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact. We also recognize the need to improve development effectiveness, increase programme-based approaches, use country systems for activities managed by the public sector, reduce transaction costs and improve mutual accountability and transparency, and in this regard we call upon all donors to untie aid to the maximum extent. Furthermore, we will make development more effective and predictable by providing developing countries with regular and timely indicative information on planned support over the medium term. We recognize the importance of the efforts of developing countries to strengthen leadership regarding their own development, national institutions, systems and capacity to ensure the best results for effective development

by engaging with parliaments and citizens in shaping those policies and deepening engagement with civil society organizations. We should also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee development effectiveness. The specific situation of each country must be fully considered.

106. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To strengthen the use of domestic policies and financing, with due consideration for their respective levels of indebtedness and national capacities;

(b) To gain access to international arrangements and modalities for the financing of development for developing countries, particularly small island developing States, including through capacity-building and a review of application procedures;

(c) To implement, with the provision of appropriate financial resources, in line with existing international commitments within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, climate change adaptation and mitigation projects;

(d) To reduce transfer costs related to remittances while pursuing the international targets and agreed outcomes of important international initiatives set by the United Nations system concerning remittances, given their importance for the economic growth of small island developing States.

Trade

107. Given the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, for example, small size, limited negotiating capacity and remoteness from markets, we recognize that efforts are needed to support their further integration regionally and between the regions and in world markets. With this in mind, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To encourage their successful engagement in trade and economic agreements, taking into consideration existing special and differential treatment provisions, as appropriate, and taking note of the work conducted to date under the work programme on small economies of the World Trade Organization;

(b) To obtain technical assistance through trade-related assistance mechanisms and other programmes to strengthen their capacity to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system, including with respect to explaining trade rules and disciplines, negotiating and implementing trade agreements and formulating and administering coherent trade policies, with a view to improving trade competitiveness as well as development and growth prospects;

(c) To assess the implications and mitigate the impact of non-tariff barriers to their market access opportunities through, inter alia, appropriate technical assistance and the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization;

(d) To develop and strengthen partnerships to enhance the participation of small island developing States in the international trade in goods and services, build their productive capacities and address their supply side constraints.

Capacity-building

108. We affirm that small island developing States require continued and enhanced investments in education and training programmes to develop human and institutional

capacities so as to build the resilience of their societies and economies, while encouraging the use and retention of knowledge in all its forms, including traditional knowledge, within those States and ensuring accountability and transparency in all capacity-building efforts by all parties.

109. In this regard, we strongly support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To improve existing mechanisms and resources to provide coordinated and coherent United Nations system-wide capacity-building programmes for small island developing States through United Nations country teams, in collaboration with national agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations, to enhance national capacities and institutions, building on the lessons and successes of the Capacity 2015 initiative;

(b) To strengthen their national institutions to complement capacity-building;

(c) To ensure the inclusion of capacity-building and institution-strengthening, as appropriate, in all cooperation frameworks and partnerships and their integration in the priorities and work programmes of all United Nations agencies providing assistance to small island developing States in concert with other development efforts, within their existing mandates and resources;

(d) To establish a dedicated intensive training programme for sustainable development for small island developing States in the University Consortium of Small Island States;

(e) To strengthen technical assistance programmes in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and regional institutions in small island developing States;

(f) To build national capacity, where appropriate, to utilize cost-benefit analysis for informed policymaking in the area of sustainable development, including models specific to small island developing States that evaluate the technical, financial, social, economic and environmental aspects related to the accession, ratification and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and related instruments;

(g) To build national capacity to fulfil reporting requirements deriving from commitments made by small island developing States when signing international agreements and commitments;

(h) To establish national and regional information and communications technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in small island developing States to facilitate information exchange and cooperation, building on existing information and communications platforms, as appropriate;

(i) To enhance regional and interregional cooperation among small island developing States on education and training so as to identify and apply appropriate good practices as solutions to shared challenges;

(j) To ensure that women are fully and equally able to benefit from capacity development and that institutions are inclusive and supportive of women at all levels, including at the senior leadership levels.

Technology

110. We recognize that access by small island developing States to appropriate reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies is critical to

achieving their sustainable development objectives and in fostering an environment that provides incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship and that science, technology and innovation are essential enablers and drivers for sustainable development.

111. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States to gain access, on mutually agreed terms, to appropriate, reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies and know-how and to increase connectivity and the use of information and communications technology through improved infrastructure, training and national legislation, as well as public and private sector involvement.

Data and statistics

112. We reaffirm the role that data and statistics play in development planning in small island developing States and the need for the United Nations system to collect statistics from those States, irrespective of size and in the least burdensome way, by, inter alia, allowing electronic submission and, where appropriate, submissions through competent regional agencies.

113. We recognize that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track successes in attaining the internationally agreed development goals.

114. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to support the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To strengthen the availability and accessibility of their data and statistical systems, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances, and enhance their management of complex data systems, including geospatial data platforms, by launching new partnership initiatives or scaling up existing initiatives;

(b) To utilize existing United Nations statistical standards and resources in the areas of social and environmental statistics;

(c) To improve the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant variables in a systemic and coordinated manner at the national level, through appropriate financial and technical support and capacity-building, while recognizing the need for international cooperation in this regard.

115. Furthermore, we call upon the United Nations, the specialized agencies and relevant intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates:

(a) To make greater use of the national statistics and development indicators of small island developing States, where available;

(b) To support a sustainable development statistics and information programme for small island developing States;

(c) To elaborate appropriate indices for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of small island developing States that better reflect their vulnerability and guide them to adopt more informed policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience and to strengthen national disaggregated data and information systems as well as analytical capabilities for decision-making, the tracking of progress and the development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles.

Institutional support for small island developing States

116. We call upon the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities.

117. In this regard, we call upon the United Nations system to provide support:

(a) To ensure that United Nations entities take fully into account the issues of small island developing States and include support for those States and the development of their capacities in their programmes at the appropriate levels;

(b) To continue to enhance, through national and regional initiatives, the voice and participation of small island developing States in the decision-making and norm-setting processes of international financial institutions;

(c) To improve interregional and intraregional cooperation and collaboration among small island developing States, including, where required, through institutional mechanisms and capacity-building;

(d) To ensure that the issues of small island developing States are adequately addressed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under their auspices.

118. We call upon the Committee for Development Policy of the Economic and Social Council to continue to give due consideration to the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to monitor regularly, together with their Governments, the progress of small island developing States that have graduated from least developed country status.

119. We request that the Secretary-General conduct a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and the respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States, and we invite the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, to determine the parameters of the review. We request the Secretary-General, building on previous reports, to provide to the Assembly at its seventieth session the findings of the review and his recommendations thereon in his regular report entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

120. We request the Secretary-General to ensure that the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat continues, pursuant to its support and advisory services mandate, its analysis and reporting on the situation of small island developing States, including in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, and that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, pursuant to its advocacy mandate, en-

sure the mainstreaming of the Samoa Pathway and issues related to small island developing States in the work of the United Nations system and enhance the coherence of the issues of those States in United Nations processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, and continue to mobilize international support and resources to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by small island developing States.

Priorities of the small island developing States for the post-2015 development agenda

121. Recalling that the small island developing States have identified their priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in the outcome document of the interregional preparatory meeting for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as further refined in the present outcome document, we recognize the need to give due consideration to those priorities in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

Monitoring and accountability

122. To ensure the realization of a transformational strategy for the sustainable development of small island developing States, we call upon the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions.

123. We recall that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under their auspices, will devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments.

124. In this regard, we are committed to supporting the efforts of small island developing States:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on the progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities of the small island developing States;

(b) To request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to continue to maintain a partnerships platform focused on the small island developing States and to regularly convene the inter-agency consultative group to report on the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, with adequate and timely analysis based on relevant targets and indicators relevant to the small island developing States in order to ensure accountability at all levels.

Preparatory process. In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/238 [YUN 2013, p. 828], the Preparatory Committee for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held its first (24–26 February) and second (23–27 June and 11 July) meetings; and a special meeting on 21 March [A/CONF.223/PC/8]. The Committee approved the draft outcome document [A/CONF.223/3], which it recommended to the Conference for adoption, and approved the Committee's draft report. The Committee

adopted a draft decision on arrangements for accreditation and participation of relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other major groups in the preparatory process and in the Conference; approved requests for accreditation and participation of intergovernmental organizations; and endorsed the recommendations of the secretariat on the accreditation of NGOs and other groups in the Conference.

Mauritius Strategy

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/238, the Secretary-General provided an August report [A/69/319] on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and on the preparations for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The sustainable development of SIDS remained an important consideration for the international community and the UN system. With regard to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, the majority of activities at the international level over the preceding year had been focused on the third International Conference. Nevertheless, there were other activities of Member States from among SIDS that were geared towards the implementation of the Mauritius strategy, including the development of national sustainable development plans and strategies, and the strengthening of institutions to address priority areas; and activities from development partners, the UN system and intergovernmental organizations.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 67/206 [YUN 2012, p. 851], the International Year of Small Island Developing States was launched in February. Many events and activities occurred during the International Year on the international, national, regional and local levels.

The Secretary-General concluded that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780] reaffirmed the special case of SIDS, and the preparatory process for the third International Conference had highlighted many of the challenges faced by those countries; however, those States also had the opportunity to address those challenges and pursue sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda. The deliberations at the Assembly's sixty-ninth session and those on the post-2015 development agenda had the potential to become important opportunities for addressing SIDS priorities, as they transitioned towards a more sustainable future.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/217** without vote [agenda item 19 (b)].

Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want", including the call for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States,

Recalling its resolutions 67/206 of 21 December 2012, 67/207 of 21 December 2012, 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 68/1 of 20 September 2013, 68/6 of 9 October 2013 and 68/238 of 27 December 2013, and its decision 67/558 of 17 May 2013,

Taking note of the Leaders' Declarations of 2012 and 2014, adopted at the meetings of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States, held in New York on 27 September 2012 and in Apia on 1 September 2014,

Welcoming the holding of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and the adoption of the Samoa Pathway,

Expressing its satisfaction that the International Conference and its preparatory process provided for the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, observers and various intergovernmental organizations, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as civil society, the private sector and the major groups representing all the regions of the world,

Welcoming the partnerships announced at the International Conference by Governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and major groups, and in this regard recognizing that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Welcoming also the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and looking forward to the future meetings of the forum, at which adequate time shall be devoted to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States,

Recognizing that it is crucial to mobilize resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Samoa for the excellent facilities, staff and services provided and the arrangements made in hosting the Conference, and for the hospitality extended to the participants,

Expressing its appreciation to partners for their contributions in kind and to the Trust Fund for Small Island Developing States, to the members of the Bureaux, to the Secretariat of the United Nations, including the Secretary-General of the Conference, the specialized agencies, the United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations funds and programmes, for their contributions to the success of the Conference,

Reaffirming that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and recognizing the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, while stressing that, in the absence of international cooperation, achieving success will remain difficult,

Recognizing that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, that some have regressed economically and that a number of significant challenges remain,

Reaffirming the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

Taking note of the report of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), and urges its speedy implementation;
3. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment of the international community to taking urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continuing to seek solutions, including additional ones, to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

4. *Recalls* the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States identified in the Samoa Pathway, namely sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all (development models in small island developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication and sustainable tourism), climate change, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, oceans and seas, food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, sustainable transportation, sustainable consumption and

production, management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste, health and non-communicable diseases, gender equality and women's empowerment, social development (culture and sport, promoting peaceful societies and safe communities, and education), biodiversity (desertification, land degradation and drought, and forests), invasive alien species, means of implementation, including partnerships (partnerships, financing, trade, capacity-building, technology, data and statistics, and institutional support for small island developing States), the priorities of the small island developing States for the post-2015 development agenda and monitoring and accountability;

5. *Stresses* the need to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring of and follow-up to the Samoa Pathway;

6. *Acknowledges* in this regard that small island developing States are committed to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and to that effect are mobilizing resources at the national and regional levels, despite their limited resource base, and calls upon the international community to assist and support small island developing States in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by integrating its provisions into their national and regional policies and development frameworks;

7. *Urges* all partners to integrate the Samoa Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure the effective follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities;

9. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Conference and the fulfilment of the provisions on all means of implementation, as contained in the Samoa Pathway;

10. *Recalls* the need to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

11. *Reaffirms* paragraph 101 of the Samoa Pathway, and emphasizes that the partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States should be open and adaptable to the priorities and realities of small island developing States and consistent with other relevant processes and mechanisms in order to promote efficient and effective follow-up to the existing partnerships, in particular the new ones launched in Samoa, and to encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of small island developing States based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability and focused on concrete action-oriented programmes addressing the priorities of small island developing States;

12. *Recalls* paragraphs 116 to 120 of the Samoa Pathway, and in this regard requests the Joint Inspection Unit to make recommendations in order to facilitate the work

of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in determining, as soon as possible, and by no later than March 2015, the parameters of a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness and delivery with respect to small island developing States and the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Samoa Pathway;

13. *Also recalls* that the initial findings of the review and the recommendations thereon should be included in the regular report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and to be entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, notes that the complete results should be included as an addendum to the report before the end of the seventieth session, and emphasizes that the review should be undertaken by the appropriate independent entity within the United Nations system in the most efficient and cost-effective manner;

14. *Further recalls* paragraph 121 of the Samoa Pathway and the need to give due consideration to the priorities of small island developing States in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

15. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 123 of the Samoa Pathway and the need for the high-level political forum on sustainable development to devote adequate time at the 2015 meeting and at future meetings to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

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

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”.

Also on the same date, the Assembly adopted **resolution 69/216** entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations” (see p. 1191); and **decision 69/546**, by which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations” (see p. 1191).

Landlocked developing countries

Preparations for 10-year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action

The General Assembly, in resolutions 66/214 [YUN 2011, p. 834] and 67/222 [YUN 2012, p. 852], had decided to hold, in 2014, a comprehensive 10-year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework [YUN 2003, p. 875]. Responding to General Assembly resolution 68/225 [YUN 2013, p. 832], the Secretary-General, in January, submitted a note [A/68/708] outlining the proposed organizational aspects of the 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (second United Nations conference on landlocked developing countries). He indicated that Austria had agreed to host the conference scheduled to be held from 3 to 5 November.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 April [meeting 84], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/270** [draft: A/68/L.38/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].

Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling further its resolutions 66/214 of 22 December 2011, 67/222 of 21 December 2012 and 68/225 of 20 December 2013,

1. *Welcomes and accepts with appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Austria to host the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna;

2. *Decides* to convene the Conference from 3 to 5 November 2014;

3. *Also decides* that two sessions of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee shall be held in New York on 12 and 13 June and on 2 and 3 October 2014;

4. *Further decides* that the Preparatory Committee shall have a Bureau consisting of two members of each regional group, that the Bureau shall elect its own co-Chairs and that Austria and the Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries shall serve as ex officio members of the Bureau;

5. *Decides* that the Bureau shall be co-chaired by two Member States, comprising one developed State and one developing State;

6. *Invites* regional groups to nominate their candidates for the 10-member Bureau of the Preparatory Committee

no later than 5 May 2014, so that they can be involved in the preparations for the first meeting of the Committee;

7. *Invites* the Bureau to convene further meetings on an informal basis in New York, as required and in the most efficient and effective manner to discuss the draft outcome document of the Conference;

8. *Decides* that the Conference and the meetings of its Preparatory Committee shall provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the Committee, as applicable, and that the Committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference, taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly, except as otherwise provided in the present resolution;

9. *Encourages* the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, in the Conference at the highest level possible;

10. *Stresses*, while recognizing the intergovernmental nature of the Conference, the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the Conference and its preparatory processes as well as in the interactive thematic round tables and side events during the Conference;

11. *Decides* that the major groups and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those that were accredited to the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation and to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, must register in order to participate;

12. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference, and whose work is relevant to the subject of the Conference, may participate as observers in the Conference as well as in the preparatory meetings, in accordance with the provisions contained in part VII of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee in plenary meeting, and that, while respecting fully the provisions contained in rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, such a decision should be made by consensus;

13. *Further decides* that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, the secretariat of the Conference shall be responsible for the receipt and preliminary evaluation of requests for accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process and that, in the discharge of its functions, the secretariat of the Conference shall work in close cooperation and coordination with the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Secretariat and shall review the relevance of the work of

the applicants on the basis of their background and involvement in all issues relevant to the Conference;

14. *Decides* that the Secretariat shall publish the list of applications received and disseminate the list in advance to members of the Preparatory Committee, at least one month before the first meeting of the second session of the Committee, at which time a decision on such applications will be taken;

15. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparations for the 10-year Review Conference, pursuant to its resolution 66/214, and invites the Secretary-General, to take the measures necessary, within existing resources, to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

16. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference and the participation of representatives of the landlocked developing countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

17. *Decides* that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

ANNEX

Proposed organization of work of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Vienna, 3 to 5 November 2014

1. The arrangements set out below have been formulated pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/214 of 22 December 2011, 67/222 of 21 December 2012 and 68/225 of 20 December 2013.

2. The second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries will be held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014.

Plenary meetings

3. The Conference will consist of an opening meeting, a closing meeting and four plenary meetings.

Committee of the Whole

4. A Committee of the Whole, established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet if necessary in parallel with plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing meetings. The Committee of the Whole will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/225, the Secretary-General, in July, submitted a report [A/69/170] on the ten-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The report was based on the national and regional reports on the implementation of the

Almaty Programme of Action; reports of the regional review meetings in Africa, Asia and Europe and Latin America (see below); outcomes of 17 pre-conference events; and substantive reports. The Secretary-General stated that since its adoption, tangible progress had been registered in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, which had contributed to creating awareness about the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries globally. In the preceding 10 years, landlocked developing countries had registered faster economic growth and increased trade; however, progress was uneven. Landlocked developing countries remained fragile because of their vulnerability to external shocks, given their limited productive capacities, lack of export competitiveness and high transport and transit costs. Furthermore, those countries' value addition from manufacturing and agriculture had declined and their export concentration ratios had increased dramatically. The report concluded that the Almaty Programme of Action was designed largely as a sectoral programme, with a strong emphasis on infrastructure and transit, but did not address other growth and trade-determining factors, such as value addition, economic diversification, industrialization, job creation and resilience-building measures to deal with external shocks and climate change challenges. The coming development decade would need to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries in a holistic manner to ensure they could structurally transform their economies and achieve sustainable development and thus overcome the negative effects that their geographic constraints had on the livelihoods of people.

Review meetings. Regional-level preparatory review meetings were held for Europe and Asia (Vienna, 5–7 March 2013) [A/CONF.225/PC/4], Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16–18 July 2013) [A/CONF.225/PC/2] and Latin America (Asunción, Paraguay, 19 November 2013) [A/CONF.225/PC/3].

Preparatory Committee. In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/270 (see above), the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries held its first (New York, 12–13 June) [A/CONF.225/PC/5] and second (2–3 and 22 October) [A/CONF.225/5] sessions. On 13 June, the Preparatory Committee recommended to the Conference the adoption of the draft provisional rules of procedure and the provisional agenda [A/CONF.225/PC/L.3]. On 3 October, the Preparatory Committee heard a statement by the representative of Azerbaijan [A/CONF.225/PC/8]. On 22 October, the Preparatory Committee approved the list of private sector and civil society organizations, as contained in a note by the Secretariat [A/CONF.225/PC/7 & Add.1], to participate as observers at the Conference. Also, on 22 October, the Committee decided to annex the draft Programme of Action for Landlocked

Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 to the report of the session, with the understanding that delegations would continue to meet informally before the Conference to reach consensus on the text for finalization by the Conference.

Communication. On 4 September [A/68/986], Azerbaijan transmitted to the Secretary-General the full text of the statement made by its delegate at the first meeting of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, stating that the report on that session (see above) did not contain a complete and precise reflection of its statement.

Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was held (Vienna, Austria, 3–5 November) [A/CONF.225/7], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/270 (see p. 1012). It was attended by high-level officials from 129 States Members of the United Nations, including Heads of State and Government, and representatives of the private sector, academia, civil society, the UN system and other international organizations. The Conference adopted its agenda [A/CONF.225/1] and organization of work. On 3 November, the Conference established a Committee of the Whole, and allocated the consideration of the agenda item “Adoption of the final outcomes of the Conference” to the Committee. On 4 November, the representative of Azerbaijan made a statement [A/CONF.225/8] in exercise of the right of reply. The Conference held six plenary meetings; and four high-level thematic round tables on structural transformation; regional integration and transit cooperation; priorities of landlocked developing countries in the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960); and harnessing international trade and investment for the development of landlocked developing countries. The Conference adopted draft resolutions [A/CONF.225/L.1] entitled “Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024” (see below); and the “Vienna Declaration” [A/CONF.225/L.2] (see below). In addition to 18 side events, a business and investment forum was organized on the margins of the Conference.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/137** [draft: A/69/L.28] without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].

Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/214 of 22 December 2011, in which it decided to convene the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2014,

as well as its resolutions 67/222 of 21 December 2012, 68/225 of 20 December 2013 and 68/270 of 23 April 2014,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Austria for hosting the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna, from 3 to 5 November 2014, and for providing all the necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present resolution.

ANNEX I

Vienna Declaration

We, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of the States gathered here in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014 to participate in the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,

Having adopted the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,
Declare that:

1. We are strongly committed to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 to address in a holistic manner the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints;

2. We express our sincere appreciation for the constant efforts undertaken by the Government of Zambia in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries;

3. We express our profound appreciation to the Government of Austria as well as the City of Vienna and the people of Austria for hosting the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

ANNEX II

Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

I. Introduction

1. Thirty-two landlocked developing countries situated in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America, with a population of about 440 million, face special challenges that are associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets. Their international trade depends on transit through other countries. Additional border crossings and long distances from major markets, coupled with cumbersome transit procedures and inadequate infrastructure, substantially increase the total expenses for transport and other transaction costs, which erodes the competitive edge of landlocked developing countries, reduces economic growth and subsequently negatively affects their capacity to promote sustained economic development, human and social progress and environmental sustainability. Landlockedness is a major contributor to the relatively high incidence of extreme poverty and structural constraints in landlocked developing countries. Landlocked developing countries, as a group, are among the poorest of developing countries, and

many of them are also least developed countries, with limited capacities and dependence on a very limited number of commodities for their export earnings.

2. In most cases, the transit neighbours of landlocked developing countries are themselves developing countries, often with broadly similar economic structures and beset by similar scarcities of resources. The least developed transit countries are in an especially difficult situation. Furthermore, transit developing countries bear additional burdens, deriving from transit transport and its financial, infrastructural and social impacts. Transit developing countries are themselves in need of improvement of the technical and administrative arrangements of their transport and customs and administrative systems, to which their landlocked neighbours are expected to link.

3. The Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, adopted in 2003, reflected the strong commitment of all actors to address the special development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and to promote their full and more effective integration into the global economy through the implementation of specific actions in the priority areas of fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, international support measures and implementation and review.

4. There has been increased visibility and recognition of landlocked developing countries and their special needs at the international level, including at the United Nations. The international community has recognized the need to address the special challenges of landlocked developing countries in the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit and other high-level meetings on the Millennium Development Goals, as well as in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, entitled “The future we want”. Although there has been some progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action during the review period, there is a need for further global support for landlocked developing countries, including in the areas of financial and technical assistance, as they have a long way to go to fully benefit from globalization and to achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication, employment generation and structural transformation.

5. There is therefore an urgent need for an innovative, holistic and results-oriented 10-year programme of action, based on renewed and strengthened partnerships to accompany landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth. The special challenges and needs of landlocked developing countries are recognized, and there is a need to give appropriate consideration to landlocked developing countries in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

II. Review and assessment of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

6. Economic growth has been somewhat accelerated in landlocked developing countries: since the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries have achieved moderate economic growth.

The gross domestic product growth rate for landlocked developing countries is estimated to have increased from 4.5 per cent in 2003 to 6.3 per cent in 2013. However, there are wide disparities among landlocked developing countries, with many of them showing high vulnerability to external shocks. High economic growth has not translated into a speedy reduction of extreme poverty. Per capita gross domestic product in two thirds of landlocked developing countries is still well below \$1,000. Despite some progress in social development, half of the landlocked developing countries are still in the lowest ranks of the human development index, and there is still widespread poverty, high levels of food insecurity, high levels of child and maternal mortality and poor sanitation in many landlocked developing countries.

7. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries have initiated important policy reforms to address physical and non-physical aspects of transit transport. Landlocked developing countries have increased the harmonization of transport and transit policies, laws, procedures and practices with transit countries. A number of regional and subregional transit facilitation agreements have been concluded and adopted for implementation. Some landlocked developing countries and transit countries, through regional trade agreements, free trade areas and customs unions, have developed supportive institutional frameworks, such as transport and trade facilitation bodies or coordination committees, and road funds. Border facilities and procedures have been streamlined and harmonized, leading to increased efficiency and fewer delays. Yet there is a need to deepen the reforms, enhance efficiency and effectiveness and ensure that the achievements reached are sustained.

8. High transport and trade transaction costs remain a major stumbling block in the pursuit of landlocked developing countries to achieve their trade potential. Although the estimated time that landlocked developing countries take to import goods has decreased from 57 days in 2006 to 47 days in 2014 and to export from 49 to 42 days, that is still almost twice the time taken by transit countries. The average cost of exporting a container for landlocked developing countries is estimated at \$3,204, compared with \$1,268 for transit countries, and \$3,884 compared with \$1,434 for importing a container. The establishment of a secure, reliable and efficient transit transport system remains critical for landlocked developing countries to enable them to reduce transport costs and enhance the competitiveness of their exports to regional and global markets. Landlockedness, thus, has an enormous negative impact on the overall development of landlocked developing countries. It is estimated that the level of development in landlocked developing countries is, on average, 20 per cent lower than what it would be were they not landlocked.

9. There have been progressive efforts to develop and upgrade road and rail infrastructure and to provide maintenance for the existing infrastructure at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. Dry ports and one-stop border crossings are being established in all regions. Despite such progress, the development of physical infrastructure is still inadequate, posing a major obstacle to the ability of landlocked developing countries to utilize their full trade potential. With regard to air transport, cargo airfreight has increased in some landlocked developing countries, and the number of registered flight carrier departures in landlocked

developing countries as a group increased from an estimated 200,000 in 2003 to about 362,800 in 2013. The major challenges faced by landlocked developing countries with regard to the air transport industry include the enormous resources required for infrastructure investment and the maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of aged fleets. This limits the shipment by air of goods of high unit value or of a time-sensitive nature, such as documents, pharmaceuticals, fashion garments, electronic consumer goods and perishable agricultural and seafood products.

10. Despite some progress, landlocked developing countries lag behind other developing countries in terms of their telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband Internet access, which can play a crucial role in increasing connectivity, boosting the competitiveness of enterprises and facilitating international trade.

11. Owing, in large part, to an increase in world commodity prices, total merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries grew from an estimated \$44 billion in 2003 to \$228 billion in 2013. Imports have also increased to some extent. Although the global share of merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries has doubled in the last decade, they still account for a very low proportion, about 1.2 per cent, of such exports.

12. Furthermore, many landlocked developing countries rely heavily on a few mineral resources and low-value agricultural products for their exports to a limited number of markets, making them highly vulnerable to commodity price and demand volatility. The problem is further exacerbated by their low productive capacities and structural weaknesses, which limit the adding of meaningful value to their exports and the diversification of their exports and markets.

13. Official development assistance disbursements to landlocked developing countries more than doubled between 2003 and 2012, from an estimated \$12.2 billion to \$25.9 billion. Official development assistance accounts for more than 20 per cent of central Government expenditure in 16 landlocked developing countries. Aid-for-trade disbursements to landlocked developing countries grew from an estimated \$3.5 billion in 2006 to over \$5.9 billion in 2012. Aid for trade has helped to improve trade facilitation and trade-related infrastructure development.

14. While there has been some integration of the Almaty Programme of Action into the national development strategies of landlocked developing countries, there is a need for its better integration into development strategies at the national, regional and global levels.

15. While climate change was not part of the review of the Almaty Programme of Action, it remains true that landlocked developing countries are also vulnerable to climate change, which is exacerbating desertification and land degradation. Landlocked developing countries remain disproportionately affected by, inter alia, desertification, land degradation and drought as an estimated 54 per cent of their land is classified as dryland. Of the 29 countries in which at least 20 per cent of the population is estimated to live on degraded land, 14 are landlocked developing countries. Some landlocked developing countries are also affected by flooding, including glacial lake outburst floods. Landlocked developing countries also remain highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and to the multiple other challenges faced by the international community.

III. Renewed and strengthened partnerships for development

16. The present Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries and the transit countries and their development partners. Strengthened partnerships within the context of South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as strengthened partnerships with the relevant international and regional organizations and between public and private sector actors, are also essential.

17. Partnerships between landlocked developing countries and transit countries is mutually beneficial for the improvement and constant maintenance of their infrastructure connectivity and of technical and administrative arrangements in their transport, customs and logistic systems. Efficient transit transport systems, strong collaborative efforts in multimodal transport infrastructure development and interlinkage, the promotion of an enabling legal environment and institutional arrangements and strong national leadership on cooperative arrangements between landlocked developing countries and transit countries are also crucial for achieving structural transformation and sustainable economic growth and development. Transparency, good governance and efficient institutional arrangements in landlocked developing countries and transit countries should also play a very important role in promoting such partnerships. Collaboration must be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit countries.

18. Renewed and strengthened partnerships with development partners will be crucial for the full and successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, given the immensity of the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. The international community, including financial and development institutions, multilateral organizations and agencies and donor countries, is encouraged to provide financial and technical support, as appropriate, to advance the specific objectives listed herein. Regional and subregional cooperation or integration should also play an important role in successfully addressing the specific problems of landlocked developing countries.

19. Support from developing countries should take into full consideration the nature of South-South cooperation, in accordance with the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. Guided by the spirit of solidarity with landlocked developing countries, developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, will provide financial and technical support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

20. The private sector and civil society are important stakeholders, whose contribution will be critical to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including through transparent, effective and accountable public-private partnerships.

IV. Objectives

21. The overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action is to address the special development needs and

challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus to contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty. Particular attention should therefore be given in the period until 2024 to the development and expansion of efficient transit systems and transport development, enhancement of competitiveness, expansion of trade, structural transformation, regional cooperation and the promotion of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development to reduce poverty, build resilience, bridge economic and social gaps and ultimately help to transform landlocked countries into land-linked countries.

22. The specific goals and objectives are:

(a) To promote unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to and from the sea by all means of transport, on the basis of the freedom of transit, and other related measures, in accordance with applicable rules of international law;

(b) To reduce trade transaction costs and transport costs and improve international trade services through simplification and standardization of rules and regulations, so as to increase the competitiveness of exports of landlocked developing countries and reduce the costs of imports, thereby contributing to the promotion of rapid and inclusive economic development;

(c) To develop adequate transit transport infrastructure networks and complete missing links connecting landlocked developing countries;

(d) To effectively implement bilateral, regional and international legal instruments and strengthen regional integration;

(e) To promote growth and increased participation in global trade, through structural transformation related to enhanced productive capacity development, value addition, diversification and reduction of dependency on commodities;

(f) To enhance and strengthen international support for landlocked developing countries to address the needs and challenges arising from landlockedness in order to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

V. Priorities for action

Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues.

Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance:

(a) Transport infrastructure;

(b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure.

Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation:

(a) International trade;

(b) Trade facilitation.

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation.

Priority 5: Structural economic transformation.

Priority 6: Means of implementation.

Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues

23. Freedom of transit and transit facilities play a key role in the overall development of landlocked developing countries. It is important for those countries to have access to and from the sea, in accordance with applicable

international law, in order to fully integrate into the global trading system.

24. Harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements. Bilateral provisions should be no less favourable than what is provided for in the international conventions standards and best practices. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation adopted by consensus at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, should further guide the work in this area. Cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution to cross-border trade and transit transport problems. This cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit developing countries. Effective participation of key stakeholders, both public and private, is important to improve transit facilitation. It is important to promote free movement of people between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours through the development and implementation of simplified and harmonized visa systems for drivers involved in international transport (freight and passengers).

25. Specific objectives are:

(a) To reduce travel time along corridors, with the aim of allowing transit cargo to move a distance of 300 to 400 kilometres every 24 hours;

(b) To significantly reduce the time spent at land borders;

(c) To significantly improve intermodal connectivity, with the aim of ensuring efficient transfers from rail to road and vice versa and from port to rail and/or road and vice versa.

26. Actions by the landlocked developing countries and transit countries are:

(a) To endeavour to accede to and ratify in a timely fashion relevant international, regional and subregional conventions and other legal instruments related to transit transport and trade facilitation;

(b) To ensure effective implementation of international and regional conventions and bilateral agreements on transit transport and trade facilitation, as applicable, also with a view to reducing transport prices and time;

(c) To enhance coordination and cooperation of national agencies responsible for border and customs controls and procedures between them and with the respective agencies in transit countries. In this regard, transit countries are encouraged to share information with landlocked developing countries regarding any change in regulations and procedures governing transit policies as early as possible before their entry into force, in order to enable traders and other interested parties to become acquainted with them;

(d) To create an effective bilateral or regional mechanism, as appropriate, to address challenges and bottlenecks in the implementation of bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements and to avoid maintaining, seeking or adopting bilateral or regional arrangements establishing quotas or other quantitative restrictions to international transit;

(e) To promote the simplification, transparency and harmonization of legal and administrative regulations and

requirements related to transit systems by all modes of transit transport, including border crossings, consular services, customs procedures and removal of internal checkpoints;

(f) To develop effective logistics systems by aligning incentives for efficient transport and transit operations, promoting competition and phasing out anti-competitive practices such as cartels and queuing systems wherever possible;

(g) To promote the involvement of road, rail and inland waterway transport business associations in public-private partnership projects, exchange knowledge and implement transit cooperation initiatives and practices that have worked well in various regions around the world;

(h) To collaborate on exchanging trade and transport data with a view to conducting cross-border transactions faster and more efficiently;

(i) All landlocked developing countries should formulate national transit policies and establish appropriate national mechanisms with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

27. Actions by development partners are:

(a) To support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of international conventions and agreements relating to transit facilitation and initiatives that promote transit cooperation, reduce transit costs and establish smooth logistic arrangements;

(b) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries to establish multilateral sustainable and efficient transit transport regimes involving public and private stakeholders and to encourage and support the sharing of best practices related to experiences, policies and initiatives;

(c) To encourage regional and subregional organizations to assist with technical and financial support to the landlocked developing countries and transit countries to implement initiatives that promote transit cooperation.

Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance

28. Infrastructure development plays a key role in reducing the cost of development for landlocked developing countries. The development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology and energy infrastructure are crucial for landlocked developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated in the global market.

(a) Transport infrastructure

29. Despite improvement in transport infrastructure in landlocked developing countries, poor quality and gaps in physical infrastructure are still major obstacles to developing viable and predictable transit transport systems. There is inadequate physical infrastructure in rail transport, road transport, dry ports, inland waterways, pipelines and air transport in many landlocked developing countries, as well as few harmonized rules and procedures and limited cross-border investment and private-sector participation. The physical links of landlocked developing countries to regional transport infrastructure networks fall well short of expectations. Landlocked developing countries have a lower logistics performance than other countries in the area of transport-related infrastructure. Missing links need to be addressed urgently, and roads, railways and inland waterways need to

be upgraded to a level that can establish seamless and efficient transport infrastructure networks within the countries and across their borders. The improvement and maintenance of existing facilities is crucial. With regard to multi-modal transport, railways are important for the landlocked developing countries whose exports are usually bulky primary commodities. Railway transport should be promoted where its use is viable and rail networks already exist.

30. The magnitude of the required resources to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge. It requires forging international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, allocating more from national budgets, effectively deploying international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and strengthening the role of the private sector. At the same time, it also requires a substantial investment in capacity-building and legal, regulatory and policy reform to create an environment supportive of greater public and private investments in infrastructure. It is important to help landlocked developing countries to develop the capacity to prepare bankable, large-scale infrastructure projects and to explore innovative financing mechanisms for those projects, including public-private partnerships, where appropriate.

31. Specific objectives are:

(a) To significantly increase the quality of roads, including increasing the share of paved roads, by nationally appropriate standards;

(b) To expand and upgrade the railway infrastructure in landlocked developing countries, where applicable;

(c) To complete missing links in the regional road and railway transit transport networks.

32. Actions by landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are:

(a) To develop and implement comprehensive national policies for infrastructure development and maintenance, encompassing all modes of transportation, and to ensure that they are well coordinated with the transit countries in the areas where transit infrastructures intersect;

(b) To collaborate to promote sustainable and resilient transit systems through, inter alia, regular upgrading and maintenance, development of corridors along transit highways, developing border-crossing mechanisms, including one-stop border crossings, as appropriate, and promoting economies of scale for transport systems through inter-modal transport development, dry ports or inland container depots, trans-shipment facilities and similar logistic hubs;

(c) To work towards the harmonization of gauges to facilitate regional connectivity, where feasible, the development of reloading capacities, the expansion of training programmes and inter-railway staff exchange programmes;

(d) To promote multilateral and regional permit systems for road transport and to endeavour to implement permit-free bilateral and transit road transport and the expansion of a multilateral quota system among landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

(e) To endeavour, at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels, to gradually liberalize road transport services, taking into account specific circumstances in landlocked and transit developing countries;

(f) To encourage the development of international logistic hubs;

(g) To develop the necessary policies and regulatory frameworks to promote private sector involvement in infrastructure development and promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment;

(h) To promote public-private partnerships for the development and maintenance of transport infrastructure and their sustainability;

(i) To develop inland transport networks, including ancillary infrastructure, such as all-weather road, rail and riverside support infrastructures that ensure road and rail safety and involve local businesses in those services along highways and railway networks, thereby creating development corridors along transit highways and railroads.

33. Actions by development partners are:

(a) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries in the field of infrastructure development and maintenance and support landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in sharing experiences on transit transport development;

(b) To encourage multilateral and regional development banks to provide more support to landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries for investment in transport development, in accordance with their respective mandates;

(c) To continue assisting landlocked developing countries in the completion of missing links in railroads and road systems, as appropriate.

(b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure

34. Energy infrastructure and access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy and related technologies, on mutually agreed terms, are critically important for modernizing information and communications technology and transit systems, reducing delays and enhancing productive capacity to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The importance of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative is stressed. In this context, regional efforts, including the creation of networks of regional renewable energy and energy efficiency centres, will be important and need support.

35. Information and communications technology can contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth by: increasing productivity across all sectors; facilitating market expansion beyond borders to take advantage of economies of scale; and lowering costs and facilitating access to services, including access to broadband infrastructure and information via global media such as the Internet, thus contributing to increased participation in governance, accountability and transparency. However, many landlocked developing countries face severe challenges in keeping up with the necessary infrastructure deployment and concomitant evolution of policy frameworks. Broadband costs, as a share of gross national income, are much higher in landlocked developing countries than in coastal countries that are located close to submarine communications cables. Because of their small market sizes, the lack of a regionally harmonized regulatory environment is also a serious hindrance to cheaper information and communications technology services and greater geographical coverage.

36. Specific objectives are:

(a) To expand and upgrade, as appropriate, infrastructure for supply, transmission and distribution of

modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas;

(b) All landlocked developing countries should make broadband policy universal;

(c) To promote open and affordable access to the Internet for all;

(d) Landlocked developing countries should actively engage to address the digital divide.

37. Actions by landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are:

(a) To enhance their collaboration in promoting cross-border energy trade and energy transit through transmission lines to third countries;

(b) Landlocked developing countries should develop national energy policies to promote modern, reliable and renewable energy, with a view to significantly enhancing capacities in production, trade and distribution, with the aim of ensuring access to energy for all and the transformation of their economies;

(c) To work together to modernize transit and transport facilities and customs and other border facilities by fully utilizing the capabilities of information and communications technologies;

(d) To further improve and harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks;

(e) Landlocked developing countries should develop a national broadband policy with a view to improving access to international high-capacity fibre-optic cables and high-bandwidth backbone networks;

(f) Landlocked developing countries should strive to develop their service sectors through the development of information and communications technology infrastructures and their integration into all relevant areas to promote competitiveness, innovation and inclusion and in order to reduce transit time and cost and modernize their transit and customs facilities;

(g) To promote digital bridges to interconnect national backbones so that countries far from the sea cables also have access to affordable broadband and are able to expand the telecommunications and related services sector in order to facilitate affordable, accessible and high-quality telecommunications services.

38. Actions by development partners are:

(a) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries to develop their energy and information and communications technology sectors;

(b) To promote energy-efficient investment in landlocked developing countries and facilitate the green economic transformation;

(c) To support landlocked developing countries in promoting their national broadband policy and developing necessary broadband infrastructure;

(d) To provide capacity-building to landlocked developing countries for the use of modern and affordable communications technology;

(e) To continue to support efforts of landlocked developing countries with the respective transit developing countries to facilitate access to information and communications technologies and the transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and technology, on mutually agreed terms, for the development, maintenance and sustainability of infrastructure.

Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation

(a) International trade

39. Greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and ensuring their economic development. Exporting goods produced in landlocked developing countries incurs additional transport costs, which may decrease competitiveness and reduce revenue for producers from those countries. The export structure of many landlocked developing countries continues to be increasingly characterized by a reliance on the export of a limited number of products, in particular agricultural products and mineral resources. Priority should be given to policies and measures, with the support of development partners, to diversify the production and export structures of landlocked developing countries and to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in order to take full advantage of the multilateral trading system.

40. With the growing interlinkages between world trade, investment and production, global value chains account for a rising share of international trade. Landlocked developing countries have not been able to fully participate in regional or global value chains. Linking into global value chains presents an opportunity for landlocked developing countries to achieve greater integration within world markets, increase their competitiveness and become important links in production and distribution chains.

41. Services are important enablers of trade in goods and effective participation in international trade and global value chains. Efficient services enhance productivity, reduce the cost of doing business and promote job creation. Landlocked developing countries should be supported so as to increase the share of services in their economies and exports, including through enabling policies.

42. One of the main causes of marginalization of landlocked developing countries in the international trading system is high trade transaction costs. The importance of enhanced and predictable access to all markets for the exports of developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, was recognized in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development. In accordance with the commitments contained in the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and the rules of the World Trade Organization, full attention should be given in the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations to the needs and interests of developing countries, including landlocked and transit developing countries. Given the increasing growth in South-South trade, other developing countries could be important export destinations for the products of landlocked developing countries and sources of critical foreign direct investment.

43. Trade ministers at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, agreed by consensus on a package of declarations and instruments, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which clarifies and improves articles V, VIII and X of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1994, with a view to further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation and its timely implementation in the context of the Bali package are important for the facilitation of trade for landlocked

developing countries. The Agreement includes important provisions on technical assistance and capacity-building to help landlocked developing countries to implement it effectively.

44. Specific objectives are:

(a) To significantly increase the participation of landlocked developing countries in global trade, with a focus on substantially increasing exports;

(b) To significantly increase the value added and manufactured component, as appropriate, of the exports of landlocked developing countries, with the objective of substantially diversifying their markets and products;

(c) To further strengthen economic and financial ties between landlocked developing countries and other countries in the same region so as to gradually and consistently increase the landlocked developing countries' share in intraregional trade;

(d) To invite Member States to consider the specific needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in all international trade negotiations.

45. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To develop a national trade strategy based on comparative advantages and regional and global opportunities;

(b) To integrate trade policies into national development strategies;

(c) To promote a better business environment so as to assist national firms to integrate into regional and global value chains;

(d) To promote policies to help national firms, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to participate more fully in international trade;

(e) To fully leverage bilateral and regional preferential trading arrangements with a view to broadening regional and global integration;

(f) To implement policies and measures that will significantly increase economic and export diversification and value added.

46. Actions by transit developing countries include:

(a) To promote investment in landlocked developing countries, with the aim of promoting their productive and trading capacity and supporting their participation in regional trade arrangements;

(b) To improve market access for products originating from landlocked developing countries, without arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers that are not in conformity with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(c) Transit countries and landlocked developing countries should carry out studies on logistical competitiveness and logistical costs based on internationally recognized methodologies.

47. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries to diversify exports, integrate into global and regional value chains and effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations;

(b) To address non-tariff measures and reduce or eliminate arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers, that is, those that are not in conformity with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(c) Landlocked developing countries and development partners should promote better integration of small and medium-sized enterprises within international trade by,

when appropriate, strengthening institutions that support trade, fostering trade competitiveness, building spaces for private-public dialogue, fostering technical and vocational education and training and capacity-building and creating market linkages through business-to-business platforms;

(d) To promote the diffusion and uptake of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies on mutually agreed terms and conditions, including through investment or cooperation projects to promote economic diversification and sustainable development, as appropriate;

(e) To offer appropriate technical assistance and capacity-building to landlocked developing countries to complete the process of their accession to the World Trade Organization, fulfil their commitments and integrate into the multilateral trading system;

(f) To continue to provide aid for trade to landlocked developing countries, consistent with World Trade Organization guidelines.

(b) Trade facilitation

48. Non-physical barriers, delays and inefficiencies associated with border crossings and ports, including customs procedures and documentation requirements, uncertainty in logistical services, weak institutions and widespread lack of human and productive capacities, continue to make transport costs high. They are at the core of the continued marginalization of many landlocked developing countries. Further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance should have a concrete and direct impact on reducing the cost of doing trade and stimulating faster and competitive trade for landlocked developing countries. Such improved trade facilitation would help landlocked developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services.

49. In many landlocked developing countries, human and institutional capacities are not adequate in a number of areas, including in customs and border entities, transit transport agencies, the trade negotiation process and the implementation of transit and trade facilitation agreements, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, leading to a lack of effective implementation. Technical assistance and the improvement of trade- and transit-related logistics are crucial in enabling landlocked developing countries to fully participate in and benefit from multilateral trade negotiations, effectively implement policies and regulations aimed at facilitating transport and trade and diversify their export base.

50. Specific objectives are:

(a) To significantly simplify and streamline border crossing procedures with the aim of reducing port and border delays;

(b) To improve transit facilities and their efficiency with the aim of reducing transaction costs;

(c) To ensure that all transit regulations, formalities and procedures for traffic in transit are published and updated in accordance with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization.

51. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national committees on trade facilitation, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

(b) To scale up and implement trade facilitation initiatives such as single-stop inspections, single windows for documentation, electronic payment and transparency and modernization of border posts and customs services, among others;

(c) To effectively implement integrated border management systems and strive to establish one-stop border posts, where appropriate, with neighbouring landlocked or transit developing countries to allow for the joint processing of legal and regulatory requirements, with a view to reducing clearance times at borders, while fully utilizing the tools for trade facilitation developed by international organizations to build national capacity;

(d) To ensure full and inclusive representation of the private sector, including public-private partnerships and transport business associations, in trade facilitation initiatives and policy, and to develop the necessary policies and regulatory framework to promote private sector involvement.

52. Actions by transit developing countries include:

(a) To ensure that trade facilitation initiatives, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, are developed and implemented together with landlocked developing countries in all relevant areas;

(b) To undertake further harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules, documentation requirements and border crossing and customs procedures; to enhance collaboration and cooperation among various customs and border-crossing agencies across borders; to promote the use of electronic (e-transaction) processes, the pre-arrival submission of customs declarations, risk management inspection systems and authorized economic operator systems; to improve transparency, predictability and consistency in customs activities; and to establish one-stop border posts, as appropriate, joint customs controls and inspection at border sites and other forms of integrated border management at borders with landlocked developing countries;

(c) Sharing best practices in customs, border and corridor management and in the implementation of trade facilitation policies should be encouraged at the global, regional, subregional and South-South levels, including in the private sector;

(d) To fully utilize the tools for trade facilitation developed by international organizations to build national capacity and ensure secure and reliable transport across borders by, inter alia, effectively implementing existing international standards and best practices for customs transit and safety and security of transport chains;

(e) To ensure transparency in border crossings, customs and transit transport rules, regulations, fees and charges and to accord non-discriminatory treatment so that the freedom of transit of goods is guaranteed to landlocked developing countries.

53. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support landlocked and transit developing countries in the area of trade facilitation, in accordance with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which was agreed upon by consensus in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and to encourage international organizations to help landlocked developing countries to assess their needs in implementing that Agreement and relevant trade facilitation measures;

(b) To support activities, including trade facilitation, aimed at simplifying, streamlining, standardizing and harmonizing import, export and customs procedures;

(c) To encourage the sharing of information on experiences and best practices related to trade facilitation with a view to creating an environment that allows for the implementation of multi-country customs transit guarantee regimes through the implementation of either international transit agreements or functional regional agreements;

(d) To support capacity-building, including training programmes, in the areas of customs, border clearance and transport;

(e) To encourage regional aid for trade so as to promote trade integration among landlocked developing countries and transit countries.

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation

54. Close cooperation with transit countries is a *sine qua non* for improved connectivity in transport, energy and information and communications technology. Infrastructure, trade and regulatory policies, together with political stability of neighbouring countries, have significant repercussions for the external trade of landlocked developing countries. The costs of reaching international markets for landlocked developing countries do not depend only on their geography, policies, infrastructure and administration procedures, but also on those of neighbouring countries. Thus, regional integration and coherent and harmonized regional policies provide an opportunity to improve transit transport connectivity and ensure greater intraregional trade, common regulatory policies, border agency cooperation and harmonized customs procedures to expand regional markets.

55. There is a need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries in a broader range of areas than just trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity. This approach is aimed at fostering structural change and economic growth in landlocked developing countries as a goal, and also as a means of collectively linking regions to global markets. This would enhance competitiveness and help to maximize benefits from globalization. Documentation and the sharing and dissemination of best practices is important to allow cooperating partners to benefit from each other's experience.

56. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To promote regional integration by strengthening regional trade, transport, communications and energy networks;

(b) To promote harmonization of regional policies so as to strengthen regional synergy, competitiveness and regional value chains;

(c) To strengthen participation of landlocked developing countries in bilateral and regional integration frameworks.

57. Actions by transit developing countries include their contribution to deepening regional integration through the coherent development of regional infrastructure, trade facilitation measures and regional trade agreements, including the establishment of effective

and efficient customs guarantee systems to help landlocked developing countries to overcome constraints resulting from their landlockedness.

58. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support efforts made by landlocked developing countries and their transit partners to deepen regional integration through the development and implementation of key regional transport projects and regional transport agreements for facilitating the cross-border movement of goods and passengers;

(b) To support ongoing regional integration processes involving landlocked developing countries;

(c) To share best practices in promoting regional integration.

Priority 5: Structural economic transformation

59. Many landlocked developing countries remain reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition. In order for landlocked developing countries to fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is important to undertake measures that could promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of their geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to poverty eradication and inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Increased value addition and economic diversification are key to such structural economic transformation. Institutional capacity-building and human resources development are equally important for landlocked developing countries.

60. Improving the manufacturing capacity of landlocked developing countries, including their contribution to regional and global value chains, can achieve the triple objective of creating better-paying jobs, increasing revenue and reducing the bulk of their primary exports. Higher-value and low-bulk exports are particularly crucial for landlocked developing countries. In this context, it is important to place proper emphasis on the development of manufacturing, agriculture and the services sector, including finance, information and communications technologies and tourism, as appropriate to national circumstances. Tourism can play an important role in building the economic sector, providing employment and generating foreign exchange.

61. Science, technology and innovation play a critical role in achieving structural economic transformation, productive capacity development and value addition. Conducive national policies, international support and foreign direct investment are necessary to facilitate access to science, technology and innovation, and landlocked developing countries should promote investment in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development.

62. The private sector contributes to economic growth and poverty eradication through the building of productive capacity, creation of decent jobs, promotion of innovation, economic diversification and competition. In landlocked developing countries, the private sector is actively involved in activities related to transit and trade facilitation, including as traders, freight forwarders, insurance providers and transporters, and the sector is a source of tax revenue and domestic investment and a partner for foreign direct investment. Public-private partnerships can play an important role in infrastructure development.

63. Specific objectives are:

(a) To increase value addition in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, with the aim of achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development;

(b) To increase economic and export diversification;

(c) To promote service-based growth, including from tourism, with a view to increasing its contribution to the national economy;

(d) To encourage the inflow of foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors.

64. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(a) To develop a structural transformation strategy aimed at improving science, technology and innovation, export diversification, productivity, efficiency and competitiveness in the agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors, including tourism;

(b) To encourage innovative solutions, entrepreneurship and the use of modern, cost-effective and locally adapted technologies, with an emphasis on sectors such as agriculture, transport, information and communications, finance, energy, health, water and sanitation and education, as well as the development of effective public and private partnerships;

(c) To build a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in manufacturing, agriculture and services;

(d) To promote the attraction of more diversified foreign direct investment through the creation of a conducive environment, with the aim of enhancing value addition, productive capacity, transit transport infrastructure and completion of missing links connecting landlocked developing countries within the regional network;

(e) To undertake measures to modernize the services sector by strengthening links between and among financial intermediaries, creative industries and business and legal and technical services;

(f) To create industrial clusters, such as export-processing zones and regional centres of excellence, with the aim of fostering knowledge networks and connectedness among companies;

(g) To prioritize private sector development, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises;

(h) To develop an industrial policy that takes into account the need for improved access to financial resources, development of appropriate human capacity and investment in supportive economic infrastructure as a way to further strengthen the private sector;

(i) To strengthen, as appropriate, an effective competition policy that supports business activity and further consolidates a supportive legal and regulatory framework, and to create macroeconomic conditions and systems that can facilitate the development of the private sector;

(j) To utilize the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries for sharing experiences, know-how, research and other resources on issues related to trade, transit, transport and capacity-building among landlocked developing countries. Landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so should ratify the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.

65. Actions by development partners include:

(a) To support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to improve their productive capacities and create economic diversification;

(b) To contribute to the efforts of landlocked developing countries to share innovative technologies, scientific knowledge and technical know-how and best practices;

(c) To support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to increase the value addition of their agricultural and industrial output;

(d) To support landlocked developing countries in building institutional and human capacities aimed at improving their ability to attract foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors and to enhance negotiation skills for bringing in responsible investment;

(e) To support landlocked developing countries to enable them to pursue the effective partnerships necessary for capacity-building, sustainability and quality enhancement, as well as for sectoral development, including the development of tourism;

(f) To support landlocked developing countries in building resilience, developing capacity to respond effectively to external shocks and addressing their specific supply-side constraints.

Priority 6: Means of implementation

66. The development and progress of any country is the primary responsibility of that country itself. Landlocked developing countries have made efforts to mobilize domestic resources for the development of infrastructure and transit facilities, as well as for overall socioeconomic development. However, lack of adequate financial resources and capacity constraints are some of the biggest challenges facing landlocked developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustained growth and sustainable development. Landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

67. The support of development partners is needed to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries to establish and maintain effective transit transport systems, integration into the world economy, structural transformation of their economies and enhancement of their productive capacities. Development partners are therefore encouraged to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action. Development partners should also encourage private sector investment in landlocked developing countries that are implementing the Programme of Action.

68. Official development assistance flows remain a major source of external financing for many landlocked developing countries. It is important to urgently fulfil existing official development assistance commitments, and such assistance to landlocked developing countries should fully take into account the specific situation of each country. Development partners and multilateral organizations have a crucial role to play in supporting the efforts of landlocked developing countries to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

69. Aid for trade plays a key role in assisting capacity-building for landlocked developing countries on the for-

mulation of trade policies, the implementation of trade facilitation measures and the development of trade-related infrastructure, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of their products in export markets. Aid for trade, in combination with complementary policies, has contributed to lower trade costs, with additional infrastructure, better border institutions and regulatory procedures and enhanced capacities. Aid for trade, along with the commitment of landlocked developing countries to necessary reforms, is also important in linking to or advancing the position of landlocked developing countries in the global and regional value chains.

70. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation. South-South and triangular cooperation also have a role to play in increasing the growth and development of landlocked developing countries, as well as transit developing countries, through their contribution, as appropriate, to the sharing of best practices, human and productive capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

71. The implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action would also require individual and concerted efforts by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the common funds for commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations. These organizations are invited to give priority to requests for technical assistance and capacity-building support from landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates.

72. The private sector, including through foreign direct investment, also has a critical role to play in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, for example through building and strengthening productive capacity, export growth, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, diffusion of productive know-how, managerial skill and capital, creation of wealth, the opening up of new markets for high-value added products and services and employment generation. Foreign direct investment can also play a key role in building the infrastructure that underpins economic activities.

VI. Implementation, follow-up and review

73. Implementation, follow-up and review should be undertaken at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. Follow-up and review should be a continuous process aimed at reinforcing partnerships and mutual accountability at all levels and by all actors.

74. At the national level, Governments are invited to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies for its effective implementation. Landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are encouraged to establish national coordination mechanisms, where appropriate. Monitoring and review should involve all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

75. At the subregional and regional levels, monitoring and review should be undertaken through existing intergovernmental processes. Regional and subregional

organizations, including regional economic communities and regional development banks, are invited to mainstream the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes, in coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, within their existing mandates, and the regional commissions. The regional commissions are encouraged to submit analytical reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The relevant regional and subregional organizations and the private sector should be actively involved in the sessions of the regional commissions in that regard.

76. At the global level, the General Assembly should continue to undertake reviews of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action through reports of the Secretary-General. The governing bodies of organizations in the United Nations system are invited to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action into their programme of work and to conduct sectoral and thematic reviews of the Programme of Action, as appropriate. The private sector should be involved in the reviews at the global level.

77. In accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and will undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels. The Office of the High Representative, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates.

78. The General Assembly is invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The Assembly, towards the end of the decade, is also invited to consider holding a third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in order to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the present Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action.

Follow-up to the Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/225, the Secretary-General, submitted a December report [A/69/708] on the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. The report contained an assessment of the main elements of the Conference's outcome document and suggestions for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action (see p. 1014). The Secretary-General noted that the Vienna Programme of Action succeeded the Almaty Programme of Action [YUN 2003, p. 875] as a development blueprint for landlocked developing countries for the period 2014–2024. While the principal focus

of the Almaty Programme of Action was on transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries, the Vienna Programme of Action was a holistic and results-oriented programme with an overarching goal, specific goals and time-bound, specific, results-oriented objectives. The six specific goals were to promote unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to and from the sea by all means of transport; reduce trade transaction costs and transport costs and improve international trade services through the simplification and standardization of rules and regulations; develop adequate transit transport infrastructure networks and complete missing links connecting landlocked developing countries; effectively implement bilateral, regional and international legal instruments and strengthen regional integration; promote growth and increased participation in global trade through structural transformation; and enhance and strengthen international support for landlocked developing countries. The Vienna Programme of Action had six priority areas for action, which included the three priorities previously found in the Almaty Programme of Action—fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructural development and maintenance, and international trade and trade facilitation; and three new priorities: regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation, and means of implementation.

The Vienna Programme of Action reflected a deeper understanding of the challenges that landlocked developing countries faced, and contained a call for enhancing international trade performance, trade facilitation, productive capacities, economic diversification, value addition in manufacturing and agriculture, increased connectivity to regional and global value chains, regional integration and collaboration with a vibrant private sector based on expanded partnerships. The Programme of Action demonstrated also the renewed and strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries, their transit neighbours and their development partners. One of the notable improvements in the Vienna Programme of Action related to regional integration and cooperation, which, for the first time, was a stand-alone priority.

The Secretary-General concluded that the full and effective implementation of the goals and specific objectives and actions in the six priority areas, agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action, would not only facilitate the establishment of efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries, but would also help them build their productive capacities, diversify their exports, structurally transform their economies, integrate into the global and regional value chains and achieve more sustained economic growth. He said that it was important that the UN system support Member States in mainstreaming the Vienna Programme of Action

into their development strategies, and invited regional and subregional organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action into their respective programmes, in coordination with OHRLLS and the regional commissions. The Secretary-General urged OHRLLS to ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action; to undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels; and to work on developing relevant indicators for measuring progress in implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries. Clear reflection of the interests of the landlocked developing countries in the post-2015 development agenda was also crucial for the successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and coherence with the global process.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/471/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/232** without vote [agenda item 22 (b)].

Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling further the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs

of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affects their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries and the importance of enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the Vienna Programme of Action is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships to accompany landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

Taking note of the communiqué of the Thirteenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2014,

Taking note also of the report of the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Ten-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries”;

2. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the actions that have been agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in its six priority areas, namely, fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

3. *Invites* Member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

4. *Invites* the development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

5. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the common funds for commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programme of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the

Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

6. *Invites* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

7. *Invites* the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the respective areas of competence and in line with the national priorities of the landlocked developing countries;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to give appropriate consideration to the specific needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Underlines* the importance of the successful implementation, follow-up and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

10. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and will undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels, and also stresses that the Office, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries".

Operational activities for development

In 2014, the United Nations continued to review how its development operations should be situated in the evolving post-2015 development agenda, including in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development in the UN system. Several UN entities had aligned their strategic plans with QCPR in timing and content, but progress was uneven in areas related to the coherent and effective functioning of the UN development system. During its operational activities for development segment, the Economic and Social Council held a high-level dialogue on the changing landscape of development cooperation, and adopted a resolution calling for wider implementation of QCPR. In December, the General Assembly adopted resolutions that affirmed that UN operational activities for development should make a key contribution to the objectives of the post-2015 development agenda, and invited UN development entities, in collaboration with national and international stakeholders, to support efforts to strengthen the capacity of Member States in the evaluation of development activities.

Development assistance was mainly provided through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in its dual role as the lead UN development agency and coordinator of the UN development system. During the first year of its strategic plan, 2014–2017, UNDP took steps to streamline its operations and the use of its resources, with an emphasis on lasting and measurable development impacts. Progress against the strategic plan was on track, with performance against many development outputs exceeding milestones. Millions of people benefited from achievements in the areas of sustainable development pathways, inclusive and effective democratic governance, and resilience building. UNDP also boosted its readiness and agility to respond to crises. In 2014, it led the UN system early recovery support to the Ebola-affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Organizational restructuring started to deliver benefits, and UNDP initiated critical reforms, including an upgraded strategic planning architecture; institution-wide efforts to boost and measure programme quality; and new standards for project quality.

The UNDP-administered United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme—with 6,325 volunteers from 155 countries—provided a total financial value of \$201 million, supported by the UNDP regular

resources. The UNV strategic framework 2014–2017 was launched during the year, and key results were the increased acknowledgement of volunteers and volunteerism as powerful resources and vital components of sustainable development; further mobilization of UNV volunteers for the delivery of peace and development results; and the enhancement or forging of traditional and new partnerships within and outside the UN system.

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) delivered more than 1,200 peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects in over 80 countries. UNOPS delivery during the year was \$1.2 billion, compared to \$1.16 billion in 2013. That increase was mainly due to increased demand for UNOPS support to partners' development work in Afghanistan and Myanmar; mine action services in Mali, Somalia and South Sudan; and humanitarian response activities in the Middle East.

In May, pursuant to the 2013 upgrade of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the Secretary-General appointed a Special Envoy on South-South Cooperation. In December, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that requested the UN development system to continue improving coordination among its agencies to enhance its support for South-South and triangular cooperation, and requested the UNDP Administrator to establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism, coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, to encourage joint support for South-South and triangular initiatives.

System-wide activities

Operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council, during its 2014 substantive session [A/69/3/Rev.1], discussed UN operational activities for international development cooperation. On 30 January (**decision 2014/204**), the Council decided that the focus of its 2014 operational activities segment would be the changing landscape of development cooperation and what that meant for the UN system.

At meetings of its high-level segment from 24 to 26 February and on 14 July, the Council consid-

ered the follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council; reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Entity for Gender and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); the WFP annual report for 2013; and the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its eighteenth (2014) session. The Council took note of those reports on 14 July (**decision 2014/228**).

Also before the Council were the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system [A/69/63-E/2014/10] (see below), and a note by the Secretary-General on the policy for independent system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the UN system [YUN 2013, p. 840].

On 24 February, the Council held a high-level dialogue on "The changing development landscape: what does it mean for the United Nations system?" and a dialogue with the executive heads of the UN funds and programmes on "Looking to the future: current and emerging strategic priorities". On 25 February, the Council held a policy dialogue on the "United Nations system working as one: how to make it happen?" and a dialogue with the specialized agencies on "The changing development landscape: what will it mean for specialized agencies in a post-2015 era with focus on sustainable development?" On 14 July, the Council adopted resolution 2014/14 (see below).

Operational activities for development

Comprehensive policy review

On 6 February [A/69/63-E/2014/10], the Secretary-General reported to the Economic and Social Council on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859] on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the UN system. The report provided an overview of results achieved, as well as measures and processes implemented in the follow-up to QCPR by the end of 2013.

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5 [YUN 2013, p. 837], for the first time the report integrated the analyses of both the funding of the UN operational activities for development and the implementation of QCPR. A new single, coherent and comprehensive monitoring and reporting framework on QCPR had been developed, with full ownership by the UN development system. Several UN entities had aligned their new strategic plans with QCPR

both in timing and content, and there was progress on many mandates of QCPR resolution, though it was uneven in some areas in relation to the coherent and effective functioning of the UN development system. The report highlighted that effective follow-up to QCPR had to be situated in the evolving post-2015 development agenda, and that there was a need for an internal reflection by the UN development system on policy coherence in the context of the changes in the overall global environment and the new development cooperation landscape.

2012 financing. Total funding for operational activities for development of the UN system amounted to \$23.9 billion in 2012. About two thirds (\$16.2 billion) were directed towards development-related activities, with the other one third (\$7.7 billion) spent on humanitarian assistance-related activities. Some three quarters of total contributions in 2012 were made directly by Governments, which included the contributions made to the UN multi-donor trust funds. The remaining 25 per cent was accounted for by the European Commission and by non-governmental organizations, public-private partnerships and other multilateral institutions. Those sources of funding had increased significantly over the past 15 years, which indicated a broadening of the donor base. Expenditures totalled \$24.2 billion in 2012, compared with \$25.1 billion in 2011.

Funding for operational activities for development was concentrated in a relatively small number of UN entities. The top 10—UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), UNFPA, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)—accounted for 88 per cent of all contributions in 2012. For most entities, the non-core component of funding exceeded the core component, sometimes by a significant margin. Consequently, the sustainability of the results intended to be achieved by the strategic plans was compromised, and the flexibility required by entities to dynamically respond to the changing needs and priorities of programme countries was curtailed.

By region, in 2012, Africa received 36 per cent of total expenditures; Asia and the Pacific 18 per cent; the Americas 9 per cent; Western Asia 8 per cent; and Europe 2 per cent.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 14 July [meeting 42], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/14** [draft: E/2014/L.19] without vote [agenda item 6].

Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 67/226 of 21 December 2012 and 68/229 of 20 December 2013 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/5 of 12 July 2013, in which key system-wide policy orientations were established for development cooperation at both the Headquarters and the country levels,

Reaffirming the importance of the timely and full implementation of the system-wide policy orientations established in General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recalling the critical role of the Council in providing coordination, monitoring and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that those policy orientations are implemented in a full and timely manner on a system-wide basis in accordance with the present resolution and General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006, 65/285 of 29 June 2011, 67/226 and 68/1 of 20 September 2013,

Reaffirming that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Noting the changes to its cycle,

Recognizing the importance and catalytic role of predictable official development assistance for international development, noting that global official development assistance increased steadily from 1997 to 2010 and that official development assistance increased in 2013, and noting with concern that official development assistance declined in 2011 and 2012,

Introduction

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

2. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and all relevant entities, to establish a comprehensive and coherent monitoring and reporting framework for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

3. *Requests* the United Nations funds and programmes to make every effort to continue to improve monitoring and data collection methods with a view to contributing towards further enhancement of the analytical quality of the report of the Secretary-General on operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

4. *Requests* the United Nations development system to provide quality inputs and appropriate updates to the

report of the Secretary-General with a view to continuing to improve high-quality analytical reporting on the operational activities for development, while stressing the need to minimize transaction costs associated with reporting;

5. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to further improve the analytical and evidence-based quality of the report on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, including by addressing challenges and presenting options for enhancing the implementation of system-wide mandates of the review;

6. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Development Group and the High-level Committee on Management fully align their efforts to monitor implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and align their work in the area of operational activities for development with the review;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the United Nations funds and programmes that have not already done so to consolidate their annual reporting on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review within their reporting on the implementation of their strategic plans;

8. *Requests* the United Nations funds and programmes to continue to improve the quality of their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council;

9. *Reiterates its encouragement* to entities of the United Nations development system with operational activities for development that have not done so to fully align their strategic plans and their strategic planning and budgeting cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, taking into account their respective mandates;

Funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

10. *Reiterates* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and in this regard recognizes the need for organizations to address, on a continuous basis, the imbalance between core and non-core resources and to report to the Council in 2015, as part of their regular reporting, on the measures taken to address this imbalance;

11. *Notes* that the majority of the increase in funding for the United Nations development system between 1997 and 2012 was in the form of non-core resources, resulting in an imbalance between core and non-core resources, and notes with concern that the percentage of core resources in the overall funding for operational activities has declined, representing only 28 per cent in 2012;

12. *Also notes* that non-core resources represent an important contribution to the overall resource base of the United Nations development system and complement core resources in supporting operational activities for development, thus contributing to an increase in total resources, while noting the need to make non-core resources more flexible and better aligned with strategic plans and national priorities and recognizing that non-core resources are not a substitute for core resources;

13. *Recognizes* that non-core resources pose challenges, in particular restricted earmarked funding such as single-donor project-specific funding, by potentially increasing transaction costs, fragmentation, competition and overlap among entities and providing disincentives for pursuing an Organization-wide focus, strategic positioning and coher-

ence and may also potentially distort programme priorities regulated by intergovernmental bodies and processes;

14. *Expresses its regret* that the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 67/226 with respect to taking concrete measures to broaden the donor base was not fulfilled, and requests the United Nations funds and programmes and encourages specialized agencies that have not done so to report to their governing bodies at a 2014 session on concrete measures taken to broaden the donor base and increase the number of countries and other partners making contributions to the United Nations development system in order to reduce the reliance of the system on a limited number of donors;

15. *Also expresses its regret* that the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 67/226 with respect to the critical mass of core resources was not fulfilled, and reiterates the request to the United Nations funds and programmes to define common principles for the concept of critical mass of core resources, which may include the level of resources adequate to respond to the needs of the programme countries and to produce the results expected in strategic plans, including administrative, management and programme costs; in consultation with Member States, and to present specific proposals in 2014 with a view to a decision in 2014;

16. *Stresses* the need to avoid the use of core/regular resources to subsidize non-core/extrabudgetary financed activities, reaffirms that the guiding principle governing the financing of all non-programme costs should be based on full cost recovery, proportionally, from core and non-core funding sources, and in this regard notes the timelines agreed by the executive boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for an independent and external assessment to be performed in 2016 of the consistency and alignment of the new cost recovery methodology with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

17. *Recalls* the request contained in General Assembly resolution 67/226 to the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes and the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, as appropriate, to organize structured dialogues with Member States during 2014 on how to finance the development results agreed in the new strategic planning cycle of the respective entities, with a view to making non-core resources more predictable and less restricted/earmarked, broadening the donor base and improving the adequacy and predictability of resource flows;

18. *Welcomes* the progress made by the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to ensure that available and projected core and non-core resources are consolidated within an integrated budgetary framework, based on the priorities of their respective strategic plans, and encourages all agencies that have not already done so to develop such integrated frameworks in their next budget cycle;

Contribution of the operational activities of the United Nations to national capacity development and development effectiveness

19. *Reaffirms* the request by the General Assembly to the United Nations development system to develop, for the consideration of Member States, a common approach for measuring progress in capacity development, including

measures to ensure sustainability, as well as to develop specific frameworks aimed at enabling programme countries, upon their request, to design, monitor and evaluate results in the development of their capacity to achieve national development goals and strategies, and invites the Secretary-General to provide, in his 2015 annual report on the implementation of Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, comprehensive and evidence-based updates on measures taken in this regard;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his regular report to the Council in 2015, in consultation with Member States, information on steps taken by entities of the United Nations development system to strengthen and use national capacities and to make proposals to address any obstacles;

21. *Requests* the funds and programmes of the United Nations development system, and invites specialized agencies, to consider the findings and observations related to national capacity gaps repeatedly highlighted by programme countries to be addressed through the work of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including through the strengthening and use of national capacities, and to report to their governing bodies in 2015 with recommendations for implementation in this regard;

Poverty eradication

22. *Welcomes* the integration of poverty eradication, as the overarching priority, into the strategic plans of some United Nations system organizations, in accordance with their mandates;

23. *Reaffirms* the call by the General Assembly, contained in its resolution 67/226, for the organizations of the United Nations development system to assign the highest priority to the eradication of poverty, and in this regard requests the United Nations funds and programmes to include in their regular reporting to the Council information on steps taken, in accordance with their mandates, on the scaling up of efforts to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger, sharing of good practices, lessons learned, strategies, programmes and policies, inter alia, capacity-building, employment generation, education, vocational training, rural development and the mobilization of resources, which aim at achieving poverty eradication and promoting the active participation of those living in poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies;

South-South cooperation

24. *Recalls* the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 67/226 on strengthening South-South cooperation, in this regard notes the progress made by some entities of the United Nations development system in mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into their key policies, strategic frameworks, operational activities and budgets, and welcomes decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, which contains, inter alia, measures to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation, including through improved allocation of resources across the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, to present, as part of his annual report on the

implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2015, recommendations based on a thorough analysis of obstacles to and incentives for the scaling up of United Nations support for South-South cooperation, including lessons learned from the implementation of successful South-South cooperation projects and programmes;

26. *Decides* that the President of the Council will include in its agenda for the operational activities segment of 2015 an interactive segment with relevant United Nations stakeholders and external stakeholders on lessons learned from the implementation of South-South cooperation projects and programmes and the potential benefits for the United Nations development system and participating countries;

27. *Reaffirms* the call in paragraph 77 of General Assembly resolution 67/226 for all countries in a position to do so, as well as other stakeholders, to increase their support for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, especially by providing technical assistance and mobilizing financial resources on a sustainable basis, and in this regard requests the United Nations funds and programmes to clarify for Member States, as part of their regular briefings, the role of all stakeholders and the action taken so far by such entities in this regard;

28. *Recalls* the request contained in General Assembly resolution 67/226 to the heads of specialized agencies, the United Nations funds and programmes and regional commissions to pay special attention to the implementation of South-South cooperation projects, including those managed or supported by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and requests the Secretary-General, as part of his regular reporting to the Council, to provide an update on progress in this regard;

Transition from relief to development

29. *Reaffirms* the request contained in General Assembly resolution 67/226 to the United Nations development system to accelerate progress in deepening coordination between Secretariat entities and members of the United Nations development system, inter alia, through the simplification and harmonization of programming instruments and processes and business practices, with a view to providing effective, efficient and responsive support to national efforts in countries in transition from relief to development, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his regular reporting to the Council comprehensive and evidence-based updates on progress in this regard;

Gender equality and women's empowerment

30. *Welcomes* efforts made by entities of the United Nations development system to implement the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and requests those entities of the United Nations development system that have not already done so to accelerate efforts to implement the Action Plan with a view to ensuring that all relevant entities meet its performance standards by 2017;

Resident coordinator system

31. *Notes with appreciation* progress achieved in implementing the cost-sharing agreement for the resident coordinator system, notes the funding gap expected for the resident coordinator system for 2014 and 2015, in this regard requests entities of the United Nations development system that have not already done so to take appropriate ac-

tions to implement the agreement, subject to the approval of their governing bodies and without impacting programme delivery, including by paying their contribution in full, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his regular reporting to the Council updates on agency-specific progress in this regard;

"Delivering as one"

32. *Welcomes* the finalization of the standard operating procedures for countries adopting "Delivering as one" on a voluntary basis, and in this regard requests the United Nations funds and programmes, and strongly encourages the specialized agencies, to take appropriate actions to fully and coherently implement the standard operating procedures, including the United Nations Development Group Plan of Action for Headquarters, and to report annually on progress in this regard at the annual meeting of their respective governing bodies;

33. *Requests* the United Nations development system to provide an update to Member States on the process for review and approval of common country programme documents at the operational activities segment of the substantive session of 2015 of the Council;

34. *Recognizes* that pooled funding mechanisms are important tools in advancing "Delivering as one" in countries wishing to adopt this approach, and encourages donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to prioritize the use of such mechanisms in order to maximize the impact of the "Delivering as one" reforms in those countries;

Simplification and harmonization of business practices

35. *Requests* the United Nations funds and programmes to present the comprehensive joint action plans for the simplification and harmonization of business practices to their respective executive boards, and invites the United Nations funds and programmes to undertake a thorough review of progress in the simplification and harmonization of business practices;

36. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes to present an update, in 2014, on progress towards a proposal on the common definition of operating costs and a common and standardized system of cost control, paying due attention to their different business models, with a view to taking a decision on this issue in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2016;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2015, as part of his regular reporting, on progress in achieving full system-wide interoperability of enterprise resource planning systems in 2016 in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

38. *Notes with concern* that plans containing concrete proposals for pilots for common United Nations service centres in consenting programme countries that represent the diversity of United Nations presence in all regions were not presented to the substantive session of 2014 of the Council, as requested in its resolution 2013/5, and in this regard reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure adequate and evidence-based planning and design of common United Nations service centres by including such concrete proposals in plans for review by the Council in 2015;

39. *Notes* that some entities of the United Nations development system are establishing agency-specific service

centres, and in this regard calls upon all relevant members of the system to participate in the establishment of the common service centres, with the intent that such centres provide long-term and system-wide cost savings and ensure higher quality, more effective and cost-efficient support services in all programme countries;

Results-based management

40. *Notes with concern* that there was no comprehensive reporting to the Council in 2013, with a view to implementation in 2014, on progress made towards a more robust, coherent and harmonized approach to operational activities for development, focused on results, which would streamline and improve the planning, monitoring, measurement and reporting on system-wide results, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to update the Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2015, as part of his regular reporting;

Evaluation of operational activities for development

41. *Welcomes* the new policy for independent system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and notes the decision by the General Assembly contained in its resolution 68/229 to launch two pilot evaluations in the current quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycle;

42. *Calls upon* donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to contribute resources to the implementation of the two pilot independent system-wide evaluations, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council, in 2015, as part of his regular reporting, on progress in this regard;

43. *Calls upon* the members of the United Nations development system to further intensify efforts to assist programme countries in strengthening their national evaluation capacities for the monitoring and evaluation of operational activities for development;

Follow-up

44. *Recognizes* its role in providing guidance to the United Nations development system for the implementation of operational activities for development on a system-wide basis, welcomes the dialogues held at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2014 regarding the role of the United Nations development system in the changing development landscape and the need to align the United Nations system to address emerging challenges, in this regard decides to convene a transparent and inclusive dialogue involving Member States and all relevant stakeholders on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system, taking into account the post-2015 development agenda, including the interlinkages between the alignment of functions, funding practices, governance structures, capacity and impact of the United Nations development system, partnership approaches and organizational arrangements, decides that the Bureau of the Council will provide updates on progress in this regard during the operational activities segment in 2015 and 2016, and requests the Secretary-General to reflect these discussions in his report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to the General Assembly for consideration and action by Member States during the 2016 review.

JIU report. By a 15 July note [A/69/125], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) following its review of the selection and appointment process for United Nations resident coordinators, including the preparation, training and support provided for their work. The JIU review focused on the UN system organizations and entities participating in the United Nations Country Teams.

Note of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/125/Add.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination regarding the JIU report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/473/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/238** by recorded vote (130-8-43) [agenda item 24 (a)].

Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/14 of 14 July 2014 on progress in the implementation of resolution 67/226,

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

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

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system in order to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006, 67/226, 68/1 of 20 September 2013 and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Affirming that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should provide a key contribu-

tion to the implementation of the ambitious and transformational objectives of the post-2015 development agenda, once adopted, and should therefore be improved, including the ability of the United Nations development system, in line with its mandate, to assist countries in responding to the challenges of sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance and catalytic role of predictable official development assistance for international development,

Taking note of the report of and the note by the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2014,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the selection and appointment process for United Nations resident coordinators, including preparation, training and support provided for their work, and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its eighteenth session, and welcomes the decisions adopted at that session;

3. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/14 on operational activities for development, and expresses appreciation for the guidance provided by the Council on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226;

4. *Acknowledges* the request by the Economic and Social Council that the United Nations funds and programmes make every effort to continue to improve monitoring and data-collection methods, with a view to contributing to the further enhancement of the analytical quality of the report of the Secretary-General on operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

5. *Underlines* the need to better reflect the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, as well as the importance of developing a common understanding among Member States and other stakeholders of that multidimensionality and reflecting it in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard invites Member States, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measurements, including methodologies and indicators for measuring human development, that better reflect that multidimensionality;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of the contribution of operational activities for development to the national capacity development and development effectiveness of the United Nations development system in addressing the key areas identified in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, recalls in this regard its request to the organizations of the United Nations development system to develop, for the consideration of Member States, a common approach for measuring progress in capacity development, including measures to ensure sustainability, as well as to develop, in a manner consistent with their mandates, specific frameworks aimed at enabling programme countries, upon their request, to design, monitor and evaluate results in the development of their capacity to achieve national development goals and strategies, and invites the Secretary-General to provide comprehensive and evidence-based updates on meas-

ures taken in this regard in his 2015 annual report on the implementation of resolution 67/226;

7. *Requests* the funds and programmes of the United Nations development system, and invites the specialized agencies, to consider the findings and observations related to national capacity gaps repeatedly highlighted by programme countries to be addressed through the work of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including through the strengthening and use of national capacities, and to report to their governing bodies in 2015 with recommendations for implementation in this regard;

8. *Reiterates* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and in this regard recognizes the need for the organizations of the development system to address, on a continuous basis, the imbalance between core and non-core resources and to report to the Economic and Social Council in 2015, as part of their regular reporting, on the measures taken to address this imbalance;

9. *Notes with concern* that the percentage of core resources in the overall funding for operational activities has declined, also notes that non-core resources represent an important contribution to the overall resource base of the United Nations development system and complement core resources in supporting operational activities for development, thus contributing to an increase in total resources, while noting the need to make non-core resources more flexible and aligned with strategic plans and national priorities, and recognizes that non-core resources are not a substitute for core resources and that they pose challenges, in particular restricted earmarked funding such as single-donor project-specific funding, by potentially increasing transaction costs, fragmentation, competition and overlap among entities and providing disincentives for pursuing a system-wide focus, strategic positioning and coherence, and that they may also potentially distort programme priorities regulated by intergovernmental bodies and processes;

10. *Welcomes* the progress made by the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies in ensuring that available and projected core and non-core resources are consolidated within an integrated budgetary framework, based on the priorities of their respective strategic plans, and encourages all entities that have not already done so to develop such integrated frameworks in their next budget cycle;

11. *Recalls* the concern expressed in its resolutions 67/226 and 68/229 of 20 December 2013 over the lack of progress in the development and operationalization of the concept of "critical mass" of core resources, while noting the adoption in 2014 by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services of decisions 2014/24 and 2014/25 and the adoption by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund of decision 2014/17, in which they noted common principles for the concept of critical mass of resources and core resources as developed by United Nations funds and programmes and requested the funds and programmes to develop and present resource mobilization strategies for the consideration of their executive boards in 2015;

12. *Stresses* the need to avoid the use of core or regular resources to subsidize activities financed by non-core or extrabudgetary resources, reaffirms that the guiding

principle governing the financing of all non-programme costs should be based on full cost recovery from core and non-core funding sources, proportionally, and in this regard notes the timelines agreed by the executive boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for an independent and external assessment, to be performed in 2016, of the consistency and alignment of the new cost-recovery methodology with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by those organizations of the United Nations development system that have made efforts to align their strategic plans, frameworks and budgets with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and encourages all organizations of the United Nations development system that have not done so to take further steps in this regard;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to strengthen and improve the results-focused delivery of operational activities for development of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system in order to maximize their support for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, especially in the least developed countries and other developing countries that are lagging behind in meeting the targets, as well as their support for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

15. *Welcomes* the integration of poverty eradication, as the overarching priority, into the strategic plans of some United Nations system organizations, in accordance with their mandates;

16. *Reaffirms* its call, in its resolution 67/226, for the organizations of the United Nations development system to assign the highest priority to the eradication of poverty, and in this regard acknowledges the request by the Economic and Social Council to the United Nations funds and programmes to include in their regular reporting to the Council information on steps taken, in accordance with their mandates, on the scaling up of efforts to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger, the sharing of good practices, lessons learned, strategies, programmes and policies, including capacity-building, employment generation, education, vocational training, rural development and the mobilization of resources, which are aimed at achieving poverty eradication and promoting the active participation of those living in poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies;

17. *Requests* all organizations of the United Nations development system to consider the post-2015 development agenda, once adopted, in the context of midterm reviews and the elaboration of strategic plans and frameworks, in order to ensure consistency and alignment with the agenda;

18. *Recalls* the requests contained in its resolution 67/226 on strengthening South-South cooperation, in this regard notes the progress made by some organizations of the United Nations development system in mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into their key policies, strategic frameworks, operational activities and budgets, and welcomes the recommendations and measures, as set out in decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation, including through the im-

proved allocation of resources across the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

19. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

20. *Recalls* the policy for independent system-wide evaluation of United Nations operational activities for development, reaffirms in this regard the decision in its resolution 68/229 that two pilot independent system-wide evaluations should be conducted in 2014 on the themes set out therein, subject to the provision and availability of extrabudgetary resources, as outlined in the policy, notes with concern the lack of progress in this regard, reiterates its invitation to countries in a position to do so to contribute additional extrabudgetary resources for the effective and accelerated implementation of the evaluations in 2015, and requests the interim coordination mechanism for system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system to provide an update on progress in the implementation of the evaluations at the operational activities segment of the substantive session of 2015 of the Economic and Social Council;

21. *Recognizes* the need to review the composition and functioning of the governing structures of the United Nations funds and programmes, welcomes in this regard Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/14, and calls for early reforms of those governance structures;

22. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving diversification in the composition of the resident coordinator system in terms of geographical distribution and gender, also reaffirms the importance of the participation of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on an equal footing in the resident coordinator system, requests the Secretary-General to make every effort in this regard to ensure the full application of these principles in the appointment of resident coordinators, encourages all agencies to nominate qualified candidates for the Resident Coordinator Assessment Centre, and requests the United Nations development system to continue to identify solutions in order to strengthen its ability to efficiently recruit and deploy appropriately senior and experienced resident coordinators who meet the highest standards of integrity;

23. *Welcomes* the dialogues held at the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council of its substantive session of 2014 regarding the role of the United Nations development system in the changing development landscape and the need to align the United Nations system to address emerging challenges, reaffirms in this regard the decision of the Council to convene a transparent and inclusive dialogue involving Member States and all relevant stakeholders on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system, with a view to tackling the interlinkages between the alignment of functions, funding practices and governance structures of the United Nations funds and programmes, including early reform of their composition and functioning, the capacity and impact of the United Nations development system, partnership approaches and organizational arrangements, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and looks forward to these discussions being reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and action by Member States during the

quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2016, with a view to fulfilling the role of the General Assembly in establishing key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities for the United Nations development system.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/238:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Central African Republic, Israel, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/473], adopted **resolution 69/237** without vote [agenda item 24].

Building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 59/250 of 22 December 2004, 62/208 of 19 December 2007, 66/209 of 22 December 2011 and 67/226 of 21 December 2012,

Reiterating the importance of building national capacity for the evaluation of development activities,

Reaffirming that national capacity for the evaluation of development activities may be further strengthened by the entities of the United Nations development system upon request and in accordance with the principle of national ownership and with the national policies and priorities defined by Member States,

Cognizant that the United Nations Evaluation Group and the relevant actors have designated 2015 as the International Year of Evaluation and that they would potentially contribute to supporting Member States, upon their request, in building their capacity for the evaluation of development activities,

1. *Notes* that international cooperation in building national capacity for evaluation at the country level should be voluntary and carried out upon request by Member States;

2. *Invites* the entities of the United Nations development system, with the collaboration of national and international stakeholders, to support, upon request, efforts to further strengthen the capacity of Member States for evaluation, in accordance with their national policies and priorities;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an update, in 2016, on progress made in building capacity for evaluation, based, inter alia, on inputs from Member States and the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Evaluation Group, as well as the Joint Inspection Unit, to be considered during the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in 2016.

Pledging Conference for Development Activities. The 2014 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities was held in New York on 10 November [A/CONF.208/2014/3]. Twenty-six countries pledged approximately \$560 million in support of UN development activities for 2015. In August [A/CONF.208/2014/2], the Secretary-General provided a statement of contributions pledged or paid at the 2013 Pledging Conference to 18 funds and programmes, as well as four trust funds, as at 30 June 2014.

Technical cooperation

UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board

In 2014, the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board held two regular sessions (27–31 January and 2–5 September) and an annual session (23–27 June), all in New York [E/2014/35].

The Board adopted 29 decisions, including those providing an overview of actions taken at its January [E/2013/35 (dec. 2014/9)], June [dec. 2014/23] and September [dec. 2014/29] sessions. Other decisions dealt with the work of UNDP (see p. 1037), UNFPA (see p. 1044) and UNOPS (*ibid.*), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) (see p. 1043), the United Nations Volunteers (*ibid.*) and the Global Environment Facility (see p. 1047).

The Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2014/228** of 14 July, took note of the reports of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Board on its first regular and annual sessions of 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 842], and its second regular session of 2013 (see p. 1037).

Joint meeting of Executive Boards. On 3 February, the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board held a joint meeting with the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP to discuss performance standards on gender mainstreaming across the strategic plans of all entities, 2014–2017; and the coherence of UN action against poverty and vulnerability and towards resilience.

Organizational matters

By decisions adopted in January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/9)], June [dec. 2014/23] and September [dec. 2014/29], the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board adopted the agendas and workplans for its first [DP/2014/L.1] and second [DP/2014/L.3] regular sessions, as well as its annual session [DP/2014/L.2]. The Board also adopted the reports of the 2013 second regular session [DP/2014/1 & Corr.1]; the annual workplan for 2014 [DP/2014/CRP.1]; the report of the first regular session 2014 [DP/2014/9]; and the report of the annual session 2014 [DP/2014/18]. It agreed to the schedules for all of its 2014 sessions; approved the draft annual workplan for 2015 [DP/2014/CRP.2]; and agreed to the schedule of its 2015 sessions.

UNDP

Country and regional programmes

At its first regular session [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/9)], the Executive Board adopted the UNDP global programme, 2014–2017 [DP/GP/3 & Corr.1] [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/2)]; adopted the new regional programmes for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Latin America and the Caribbean 2014–2017 [dec. 2014/3]; and adopted the modifications to the procedures for considering and approving UNDP and UNFPA country programme documentation [DP/2014/8; DP/FPA/2014/3] [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/7)]. The Board also approved the final country programmes for Namibia and Mexico.

At its annual session [dec. 2014/23], the Board took note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Algeria, Argentina, Lebanon, Libya and Uganda, from 1 January to 31 December 2015 [DP/2014/15]; approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Botswana, from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016; approved, on an exceptional basis, the country programme document for Kenya; and took note of the draft country programme documents for Angola, the Comoros, Kuwait, Tunisia and Venezuela.

At its second regular session [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/29)], the Board approved the country programmes for Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Paraguay, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste; approved, on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion, the country programmes for Angola, Comoros, Kuwait, Tunisia, Venezuela; approved the exceptional

third one-year extension of the country programme for Guinea-Bissau [DP/2014/22] and the exceptional fourth one-year extension of the country programme for Syria; and took note of the first one-year extension of the country programme for Iraq [ibid.].

UNDP programme results

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/10)], the Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator on the strategic plan: performance and results for 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 843]; encouraged UNDP to continue improving the quality of the annual report on performance and results by demonstrating progress towards meeting the milestones and targets and by including a more analytical narrative on challenges and lessons learned; encouraged UNDP to effectively resource results-monitoring capacity at country and regional levels; and requested UNDP to present to the Board at its second regular session 2014 an outline of the format and information that would be provided in the annual results report based on the integrated results and resources framework, which would allow for the appropriate tracking of results achieved against actual and projected expenditures.

Report of Administrator. The annual report of the Administrator on the strategic plan: performance and results for 2014 [DP/2015/11] presented an overview of progress achieved during the first year of implementation of the UNDP strategic plan, 2014–2017. Progress against the strategic plan was on track, with performance against many development outputs exceeding milestones. Of the 38 development outputs, the organization achieved or exceeded its milestones in 23 and made progress in another 13. Data for two outputs was pending. The report presented 2014 achievements in numbers for UNDP projects in the areas of sustainable development pathways, inclusive and effective democratic governance, and resilience building. Those achievements included 11.2 million people (5.7 million women) benefiting from improved livelihoods in 94 countries; the registration of over 18 million new voters in 21 countries, including nearly 4 million in Afghanistan, where 1 million more women registered than in 2009; and the establishment of 98 new disaster reduction and adaptation plans in 23 countries. UNDP also boosted its readiness and agility to respond to crises. In 2014, UNDP led the UN system early recovery support to Ebola-affected countries. Working with multiple partners, UNDP assisted in the mobilization of an emergency programme, surging staff and technical advisors to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, improving communications and reinforcing payment systems. Across those three countries, 95 to 100 per cent of registered Ebola workers (approximately 38,000 people) were linked to payment mechanisms, and in most payment cycles more than 90 per cent of registered

Ebola workers were paid on time. Organizational restructuring started to deliver benefits, and UNDP initiated critical reforms, including an upgraded strategic planning architecture; institution-wide efforts to boost and, for the first time, measure programme quality; and new standards for project quality, to be implemented in 2015.

Sustainable growth and development

Performance in the area of inclusive and sustainable growth and development was solid in 2014. UNDP contributed to the generation of 775,000 new jobs (40 per cent for women) in 65 countries. More than 4.16 million people in 70 countries benefited from strengthened livelihoods, including 2.17 million women. At least 14 countries benefited from capacity development for collecting and analysing youth employment statistics, and in 33 countries UNDP supported the development of improved policies, systems and measures for employment generation. In Bangladesh, 90,000 underserved citizens (70 per cent women) were able to access mobile financial services through 2,000 digital centres. National commodity platforms in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Indonesia and Paraguay provided multi-stakeholder dialogue forums aimed at improving production practices in agricultural commodity sectors. UNDP supported 57 countries in integrating biodiversity and ecosystem management into development planning and production sector activities. In Afghanistan, the Programme helped establish 279 rural infrastructure projects in energy, transport, water supply, natural resources, disaster management and agriculture, covering 31 provinces and benefiting 2.8 million people. In Rwanda, UNDP support led to the rehabilitation of 22,403 hectares of riverbanks and 723 hectares of degraded land, and the terracing of 834 hectares to protect fragile ecosystems.

UNDP supported 98 countries in integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation into development strategies, and another 21 in obtaining climate financing. In Mauritius, a financial rebate scheme for domestic and commercial sectors was launched to encourage the adoption of photovoltaic technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. With UNDP support, Peru hosted the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Further, UNDP assisted governments in 63 countries in establishing policies and programmes to attract investment in sustainable energy, including in Egypt and Kyrgyzstan. It supported Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Togo in establishing multifunctional platforms in 445 communities, enabling an additional 530,000 people to benefit from energy services.

Democratic governance

Performance in democratic governance was positive in 2014. With UNDP support, national administrative and human resource capacities were strengthened in 29 parliaments. Emphasis was placed on increasing women's political participation, promoting gender-sensitive laws, and supporting legislative and policy reforms. In Rwanda, UNDP technical assistance contributed to six of the 11 political parties establishing women's wings. UNDP and the United Nations Department for Political Affairs supported constitution-making processes in 22 countries, including Libya, where UNDP ensured that the voice of civil society organizations was heard. In Kuwait, the UNDP-facilitated Women's Declaration—the first in a Gulf country—advocated for an expanded role for women in matters of citizenship, decision-making, political and economic participation, and ending violence against women. UNDP support for the introduction of biometric voter registration in the Solomon Islands cleared the voter roll of 160,000 fraudulent registrations, boosting citizen confidence associated with a 90 per cent voter turnout rate. UNDP supported the adoption of 16 anti-corruption proposals, including in Costa Rica, Jordan and Kosovo. In the Arab region, it supported 324 governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in developing, implementing and monitoring national anti-corruption strategies—resulting in national strategies in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, and the formulation of second national strategies in Jordan and Palestine. In Nigeria, UNDP supported anti-corruption reforms in port agencies.

UNDP strengthened capacities for civil society engagement in development processes, notably through the participation of women's groups in 21 countries, youth groups in 23 countries, and other excluded groups in 18 countries. In Bangladesh, nearly 2,600 women-led community development committees in 23 towns created federations of urban communities that were institutionalized in local governments. In Tunisia, UNDP support for the participation of youth, women and disadvantaged groups in the constitutional reform process contributed to the creation of 40 civil society coalitions for consensus-building and the facilitation of political dialogue. In Latin America, UNDP co-led the design of the first Ibero-American programme on youth empowerment, and in Azerbaijan, it supported the organization of the first global forum on youth policies. UNDP supported 11 countries in adopting proposals for legal reform to fight discrimination. In Georgia, the dialogues led to the adoption of a law on eliminating all forms of discrimination. In eight Asia-Pacific countries, UNDP helped reduce discrimination against HIV-affected populations and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) organizations and community leaders. This led to increased awareness and support to civil

society for advancing gender recognition and a more robust evidence base on LGBT rights.

Universal access to basic services

In 2014, there was progress in the area of enabling institutions to deliver universal access to basic services. UNDP championed the use of information and communications technology in government service delivery to better reach local levels. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNDP supported the creation of a new policy to digitalize local services and inter-municipal cooperation. In Zimbabwe, it strengthened the capacity of the national health information and surveillance system to generate, analyse and disseminate data, leading to the expansion of the electronic patient management system to 161 additional sites. In 84 countries, UNDP supported governments and civil society in advancing the recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, leading to punitive laws being reconsidered and institutional capacities reinforced for increased access to justice for persons affected by HIV. National dialogues on HIV and the law were held in 19 Asia-Pacific countries. In Pakistan, the dialogue led to the passing of the first AIDS law in South Asia. Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan recognized transgender/hijra as a third gender, and UNDP supported the successful efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to prevent the adoption of anti-homosexuality legislation. UNDP contributions resulted in HIV-related law review and reform in Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and Tanzania. In Mozambique, services for key populations in cities were integrated in the new national strategic plan on AIDS. In South Sudan, UNDP supported the strengthening of health system delivery to increase women's access, resulting in 582,980 pregnant women receiving services. Around 1.4 million people received antiretroviral treatment through the Global Fund in 2014. Twenty-two million people were reached with HIV-related behavioural change communications.

UNDP strengthened the conditions for justice, the rule of law, and citizen security in 86 countries, and strengthened access to justice in 29 countries, providing over 360,000 men and over 380,000 women with access to legal aid services. In Jamaica, safety and security committees were established in 12 parishes, contributing to a 17 per cent drop in crime and violence.

Disaster prevention and risk management

In 2014, there was steady progress in the field of disaster prevention and risk management. UNDP supported 21 countries in ensuring that multi-hazard disaster and climate risk assessments informed national plans. It supported the establishment of risk reduction management centres in the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago to provide information on disaster risks through a South-South

cooperation engagement with Cuba. Eleven Asia-Pacific countries strengthened their capacities to assess climate risk implications for key economic sectors and evaluate adaptation and mitigation options. In Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, UNDP worked with the European Union and the World Bank to adapt post-disaster needs assessment guidelines, piloting them in four countries. UNDP expertise in risk assessments helped strengthen national databases in 57 countries. In Rwanda, UNDP support to the establishment of a disaster risk atlas facilitated local and national risk assessments.

UNDP led United Nations work on climate and disaster risk governance, supporting the development of 98 new disaster-risk reduction and adaptation plans, frameworks or multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms in 23 countries. In 16 of those countries, the plans were gender responsive. In Sri Lanka, UNDP supported the Government in launching a cabinet-approved comprehensive disaster management programme. With UNDP support, Viet Nam adopted its first law on disaster prevention and response; in Ghana, a national disaster management organization bill was approved by the Cabinet; and Nepal increased its annual climate budget allocation for 10 key ministries from 7.4 per cent in 2011 to 10.7 per cent in 2014, and adopted a policy allocating at least 5 per cent of local budgets to climate and disaster risk management.

Early recovery

Performance in early recovery and the rapid return to sustainable development pathways showed solid progress in 2014. UNDP assisted 20 crisis-affected countries to restore livelihoods and create jobs. Community-building schemes resulted in the creation of 135,000 jobs (42 per cent for women) and an additional 5.7 million people (49 per cent women) benefiting from diversified livelihood opportunities. In Syria, UNDP supported 387 small businesses, resulting in 18,100 new jobs and the restoration of basic public infrastructure serving 2.3 million people. In South Sudan, it supported internally displaced persons with an early recovery pilot on livelihood skills initiated in Juba. UNDP established 33 partnerships between international and national actors to adopt innovative crisis-response mechanisms. In the Central African Republic, it spearheaded a multi-partner effort to support the payment of \$12.4 million in public sector salaries, which helped prevent the collapse of national institutions during the crisis (see p. 219), and the elaboration of the national strategy for reconciliation led to the establishment of a network of local mediators to ease tensions between communities and avoid conflict escalation. In Iraq, the establishment of a joint crisis centre enabled the Kurdistan regional government to better manage crisis response interventions; and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP supported the Government in mobilizing and coordinating financial

resources for an integrated recovery intervention that included the reconstruction of over 1,000 homes, 74 public institutions and 32 infrastructure facilities, and resulted in the retention and creation of 2,000 jobs. UNDP facilitated the engagement of institutions and communities to resolve recurring conflicts in seven countries, including the Philippines, where it supported the Mindanao peace process in the formulation of the basic law for Bangsamoro to guide the conduct of governance in the autonomous region.

Leadership

In 2014, UNDP assisted countries in piloting sustainable development goals and targets that emerged through the Open Working Group, including Mexico on social inclusion; Albania, Indonesia, Rwanda, Tunisia and the United Kingdom on governance; and Armenia, Indonesia, Japan, Mozambique and Paraguay on disaster risk reduction. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Programme increased the capacities of youth networks and promoted commitments from 21 national youth organizations to support youth issues within the post-2015 agenda. “MY World”, the UNDP-hosted United Nations global citizen survey, became the largest policy crowd-sourcing exercise in UN history, with over 7 million people providing inputs to discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and voting on their development priorities. UNDP supported the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance, whose report would inform the discussion at the 2015 Financing for Development Conference in Ethiopia.

UNDP worked with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to scale up South-South and triangular cooperation to advance progress towards development goals. It supported such cooperation in 133 countries, with national governments as primary partners. UNDP supported Chile by promoting South-South cooperation with Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, Palestine, Egypt, Paraguay, Suriname and Caribbean Community countries. The white paper of China on foreign aid incorporated UNDP policy recommendations, resulting in trilateral cooperation support of \$12.5 million for projects in Burundi, Ghana, Malawi and Zambia. During the Ebola crisis, UNDP worked with the Government of South Africa, deploying autoclaves in Ebola-affected countries to safely dispose of medical waste.

Financial results

Strategic plan income was estimated at \$9.5 billion for the biennium 2014–2015. In 2014, contributions to regular and other resources were \$4.6 billion (48.4 per cent of the two-year estimate). Regular resources contributions in 2014 decreased to \$0.793 billion from \$0.896 billion in 2013 (45.3 per cent of the 2014–2015 estimate of \$1.75 billion). Provisional

expenditure for development activities was \$4.46 billion, of which \$0.55 billion was funded from regular resources and \$3.92 billion from other donor resources and local resources. Expenditure in United Nations development coordination, management and special-purpose categories reached \$0.12 billion, \$0.42 billion and \$0.06 billion, respectively. The ratio of expenditure related to management activities over total expenditure was 8.3 per cent, a 0.4 per cent decline compared to 2012–2013 (8.7 per cent), pointing to increased organizational efficiency and consistent with achieving the management efficiency ratio of 8.2 per cent in the 2014–2015 strategic plan estimates.

Gender equality

At the first regular session of the Executive Board, the Director ad interim of the Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP, introduced the report of the Administrator on the implementation of the UNDP gender equality strategy in 2013 [DP/2014/3] and the UNDP gender equality strategy 2014–2017 [DP/2014/4].

Building on the achievements and lessons learned from the first gender equality strategy 2008–2013, the gender equality strategy 2014–2017 [DP/2014/4] was designed to contribute to the eradication of poverty and the reduction of gender inequalities by empowering women and promoting and protecting their rights. The UNDP approach to implementing the gender equality strategy 2014–2017 included close attention to the issue of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination as a result of ethnicity, disability, or migratory and indigenous status. It provided strategic guidance to UNDP business units to mainstream gender as they operationalized the UNDP strategic plan 2014–2017. The gender equality strategy went a step further than the UNDP strategic plan by providing detailed entry points for integrating gender equality into each of its seven outcome areas. Further, rather than offering one-size-fits-all prescriptive priorities, the strategy relied on a set of parameters for development programming, within which country offices could design their gender equality action plans as part of their country programme documents and in sync with the relevant regional programme.

On 31 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/1)], the Executive Board urged UNDP to implement the gender equality strategy 2014–2017 in a manner that ensured complementarity and avoided duplication through effective cooperation and information-sharing to maximize synergies with other organizations of the UN system, especially UN-Women. It encouraged UNDP, while implementing the strategy, to assess innovative approaches, including access to enabling technologies as a means to empower women, and requested UNDP to align reporting of the gender equality strategy 2014–2017 with the annual reporting of the UNDP strategic plan 2014–2017, and to report to the Executive Board on the

implementation, performance and results of the gender equality strategy, beginning at its annual session 2015.

South-South cooperation

UNDP was a strong supporter of South-South cooperation, through its hosting of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and its own operational work to promote South-South and triangular initiatives. During the first regular session of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, the Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation presented the strategic framework of the Office for 2014–2017 [DP/CF/SSC/5], which focused on helping Member States make informed decisions on South-South and triangular cooperation; strengthening South-South cooperation within the UN system; and assisting partners in developing South-South cooperation policies, plans and partnerships. The Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP had collaborated in defining a clear division of labour, as reflected in the UNDP strategic plan 2014–2017 and in the strategic framework of the Office for 2014–2017.

On 31 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/9)], the Executive Board took note of and approved the strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation 2014–2017.

Strategic plan 2014–2017

The year 2014 was critical for UNDP, as it began to implement its strategic plan 2014–2017 [YUN 2013, p. 847]—the bedrock of its efforts to make UNDP a more focused, results-driven, effective and efficient organization—in alignment with the principles of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, as laid out in General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859]. At the annual session of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, the UNDP Administrator informed the Board that UNDP was pursuing rigorous implementation of its strategic plan 2014–2017, including the integrated results and resources framework, which UNDP was in process of populating with baselines, annual milestones and multi-year targets.

On 27 June [E/2015/35 (dec. 2014/11)], the Executive Board took note of the progress towards finalizing the integrated results and resources framework of the UNDP strategic plan 2014–2017 and affirmed that the framework had been designed in conformity with results-based management principles. The Board further affirmed that the results contained in the framework of the strategic plan would be achieved with the assistance of UNDP programmes in the respective countries, as well as of UNDP regional and global programmes. It requested UNDP to ensure that any relevant indicators and targets of the integrated results and resources framework were made consistent

with the sustainable development goals in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and called on UNDP to apply the integrated results and resources framework as soon as possible and to keep the Board informed on progress and challenges encountered in that process.

Evaluation

At the first regular session of the Executive Board, the Director of the UNDP Evaluation Office presented the medium-term evaluation plan 2014–2017 [DP/2014/5]. The report discussed the evaluations conducted by the Office during that four-year period, which fell into three categories: programmatic evaluations, which assessed development results at the country level; thematic evaluations, which were planned in alignment with the key outcomes of the UNDP strategic plan 2014–2017 and ensured that critical issues for each outcome were addressed; and other evaluations, such as the evaluation of the joint Global Environment Facility/UNDP Small Grants Programme.

On 30 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/4)], the Executive Board, emphasizing the need to safeguard the independence of the UNDP Evaluation Office, approved a change of name from the UNDP Evaluation Office to the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office. It also took note of the medium-term evaluation plan and requested that the management of UNDP allocate adequate and timely funding for the full implementation of the plan.

At the annual session of the Executive Board, the Director of the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office presented the annual report on evaluation 2013 [DP/2014/14], which provided an overview of the progress made by UNDP and associated funds and programmes in fulfilling the evaluation functions outlined in the UNDP evaluation policy. The report also presented the planned programme of work for 2014 and 2015. In 2013, expenditures by the UNDP Evaluation Office totalled \$8.278 million, of which \$7.624 million was from regular resources and \$655,000 from other resources. This represented an increase of 4.3 per cent from 2011. Ninety-four per cent of the core funding was spent. The Office completed and presented three thematic evaluations to the Board in 2013: the evaluation of the UNDP contribution to poverty reduction (first regular session); the evaluation of the UNDP role in conflict-affected countries (first regular session); and the evaluation of the UNDP contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation (annual session). Seven programmatic evaluations were presented to the Board at its annual session: the evaluation of the UNDP strategic plan 2008–2013; the evaluation of the fourth global programme; and evaluations of the regional programmes for Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Country-level evalua-

tions, termed as assessments of development results, were carried out in Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Kenya and Sierra Leone.

On 26 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/14)], the Board urged UNDP to address in a timely manner the findings and recommendations from the annual report on evaluation 2013, with a view towards improving programme performance, effectiveness and efficiency. It also requested UNDP to ensure that evaluation findings were fully considered and used in preparing key policies, strategies and programmes, and approved the revised programme of work for 2014 and the proposed programme of work for 2015 of the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office.

Financial and administrative matters

In January, the UNDP Director, Bureau of Management, presented to the first regular session of the Executive Board a report [DP/2014/6] on the response to decision 2013/28 of the Board on additional resources for security measures [YUN 2013, p. 850]. On 31 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/9)], the Executive Board took note of that response.

At its second regular session in September, the Board considered a report by the UNDP Administrator [DP/2014/20/Add.1] that provided detailed information on the financial performance in 2013 of UNDP regular resources, other resources, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), which was established by the General Assembly and administered by UNDP. The data presented in the report agreed with the figures reflected in the annual review of the financial situation for 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 849].

The UNDP Administrator, in the annual review of the financial situation [DP/2015/26], reported that in 2014, UNDP maintained a positive net asset position on its balance sheet, and achieved regular resources year-end liquidity above the threshold requested by the Executive Board. Total UNDP revenue, however, decreased by 3 per cent to \$5 billion from \$5.15 billion in 2013. Total expenses rose slightly, to \$5.31 billion, compared to \$5.24 billion in 2013. Contributions to regular resources decreased by 11 per cent to \$0.79 billion from \$0.89 billion in 2013, including \$0.01 billion from programme country governments. A total of \$0.02 billion from several donors was received in 2014. Regular resources expenses decreased by 6 per cent to \$0.94 billion, from \$0.99 billion in 2013. Other resources contributions fell by 1 per cent during the year, to \$3.92 billion from \$3.94 billion in 2013.

Regular funding commitments to UNDP

A July report [DP/2014/21] provided information on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2014 and onward, as well as a summary of the income for regular and other resources received in 2013. The report stated

that in 2013, contributions to regular resources increased by 5.9 per cent to \$895.7 million from \$846.1 million in 2012 due to delayed payments budgeted for 2012 but received in 2013. Fifty-six Member States contributed to regular resources in 2013, compared to 50 countries in 2012. Total contributions (regular and other resources) to UNDP, including \$0.14 billion for reimbursable support services, remained at \$4.83 billion. Excluding reimbursable services, total contributions to UNDP increased from \$4.64 billion in 2012 to \$4.69 billion in 2013.

As of July 2014, UNDP had received 56 per cent of the regular resources projected for 2014. Subject to exchange rate fluctuations, 2014 regular resources were projected to reach \$850 million, which amounted to 49 per cent of the \$1.75 billion integrated budget target for 2014–2015.

On 5 September [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/24)], the Executive Board took note of the annual review of the financial situation 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 849] and the status of regular resources funding commitments to UNDP and its funds and programmes for 2014 and onwards. The Board also noted the importance of regular resources, which allowed UNDP to plan, strengthen accountability and provide predictable services in response to the needs of all programme countries, particularly the most vulnerable. It requested UNDP to continue to explore incentives, mechanisms and funding windows to broaden the donor base and to support donors to increase their core contributions and shift to less restricted/earmarked non-core funding, and to present the Board with a resource mobilization strategy for consideration at its first regular session of 2015.

Audit and oversight reports

In June, the Executive Board considered the UNDP report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in 2013 [DP/2014/11/Add.1]. During that year, JIU issued two notes and two reports containing 10 recommendations. Of those, one note with one recommendation and seven recommendations from the two reports were directed at UNDP. The report provided a synopsis of management responses to the recommendations and an update on the implementation of the recommendations contained in JIU reports issued in 2012 and 2011. UNDP pursued on an ongoing basis and/or implemented 63 per cent of the 40 relevant recommendations issued in 2012, and 84 per cent of the 51 recommendations issued in 2011.

The Executive Board [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/23)] took note of the UNDP report on the JIU recommendations in 2013.

Human Development Report

An oral update on the 2015 *Human Development Report* preparations and consultations was presented to the Executive Board at its annual session.

On 27 June, the Executive Board took note of the oral report [E/2013/35 (dec. 2014/23)].

UN Capital Development Fund

In the first year of implementation of its strategic framework 2014–2017 [DP/2015/21], UNCDF expanded its partnerships within the United Nations, the philanthropic community and the private sector to support local development finance programming in 20 least developed countries (LDCs)—14 in sub-Saharan Africa and six in Asia. The portfolio included regional and global thematic initiatives under the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility for infrastructure adaptation to climate change; the Local Finance Initiative for domestic resource mobilization in local infrastructure and productive investments; the Local Cross-Border Initiative for a local economic development approach to cross-border trade; and the Inclusive and Equitable Development for women's economic empowerment. UNCDF supported inclusive finance programming in 25 LDCs—18 in sub-Saharan Africa and seven in Asia—mainly through global or regional initiatives, including the Making Access Possible framework. It also capitalized on synergies between those two programme areas—local development finance and inclusive finance—to pilot and scale up innovative finance mechanisms to increase investments and leverage the untapped potential in developing countries.

The Fund's financial situation was marked by a 51 per cent increase from 2013 in non-core resources to reach a record high of \$73.3 million (26 per cent of which originated from eight major private sector foundations and corporations), but remained constrained by a low level of core contributions, which reached some \$14.9 million, a \$1.4 million decrease from 2013 and well short of the \$25 million target set in the UNCDF strategic framework that would assure the Fund's operations in 40 LDCs. Total UNCDF revenue reached \$88.3 million, up from \$65.4 million in 2013, owing mainly to the increased non-core contributions. The base of UNCDF development partners broadened, with 44 development partners contributing to UNCDF resources in 2014, up from 36 in 2013.

At the annual session of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, the UNCDF Executive Secretary, ad interim, presented an overview of the activities of the Fund in 2013, while the Director of the UNCDF Local Development Programme Finance Area presented the report on results achieved in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 851], including the integrated results and resources framework 2014–2017, and its methodological note.

On 27 June, the Executive Board [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/12)] took note of the report on the results achieved by UNCDF in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 851]; expressed concern that regular resources remained short of the \$25 million threshold required to sustain UNCDF programming in 40 LDCs; noted with concern that, as a result, the

number of LDCs supported by UNCDF dropped from 37 in 2012 to 33 in 2013; called on Member States to contribute to UNCDF regular resources to ensure that it could reach the target of \$25 million per year in annual regular resources to ensure support to at least 40 LDCs; noted the efforts of UNCDF to further streamline its business processes; and requested it to present an analysis on its cost recovery practices with a view to achieving greater efficiency and results.

UN Volunteers

In 2014 [DP/2015/26], 6,325 UN volunteers from 155 countries worked for the UNDP-administered United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, compared with 6,351 in 2013. The total financial value of UNV operations, which included support from UNDP regular resources, amounted to \$201 million, compared to \$210 million in 2013. Of that total, programme resource expenses made directly by the UNV programme amounted to \$20 million (10 per cent). The remaining financial value was covered by direct charges to UN organizations. The UNV strategic framework 2014–2017 was launched during the year (see below), and the key results of 2014 were the increased acknowledgement of volunteers and volunteerism as powerful resources and vital components of sustainable development; further mobilization of UNV volunteers for the delivery of peace and development results; and the enhancement or forging of traditional and new partnerships within and outside the UN system.

In April [DP/2014/13], the Administrator submitted a report on UNV results during the 2012–2013 biennium in support of programme countries and UN entities in their peace and development efforts. The report also outlined challenges and opportunities for UNV in the next biennium, in the context of the UNV strategic framework 2014–2017 and its associated integrated results and resources matrix, launched in January 2014. The framework was the first of its kind, focusing on harnessing the power of volunteers and volunteerism to support Member States in achieving internationally agreed development goals. UNV would be guided by the framework over the following four years and focus on working more systematically with partner countries and UN partners to increase its impact. The vision of the strategic framework was translated into concrete deliverables in the integrated resources and results matrix, which UNV would report against in subsequent Executive Board reports—including a mid-cycle review at the end of 2015—to assess implementation progress, make necessary adjustments and ensure alignment with the post-2015 development agenda. The framework established ambitious targets in terms of volunteer numbers and their impact, and in supporting the integration of volunteerism into national frameworks. UNV would focus on strengthening partnerships for the Special Voluntary

Fund (svf), the UN Youth Volunteering Trust Fund, fully-funded UN Volunteers and other cost-sharing opportunities. The 2009–2013 svf report, published in 2014, demonstrated that svf was an indispensable component of UNV funding and recommended that the mandate of the Fund be expanded to cover the activities outlined in that report.

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/13)], the Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator on UNV results during the 2012–2013 biennium; commended UNV for the development and launch of its strategic framework and integrated results and resources matrix 2014–2017; noted that future reports of the Administrator would be structured using the new results framework; expressed appreciation for the outstanding contribution that UNV, including UN Online Volunteers, made to peace and to the development achievements of programme countries and UN partners; requested that Member States and UN entities develop partnerships with UNV to ensure a stronger integration of volunteerism in their development programming; welcomed the Special Voluntary Fund report 2009–2013; agreed to expand the mandate of the Fund; called on Member States to increase contributions to the Fund; and called upon UNDP to continue to provide UNV with all the necessary programmatic, administrative, financial and legal support to deliver on its mandate.

UNFPA

At its first regular session in January, the Executive Board adopted several decisions related to UNFPA activities, including those on the transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan 2014–2015 [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/5)], and modifications to the procedures for considering and approving UNDP and UNFPA country programme documentation [dec. 2014/7]. It also took note of the evaluation report on the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on female genital mutilation/cutting, and approved the final country programmes for Namibia and Mexico [dec. 2014/9]. At its annual session in June, the Board adopted a decision on the annual report of the UNFPA Executive Director for 2013 [dec. 2014/15], which was comprised of a report on progress in the implementation of the UNFPA strategic plan 2008–2013 [DP/FPA/2014/5 (Part I)], a statistical and financial review for 2013 [DP/FPA/2014/5 (Part I)/Add.1] and a report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2013 [DP/FPA/2014/5 (Part II)]. It also adopted decisions on the strategic framework for UNFPA global and regional interventions, 2014–2017 [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/16)]; the annual report on evaluation, 2013 [dec. 2014/17]; updating the UNFPA oversight policy [dec. 2014/18]; and revised UNFPA financial regulations and rules [dec. 2014/19]. On country programmes and related matters, the Executive Board approved the second programme extension, for one year, for Guinea-Bissau; the two-

year programme extension for Burundi; and, on an exceptional basis, the country programme document for Kenya. The Board further took note of the first one-year programme extensions for Algeria, Lebanon and Uganda [dec. 2014/23]. At its second regular session in September, the Board adopted a decision on funding commitments to UNFPA and implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development [dec. 2014/25]; took note of the draft revised UNFPA oversight policy and the updated integrated resource plan for 2014–2017; approved the two-year programme extension for Botswana and the final country programmes for Afghanistan, Angola, Comoros, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Venezuela. It also approved, in accordance with decision 2014/7, the country programmes for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay and the State of Palestine [dec. 2014/29].

(For more information on UNFPA operational activities, see PART THREE, Chapter VIII).

UNOPS

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) was established in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 900] by General Assembly decision 48/501 [YUN 1994, p. 806] as a separate, self-financing entity of the UN system to act as a service provider to UN organizations. It offered a broad range of services, from overall project management to the provision of single inputs.

On 28 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/6)], the Executive Board noted with regret that Jan Mattsson would retire from his position as UNOPS Executive Director effective 31 March. The Board commended him for his effective and innovative leadership of UNOPS from 2006 to 2014.

2014 activities

In 2014 [DP/OPS/2015/2], UNOPS delivered a range of more than 1,200 peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects in over 80 countries. UNOPS delivery during the year was \$1.2 billion, compared to \$1.16 billion in 2013. That increase was mainly attributable to increased demand for UNOPS support to partners' development work in Afghanistan and Myanmar; mine action services in Mali, Somalia and South Sudan; and humanitarian response activities in the Middle East.

Key results on behalf of partners were the construction, design or rehabilitation of 175 bridges, 4,577 kilometres of road, 2 airstrips, 30 schools, and 18 hospitals and health clinics. Thirty-seven per cent of UNOPS-supported projects in 2014 provided employment for local people. That included the creation of more than 3 million days of paid work, the majority of which were generated by infrastructure projects. UNOPS procured more than \$669 million worth of

goods and services for its partners. Those included over 49,000 units of machinery and equipment, as well as more than 5,500 vehicles. Over 17.8 million medical supplies were handled, including the distribution of approximately 3.6 million diagnostic kits.

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/20)], the Executive Board welcomed the appointment of the new UNOPS Executive Director and took note of the contributions of UNOPS, often in the most challenging environments, to the operational results of the United Nations and its partners. It also welcomed the transformational change of UNOPS during the period of the strategic plan 2010–2013; the platform established for implementing the strategic plan 2014–2017 [YUN 2013, p. 853]; the continued increase of UNOPS delivery; the increased implementation of audit recommendations to 93 per cent; and the leadership role that UNOPS played in procurement, infrastructure and project management.

Financial and administrative matters

Audit reports

Board of Auditors report. In June, the UN Board of Auditors transmitted to the General Assembly the UNOPS financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013 [A/69/5/Add.11 & Corr.1]. UNOPS reported a net surplus of \$14.7 million in 2013, compared with the net surplus for 2012 of \$8.2 million. Expenses totalled \$703.7 million, compared with \$676.6 million in 2012. Total revenue for 2013 was \$717.1 million, compared with \$683.2 million in 2012. Almost half (47 per cent) of that revenue was generated by project management services and a further \$255.2 million (37 per cent) from construction contracts. UNOPS also received \$3.7 million in services in kind in 2013, related primarily to the estimated market rental value of office space provided by Denmark to accommodate UNOPS headquarters in Copenhagen. UNOPS spent \$261.8 million in 2013 on contractual services, compared to \$193.2 million in 2012. That total included payments to subcontractors and engineers for construction projects, and to vendors for security or for feasibility studies and research. Operating reserves at the end of 2013 were \$82.8 million, four times higher than the minimum level of \$20.2 million set by the Executive Board. As at 31 December 2013, UNOPS held total cash and investments of \$1,015.5 million, compared with \$1,257.6 million in 2012. The decrease of \$242.1 million was mostly explained by the fact that UNOPS continued to settle outstanding balances with other UN entities, and consequently there was a \$261.7 million reduction in UNOPS liabilities payable to those entities. UNOPS signed a record level of agreements with partners during 2013, and its cash position demonstrated that it will continue to fund a similar portfolio of work programmes in the future. At 31 December 2013, UNOPS held advances from project sponsors in

the amount of \$826.7 million (compared with \$862.0 million in 2012), including \$470.6 million classified as deferred revenue. That was equivalent to total delivery for nine months and showed that UNOPS financial position was solid. The report noted that as of March 2014, of the 28 recommendations of the Board made for 2012 and earlier, 11 (39 per cent) were implemented, 14 (50 per cent) were under implementation, and 3 (11 per cent) had not been implemented. Annexed to the report was a detailed commentary on the status of those recommendations.

Procurement

An annual statistical report on the procurement activities of UN system organizations [DP/OPS/2014/5] stated that the total UN system procurement under all sources of funding during 2013 was \$16.1 billion, which represented an increase of \$711 million, or 4.6 per cent, over 2012. The UN system procured goods and services from 192 countries in 2013, with 123 countries having an annual procurement volume of more than \$10 million each in that year. Consistent with General Assembly resolutions 57/279 [YUN 2002, p. 1358] and 61/246 [YUN 2006, p. 1645], UN organizations continued to place more orders with vendors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and the annual statistical report examined UN performance in that area. There was a steady growth of such orders over the 2009–2013 period, for a cumulative increase of 28.7 per cent. That increase represented an annual compounded growth rate of 6.1 per cent, compared with an overall average procurement volume growth of 3.7 per cent annually. The 10 major countries that supplied the UN system included four developing countries, with Afghanistan, India, Kenya and the United Arab Emirates accounting for 37.4 per cent of the total procurement volume. The United States remained the top supplier country with a 10.4 per cent share of total volume, followed by India (6.7 per cent) and Switzerland (4.5 per cent). A thematic supplement to the report focused on the issue of implementing innovative solutions in procurement.

On 5 September [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/26)], the Executive Board took note of the report and expressed its appreciation of the transparency under which the report was made available to the public by UNOPS through the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

Joint matters

Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

In January, the Executive Board considered the reports of UNDP [DP/2014/7], UNFPA [DP/FPA/2014/1] and UNOPS [DP/OPS/2014/1] on the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2012.

The Board of Auditors report of UNDP for 2012 had issued 20 audit recommendations. Of these, the Board identified nine that had high priority, while the other 11 were assigned medium priority. The UNDP report [DP/2014/7] on the status of those recommendations noted that although the total number of 20 recommendations issued was numerically lower than that of previous audit periods, their full implementation was expected to be more demanding. At the end of September 2013, management actions had been taken on many of the 20 audit recommendations to ensure their implementation by the target completion dates. The report also reviewed progress in addressing the top nine audit priorities for 2012–2013.

The Board of Auditors report of UNFPA for 2012 made 11 new recommendations for 2012 and repeated one recommendation, compared to 34 for the period 2010–2011. The UNFPA report [DP/FPA/2014/1] on the status of those recommendations described progress and plans of implementation for both the main and previous recommendations on the following issues: the International Public Sector Accounting Standards; unfunded employee benefits liabilities; inventory management; consultants, experts and temporary assistance; human resources management; procurement and contract management; harmonized approach to cash transfers; information technology; internal audit and oversight; regionalization; and operating fund advances. The report concluded that UNFPA had to strengthen its management oversight, fiduciary duties and the monitoring of its field-level activities, including by enhancing the role and functions of the regional offices in programme delivery. To do so, UNFPA had developed and implemented new and revised policies, procedures and tools, and would continue strengthening its internal systems, controls, decision making and financial management.

The Board of Auditors report of UNOPS for 2012 made eight main recommendations classified as high priority and 10 recommendations classified as medium priority. The UNOPS report [DP/OPS/2014/1] on the status of those recommendations noted that the completion of their implementation was on track per the established timelines. Annexed to the report were specific responses to each recommendation. The report also noted that the Board of Auditors had given UNOPS an unqualified audit opinion, which was an achievement because in 2012, for the first time, UNOPS produced financial statements in compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). It had also prepared the interim financial statements for the period January to June 2013 solely with internal resources.

On 30 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/8)], the Executive Board took note of the reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2012. It welcomed the unqualified audit opinions issued by the Board of Auditors for 2012 for UNDP and UNFPA;

supported ongoing UNDP and UNFPA management efforts in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2012; and requested UNDP and UNFPA to continue to strengthen internal controls and improve oversight and monitoring of country offices, including the timely implementation of outstanding recommendations of the Board of Auditors, and to continue to ensure compliance with policies and procedures for procurement, inventory tracking and bank reconciliation. The Executive Board also commended the efforts of UNOPS management for successfully addressing the challenges in making the transition from the UN system accounting standards to IPSAS.

Internal audit and oversight

At its June session, the Executive Board considered the internal audit and oversight activities reports of UNDP [DP/2014/16], UNFPA [DP/FPA/2014/6 & Add.1] and UNOPS [DP/OPS/2014/3] for the year ended 31 December 2013.

The UNDP report provided information on the activities of the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) in 2013, including details on OAI resources and information on issues related to the public disclosure of internal audit reports and experience gained from public disclosure to date. It also contained lessons learned on joint audits and on cases of fraud and actions taken in cases of misconduct. Appended to the report was the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee.

The UNFPA report provided information on the activities of the UNFPA Division for Oversight Services (DOS) in 2013, including the overall audit assessment of the risk exposure of UNFPA; issues revealed through DOS internal audits and investigations; investigations of cases of fraud and actions taken; a review of internal audit recommendations issued in 2008–2013 and their implementation status; and the disclosure of internal audit reports. An addendum [DP/FPA/2014/6/Add.1] contained the annual report of the UNFPA Audit Advisory Committee and the management response thereto.

The UNOPS report provided information on the activities of the UNOPS Internal Audit and Investigations Group (IAIG) in 2013. It stated that 21 reports were released during the year, compared with 34 reports in 2012. The combined audit reports contained 135 audit recommendations, of which 87 pertained to internal audit reports and 48 to project audit reports. The top six areas of audit recommendations were human resources (25 per cent), project management (24 per cent), general administration (23 per cent), procurement (15 per cent), corporate strategic management and leadership (8 per cent), and finance (5 per cent). Of the audit recommendations issued in or prior to 2011, 99.9 per cent were implemented, as were 63 per cent of those issued in 2012. The overall implementation of audit recommendations issued from 2008—the year IAIG started conducting internal audits—to 2013 was 93 per cent. There were several annexes to the report,

including the 2013 annual report of the Strategy and Audit Advisory Committee.

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/21)], the Executive Board took note of the reports of the three entities; noted with concern the number of recurring recommendations in the areas of project management, financial management, monitoring and procurement; and requested UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to step up their efforts to achieve the timely, full, complete, and sustained implementation of all outstanding and new audit recommendations. The Board also urged UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to continue to strengthen the audit and investigative functions, and to ensure those offices were sufficiently resourced to carry out their mandates, including through the analysis of audit coverage and resources in future annual reports. With regard to UNDP, the Board requested UNDP management to provide information on how accountability and oversight mechanisms would operate in the new UNDP structure. With regard to UNFPA, the Board encouraged the Fund to develop and implement effective risk management policies to ensure effective delivery of the strategic plan. With regard to UNOPS, the Board noted with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of audit recommendations more than 18 months old.

Ethics offices

At its annual meeting in June, the Executive Board considered the reports of the UNDP Ethics Office [DP/2014/17], the UNFPA Ethics Office [DP/FPA/2014/4] and the UNOPS Ethics Office [DP/OPS/2014/4], covering their respective activities in 2013 in such areas as standard-setting and policy support; training, education and outreach; advice and guidance; financial disclosure; and protection of staff against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with audits or investigations.

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/22)], the Executive Board took note of the reports of the Ethics Offices of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, and requested those offices to improve protections for whistle-blowers by developing and implementing an effective policy on protection against retaliation that specified a statute of limitations of a minimum of six months for reporting retaliation. The Board encouraged the ethics offices to continue expanding their ethics training programmes, and to continue their efforts to achieve coherence with other members of the Ethics Panel of the United Nations regarding the ethics policies, standards and practices of their respective agencies.

Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Procurement

At its second regular session in September, the Executive Board considered the report of UNDP,

UNFPA and UNOPS on joint procurement activities [DP-FPA-OPS/2014/1]. The report presented key findings and outcomes from the common procurement work conducted in 2013 and set out the initiatives underway in 2014. It concluded that collaborative procurement initiatives led by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS delivered significant improvements and savings across the UN system. Many of those projects also eliminated duplication, increased consistency and strengthened country office procurement. As cooperative projects continued throughout 2014, the organizations were increasing their commitment to pursue common opportunities across a range of products and sectors.

On 5 September [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/27)], the Executive Board welcomed the progress made by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on joint procurement initiatives and encouraged them and other UN agencies to work closer together, with the High-level Committee on Management Procurement Network and other development partners, centrally and at the country level, to further identify opportunities to aggregate demand and consolidate buying to obtain better prices. The Board also called upon UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS and other UN agencies to incorporate the building of programme country procurement capacity into their overall capacity development work, and to increase opportunities for suppliers from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It requested UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to further improve the monitoring of joint procurement activities and to report regularly on the implementation of the United Nations model framework for vendor sanctions.

Other matters

Global Environment Facility

At the second regular session, the Director, ad interim, of the UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support presented a note by the Administrator of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) [DP/2014/23] describing amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF Instrument), their rationale and key implications for UNDP. The amendments addressed five matters: the confirmation that GEF should operate as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury [YUN 2013, p. 1336]; the separation of the role of GEF for each convention that it served; the replacement of the focal areas of ozone layer depletion and of persistent organic pollutants by the focal area of chemicals and waste; the update of the eligibility criteria of countries to receive GEF funding; and the inclusion of references to the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office. In accordance with paragraph 34 of the Instrument, the amendments would become effective only after

adoption by the three GEF Implementing Agencies, namely UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, which also served as the Trustee. The note recommended that the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board adopt the amendments.

On 5 September [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/28)], the Executive Board decided to adopt the amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility as approved by the Fifth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (Cancún, Mexico, 28–29 May 2014).

Field visits

A delegation of six members of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board visited Tajikistan (24–30 June 2013) [DP-FPA/2014/CRP.1] to observe the operations and programmes of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS and gain insight into the contributions of those organizations at the country level. The United Nations had been present in Tajikistan since 1992, starting with the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building, which concluded its mission in October 2007. Since 1993, the United Nations had increased its presence to comprise 23 specialized agencies, funds and programmes. The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Tajikistan was the largest in the Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States region, reflecting the importance and impact of the United Nations on the country's development. UNDP remained the largest UN organization in Tajikistan, accounting for nearly two thirds of the total number of implemented programmes. The delegation observed good collaboration by UNCT with the Government and among donors, and a thoughtful approach to the sustainability of UNCT endeavours. With the support of the UN and the international community, Tajikistan had advanced in the adoption of more sustainable policies and systems to manage its economy and environment, and it was better equipped to respond to natural disasters and security challenges. Still, it remained the poorest of Central Asian countries and continued to face critical development issues regarding access to reliable energy; acute water shortages; population issues, including maternal and child mortality rates; and related issues of gender equality stemming from stereotypes in Tajik society concerning the roles of women and men and traditional customs and practices. The UNCT displayed techniques that represented best practices, within and beyond the region, both in terms of programming and the organization of work, and the delegation concluded that its work should continue and expand.

At its first regular session, the Executive Board took note of the report of the field visit to Tajikistan [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/9)].

A 25-member delegation of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, WFP and UN-Women

visited Panama and El Salvador (23 March–1 April) [DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF-UNW-WFP/2014/CRP.8] to enhance their understanding of the role of the UN development system in general and especially that of the specific organizations in the region. It was the first joint field visit to Latin America in over 10 years. The delegation learned about the role and functions of the Panama-based United Nations Regional Team in supporting and coordinating UNCTs and national Governments in the region, and considered the development of a “Delivering as Region” modality for Latin America and the Caribbean. In El Salvador, the delegation observed the role of UNCT in its efforts to achieve sustainable development, especially the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Despite being classified as a lower middle-income country, some aspects of the situation in El Salvador suggested that it might be regarded as non-typical of this category (e.g., the quality of house construction, access to drinking water and sanitation and access to education). The country had made tremendous progress in development in recent years, but still faced a number of development issues, notably the fragile rule of law; weak institutions; widespread income poverty and income inequality; limited basic social services; underemployment and unemployment; corruption; violence and crime, including a high rate of gender-based violence and violence against children and adolescents; and unplanned urbanization accompanied by environmental degradation and vulnerability to natural disasters. The delegation recommended that UNCT continue to assist the Government in building on the socioeconomic progress achieved in recent years and continue to provide policy advice on inclusive and sustainable development progress.

A delegation representing the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board visited Fiji and Samoa (22–29 April 2014) [DP/FPA/2014/CRP.2] to enhance the Board's understanding of how UN organizations, in particular UNDP and UNFPA, positioned their engagement with the Pacific small island developing States. The visit—the first to the Pacific Islands region—was timely, given the upcoming Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (1–4 September, Apia, Samoa) (see p. 995), and the delegation noted that the work of the UN entities was closely aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework and with major regional plans and strategies for the Pacific. The delegation concluded that the priority for major regional plans and strategies should remain on strengthening national development capacities, on supporting community resilience and mechanisms for coping with the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters, and on eliminating violence against women and girls.

At its second regular session, the Executive Board took note of the respective reports of the joint field visits to Panama and El Salvador, and to Fiji and Samoa [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/29)].

Other cooperation

UN Office for Partnerships

The United Nations Office for Partnerships, reformed in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1046], served as the gateway for public-private partnerships with the UN system in furtherance of the MDGs. It oversaw the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) and the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), and provided partnership advisory and outreach services.

Report of Secretary-General. In July [A/69/218], the Secretary-General submitted a report on the activities of the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The report was submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 [YUN 1998, p. 1297] and 53/475 [YUN 1999, p. 1318], wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the Office [YUN 2013, p. 858]. The report supplemented the information contained in the 15 previous reports of the Secretary-General, submitted between 1998 and 2013.

On 29 December (**decision 69/552**), the General Assembly took note of the report.

UN Fund for International Partnerships

UNFIP was established in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 1297] to serve as the interface between the UN system and the United Nations Foundation, a public charity responsible for administering Robert E. Turner's \$1 billion contribution in support of UN causes. At the end of 2014, the cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation for UNFIP projects reached approximately \$1.36 billion. Of this amount, it was estimated that \$0.45 billion (about 33 per cent) represented core Turner funds and \$0.91 billion (about 67 per cent) was generated from co-financing partners. The total number of UN projects and programmes supported as at the end of 2014 by the United Nations Foundation through UNFIP stood at 563. Collectively, those projects were implemented by 43 UN entities in 124 countries.

In 2014, the UN Foundation approved projects totalling \$56.8 million, the majority of which (\$53.8 million) focused on global health. Health-related projects supported by the Foundation through UNFIP during the year included the Measles Initiative (renamed the Measles and Rubella Initiative in 2012) by the disbursement of \$51 million to UNICEF and WHO; the Nothing But Nets campaign to fight malaria by the disbursement of over \$1,123,000 to support the distribution of insecticide-treated bednets and other interventions by UNICEF and UNHCR in Chad, Cameroon and Madagascar; a grant of \$100,000 to address energy needs in health-care facilities in five sub-Saharan countries; and a grant of \$1,551,500 to WHO to procure supplies to assist Governments in the management of Ebola

cases. For the Girl Up campaign, the Foundation disbursed through UNFIP almost \$900,000 to UNICEF and UNHCR to support projects that advance the education of Somali refugee girls in Ethiopia and the rights of adolescent girls in Guatemala, including by strengthening mechanisms for protection against gender-based violence. Energy and climate projects that received grants in 2014 included the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Climate Change Support Team in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and WHO clean household energy planning tool.

UN Democracy Fund

UNDEF was established by the Secretary-General in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 655] to support democratization around the world. It focused on strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Through the Fund, the Office channeled approximately \$145 million to more than 540 projects in over 120 countries around the world, ranging from strengthening civil society leadership skills and promoting the participation of women and youth, to media programmes allowing civil society to project its voice.

In 2014, the eighth round of funding came amid upheavals in several parts of the world. Both civil society groups and the media continued to face growing pressures and restrictions, and the closing space for civil society became an alarming feature in a range of countries on several continents. Against this background, the Fund received 2,062 project proposals for its eighth round of funding, reflecting a high demand for support. The proposals originated from organizations in 133 countries, most of which were local non-governmental organizations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The eighth-round project selection emphasized the media, with almost 40 per cent of selected projects operating in this field. That reflected a recognition of the media as having a revolutionizing impact in democratization processes, and the need to safeguard media freedom in the face of threats and pressures. Forty-nine projects were funded at a total cost of \$9,455,000. The activities of those projects covered media (38 per cent), community development (18 per cent), youth (16 per cent), rule of law and human rights (12 per cent), strengthening instrumentalities of government (6 per cent), tools (6 per cent) and women's empowerment (4 per cent). In November, the Fund launched its ninth round for project proposals. When applications closed on 31 December, the Fund had received 2,331 project proposals that would be assessed by March 2015.

Partnership advisory and outreach services

The United Nations Office for Partnerships provided advisory and outreach services in response to the growing demand from the UN system, Governments and non-State actors in pursuing public-private

partnerships. In 2014, companies, foundations and NGOs approached the Office to explore opportunities for engagement with the United Nations and to assist with pooling expertise and resources to address issues on the UN agenda. To promote the post-2015 development agenda, the Office collaborated with partners on high-impact events and issued advice on best practices for promoting the MDGs. Ten key initiatives were divided into three partner categories: Member States, the UN system and other international organizations, and the private sector and civil society. Initiatives included the permanent memorial at the United Nations to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade; a conference and exhibit to highlight crowd-sourced projects for resilient schools and emergency shelters for areas affected by natural disasters and wars; the 2014 Equator Prize to recognize leadership by indigenous and local communities to meet climate and development challenges through sustainable solutions; World Toilet Day; the International Women's Day forum; the Media for Social Impact Summit; the Social Innovation Summit 2014; a Global Accelerator event to engage entrepreneurs on UN objectives and the post-2015 development agenda; a conference on "Changing lives through mobile: innovation in emerging markets"; and the Blouin Creative Leadership Summit.

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

South-South and triangular cooperation

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/230 [YUN 2013, p. 859], the Secretary-General presented the state of South-South cooperation in a July report [A/69/153], which found that UN agencies, funds and programmes had strengthened their own capacities to support South-South cooperation and mainstream it in their policies, strategies and programmes, but they still needed improved coordination and greater financial support from both traditional sources and new public and private actors. In that context, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation was upgraded to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in 2013, and its head was made Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation in May 2014.

The report contained recommendations on improving the system-wide governance, focus, coherence and coordination of South-South cooperation to maximize its development impact. South-South cooperation should continue to be mainstreamed in the operational work of the UN system through the development of more guidance tools that were aligned with the perspectives of Member States and the mandates of UN organizations and agencies. Also important was continued access by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and UN-system South-South

cooperation focal points to the UNDP global operations and country office network, UN country teams and the UN resident coordinator system, under the auspices of UNDP, as host of the Office and Chair of the United Nations Development Group. There was progress on the implementation of recommendations emanating from the report of the Joint Inspection Unit [YUN 2012, p. 893], as well as the 2012 evaluation of UNDP support to South-South cooperation, but recommendations related to the workings of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation as the key governance structure for South-South cooperation in the UN system were unfulfilled and should be prioritized, starting with consultations with Member States on updating the rules of procedure of the Committee, which were established in 1980.

High-level Committee. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, at its eighteenth session (New York, 19–22 May and 6 June) [A/69/39], considered a report [SSC/18/1] by the United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation on the review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, taking into account the complementary role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of relevant major UN conferences in the social, economic and related fields. The Committee also considered two notes by the Secretary-General on the framework of operational guidelines on UN support to South-South and triangular cooperation [SSC/17/3 & SSC/18/2]; a report of the Secretary-General on measures to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation [SSC/18/3]; a report on the intersessional meeting of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in June 2013 [SSC/17/IM/L.2]; and a note by the UNDP Administrator on the organization of work [SSC/18/L.3].

In the context of the post-2015 development agenda, the Committee held a thematic discussion on the contributions and strategy of the United Nations development system to promote and strengthen South-South cooperation. The debate touched upon issues of food security, the voice of the South in global governance, the potential of regional public goods, and successful approaches to tackling the challenges of poverty and income inequality, environmental sustainability and climate change.

In a decision adopted during the session [A/69/39 (dec. 18/1)], the Committee requested the UNDP Administrator, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to make recommendations on the additional support that entities of the UN system and Member States could provide to South-South and triangular cooperation, and to establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism coordinated by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation,

with a view to encouraging information-sharing on development activities and results achieved by organizations through their respective business models in support of South-South and triangular cooperation. It requested the Secretary-General to submit to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth (2016) session a comprehensive report on the progress made in the implementation of the decision. The Committee also approved the provisional agenda for its nineteenth session [dec. 18/2].

On 14 July (**decision 2014/228**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its eighteenth session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/473/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/239** by recorded vote (129-44-7) [agenda item 24 (b)].

South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,

Recalling its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 66/219 of 22 December 2011, 67/227 of 21 December 2012, 68/230 of 20 December 2013 and other resolutions relevant to South-South cooperation,

Noting the announcement by the Secretary-General of the designation of the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as his Envoy on South-South Cooperation,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its eighteenth Session, the decisions taken at that session, in particular decision 18/1, and the decisions taken at the intersessional meeting of 4 June 2013;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system, including its recommendations, and the related note by the Secretary-General;

4. *Recognizes* the importance and unique history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirms its view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and that South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and

should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

5. *Also recognizes* that South-South cooperation is a partnership among equals based on solidarity and should not be seen as official development assistance, acknowledges in this regard the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation by continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency, as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, and further recognizes that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present, during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, further information on the assignments and duties to be taken up by the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, including any potential financial and institutional implications deriving from his appointment as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation;

7. *Encourages* the funds, programmes, the specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to take further concrete measures, as appropriate, to effectively mainstream support to South-South and triangular cooperation in their policy and regular programming work, and in this context requests those organizations and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to leverage each other's institutional and technical capacities;

8. *Recognizes* the need to continue to mutually enrich South-South cooperation, based on the diverse experiences of and good practices from South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and North-South cooperation, and to further explore complementarities and synergies between them;

9. *Invites* relevant Member States to share and exchange best practices in planning, implementation, data collection and information and knowledge management in order to further improve the impact of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives on sustainable development;

10. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of considering South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

12. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, recalls decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and requests the Secretary-General, noting that further deliberation by Member States on the options presented in his report on measures to further strengthen the Office for South-South Cooperation will be required before a decision is taken on the idea of separating the Office for South-South Cooperation as operationally autonomous from the United Nations Development Programme, to present, as part of his comprehensive report to the High-level Committee at its special intersessional session to be held in 2015, in consultation with Member States, the Office

for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme, a comprehensive proposal on up-scaling the Office in financial, human and budgetary terms under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, including through the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, and at the same time recommending specific contributions of the United Nations Development Programme under such a change;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation in order to enable it to respond effectively and efficiently to the South-South cooperation needs of Member States and the United Nations system;

14. *Acknowledges and encourages* the initiatives and arrangements undertaken as part of the efforts to enhance cooperation among developing countries, including in the areas of eradication of poverty and hunger, gender equality, the empowerment of women, access to information and communications technologies, science and technology, environment, culture, health, education and human development, including through multilateral multi-stakeholder and public-private partnerships;

15. *Requests* the United Nations development system to further assess, within the scope of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, progress made in its support, particularly with regard to the provision of adequate resources and the mobilization of technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, as well as in mainstreaming South-South cooperation into the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies in the field;

16. *Also requests* the United Nations development system to continue improving coordination among its agencies in order to enhance its support to South-South and triangular cooperation and monitor progress at the global and regional levels and to continue evaluating the support of the United Nations development system for those activities;

17. *Requests*, in this regard, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism, co-ordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to encouraging joint support for South-South and triangular initiatives, as well as sharing information on development activities and results achieved by various organizations through their respective business models in support of South-South and triangular cooperation, calls upon the United Nations development system to designate representational focal points to join the mechanism, and requests the Administrator to give the Office for South-South Cooperation the opportunity to be represented more regularly in strategic and coordination mechanisms of the Development Group when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed;

18. *Also requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to make specific recommendations on additional support that the United Nations system and its entities could provide to South-South and

triangular cooperation, which could include voluntary secondment of staff and the appointment of Junior Professional Officers to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

19. *Requests* the United Nations development system to accord a high priority to facilitating programmes and projects of South-South and triangular cooperation and to assist countries of the South, upon their request, in implementing them in order to ensure that sustainability is a key component of those projects;

20. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations of the United Nations development system to assist developing countries in implementing projects on South-South cooperation, upon request and in a manner consistent with their mandates and strategic plans;

21. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and also to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

22. *Requests* the United Nations development system to encourage the transfer of technologies for the benefit of developing countries to address poverty eradication and sustainable development;

23. *Recognizes* that South-South and triangular cooperation are mutually supportive in terms of both technical and financial assistance, emphasizes in this regard the importance of further invigorating South-South cooperation, and invites all Member States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in Governments, the private sector and civil society, including volunteer groups;

24. *Invites* the regional commissions, where relevant, to further harness the knowledge network, partnerships, technical and research capacity in support of enhanced subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation and to use the meetings of the regional coordination mechanism, as appropriate, as a tool for advancing system-wide cooperation and coordination in support of South-South cooperation at the regional level;

25. *Requests* all Member States and the United Nations development system to foster complementarities among North-South and South-South and triangular cooperation through greater evidence-based policy dialogue on strategic cross-cutting issues, in particular for the application of science, technology and innovation and the integration of a gender perspective into the pursuit of sustainable development;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session, to provide an update on concrete steps taken to further strengthen South-South cooperation within the United Nations development system;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Operational activities for development", the sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development", and requests the

Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation within the context of the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the concrete measures taken by the United Nations development system to improve its support to South-South cooperation and the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/239:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Mad-

agascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Switzerland.

Humanitarian and special economic assistance

In 2014, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) responded to humanitarian challenges due to natural disasters and conflicts. Crises in the Central African Republic, Iraq, the Philippines, South Sudan and Syria were classified as level-three emergencies requiring immediate scale-up. Besides the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa where OCHA assisted with coordination in health, food security and sanitation and protection, elsewhere in the world OCHA assisted at least 52 million people with material assistance worth \$12.9 billion. At year's end, however, the number of people in need increased to 76 million and the requirement went up to \$18.05 billion. Despite donors providing record levels of funding, by December, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners had received 61 per cent or \$11 billion in funding. During the year, the number of people displaced internally or fleeing as refugees exceeded 50 million—the highest since 1945.

In 2014, humanitarian appeals and response plans were launched for Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Gambia, Haiti, Iraq, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of Congo, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Sahel region.

In June, the Economic and Social Council considered ways to strengthen the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance. The General Assembly adopted resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters from relief to development; reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon; the twentieth anniversary of the participation of the White Helmets in UN humanitarian, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development activities; the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; international cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan; and the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) continued to allow for the rapid provision of assistance to populations affected by sudden-onset disasters and underfunded emergencies. In 2014, CERF allocated more than \$460 million for humanitarian action in 45 countries worldwide.

Humanitarian assistance

Coordination

Humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council

In accordance with Council **decision 2014/211** of 23 April, the humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council (New York, 23–25 June) [A/69/3/Rev.1] at its substantive session of 2014 considered the theme “The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness”. It convened two panels—one on effective Humanitarian Assistance; and another on serving the needs of people in complex emergencies. An informal event was also held on 23 June, in response to **decision 2014/215**, on supporting the process of transition from relief to development: funding and risk management.

The Council, along with the General Assembly, considered the Secretary-General's April report [A/69/80-E/2014/68] on strengthening the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, submitted in response to Assembly resolutions 46/182 [YUN 1991, p. 421] and 68/102 [YUN 2013, p. 869], and Council resolution 2013/6 [ibid., p. 863]. The report described the major humanitarian trends and challenges between January and December 2013 and discussed issues on reducing vulnerability and managing risk; transformation through innovation; serving the needs of people in conflict; and humanitarian effectiveness. The report also reviewed efforts to improve humanitarian coordination and response with recommendations for further improvement.

At the end of 2013, the global number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) resulting from armed conflict and generalized violence was estimated at 33.2 million, the highest number ever recorded by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Although an estimated 1 million people were able to return home in 2013, over 8.1 million were newly displaced. By mid-2013, the global refugee population stood at 11.1 million, 600,000 higher than six months earlier. The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters recorded 334 disasters, which claimed an estimated 22,600 lives, affected 97 million people and caused over \$118 billion in damages. Asia continued to be the region most impacted by natural disasters, with

almost half (160) of the disasters occurring in the region, accounting for 88 per cent of the number of people killed.

In the Middle East region, the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to deteriorate rapidly. The number of people in need had risen to 9.3 million, including 6.5 million IDPs. At least another 2.3 million people had sought refuge in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, as well as Egypt and other countries. In Yemen, sectarian and inter-tribal fighting continued to create displacement and limit returns. In October 2013, new fighting erupted in northern Yemen, where about 300,000 people continued to live in protracted displacement with limited prospects of returning to their areas of origin. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the number of people displaced by demolitions or evictions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, increased from 886 in 2012 to 1,103 in 2013; and the blockade on the Gaza Strip continued to cause high levels of unemployment and food insecurity, leaving the majority of people in Gaza dependent on aid.

Africa also saw the intensification of a number of conflicts. In the Central African Republic, an estimated 2.3 million people, more than half of the country's population, were in need of assistance. In South Sudan, 1 million people faced acute food insecurity caused by displacement resulting from inter-communal violence as well as seasonal flooding. In the Sudan, inter-tribal conflict and sporadic clashes in Darfur displaced close to 400,000 people, bringing the total number of displaced people in Darfur to over 2 million. Humanitarian partners could not reach an estimated 800,000 people in areas controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States from within the Sudan. In addition, over half a million Sudanese remained in refugee camps in Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan. In Mali, 3 million people were affected by food insecurity and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at the end of the year, there were nearly 3 million IDPs—many displaced multiple times. In Somalia, for the first time in five years and despite ongoing fighting in some parts of the country, the number of people in need of life-saving assistance decreased—from over 1 million to 857,000—reflecting modest gains in food security. Some 2 million people, however, continued to live on the verge of food and nutrition insecurity and required support.

In the Asia-Pacific region, intercommunal tensions and violence displaced over 140,000 people in Rakhine State, and 100,000 people in Kachin. In Afghanistan, more than 124,000 people were newly displaced in 2013, bringing the total number of displaced people to 631,000. In Pakistan, approximately 1 million people remained displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. In addition, 1.6 million Afghan refugees

resided in Pakistan, constituting the world's largest protracted refugee situation. In the Philippines, fighting between armed groups and violent clan feuds continued in Mindanao, where over 140 people were killed and 130,000 displaced. Approximately half of the displaced returned home in late 2013.

Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) made landfall in the Philippines on 8 November, resulting in the largest loss of life from a natural disaster in 2013, affecting over 14 million people, including 5.4 million children. The Government reported at least 6,200 deaths and 1,700 people missing. Over 4 million people were displaced and over 1 million homes were damaged, half of them destroyed. Haiyan came less than one month after an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale which hit the nearby island province of Bohol. In Pakistan, monsoon flooding affected approximately 1.5 million people, a significant decrease from previous years (18 million in 2010 and 5 million in 2011 and 2012). In Iran, an earthquake impacted western Balochistan in April, followed by a major earthquake in Balochistan in September, affecting 215,000 people and killing over 400.

In Africa, in the Sahel region, 11.4 million people remained food insecure while 5 million children were at risk of malnutrition. Close to 500,000 people were affected by floods in the Sahel, an estimated 233,000 of them in the Niger. Heavy rains caused flooding across Mozambique, while Tropical Cyclone Haruna made landfall over southwest Madagascar. The Seychelles declared a state of emergency in three districts owing to floods and landslides. Haiti continued to recover from the multiple shocks suffered in the last few years, but critical needs remained, with an estimated 3 million people with chronic and acute needs requiring life- and livelihood-saving interventions. Following the 2010 earthquake [YUN 2010, p. 320], over 146,000 people remained displaced, living in 271 displaced persons' sites.

In 2013, the United Nations and its partners continued to improve the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian action, including through the transformative agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee—a mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance, bringing together UN and non-UN humanitarian partners. An important element of the transformative agenda was the introduction in 2013 of improvements to the humanitarian programme cycle concept, designed to strengthen the way in which humanitarian actors work collectively, including with and in support of Governments, in order to help meet the needs of people affected by natural disasters and conflict. The programme cycle consisted of five elements: needs assessment and analysis; strategic response planning; resource mobilization; implementation and monitoring; and operational review and evaluation. Coordination and information management were key enablers for each

of those steps, as effective, strategic and accountable humanitarian action was based on assessments and analysis of needs.

On humanitarian financing, the Secretary-General reported that in 2013, ninety-five countries, as well as numerous multilateral and regional organizations, private sector organizations and individuals, contributed a total of \$14.4 billion in funding to multilateral inter-agency response plans and complementary humanitarian action. That was an increase of \$1.6 billion from 2012, largely owing to the magnitude of the crisis in Syria and the response to Typhoon Haiyan-Yolanda in the Philippines. Member States and the private sector contributed \$474 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund, the highest-ever annual total. Those funds enabled the Emergency Relief Coordinator to allocate \$482 million for urgent humanitarian response in 45 countries and territories. More than 65 per cent of the funding was used to respond to complex emergencies, 20 per cent to natural disasters and 14 per cent went to other protracted humanitarian emergencies.

The Secretary-General recommended that Member States, the UN and humanitarian actors continue to identify, understand and analyse the distinct needs, challenges and coping capacities of women, girls, boys and men, including by improving the disaggregation of sex-, age- and disability-specific data during collation and their use in analysis and programme planning; strengthen the participation of all affected women, girls, boys and men in decision-making structures; and consistently utilize the gender marker and other monitoring tools to improve gender and age analysis and track funding allocations.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 June [meeting 29], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/13** [draft: E/2014/L.18] without vote [agenda item 7].

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect those principles,

Recalling its decision 2014/211 of 23 April 2014, in which it decided that the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its 2014 session would be “The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness” and that it would

convene two panels, on the topics “Effective humanitarian assistance” and “Serving the needs of people in complex emergencies”,

Expressing deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity posed by the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, by the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis and by the regional food crises and continuing food insecurity, and the potential of those challenges to increase the need for resources for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance, including in developing countries,

Expressing grave concern at the increase in the number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those associated with natural hazards and complex emergencies, at the increased impact of natural disasters and at the frequently protracted displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies, recognizing the need for burden sharing in this regard, and noting with appreciation efforts at the national and international levels that promote national capacity-building to address complex challenges in this regard,

Condemning the increasing number of attacks and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, assets and supplies, including medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, transports and facilities, and expressing deep concern about the negative implications of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

Reiterating the need to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance in a comprehensive and consistent manner,

Emphasizing that building and strengthening resilience at the local, national, and regional levels is critical to reducing the impact of disasters, including by saving lives, reducing suffering, mitigating damage to property and providing a more predictable and effective delivery of assistance and relief, and in this regard, while recognizing that building resilience is a long-term development process, stressing the need for continued investment in preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response capacity,

Emphasizing also the importance of improving information-sharing among Member States and the United Nations system and, where appropriate, with relevant humanitarian and development organizations, about risks that can lead to humanitarian crises, and of investing in building capacity, in particular for developing countries, to analyse, manage and reduce such risks and vulnerabilities to hazards, as well as, where appropriate, to improve risk analysis and its use in planning,

Recognizing the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be accompanied by development measures as a step towards

the sustainable development of affected States, and in this regard highlighting the importance of closer cooperation between national stakeholders, including the private sector, as appropriate, and humanitarian and development actors,

Noting the contribution, as appropriate, of relevant regional and subregional organizations in the provision of humanitarian assistance within their region, upon the request of the affected State,

Recognizing that volunteerism can make an important contribution to community and nationally led efforts at all stages of humanitarian action,

Noting the importance of identifying best practices and opportunities to enhance the effective interaction and co-ordination between the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, donors, affected Governments, civil society, the private sector and other relevant actors and to make the best use of their expertise, available capacities, comparative advantages and resources with the overall aim of providing effective humanitarian assistance,

Recognizing the need for the United Nations system and its partners to improve and strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system in support of national efforts, and noting the efforts made by the United Nations and its partners, including through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, in which the Assembly stated that the Council and the Assembly, especially its Second and Third Committees, need to consider and take steps towards the rationalization of their agendas, with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Requests* Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to ensure that all aspects and stages of humanitarian response address the specific needs, challenges and coping capacities of women, girls, men and boys, on an equal basis, taking into consideration age and disability, including through the improved collection, analysis, reporting and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, taking into account, inter alia, the information provided by States, and emphasizes the importance of the full participation of women in decision-making processes related to humanitarian response;
3. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of relevant organizations, as appropriate, to strengthen leadership and commitment to preventing and mitigating humanitarian crises, including through integrating risk management into national development plans, and in this regard encourages humanitarian and development organizations, in cooperation with Governments, to continue to strengthen efforts to address the underlying risks and vulnerabilities, including through considering risk management and resilience strategies;
4. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should continue to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through

technical cooperation and long-term partnerships, as well as by strengthening their capacity to build resilience, mitigate disaster risks and prepare for and respond to disasters, and also encourages Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, together with development organizations, to continue to support national leadership in building in-country preparedness capacity, including under the Common Framework for Capacity Development for Emergency Preparedness of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

6. *Encourages* Member States, as well as relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to continue to support adaptation to the effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, especially for those countries that are particularly vulnerable;

7. *Urges* States to assess their progress in strengthening preparedness levels for humanitarian response, with a view to increasing efforts to develop, update and strengthen disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, in particular priority 5 thereof, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and encourages the international community and relevant United Nations entities, including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, United Nations funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies, to give increased priority to and mainstream disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, in particular through supporting national and local efforts in that regard;

8. *Encourages* States, the United Nations system and all stakeholders to continue to engage in the consultations on the successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action, culminating at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015;

9. *Welcomes* the growing number of initiatives undertaken at the regional and national levels to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to review and strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account, as appropriate, the Guidelines, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and other partners;

10. *Encourages* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts;

11. *Also encourages* efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and quality education in humanitarian emergencies, in particular for the well-being of all girls and boys, to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

12. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance, urges relevant United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, including civil society, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance, and encourages Member States to improve their cooperation with the Office;

13. *Also requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve dialogue with Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

14. *Encourages* United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations, while strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, to continue to work in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

15. *Requests* the United Nations system and other relevant actors to continue to improve and strengthen humanitarian coordination mechanisms, notably at the field level, including the existing cluster coordination mechanism, and by improving partnership and coordination with national and local authorities, including the use of national/local coordination mechanisms, where possible;

16. *Welcomes* the continued efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity in order to provide a timely, predictable, coordinated and accountable response to humanitarian needs, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts in that regard, in consultation with Member States, including by strengthening support to and improving the identification, selection and training of United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators;

17. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to identify solutions to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Development Group to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, in order to ensure full implementation of the management and accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system;

18. *Also requests* the United Nations to continue to develop specialist technical expertise and capacity to fill

gaps in critical humanitarian programming and to procure emergency relief material rapidly and cost-effectively, and locally when appropriate, in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination and provision of international humanitarian assistance;

19. *Recognizes* the benefits of the effectiveness of the humanitarian response, including by engaging and coordinating with relevant humanitarian actors, and welcomes in this regard the ongoing efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and the private sector, encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts, which can cooperate effectively to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence, and also encourages the United Nations system to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

20. *Notes* the increasing challenges facing both Member States, in particular developing countries, and the international humanitarian response system in responding effectively to all humanitarian emergencies, in particular the underfunded and forgotten emergencies, and in this regard stresses the need to enhance existing partnerships and build new ones, strengthen financing mechanisms, broaden the donor base and engage other partners to ensure adequate resources for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

21. *Expresses concern* at the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of food and shelter, water and sanitation, health care, fuel, firewood and alternative energy and telecommunications in humanitarian emergencies, and notes with appreciation initiatives at the national and international levels that promote effective cooperation in that regard;

22. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to assess and improve, together with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, how innovation can be more systematically promoted through increasing investment in research and development leading to innovation, identified and integrated into humanitarian action in a sustainable manner, and promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on innovative tools, processes and evaluations, including those from recent large-scale natural disasters, that could improve the effectiveness and quality of humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages all relevant stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities, including through access to information and communication technologies;

23. *Requests* the United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of and make further progress in respect of strategic planning and common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

24. *Encourages* Member States to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of information with humanitarian organizations of the United Nations, in order to support preparedness efforts and to improve the effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

25. *Recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need to enhance the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

26. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately addressed;

27. *Urges* all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to fully commit to and duly respect the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as well as the principle of independence, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003;

28. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

29. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law;

30. *Calls upon* all States and parties to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including all the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and in this regard urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians in those situations;

31. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including food, shelter, health, clean water, education and protection, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources with the aim of ensuring the immediate restoration of safe conditions of life, alleviating the immediate effects of humanitarian emergencies and contributing towards long-term recovery and reconstruction, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

32. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, and in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building efforts of States;

33. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, including medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, premises, facilities, equipment, transports and supplies operating within their borders, and in other territories under their effective control, recognizes the need for appropriate collaboration between humanitarian actors and relevant authorities of the affected State in matters related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and urges Member States to ensure that perpetrators of crimes committed against humanitarian personnel on their territory or in other territories under their effective control do not operate with impunity and are brought to justice as provided for by national laws and in accordance with obligations under international law;

34. *Also urges* Member States to continue to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services for victims of such violence, and also calls for a more effective response in that regard;

35. *Encourages* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include as part of their risk management strategy the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and to promote acceptance by local communities, and all relevant actors, in order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

36. *Emphasizes* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, reaffirms the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles;

37. *Encourages* Member States, the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make new contributions and to consider increasing and diversifying their existing contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, including consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds such as the country-based pooled funds, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, as a means of ensuring flexible, predictable, timely, needs-based and, where possible, multi-year, non-earmarked and additional resources to meet global humanitarian challenges, encourages donors to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship, reiterates that contributions for humanitarian assistance should be provided in a way which is not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development, recognizes the need for more diversified

funding bases, and encourages the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to consider making further use of multi-year consolidated appeals, as appropriate;

38. *Recognizes* that building preparedness is a long-term investment that will contribute to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including a reduction in the need for humanitarian response, and therefore further encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant actors to provide effective, predictable, flexible and adequate funding for preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities, including from humanitarian and development budgets, and stresses that international preparedness efforts reinforce and support national and local response capacities and institutions;

39. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016, aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices in the humanitarian field to improve the coordination, capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian response, and requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure an inclusive, consultative and transparent preparatory process;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/135** [A/69/L.40 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 69 (a)].

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,

Reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming also the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Deeply concerned about global challenges, such as the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, climate change, the negative impact of the volatile food prices on food security and nutrition and the rapid urbanization of populations, and about their effect on the increasing vulnerability of populations and impact on the need for and provision of humanitarian and development assistance,

Noting the substantial increase over the last decade in global humanitarian funding requirements, welcoming non-traditional donors, emphasizing the need to mobilize

adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, with a view to ensuring fuller coverage of the needs in all sectors and across humanitarian emergencies, and recognizing in this regard the achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund,

Emphasizing that strengthened needs analysis, risk management and strategic planning, in coordination with affected States, including through the use of open and disaggregated data, are crucial elements to ensure a better informed, more effective, transparent and collective response to the needs of people affected by crises,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance, including by addressing the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men in a comprehensive and consistent manner, and to take into account the needs of affected populations, including persons with disabilities,

Expressing its deep concern about the increasing challenges faced by Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response system and their capacities as a result of the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, and reaffirming the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, inter alia, by providing adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, including investment in disaster preparedness and capacity-building, and by working towards building back better in all phases from relief to development,

Expressing grave concern about the current unprecedented outbreak of the Ebola virus disease and its adverse impact on the affected countries, underscoring that the control of outbreaks of major infectious diseases requires proper early warning, preparedness, resilience-building, cross-sectoral action and greater national, regional and international collaboration, and in this regard stressing the continued need for a coordinated response to the Ebola outbreak,

Recognizing that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain acutely vulnerable to natural hazards and need adequate international cooperation, as appropriate, to strengthen their resilience in this regard,

Recognizing also that economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies,

Recognizing further, in this respect, that building national and local preparedness and response capacity through, inter alia, appropriate and conducive public policies and international assistance, is critical to a more predictable and effective response and contributes to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including enhanced resilience and a reduced need for humanitarian response,

Emphasizing that enhancing international cooperation on emergency humanitarian assistance is essential, and reaffirming its resolution 68/103 of 13 December 2013 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development,

Emphasizing also the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort

to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles,

Condemning the increasing number of deliberate threats and violent attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities, including medical personnel, their facilities and other humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, in a majority of cases affecting locally recruited personnel, noting with concern the negative implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, and in this regard welcoming the efforts such as the Health Care in Danger project of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, together with States, international and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law by raising awareness and promoting preparedness to address the grave and serious humanitarian consequences arising from such violence,

Recognizing the high number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including the increasing number of internally displaced persons, of whom a majority are women and children, who are forcibly displaced owing to conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, and who are often displaced for protracted periods, wherein the national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance and promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, bearing in mind their particular needs,

Recognizing also the importance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which include a vital legal framework for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, including the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations during and after humanitarian situations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts that the United Nations continues to make to improve humanitarian response, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, improving humanitarian coordination, enhancing predictable and adequate funding and strengthening the accountability of all stakeholders, and recognizing the importance of strengthening emergency administrative procedures and funding to allow for an effective and needs-based response to emergencies,

Recognizing that, in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, the organizations of the United Nations system should continue to consult and work in close coordination with national Governments,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the seventeenth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2014;

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue her efforts to strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system, including through the transformative agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant

intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Also requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve dialogue with all Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

4. *Encourages* Member States and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to improve dialogue and collaboration on humanitarian issues, including on policy, in order to foster a more consultative and inclusive approach to humanitarian assistance;

5. *Welcomes* the continued efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in order to effectively cooperate to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence;

6. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to assess and improve, together with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, how innovation can be more systematically identified and integrated into humanitarian action in a sustainable manner and to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on innovative tools, processes and approaches, including those from large-scale natural disasters, that could improve the effectiveness and quality of humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages all relevant stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities, including through facilitating access to information and communication technologies;

7. *Welcomes* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance at the global and field levels, including through existing cluster coordination mechanisms and in support of national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing efficiency, transparency, performance and accountability;

9. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue strengthening the support provided to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including by providing necessary training, identifying resources and improving the identification of and the selection process for United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators, and enhancing their performance accountability;

11. *Calls upon* the Chair of the United Nations Development Group and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue enhancing their consultations before presenting final recommendations on the selection process for resident coordinators in countries likely to require significant humanitarian response operations;

12. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Development Group to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, in order to ensure the full implementation of the management and accountability system of the Group and the resident coordinator system;

13. *Recognizes* that diversity of humanitarian staff brings value to humanitarian work and understanding of developing countries' contexts, and requests the Secretary-General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the humanitarian staff of the Secretariat and other United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff, and to report on measures taken in this regard in his annual report;

14. *Also recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need for enhancing the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, reiterates the importance of strengthening the effectiveness of national and local preparedness in line with priority five of the Framework, notes the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 19 to 23 May 2013, and encourages States, the United Nations system and all stakeholders to continue to engage in the consultations on the successor to the Framework, culminating at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015;

16. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to build the capacity at all levels of government and within local organizations and communities to better prepare for hazards and respond to and recover from disasters;

17. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to increase and commit adequate, timely, flexible and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to build resilience, including through complementary humanitarian and development programming and by further strengthening national and local capacities to

prevent, prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, and furthermore encourages closer cooperation between national stakeholders and humanitarian and development actors in this regard;

18. *Encourages* the United Nations system, humanitarian organizations and development organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream preparedness, early action and early recovery into their programming, acknowledges that preparedness, early action and early recovery should receive further funding, and in this regard encourages the provision of timely, flexible, predictable and adequate resources, including from both humanitarian and development budgets, as appropriate;

19. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security;

20. *Expresses concern* about the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of fuel, firewood, alternative energy, water and sanitation, shelter and food and health-care services in humanitarian emergencies, and noting with appreciation initiatives at the national and international levels that promote effective cooperation in this regard;

21. *Encourages* the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems, especially early warning systems, for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards;

22. *Welcomes* the growing number of initiatives undertaken at the regional and national levels to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to review and strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account the Guidelines, as appropriate, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other partners;

23. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and of national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in order to ensure better preparedness in providing timely, effective and predictable humanitarian assistance, and encourages the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide support to such efforts, including, as appropriate, under the Common Framework for Preparedness of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the United Nations Development Group and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries and through support to programmes aimed at enhancing the coordination capacities of affected States;

24. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-

term development, where appropriate, including through prioritizing humanitarian tools that strengthen resilience, such as, but not limited to, cash transfers, local procurement of food and services and social safety nets;

25. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to examine their own financing mechanisms in order to improve, where possible, fast and flexible financing for preparedness, response and the transition from relief to recovery;

26. *Takes note* of the efforts of Member States, the United Nations system and the international community to strengthen preparedness and local, national and regional humanitarian response capacity, and calls upon the United Nations and relevant partners to continue support in this regard;

27. *Encourages* efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and quality education for all, especially for girls and boys, in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

28. *Encourages* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to work with Member States and relevant United Nations entities to facilitate the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through mutually comprehensible harmonized data, in order to ensure better assessment of needs in order to improve preparedness and humanitarian response;

29. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvement of the humanitarian programme cycle, in particular the development of strategic response plans and humanitarian needs overviews, including consolidated appeals processes, in consultation with the affected States in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action, to meet the needs of people affected by humanitarian emergencies;

30. *Encourages* Member States to provide humanitarian funding based on, and in accordance with, the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

31. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to explore innovative risk-sharing mechanisms and to base risk management funding on objective data;

32. *Requests* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response, including disaster preparedness and needs assessments, take into account the specific humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities of all components of the affected population, in particular girls, boys, women, older persons and persons with disabilities, including in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and recovery programming and post-humanitarian emergency reconstruction, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the gender marker, and emphasizes the importance of full participation of, in particular, women and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes related to humanitarian response;

33. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to

improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and taking into account environmental impact, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

34. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately assessed and effectively addressed;

35. *Calls upon* donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources based on and in proportion to assessed needs, including for underfunded and forgotten emergencies, to consider providing early and multi-year commitments to pooled humanitarian funds and to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels, encourages efforts to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship and to improve burden-sharing among donors, and in this respect encourages the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make relevant contributions, complementary to those of other sources;

36. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to identify better ways of working to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, in order to effectively meet the needs of affected populations;

37. *Calls upon* Member States that are in a position to do so and development and humanitarian partners, in their efforts to provide flexible resources, to consider ways of better mainstreaming the need for preparedness and building resilience in the provision of humanitarian and development assistance, including reconstruction and rehabilitation, inter alia, with a view to ensuring smooth transition from relief to development;

38. *Encourages* humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through joint analysis, planning, programming and funding;

39. *Calls upon* all Member States that are in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions to humanitarian emergencies, and in this context reiterates that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding;

40. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

41. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

42. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education and protection, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

43. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

44. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

45. *Also reaffirms* the obligations of all States and parties to an armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, including medical personnel, facilities, transports and activities, which must not be attacked, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required;

46. *Calls upon* States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts and to ensure that those responsible are promptly brought to justice, in accordance with national law and their obligations under international law;

47. *Urges* all Member States to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies in a strengthened manner and to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute gender-based violence, and calls upon States, the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, harmonize response and strengthen capacity, with a view to preventing and reducing such violence and ensuring that humanitarian relief is provided in a way that mitigates the risk of gender-based violence, and to ensure that support services to victims and survivors of such violence are given due priority, beginning in the earliest stages of emergency response;

48. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the

needs of internally displaced persons, and in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building efforts of States and encourages humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, including with development organizations, to better address the needs of internally displaced persons in support of Member States to promote durable solutions;

49. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

50. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, and supports the approach taken by the Secretary-General to focus the efforts of the security management system on enabling the United Nations system to “stay and deliver” its most critical programmes even in high-risk environments by effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed, including in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and to adapt quickly to changes in local security conditions;

51. *Encourages* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include, as part of their risk management strategy, the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and to promote acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors in order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on actions taken to enable the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy staff quickly, effectively and flexibly, to procure emergency relief materials and services rapidly, cost-effectively and locally, where applicable, and to quickly disburse funds in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance;

53. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016, aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices in the humanitarian field to improve the coordination, capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian response, requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure an inclusive, consultative, transparent preparatory process, encourages Member States and stakeholders to participate in and contribute to the process and outcome of the Summit, and encourages the Secretary-General to further engage Member States regarding the process and outcome of the Summit;

54. *Encourages* Member States to give appropriate consideration in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda to disaster risk reduction, including building resilience and national and local preparedness and response capacity;

55. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the

Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2015, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including on the process and update on the World Humanitarian Summit, and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UN and other humanitarian personnel

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/101 [YUN 2013, p. 1508], the Secretary-General in a September report [A/69/406] provided an update on the safety and security of UN personnel over the preceding year and on the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security (DSS) to implement that resolution.

The UN security management system was responsible for the safety and security of more than 150,000 UN personnel in 187 countries. Some 30,000 United Nations personnel served at headquarters locations while more than 120,000 served in non-headquarters duty stations, including field offices.

In 2013, the total number of United Nations personnel affected by significant security incidents decreased to 1,216, compared to 1,793 in 2012, 1759 in 2011 and 1,438 in 2010. A total of 28 UN personnel lost their lives in significant security incidents, compared to 35 in 2012, 70 in 2011 and 24 in 2010; and 18 UN personnel lost their lives as a result of violence in 2013, while 10 were killed in safety-related incidents. A total of 226 personnel were injured in significant security incidents (compared with 321 in 2012, 311 in 2011, 232 in 2010), 82 as the result of violence and 144 in safety-related incidents.

The continuing high number of abductions of UN personnel since 2010 remained a serious concern. In 2013, 17 UN personnel were abducted, following 31 abductions in 2012, 21 in 2011 and 12 in 2010. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UN personnel remained in captivity for eight months. Most of the abductions and hostage-taking incidents occurred in the Sudan, Syria and Yemen. During the first six months of 2014, nine UN personnel were abducted and later released. One internationally-recruited staff member abducted in October 2013 in Yemen remained in captivity. Female UN personnel accounted for some 40 per cent and almost 36 per cent of all personnel significant security incidents. About 52 per cent of the total number of personnel affected by robberies and almost 100 per cent of those affected by sexual assaults were female. DSS had continued to provide support and engage with non-governmental organizations on security. In April, the UN security management system promulgated its

Saving Lives Together framework, which provided a basis to facilitate security cooperation between the United Nations and its implementing and operational partners. In addition, DSS, in cooperation with concerned UN entities, concluded an independent review of Saving Lives Together to enhance the framework and develop new operational guidance.

The Secretary-General highlighted three factors that could prompt the world community to make concerted efforts to ensure the protection of UN and humanitarian personnel: a current and evolving global security environment marked by unconventional and diverse threats against UN and humanitarian personnel; the increasing requirement by Member States for the United Nations to be present in dangerous places, including in areas of active armed conflict and volatile post-conflict environments; and the undeterred commitment of the United Nations to operate, regardless of the environment, in order to carry out life-saving programmes and to promote peace, human rights and development. While physical security was a core component of UN security management, the sustainable security management approach required a multidimensional approach. That included the need to view security management as a joint effort with host Governments and Member States. The protection of UN and humanitarian personnel was the collective responsibility of the international community.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/133** of 12 December (see p. 1693), on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, urged all States to make every effort to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and refugee law as applicable, related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel.

Resource mobilization

Central Emergency Response Fund

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was originally established in 1992 with the name Central Emergency Revolving Fund [YUN 1992, p. 584] as a cash-flow mechanism for the initial phase of humanitarian emergencies. In 2005, by General Assembly resolution 60/124 [YUN 2005, p. 991], the Fund was renamed and upgraded with the purpose of promoting early action and response, enhancing response to time-critical requirements, and strengthening core elements of humanitarian response in underfunded crises.

In 2014, \$460.8 million in CERF funds supported aid agencies responding to crises in 45 countries. Some \$291 million—almost two thirds of total allocations—kick-started aid operations in emergen-

cies ranging from the conflicts in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Iraq to natural disasters in Bolivia and Nepal. Another \$170 million went to life-saving programmes to help people in underfunded humanitarian crises, such as in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Myanmar and Somalia. More than half of CERF funds (\$235 million) went to projects supporting conflict-affected people, mainly in Ethiopia, CAR, South Sudan and Sudan. Driven by humanitarian demands related to crises in those countries, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and persistent needs across much of the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, almost three quarters (\$338.7 million) of total CERF funding went to emergency activities on the African continent. That was the largest proportion of CERF funding that region had ever received in a year. CERF allocated more than half of all its funding to providing food, clean water, and sanitation and health services and supplies.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/102 [YUN 2013, p. 869], in June [A/69/96] the Secretary-General reported on the Central Emergency Response Fund, covering 2013. The Emergency Relief Coordinator had allocated a record \$482 million from the rapid response and underfunded emergency grant windows and \$27 million from the loan facility of the Fund to support activities in 45 countries and territories. Member States and the private sector contributed \$477.3 million to the Fund for 2013, the highest-ever annual total. During the year, the secretariat of the Fund completed the implementation of the management response plan for the five-year independent evaluation of the Fund, given that all recommendations directly under its control had been implemented successfully.

During the year, 57 per cent of funds supported projects in conflict-related emergencies. Most conflict-related allocations went to projects in the Sudan (\$41.9 million), Syria (\$40.4 million), Somalia (\$19.8 million) and Mali (\$17.9 million). With additional allocations to address the needs of Syrians who had fled to Lebanon (\$17.5 million), Jordan (\$14.8 million) and Iraq (\$10 million), the Fund allocated a total of \$82.7 million to respond to the conflict in Syria. Fund grants to support life-saving activities following natural disasters, including an earthquake in the Philippines, floods in Mozambique and drought in Bolivia, totaled \$80.5 million. In terms of humanitarian sectors, funding for food assistance (\$113.7 million), health care (\$75.2 million) and water and sanitation (\$58.2 million) totaled more than 51 per cent of all Fund allocations. Of all regions, Africa received the largest grant allocation in 2013 (56 per cent).

In regard to agencies receiving funds directly from CERF in 2013, and consistent with previous Fund allocations, the World Food Programme remained the biggest recipient (30 per cent), followed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (24 per cent). The next largest recipients were the Office of the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that combined received 39 per cent of the Fund's grant allocations.

Advisory Group meetings. At its May meeting [A/68/975] (Geneva, 14–15 May), CERF Advisory Group—established by Assembly resolution 60/124 to advise the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, on the use and impact of the Fund—considered a number of policy issues, including CERF risk management plan, the independent review of its Performance and Accountability Framework, and the evaluation of UNHCR of its utilization of CERF funds. The Group also received an update on the resource mobilization and communications efforts of CERF secretariat.

The Group noted that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Humanitarian Financing Task Team was considering best practices from individual agencies, which could lead to improvements across the board in the timeliness of disbursement of CERF funds to recipient agencies' implementing partners. The Group encouraged CERF secretariat to continue strengthening its partnership with IASC members within the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team. The Group welcomed the piloting of the new CERF application template, which had improved the accuracy and timeliness of available data and increased the transparency and accountability of CERF to stakeholders.

The Group received an update on the semi-annual CERF risk action plan and acknowledged its importance for risk mitigation and advocacy purposes. The Group requested that CERF secretariat proceed with drafting standard operating procedures to guide the actions to be taken by CERF, including timely information exchange with donors, should CERF secretariat be made aware of a potential misuse of funds by an implementing partner.

The Group appreciated the UNHCR evaluation of the utilization of CERF funds, and encouraged UNHCR and CERF secretariat to act on the recommendations from the evaluation in a timely manner. The Group noted that some recipients were in the process of conducting their own study—such as the WFP—and also encouraged other recipients of CERF funds, in particular UNICEF, to conduct similar evaluations, as recommended by the five-year evaluation of CERF.

At its October meeting [A/69/713] (New York, 23–24 October), the Advisory Group discussed how to deal with the potential misuse of CERF funds and the challenge of communicating potential misuse to donors. The Group reaffirmed that any misuse of CERF funds should be treated in accordance with existing oversight rules and mechanisms of the recipient agencies and be informed by the ongoing

system-wide efforts to ensure coherence of treatment of fraud within the United Nations. The Group also considered a number of policy issues, including CERF risk management plan; progress made following the recommendations from the independent review of the Performance and Accountability Framework; and the independent country reviews of the added value of CERF in the Sudan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Group appreciated the opportunity to exchange views with other representatives of IASC and welcomed the ongoing work of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team on best practices to accelerate the implementation of CERF-funded projects. The Group took note of the variety of systemic and contextual factors affecting the timeliness of disbursement and implementation, including the potentially competing requests for strengthened accountability and risk management systems. The Group reiterated that rapid disbursement of funds was central to the Fund's life-saving mandate and key for maintaining the reputation of CERF as an effective humanitarian financing mechanism. The Group called upon the senior management of IASC members to demonstrate continuous measurable improvements, and requested CERF secretariat to develop targeted key messages on the timeliness of disbursement for the donors' representatives to raise at meetings of the Executive Board of the respective recipient agencies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/134** [draft: A/69/L.37 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 69].

Twentieth anniversary of the participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/19 of 28 November 1995, 52/171 of 16 December 1997, 54/98 of 8 December 1999, 56/102 of 14 December 2001, 58/118 of 17 December 2003, 61/220 of 20 December 2006, 64/75 of 7 December 2009 and 67/84 of 13 December 2012,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 B of 20 December 1994, 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and 51/194 of 17 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/33 of 25 July 1996,

Recalling its resolution 49/139 B, in which it welcomed the establishment of a national volunteer corps called "White Helmets", undertaken in order to strengthen the standby capacity of developing countries, to support United Nations activities in the area of humanitarian emergency assistance, as well as in the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

Recalling also its resolution 66/67 of 5 December 2011 on the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, in which it noted that the momentum created by the Year had contributed to the vibrancy of volunteerism globally with the involvement of more people, from a broader cross-section of societies,

Recognizing, in the light of the increasing number and growing magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and other emergencies, the need to utilize fully the national potential of countries to provide the United Nations system, on a standby basis, with support for its activities in the area of humanitarian emergency assistance, as well as in the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, which should contribute to more coordinated responses in these fields,

Recalling its resolution 50/19, in which it encouraged voluntary national and regional actions aimed at making available to the United Nations system, through the United Nations Volunteers, national volunteer corps such as the White Helmets on a standby basis, in accordance with accepted United Nations procedures and practices, in order to provide specialized human and technical resources for emergency relief and rehabilitation, and in that regard noted with satisfaction the establishment, in particular in developing countries, of national volunteer corps such as the White Helmets,

Recognizing the efforts being made by the White Helmets initiative to strengthen national, subregional and regional agreements in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Noting that in the 20 years since the launch of the White Helmets initiative, developing countries in a position to do so have shown a growing commitment to assisting communities in need through the provision of technical, human and material resources and cooperation, both in their fight against hunger and poverty and in the context of emergency response and international humanitarian assistance, and in this regard recognizing the efforts of the White Helmets initiative,

Welcomes the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of its first resolution on the White Helmets initiative, and in line with resolution 67/84 reiterates its invitation that the Secretary-General, on the basis of the work experience acquired by the White Helmets in the international field, suggest measures to enhance the collaboration of the White Helmets initiative with the United Nations system and report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session in a separate section of the annual report on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

Humanitarian action

The Consolidated Appeal Process tool was used for the last time in 2013 and replaced with the humanitarian needs overviews (HNOS), a joint multi-sectoral analysis and prioritization of needs at a country level. The purpose of HNOS was to support humanitarian partners in developing a shared understanding of the evolution and impact of a crisis; to ensure that credible evidence and a joint analysis of needs underpinned an effective and prioritized humanitarian response; and to reliably identify priority needs, vulnerable groups and most-affected areas.

The total global financial requirement in 2014 to cover humanitarian needs rose to \$18.05 billion—the highest amount ever requested in a single year and exceeded the \$12.9 billion requested in 2013.

Around 61 per cent (\$11 billion) of the 2014 requirement was funded in assistance to people in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Gambia, Haiti, Iraq, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, the Niger, Nigeria, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Philippines, the Republic of Congo, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen and the Sahel region.

In 2014, three major crises with significant regional impact—Central African Republic, South Sudan and Syria—dominated humanitarian response efforts.

Discrepancies in funding among crises were evident during the year. The appeals and plans for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (47.4 per cent), Mali (49.6), Somalia (49.1 per cent), Chad (36.6 per cent) were less than for Afghanistan (90.0 per cent), the Central African Republic (68.2 per cent), Iraq (70.9 per cent) and Yemen (60.1 per cent).

In 2014, the largest response to plans and appeals was by the United States (32.1 per cent), followed by the European Commission (11 per cent), the United Kingdom (9.3 per cent), Saudi Arabia (5.3 per cent) and Germany (4.5 per cent).

Africa

Central Africa

Central African Republic

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2014 sought \$555.4 million, of which 68.2 per cent (\$378.9 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian country team endorsed four strategic objectives for humanitarian action in the CAR: provide life-saving humanitarian, multi-sectoral packages to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, migrants and returning persons; protect conflict-affected people from harm, specifically vulnerable groups (e.g. unaccompanied minors, women, single-headed households, migrants, unaccompanied children and the elderly); and ensure access to basic services to returnees; restore resilience to affected communities.

The humanitarian crisis in the CAR that erupted in December 2013 and continued in 2014 had affected the whole country leaving thousands of civilians killed, more than 446,000 refugees and internal displaced people that culminated at 930,000 people at the peak of the crisis. The Emergency Relief Coordinator declared CAR as a level three emergency—throughout the year—to support the scale-up of the humanitarian response to provide assistance to 43 per cent of the total CAR population. While violence and killings exacerbated during the first half of the year, it decreased in the

second half of the year with the signature of the Brazzaville agreement but continued in significant proportions.

Chad

The UN humanitarian response plan for Chad in 2014 sought \$618.5 million, of which 36.6 per cent (\$226.5 million) was received.

For 2014, the strategic objectives of the humanitarian community in Chad were to track and analyse risk and vulnerability, integrate findings into humanitarian and development programming; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding earlier to warning signals, by reducing post-crisis recovery times and by building capacity of national actors; and deliver coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to people affected by emergencies.

As at June 2014, over 2 million people (17 per cent of the population) were food insecure in Chad. In addition, the volatile security situation in Sudan and Nigeria continued to prompt population movements to Chad. An estimated 375,000 Sudanese refugees who had fled violence in Darfur over the past ten years remained in a dozen refugee camps in the east. Over 126,000 people had arrived in Chad from the CAR since 2013. On 30 July, over 1,100 people, mostly women and children, fled attacks by Boko Haram on their village in Nigeria to a Chadian military outpost in western Chad. Some of the shelters in temporary transit sites and camps were destroyed by heavy rains in June and resources were inadequate for repairing or replacing them.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2014 sought \$832.1 million, of which 47.4 per cent (\$394.2 million) was received.

For 2014, the strategic objectives of the humanitarian country team in DRC were to strengthen the protection of the civilian population and improve access to food, basic goods and services in areas affected by violence and armed conflict; contribute to reducing morbidity and mortality due to acute malnutrition in areas of nutritional crisis; contribute to reducing excessive morbidity and mortality in populations affected by epidemics; and strengthen protection of the population and improve access to food, basic goods and services in areas affected by natural disasters.

During the year, DRC remained vulnerable to a wide range of crises natural (outbreaks and natural disasters) and man-made (conflicts and malnutrition) which caused large-scale human suffering, including the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. In the East of the country, inter-communal tensions and/or between ethnic/economic armed groups (including Government forces) continued, and more than 2.7 million people remained displaced across five provinces (Oriental, North and South Kivu, Katanga,

Maniema) as a result of the violence that erupted regularly since 2000. During the year, the continued armed clashes resulted in the new displacement of several thousand people.

South Sudan

The UN humanitarian response plan for South Sudan in 2014 sought \$1.8 billion, of which 88.5 per cent (\$1.59 billion) was received.

Aid organizations developed a three-year strategy for providing life-saving relief while also improving preparedness, mitigating against future shocks, strengthening national capacity and laying the groundwork for development. The three pillars of the 2014–2016 humanitarian strategy were to respond to immediate humanitarian need; enhance preparedness and build resilience of households and communities to shocks; and build capacity and strengthen systems of institutions to deliver basic services.

By the end of 2013, a crisis had engulfed the country, causing large-scale violence and displacement, and changing the operating environment for aid agencies. In January, a Crisis Response Plan was developed to cover the first three months of 2014, focusing on immediate, life-saving response to the most urgent humanitarian needs. In the same month the Emergency Relief Coordinator declared the crisis a level-three emergency. As the year unfolded and the emergency continued, a further revision in June extended the Crisis Response Plan to December, appealing for US \$1.8 billion. By the end of the year, more than 1.5 million people had been displaced across 185 locations within DRC. Over 100,000 of those were living in eight protection-of-civilians sites. An estimated 237,000 people in 21 host community locations were also in need of assistance. Further, some 488,500 people had fled the country as refugees.

Sudan

The UN humanitarian response plan for Sudan in 2014 sought \$1.8 billion, of which 88.5 per cent (\$1.59 billion) was received.

For 2014, the strategic objectives of the Sudan humanitarian country team were to reduce morbidity and mortality rates to below emergency thresholds and improvement in well-being; protect conflict-affected and displaced persons more effectively from violence and exploitation; ensure that the most vulnerable households, groups and communities were better able to mitigate risk and withstand shocks and stresses; and achieve progress towards durable solutions for IDPs and affected communities in targeted localities.

A total of 6.9 million people (about 20 per cent of Sudan's population) were in need of humanitarian assistance. By the end of the year, there were 3.1 million people in protracted displacement, including a new displacement of an estimated 400,000 people in

Darfur, the highest number of displaced people in any single year since the conflict began in Darfur in 2003. In parts of the Sudan, Global Acute Malnutrition levels for children under five years stood at 28.2 per cent (state level) and as high as 42 per cent (locality level), which far exceeded the internationally accepted "critical" emergency threshold of 15 per cent. In addition, 1.4 million people had been facing food insecurity in the country. Since conflict erupted in South Sudan in December 2013, over 120,000 people had sought protection in the Sudan, mostly in White Nile, Khartoum and South Kordofan states.

Cameroon

The UN humanitarian response plan for Cameroon in 2014 sought \$125.8 million, of which 58.2 per cent (\$73.2 million) was received.

The strategic objectives for Cameroon during 2014–2016 were to collect data on risks and vulnerabilities, analyse them and integrate the results into humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks in responding to early warning signals, reducing the duration of the post-crisis recovery and building the capacity of national actors; and provide people in emergency situations with coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.

As at mid-year, four regions of the country were struggling with humanitarian crises. Food insecurity was worst in the Far North where severe acute malnutrition rates were the highest in the country (outside refugee populations), peaking respectively at 9 per cent and 6 per cent. The North and Far North were the worst affected by measles and cholera outbreaks. Refugees from Nigeria were mostly concentrated in the Far North while those from the CAR were sheltering in the East and Adamaoua Region.

Republic of Congo

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Republic of Congo in 2014 sought \$14.3 million, of which 36.2 per cent (\$5.2 million) was received.

Many had fled violence in the CAR to seek refuge in the Republic of Congo, already host to thousands of refugees from neighbours including the DRC and Rwanda.

In April, the Central Emergency Response Fund allocated \$2 million to help humanitarian partners provide emergency assistance to refugees from the CAR. In December, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved \$1.7 million for the provision of critical health services in the Republic of the Congo.

West Africa

Ebola

The UN inter-agency plan for Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone to tackle the Ebola virus outbreak in 2014

sought \$2.27 billion, of which 68.9 per cent (\$1.56 billion) was received.

The Ebola virus disease outbreak was officially declared first in Guinea in March 2014. The virus was transmitted in social and healthcare settings and through funerals and burials. The cases were then confirmed in Liberia and, by May 2014, in Sierra Leone.

As at September, a total of 4,847 cases were reported and 2,419 died in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone—the three countries with intense transmission of the virus, and in Senegal and Nigeria where there was localized transmission of the virus. The humanitarian community identified five strategic objectives to deal with the public health emergency: stop the outbreak; treat the infected; ensure essential services; preserve stability; and prevent outbreaks in countries that were unaffected.

By the end of 2014, the cumulative total of cases stood at 20,206 with 7,905 deaths across the affected countries.

(For more information on the Ebola crisis, see p. 1355.)

Burkina Faso

The UN humanitarian response plan for Burkina Faso in 2014 sought \$99.3 million, of which 49.6 per cent (\$49.2 million) was received.

The humanitarian community in Burkina Faso identified three strategic objectives for 2014: collect data on risks and vulnerabilities and analyze them and integrate the results into the humanitarian and development programming; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding to the warning signals, reducing the duration of post-crisis recovery and building the capacity of national actors; and provide to persons in emergency situations with coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.

At the end of the 2014–2015 crop year, Burkina Faso recorded a provisional gross national cereal production of around 4.6 million tonnes, a 4.8 per cent decrease from the previous year and an increase of 7.2 per cent compared to the five-year average. The results, however, did not cover the entire territory. Of the 45 provinces in the country, 13 were in deficit. Around 144,000 children were in the category of severely malnourished during the year.

Mali

The UN humanitarian response plan for Mali in 2014 sought \$481 million, of which 49.6 per cent (\$238.7 million) was received.

To respond to the humanitarian situation in Mali, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives: collect data on risks and vulner-

abilities, analyze them and integrate the results into the humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding to the warning signals, reducing the duration of post-crisis recovery and building the capacity of national actors; and provide persons in emergency situations with coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.

As at August, life-saving assistance was urgently needed across Mali, with hundreds of thousands of people in need of water, food, and protection. Almost half a million children under five, mainly in the south, suffered from acute malnutrition, while 1.5 million people did not have enough to eat. A deteriorating security worsened the food crisis and limited the access to water, health care and education. Protection from violence and increasingly from sexual violence against women was a priority. As at 31 December, the number of IDPs were 61,621 persons, down from 86,216 in October the same year. The number of Malian refugees registered in neighbouring countries also decreased in mid-November 2014.

Mauritania

The UN humanitarian response plan in 2014 sought \$90.9 million, of which 69.3 per cent (\$63.1 million) was received.

To respond to the humanitarian situation in Mauritania, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for 2014: collect data on risks and vulnerabilities, analyze them and integrate the results into humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding to early warning signals, reducing the duration of post-crisis recovery and building the capacity of national actors; and provide persons in emergency situations with coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.

As at mid-year, Mauritania hosted the largest number of Malian refugees in the region. One in four Mauritians was food insecure, with 190,000 Mauritians severely food insecure and 126,000 children under the age of five malnourished. The loss of assets and purchasing power during the 2012 food crisis and the debts incurred by households due to the crisis had been compounded by chronic poverty and limited access to basic services. The 2013–2014 harvest only met 40 to 50 per cent of outstanding needs and 40,000 people were yet to recover from the torrential rains in July 2013. Renewed tensions in northern Mali disrupted the voluntary return of Malian refugees who took shelter in Mauritania.

Niger

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Niger in 2014 sought \$305.2 million, of which 68 per cent (\$207.5 million) was received.

To respond to the situation in the Niger, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for 2014: collect data on risks and vulnerabilities, analyze and integrate the results into humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks; and provide coordinated and integrated assistance to persons in emergency situations.

As at mid-year, close to 360,000 children were affected by severe malnutrition and nearly 580,000 by moderate malnutrition. Four million people, the equivalent of nearly 24 per cent of the population, were food insecure. In addition, the Niger hosted an increasing number of refugees, including 50,000 from Mali and 70,000 from Nigeria.

Gambia

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Gambia in 2014 sought \$18.3 million, of which 23.9 per cent (\$4.4 million) was received.

To respond to the situation in the Gambia, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives: track and analyse risk and vulnerability; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks; and deliver coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to people affected by emergencies.

As at June, 48,600 children were malnourished while roughly 496,000 people were at risk of food insecurity. Additionally, the 2013 floods in Gambia affected about 29,000 people in the country mostly in the Greater Banjul Area, many of whom were yet to recover.

While Gambia was not experiencing an acute humanitarian crisis of the scale of some of its Sahel neighbours, the lack of support to recover from the impact of previous and recurring disasters (drought, floods and storms, disease outbreak among human and livestock) had pushed some households from being under pressure to the crisis phase.

Nigeria

The UN humanitarian response plan for Nigeria in 2014 sought \$93.4 million, of which 19.1 per cent (\$17.8 million) was received.

The humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for Nigeria in 2014: track and analyse risk and vulnerability, integrating findings into humanitarian and development programming; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding earlier to warning signals, by reducing post-crisis recovery times and by building capacity of national actors; and deliver coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to people affected by emergencies.

As at mid-year, up to 9.5 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance across Nigeria. Nearly 4.2 million were food insecure and 539,000

children under five suffered from severe acute malnutrition. At the beginning of the year, 3.3 million people were displaced in Nigeria.

A deteriorating security situation in the northeast coupled with serious concerns about the security landscape in the lead up to the February 2015 elections created urgent humanitarian needs in the Northeast and the Middle Belt of the country, in addition to a worrying cholera outbreak. Since May 2013, the northeast states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe had been under a state of emergency due to a violent insurgency that had killed at least 2,000 people in 2014 alone, and internally displaced nearly 650,000 people. Over 60,000 people had fled the state of emergency states into neighbouring countries such as Cameroon, Chad, and the Niger. Access to the northeast of Nigeria was highly constrained given the frequency of insurgent attacks. Basic services, notably schools and health facilities, were systematically destroyed by insurgents.

Senegal

The UN humanitarian response plan for Senegal in 2014 sought \$64.1 million, of which 32.6 per cent (\$20.9 million) was received.

To respond to the situation in Senegal, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for 2014: collect data on risks and vulnerabilities, analyze them and integrate the results into humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding to early warning signals, reducing the duration post-crisis recovery and strengthening the capacity of the national actors; and provide persons in emergency situations coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.

A mid-year assessment noted that a combination of inadequate rainfall and recurrent floods had hampered agricultural productivity and livestock survival in rural Senegal and had taken a toll on chronically vulnerable urban households. Almost ten per cent of children under five countrywide were acutely undernourished. Life-saving measures to meet the needs of the most vulnerable were underway, including for the protection of 14,000 refugees. Activities aimed at building the resilience of communities in view of the persistent food and nutrition crisis were ongoing.

Horn of Africa

Djibouti

The UN humanitarian response plan for Djibouti in 2014 sought \$74.1 million, of which 28.1 per cent (\$20.8 million) was received.

The humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for Djibouti in 2014 and 2015: reduce the impact of drought, restore livelihoods and strengthen the resilience of affected persons; prevent

epidemic, epizootic and zoonotic risks and reduce their impact on the drought-affected populations and livestock; and strengthen protection and improve access to food and other basic services for refugees and vulnerable migrants.

In mid-2014, the country had suffered from high rates of severe acute malnutrition as a result of prolonged drought within Djibouti and across the Horn of Africa. Persistent drought had drastically reduced the flow and quality of water in Djibouti and had led to people suffering from acute diarrhoea and respiratory infection, also heightening the risk of malaria. The death of livestock in times of severe drought led to major consequences for the livelihood of nomads. Competition for scarce natural resources was rife among local people and refugee communities.

Sahel

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Sahel in 2014 sought \$49.8 million, of which 46.8 per cent (\$23.3 million) was received.

To respond to the situation in the Sahel, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives from January 2014 to December 2016: track and analyse risk and vulnerability, integrating findings into humanitarian and development programming; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding earlier to warning signals, by reducing post-crisis recovery times and by building capacity of national actors; deliver coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to people affected by emergencies.

Although the 2013 harvest equaled the average for the past five years, the number of food insecure people across the region exceeded 20 million. It was estimated that more than 50 per cent of severe acute malnutrition cases were in the Niger, Chad, Mali and Burkina Faso.

Across the Sahel an estimated 1.5 million people were displaced (768,000 refugees and 800,000 internally displaced) as a result of violence in the Central African Republic, northern Nigeria and northern Mali. There were some 140,000 Malian refugees in Mauritania, the Niger and Burkina Faso. Thousands of refugees continued to arrive in Cameroon in a very poor state of health, while Chad was host to 400,000 refugees from the Sudan, Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

Somalia

The UN humanitarian response plan for Somalia in 2014 sought \$933.1 million, of which 49.1 per cent (\$457.9 million) was received.

In response to the humanitarian situation in Somalia, the humanitarian community adopted four strategic objectives for 2014: provide timely and quality life-saving assistance to people in humanitarian emergency; enhance resilience of vulnerable households and

communities; improve the protective environment; and strengthen the capacity and coordination of non-governmental organizations, affected communities and local, regional and national level authorities, to prevent and mitigate risks and implement effective emergency preparedness and response.

An estimate as at midyear noted that widespread food insecurity was expected to worsen over the second half of the year due to a poor rainy season, a disrupted planting season and supply routes blocked by armed conflict. More than a million people were internally displaced. Of particular concern were the 369,000 displaced people living in appalling conditions in Mogadishu where acute malnutrition rates and mortality levels had already surpassed emergency thresholds.

Asia

Afghanistan

The UN humanitarian response plan for Afghanistan in 2014 sought \$406.4 million, of which 90 per cent (\$365.6 million) was received.

Humanitarian partners in Afghanistan identified four strategic priorities: provide emergency health care and prioritize access to critical services; respond to needs of internally displaced people and returning refugees; prevent protection infringements; and respond to natural disasters.

The intensification of conflict in Afghanistan resulted in civilian loss of life and injury reaching unprecedented levels with 10,548 civilian casualties reported—the highest number of civilian deaths and injuries in a single year since 2009. Military operations in neighbouring Pakistan led to some 250,000 people seeking refuge in Afghanistan. Emergency levels of acute malnutrition required urgent action, while floods in April destroyed more than 8,000 people's homes. Extensive displacement occurred in rural areas in Western and Central Afghanistan with 156,200 people displaced by conflict as compared to 125,300 in 2013.

Occupied Palestinian Territory

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory sought \$931.1 million, of which 54.4 per cent (\$506.4 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian community identified two strategic objectives: enhance the protection of populations in Gaza, Area C, the Seam Zone and East Jerusalem by promoting respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, preventing or mitigating the impact of violations, improving equitable access to essential services and ensuring the effective integration of protection considerations in service provision interventions; and help improve the food security and access to livelihoods of vulnerable communities with particular focus on Gaza, Area C, the Seam Zone and East Jerusalem by improving economic access to food.

Humanitarian needs increased dramatically in 2014, which began with recovery from the impact of the December 2013 winter storm, one of the worst in the last 50 years, followed in the summer by the longest and most deadly round of hostilities since the beginning of the occupation in 1967. Throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Palestinian civilians continued to be exposed to a range of protection threats, including threats to life, liberty and security; destruction or damage to homes and other property; forced displacement; restrictions to freedom of movement and access to livelihoods; and lack of accountability and effective remedies.

Philippines

The UN humanitarian response for the Philippines in 2014 involved the Bohol Earthquake Action Plan that sought \$33.8 million of which 49 per cent (\$16.6 million) was received; the Typhoon Haiyan Strategic Response Plan that sought \$775.7 million of which 60.5 per cent (469.1 million) was received; and the Zamboanga crisis response plan that sought 12.8 million of which 46.7 per cent (6 million) was received.

As at mid-2014, Typhoon Rammasun had swept through four regions of the Philippines and floods affected some parts of Mindanao. The country was still in transition following the impact of Typhoon Haiyan-Yolanda in November 2013 and particular attention was being paid to shelter and early recovery/livelihoods. Armed conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the splinter/rebel groups continued across Mindanao and were exacerbated by violent clan feuds and rivalry between different factions of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Nearly 26,000 people remained displaced in transitory sites and evacuation centres in Zamboanga following fighting between AFP and a splinter group of the MILF in September 2013.

Syria

Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. The Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) for 2014 sought \$2.26 billion, of which 50.9 per cent (\$1.15 billion) was received.

In 2014, SHARP identified five overarching strategic objectives: advocate for the protection of civilians, and in particular of those with specific vulnerabilities and prioritize their needs in accordance with principles of international law, international humanitarian and human rights law; increase the provision of appropriate life-saving emergency services and relief supplies for affected people in Syria, especially in the sectors of food and agriculture, water, sanitation, health, nutrition, shelter, education and essential non-food items; expand early recovery, and restoration/stabilization of livelihoods, supporting the rehabilitation of vital public services affected by the crisis and creating an

environment for humanitarian assistance to enhance the resilience of affected communities; enhance the operational capacity of national and international humanitarian responders and support existing local and community coping mechanisms; and ensure adequate levels of preparedness to respond to further emerging humanitarian needs.

Regional Response Plan. The Syria Regional Response Plan for 2014 sought \$3.74 billion, of which 63.6 per cent (\$2.38 billion) was received. It was one of the largest appeals ever presented for a refugee emergency. Over 100 partners—UN agencies as well as national and international NGOs—were working together to address the needs of Syrian refugees and assist the countries in the region who have so generously taken them in. The Plan called for further efforts to benefit host communities, who offered front-line protection and essential support to refugees.

Yemen

The Yemen humanitarian response plan in 2014 sought \$596 million, of which 60.1 per cent (\$357.9 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian community identified five strategic objectives for humanitarian response in Yemen: provide effective and timely life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people; assist and protect people affected by crisis, including refugees and migrants as well as returning Yemenis; strengthen the capacity of national actors to plan for and respond to humanitarian emergencies; address the underlying causes of vulnerability to reduce the need for continued humanitarian assistance and increase resilience working along with development partners, including the Government; and ensure meaningful participation and equitable access to services, resources, and protection measures for women, girls, boys, and men.

At the end of 2014, Yemen continued to be a large-scale humanitarian crisis. More than half the population of the country—14.7 million people—remained in need of assistance. Some 10.5 million people were food insecure, of whom 4.5 million were severely food insecure and an estimated 1,080,000 children under five suffered from acute malnutrition, of whom 279,000 children were severely acutely malnourished. In addition, about 13.1 million Yemenis had no access to improved water sources or to adequate sanitation facilities, with rural areas the worst affected. A further 8.6 million people had insufficient access to health.

Iraq

The UN humanitarian response plan for Iraq in 2014 sought \$1.11 billion, of which 70.9 per cent (\$788.9 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives: respond to the protection needs of civilians, including those displaced and oth-

erwise affected by the conflict, with due regard to human rights and international humanitarian law; provide life-saving assistance and ensure access to essential services for displaced and vulnerable individuals in a manner that supported the Government's responsibility as first responder; and improve the access of conflict-affected people to livelihoods and durable solutions to enable them to restore their self-sufficiency and build resilience.

The internal armed conflict in Iraq had escalated since January and prompted a protection crisis impacting millions of Iraqis. About 20,000 civilians had been killed or injured across Iraq between January and September. An estimated 5.2 million people were in urgent need of humanitarian and protection assistance due to ongoing violence and insecurity. That included approximately 1.8 million people newly displaced since the beginning of the year, some 1.5 million individuals in affected host communities, another 1.7 million vulnerable Iraqis who were not displaced but remained in areas directly impacted by the conflict and some 215,000 Syrian refugees. Nearly half of all those newly displaced were children. Humanitarian access to at least 2.2 million Iraqis in need was severely compromised in areas under the control of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and affiliated armed groups.

Myanmar

The UN Myanmar humanitarian response plan in 2014 sought \$192 million, of which 67.2 per cent (\$129 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian community identified four strategic objectives for Myanmar: save lives by reducing mortality and morbidity amongst affected populations in Rakhine and Kachin as well as populations newly affected by conflict or disaster; ensure adequate access to basic services and the restoration of livelihoods for all displaced and conflict affected populations in Rakhine and Kachin, while linking up with recovery and development efforts; ensure a protective environment for vulnerable people and individuals at risk among the displaced population in Rakhine and Kachin; and strengthen preparedness efforts and ensure that response capacity was adequate to meet the basic humanitarian needs of people newly affected by conflict, inter-communal violence or natural disasters throughout Myanmar.

As at mid-year, tensions remained high throughout Rakhine State where over 143,000 people (the majority of them were Rohingya) were in camps following inter-communal violence that erupted in 2012. Buddhist and Muslim communities remain segregated, and the Muslim IDPs faced severe movement restrictions, seriously impacting livelihoods and access to basic services. An estimated 36,000 people living in isolated communities were also in need of human-

itarian assistance. About 800,000 Muslim Rohingya living in Rakhine State were de facto stateless. An estimated 100,000 people remained displaced in Kachin State as a result of the fighting between the armed forces of Myanmar and the Kachin Independence Army, which started in June 2011. Approximately half of the internally displaced persons were located in areas beyond government control. Sporadic fighting continued displacing some 2,700 people to four camp locations in southern Kachin State, 600 in northern Shan state and an unconfirmed number had fled across the border to China. An estimated 400,000 people were internally displaced in rural areas of south-eastern Myanmar.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti

The UN humanitarian response plan for Haiti in 2014 sought \$157.5 million, of which 80.3 per cent (\$126.5 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian community identified four urgent needs in Haiti: basic services, protection and durable solutions for internally displaced persons; health and sanitation related to the cholera epidemic; severe food insecurity and nutrition; and high vulnerability and low resilience to natural hazards.

By mid-year, the focus shifted from humanitarian to development priorities, however, 803,000 people still required humanitarian assistance. Progress continued to be made in the fight against cholera as humanitarian actors and the Government sought to sustain eradication efforts. Around 104,000 IDPs remained in 172 camps with very limited access to basic services and the risk of forced evictions remained high. Longer term durable housing had yet to be found for almost 67,000 of them. Evictions were usually carried out with violence, destruction of private property and in violation of human rights and legal eviction procedures.

Europe

Ukraine

The UN humanitarian preliminary response plan for Ukraine in 2014 sought \$33.2 million, of which 98.4 per cent (\$32.7 million) was received.

Localized military operations between Government forces and armed groups in the east of Ukraine (Donbas region) resulted in displacement, degradation of law and order, and a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country. By the end of the year, an estimated 5.2 million people lived in conflict-affected areas, 610,000 people were internally displaced and 594,000 fled to neighbouring countries. Moreover, at least 4,771 people had been killed (including 298 people from the downing of Malaysian

Airlines flight MH17) and 10,360 had been wounded in eastern Ukraine.

Disaster response

In 2014, 319 disasters were recorded, which affected 141 million people in 107 countries and caused \$110 billion in damages. The number of disasters was roughly the same as in 2013, however, the number of affected people increased from 97 million in 2013. That could be explained by an increase in the number of droughts—the only disaster category that registered an increase in 2014—and droughts accounted for 39 per cent of affected people. In terms of mortality, floods and landslides accounted for 63 per cent of fatalities. Forty-eight per cent of disasters occurred in Asia. Over 85 per cent of people killed and 86 per cent of those affected were also in Asia. As in 2013, China, the Philippines and India remained the top three countries in terms of the number of people affected in 2014.

For the second consecutive year, China had the largest number of people affected by natural disasters (58 million), followed by the Philippines (10 million) and India (5.7 million), while the top five costliest disasters were in India (Cyclone Hudhud, \$7 billion), Japan (winter damage, \$5.9 billion), India and Pakistan (floods, \$5.1 billion), Brazil (drought, \$5 billion) and China (earthquake, \$5 billion).

International cooperation

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/103 [YUN 2013, p. 881], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/303] on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

The most devastating disaster during the year was Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda), which made landfall in the Philippines on 8 November and affected over 14 million people, including 5.4 million children. National authorities recorded 6,300 deaths and 1,061 people missing. Haiyan came on the heels of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the nearby island province of Bohol in the Philippines on 15 October, killing over 220 and damaging or destroying the homes of more than 367,700 people. Flooding in Pakistan impacted 1.5 million persons (compared with 18 million in 2010, 5 million in 2011 and 4.8 million in 2012).

In the Sahel region, 11.3 million people remained food insecure (compared with 18 million in 2012), while 5 million children were threatened by malnutrition. The combined effects of an increase in food prices, limited trade and access to markets owing to

insecurity and high levels of poverty and debt led to the selling of assets and low purchasing power among the most vulnerable. In addition, close to half a million people across the region were affected by floods.

Heavy rains and flooding caused loss of life and destruction in many countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda. Following the heavy rainy season, drought-like conditions impacted Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience helped to strengthen coherent and coordinated UN system engagement in supporting Member States to accelerate progress in disaster risk reduction. It provided the framework for the UN system to extend a risk-based approach to its humanitarian and development programmes and to enhance preparedness for effective support to national- and community-level response and recovery efforts. Nevertheless, humanitarian and development actors needed to redouble their efforts to ensure a more comprehensive, coherent, systematic and people-centred approach to managing risks. The shift from response to prevention was fundamentally a political challenge and real change would happen only if Governments actively took the lead to reform the current institutional architecture within their own countries.

Funding was a critical enabler for a shift towards a more anticipatory approach. Funding reflected priorities and only 0.5 per cent of all international aid in the past 20 years went towards preparedness and prevention activities. Moreover, only 1 per cent of development aid targeting the top 40 recipients of humanitarian assistance was spent on disaster risk reduction. Funding was also poorly targeted. For instance, the Index for Risk Management indicated that South Sudan had the highest risk of humanitarian crisis, yet it remained forty-sixth in the list of official development aid per capita. Basing funding on an objective and shared risk assessment would help to prioritize funding flows and promote better coordination and burden-sharing among donors. Flexible longer-term financing would also enhance investments in risk management. Among his recommendations, the Secretary-General urged that Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other stakeholders to prioritize risk management and shift towards an anticipatory approach to humanitarian crises in order to prevent and reduce human suffering and economic losses.

UN-SPIDER programme. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (see p. 724) submitted a report [A/AC.105/1078] with a summary of activities in 2014 of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management

and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) under the workplan for the biennium 2014–2015.

Among major events organized were the Central American expert meeting on the use of space-based information in early warning systems (San Salvador, El Salvador, 31 March–1 April) that brought together 30 experts from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United Nations; the United Nations/Germany Expert Meeting on the Use of Space-based Information for Flood and Drought Risk Reduction (Bonn, Germany, 5–6 June) attended by 57 experts from 18 Member States; the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management: Multi-hazard Disaster Risk Assessment (Beijing, 15–17 September) attended by 110 participants from 32 Member States; and the Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction pre-conference event (Bangkok, 22 June).

On 5 December, in **resolution 69/85** (see p. 729), the General Assembly noted the progress made within the UN-SPIDER framework, and encouraged Member States, on a voluntary basis, to provide the programme with the additional resources necessary to address the increasing demand for support successfully and in a timely manner.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 23 December [meeting 76], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/243** [draft: A/69/L.49 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 69 (a)].

International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, as well as all its resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, and recalling the resolutions of the humanitarian segments of the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Reaffirming further the Hyogo Declaration, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and the common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future, as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, and bearing in mind that the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action is coming to an end in 2015,

Taking note with appreciation of the results of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action,

and noting the results of the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 19 to 23 May 2013, and recognizing it as the main forum at the global level for strategic advice coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction,

Recognizing that the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to adopt a framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015,

Noting the determination of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as expressed in its decision 2/CP.18, to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, due to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020,

Emphasizing the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles,

Emphasizing also that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Emphasizing further the primary responsibility of each State to undertake disaster risk reduction and management, including through the implementation of and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as response and early recovery efforts, in order to minimize the impact of natural disasters, while recognizing the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities in this regard,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity to deal with the consequences of natural disasters, given the effects of global challenges, including the impact of climate change, the ongoing adverse impact of the global financial and economic crisis and the negative impact of volatile food prices on food security and nutrition, and other key factors that exacerbate the vulnerability of populations and exposure to natural hazards and the impact of natural disasters,

Expressing its deep concern also that rural and urban poor communities in the developing world are the hardest hit by the effects of increased disaster risk,

Noting with concern that persons with disabilities, older persons, women and children are disproportionately affected in natural disasters,

Acknowledging the impacts of rapid urbanization in the context of natural disasters and that urban disaster preparedness and responses require appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies, including in urban planning, and early recovery strategies implemented from the initial stage of relief operations, as well as mitigation, rehabilitation and sustainable development strategies,

Noting that local communities are the first responders in most disasters, underlining the critical role played by in-country capacities in disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, as well as response and recovery, and acknowledging the need to support efforts of Member States to develop and enhance national and local capacities which are fundamental to improving the overall delivery of humanitarian assistance,

Recognizing the high numbers of persons affected by natural disasters, including in this respect internally displaced persons, and the need for Member States to address the humanitarian and development needs arising from natural disaster-induced displacement, including through national policies and resilience-building, and with the support of the United Nations and relevant humanitarian and development organizations, and encouraging all relevant actors to consider making use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when dealing with situations of internal displacement,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, in particular in preparedness, response and the early recovery phase, and of strengthening the response capacity of countries affected by disaster,

Recognizing the progress made by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in its mission, encouraging Member States to provide all support necessary, on a voluntary basis, to UN-SPIDER, including financial support, to enable it to carry out its workplan for 2014–2015, and reiterating the importance of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and by facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Noting the progress in the establishment of the Global Framework for Climate Services to develop and provide science-based climate information and prediction for climate risk management and for adaptation to climate variability and change, and looking forward to its implementation,

Welcoming the important role played by Member States, including developing countries, that have granted necessary and continued generous assistance to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters,

Recognizing the significant role played by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, disaster response, rehabilitation and development,

Emphasizing the need to address vulnerability and to integrate disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, into all phases of natural disaster management, post-natural disaster recovery and development planning, through close collaboration of all relevant actors and sectors,

Reaffirming that strengthening resilience contributes to withstanding, adapting to and quickly recovering from disasters,

Recognizing that efforts to achieve economic growth, sustainable development and internationally agreed

development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be adversely affected by natural disasters, and noting the positive contribution that those efforts can make in strengthening the resilience of populations to such disasters,

Recognizing also the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of short- and medium-term recovery leading to long-term development and that certain emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development,

Emphasizing, in this context, the important role of development organizations and other relevant stakeholders in supporting national efforts to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the increasing impact of natural disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;
3. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to accelerate the full implementation of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, in particular those commitments related to assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and for disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes, and in this regard encourages States, the United Nations system and all stakeholders to continue to engage in the consultations on the successor to the Framework, culminating at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and to implement the successor framework;
4. *Emphasizes* the need to promote and strengthen disaster preparedness activities at all levels, in particular in hazard-prone areas, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to increase funding and cooperation for disaster risk reduction activities, including disaster preparedness;
5. *Encourages* Member States to provide dedicated financial contributions to preparedness, response and recovery efforts in a harmonized, flexible and complementary approach that fully utilizes and helps to coordinate humanitarian and development funding options and potential;
6. *Calls upon* all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively, necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into development planning, as well as to incorporate a gender perspective into policies, planning and funding, and in this regard requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;
7. *Acknowledges* that climate change, among other factors, contributes to environmental degradation and to the

increase in the intensity and frequency of climate and extreme weather events, both of which amplify disaster risk, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including through the provision of technology and support for capacity-building in developing countries;

8. *Welcomes* the growing number of initiatives undertaken at the regional and national levels to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to review and strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account the Guidelines, as appropriate, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and other partners;

9. *Also welcomes* the effective cooperation among the affected States, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and other relevant organizations, such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and civil society, in the coordination and delivery of emergency relief, and stresses the need to continue such cooperation and delivery throughout relief operations and medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future natural hazards;

10. *Reiterates* the commitment to support, as a matter of priority, the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to reduce risks, prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact;

11. *Urges* Member States to develop, update and strengthen early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and encourages the international community and relevant United Nations entities to continue to support national efforts in this regard;

12. *Also urges* Member States to improve their response to early warning information in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, and encourages all stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States in this regard;

13. *Encourages* Member States to consider elaborating and presenting to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat their national platforms for disaster reduction in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action, and also encourages States to cooperate with each other to reach this objective;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of applying a multi-hazard approach to preparedness, and encourages Member States, taking into account their specific circumstances, and the United Nations system to continue to apply the

approach to their preparedness activities, including by giving due regard to, inter alia, secondary environmental hazards stemming from industrial and technological accidents;

15. *Stresses* that, to increase further the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, of regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, and more efficiently and at lower cost;

16. *Encourages* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by natural disasters to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce lifesaving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

17. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the timely provision of humanitarian assistance through all phases of a disaster, from relief and recovery to development, including the provision of adequate resources;

18. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, to take appropriate measures to reduce and discourage the sending of unsolicited, unneeded or inappropriate relief goods in response to disasters;

19. *Encourages* all Member States to facilitate, to the extent possible, the transit of emergency humanitarian assistance and development assistance, provided in the context of international efforts, including in the phase from relief to development, in full accordance with the provisions of resolution 46/182 and the annex thereto, and in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law;

20. *Encourages* Member States to put in place, as appropriate, customs measures to improve effectiveness in responding to natural disasters;

21. *Reaffirms* the leading role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for advocacy for and coordination of humanitarian assistance among United Nations humanitarian organizations and other humanitarian partners;

22. *Welcomes* the important contribution of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination system to the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance in supporting Member States, upon their request, and the United Nations system in preparedness and humanitarian response, and encourages the continued incorporation into this mechanism of experts from developing countries that are prone to natural disasters;

23. *Also welcomes* the important contribution of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group to the effectiveness of international urban search and rescue assistance, and encourages Member States to continue to support the Advisory Group, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002;

24. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to consider the specific and differentiated consequences of natural disasters in both rural and urban areas when designing and implementing disaster

risk reduction, prevention and mitigation, preparedness, humanitarian assistance and early recovery strategies, giving special emphasis to addressing the needs of those living in rural and urban poor areas prone to natural disasters;

25. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations, traditional and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in situations of natural disasters, in order to cooperate effectively in providing humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

26. *Recognizes* that information and telecommunications technology can play an important role in disaster response, encourages Member States to develop emergency response telecommunications capacities and encourages the international community to assist the efforts of developing countries in this area, where needed, including in the recovery phase, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not acceded to or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations to consider doing so;

27. *Encourages* the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, including as provided by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and invites Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery;

28. *Recognizes* the opportunities for new technologies, when utilized in a coordinated fashion and based on humanitarian principles, potentially to improve the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian response, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to consider engaging, inter alia, with the volunteer and technical communities in order to make use of the variety of data and information available during emergencies and disaster risk efforts;

29. *Encourages* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and international financial institutions to enhance the global capacity for sustainable post-disaster recovery in areas such as coordination with traditional and non-traditional partners, identification and dissemination of lessons learned, development of common tools and mechanisms for recovery needs assessment, strategy development and programming, and incorporation of risk reduction into all recovery processes, and welcomes the ongoing efforts to this end;

30. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that address the differentiated impacts of natural disasters on the affected population, including through the collection and analysis of data disaggregated, inter alia, by sex, age and disability, using, inter alia, the existing information provided by States, and through the development of tools, methods and procedures that will result in more timely and useful initial needs

assessments that lead to targeted and more effective assistance, and taking into account the environmental impact;

31. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for effective humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

32. *Encourages* Member States to take steps to develop or to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of information with humanitarian organizations of the United Nations, in order to support preparedness efforts and to improve the effectiveness of a needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

33. *Encourages* Member States, regional organizations, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to improve the identification, mapping and analysis of risks and vulnerabilities, including the local impact of future disaster risk drivers, and the development and implementation of appropriate strategies and programmes to address them, and in this regard encourages all the relevant stakeholders to support Governments in capacity development, including at the regional and local levels, through the sharing of expertise and tools and the provision of necessary resources, as appropriate, to ensure that effective disaster management plans and capacities are in place in accordance with national priorities for disaster risk management;

34. *Stresses* the importance of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and of gender mainstreaming in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery strategies, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that gender mainstreaming is better taken into account in all aspects of humanitarian responses and activities, including the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the gender marker;

35. *Encourages* Governments, local authorities, the United Nations system and regional organizations, and invites donors and other assisting countries, to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming, including means to address sexual and gender-based violence and various forms of exploitation during emergencies and in post-disaster environments, and the allocation of resources in their disaster risk reduction, response and recovery efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

36. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the need for their inclusive participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

37. *Encourages* efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and quality education for all, es-

pecially for girls and boys, in humanitarian emergencies caused by natural disasters, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

38. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to identify and improve the dissemination of best practices for improving disaster preparedness, response and early recovery and to scale up successful local initiatives, as appropriate;

39. *Requests* the United Nations humanitarian and development organizations to improve their coordination of disaster recovery efforts, from relief to development, inter alia, by strengthening institutional, coordination and strategic planning efforts in disaster preparedness, resilience-building and recovery, in support of national authorities, and by ensuring that development actors participate in strategic planning at an early stage;

40. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to support national, sub-national and local governments and communities in their responsibility to develop long-term strategies and multi-year operational plans for preparedness that are embedded within disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action;

41. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to improve the dissemination of tools and services to support enhanced disaster risk reduction, in particular preparedness, and early recovery;

42. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations humanitarian and development organizations, in consultation with Member States, to strengthen tools and mechanisms to ensure that early recovery needs and support are integrated into the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and development cooperation activities, as appropriate;

43. *Encourages* the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream early recovery into humanitarian programming, acknowledges that early recovery is an important step towards resilience-building and should receive further funding, and encourages the provision of timely, flexible and predictable funding for early recovery, including through established and complementary humanitarian and development instruments;

44. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to prioritize risk management and shift towards an anticipatory approach to humanitarian crises in order to prevent and reduce human suffering and economic losses;

45. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to work towards a common understanding of underlying risks, clarify roles and responsibilities according to their respective mandates and establish joint objectives and programmes to strengthen coordination and coherence among short-, medium- and long-term activities;

46. *Stresses* the need to strengthen resilience at all levels, and in this regard encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant actors to support efforts, as appropriate, to integrate resilience into humanitarian and development programming, and encourages humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common resilience and risk management objectives, achievable through joint analysis, planning, programming and funding;

47. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, as appropriate, including by prioritizing humanitarian tools that strengthen resilience and support livelihoods, such as, but not limited to, cash transfers, vouchers, local procurement of food and services and social safety nets;

48. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to support humanitarian coordinators and resident coordinators, in order to strengthen their capacity, inter alia, to support the host Government in implementing preparedness measures and to coordinate preparedness activities of country teams in support of national efforts, and encourages the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to further strengthen the ability to quickly and flexibly deploy humanitarian professionals to support Governments and country teams in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

49. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to identify ways to improve the current financing architecture in order to better provide coherent, predictable and flexible longer-term funding for risk management in multi-year strategies, in particular preparedness, on the basis of a global assessment of risk, allowing for better prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

50. *Emphasizes* the need to mobilize adequate, flexible and sustainable resources for recovery, preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities in order to ensure predictable and timely access to resources for humanitarian assistance in emergencies resulting from disasters associated with natural hazards;

51. *Welcomes* the achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund and its contribution to the promotion and enhancement of early humanitarian response, calls upon all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing voluntary contributions to the Fund, including, when possible, through multi-year and early commitments, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

52. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters within the post-2015 development agenda and promoting a complementary and coherent approach between that agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

53. *Invites* Member States, the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to consider voluntary contributions to other humanitarian funding mechanisms;

54. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016, aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices in the humanitarian field to improve the coordination, capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian response, requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure an inclusive, consultative transparent preparatory process and encourages Member States and stakeholders to participate in and contribute to the pro-

cess and outcome of the Summit, and also encourages the Secretary-General to further engage Member States regarding the process and outcome of the Summit;

55. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the international response to natural disasters and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and to include in his report recommendations on how to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided in ways supportive of the transition from relief to development.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction [YUN 1999, p. 860] was built upon the experience of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990–1999) [YUN 1987, p. 458] and embodied the principles articulated in a number of major documents adopted during the Decade. The Strategy reflected a major shift from the traditional emphasis on disaster response to disaster reduction. The United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction acted as the secretariat of the International Strategy and was mandated by the General Assembly to ensure its implementation.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/211 [YUN 2013, p. 886], the Secretary-General in September [A/69/364] reported on the progress on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

For the fourth consecutive year, economic losses from disasters had exceeded \$100 billion, highlighting the urgency to anticipate medium- and long-term risk scenarios and to identify concrete measures to minimize the creation of future risk, reduce existing levels of risk and strengthen social, environmental and economic resilience.

During the reporting period, over 16,300 people died and 113 million people were affected by some 358 internationally reported disasters. The deadliest single disaster was Typhoon Haiyan-Yolanda in the Philippines which resulted in 7,354 deaths or missing people. Continuing a long-standing trend, storms represented the largest (49 per cent) and floods the second largest (35 per cent) share of global economic losses associated with natural hazards. In fact, storms and floods had caused 55 per cent of lives lost and 86 per cent of economic losses between 1970 and 2012. No continent was spared. Europe experienced a series of costly and highly destructive floods, as did parts of North and South America, Australia and Southern Africa. While deaths associated with those events were relatively low, millions of people were affected through private and public property and asset loss.

Investments in early warning and disaster preparedness had yielded positive and encouraging results and needed to be further strengthened. As illustrated in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in India, where over a million

people were evacuated in advance of Cyclone Phailin in October 2013, the commitment of States and communities to preparedness saved lives. The 8.2-magnitude earthquake off the coast of Chile in April 2014, and the subsequent aftershocks, also highlighted the benefits of investing in preparedness and risk mitigation associated with seismic hazards. The enforcement of building codes was credited with the very low numbers of deaths, while the evacuation of over 900,000 people from the coast, following a tsunami warning, illustrated the benefits of investing in public awareness and early warning. The intersection of natural and technological hazards was receiving increasing attention. Countries' exposure to technological disasters triggered by natural hazards entailing complex and cascading threats was a growing concern. The earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Japan in March 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 963], which damaged the Fukushima nuclear power plant, brought to the fore the complex interrelationship of natural hazards and technological disasters.

The fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*, had provided yet another wake-up call for the international community. While no single disaster event could be attributed to climate change, there was increased evidence that climate change was affecting many natural and human systems and posed significant risks to human health, ecosystems, infrastructure and agricultural production.

The Secretary-General noted that in preparation for the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, the consultations for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction had generated strong multi-stakeholder engagement at the global, regional, national and local levels. Government, civil society organizations and local communities, parliamentarians, local government officials, businesses and scientific institutions had contributed significant reflections on the progress made through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action [YUN 2005, p. 1016], as well as ideas and guidance for the new framework.

There was understanding that the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and goals, and the new climate change agreement would have to constitute a body of guidance that could lead to coherent and mutually reinforcing practical actions in areas of policy guidance, programmes and financing instruments as well as monitoring systems.

The Secretary-General recommended that Member States participate in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its preparatory process at the highest possible level; consider disaster risk in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and goals, including through an adequate system to measure progress; give due consideration to whole-of-

society participation; and consider augmenting their financial contributions to the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction.

El Niño

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/208 [YUN 2012, p. 921], the Secretary-General provided an update on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, which was annexed to his report [A/69/364] on progress on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (see above).

The International Research Centre on El Niño, as the global centre for research on El Niño and a World Meteorological Organization regional climate centre for Western South America servicing Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, had focused efforts on supporting countries potentially affected by the phenomenon with a range of services, including information systems supporting public policies on climate change and biodiversity, vulnerability assessment of watersheds, and targeted initiatives to support disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The Centre had consolidated its international network for climate information and supported users in over 80 countries.

The Third International Conference on El Niño-Southern Oscillation (Guayaquil, Ecuador, 12–14 November) offered an important opportunity to synthesize progress on El Niño-related research, increase understanding of the relationship between climate and society, and share experiences in El Niño vulnerability assessment methodologies. The Conference brought together scientists and professionals involved in research, observations and operational meteorological, climate and hydrological services from across the world to build new knowledge and understanding aimed at improving the prediction of El Niño and its global impacts.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/468/Add.3], adopted **resolution 69/218** without vote [agenda item 19 (d)].

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001, 57/255 of 20 December 2002, 59/232 of 22 December 2004, 61/199 of 20 December 2006, 63/215 of 19 December 2008, 65/158 of 20 December 2010 and 67/208 of 21 December 2012 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000, and taking into consideration all other relevant resolutions,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters resulting from the El Niño phenomenon,

Noting that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

Taking into account the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof, and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”,

Reaffirming the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,

Noting the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit, and welcoming its contribution to the existing political momentum with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change,

Acknowledging the importance of the ongoing efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation across sustainable development efforts, including taking into account the future impacts of El Niño in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities,

Recognizing that the El Niño phenomenon is expected to occur in late 2014 or early 2015 and that it is likely to have a global impact,

Recognizing also that most of the negative effects will occur in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular the annex to the report, entitled “Update on international cooperation to reduce the impact of El Niño/La Niña”, and calls upon the international community to make further efforts to assist countries affected by this phenomenon;

2. *Recognizes* the continued efforts being made by the Governments of Ecuador and Spain, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to support the International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and encourages them and other members of the international community to continue such contributions for the advancement of the Centre;

3. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken so far to strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including the national oceanographic institutions, and encourages further efforts to enhance regional and international recognition of and support for the Centre and to develop tools for decision makers and government

authorities aimed at reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Notes* the contributions made by the International Research Centre on El Niño, as a reference centre on El Niño, including through developing a new climatic database for El Niño/Southern Oscillation-sensitive countries, carrying out applied research in climate change and vulnerability assessments in highlands, coastal zones and marine-protected and urban areas and providing professional training in the Americas, and encourages the sharing of best practices and lessons learned with climate centres located in other El Niño-affected regions;

5. *Also notes* the assistance provided to Governments by the International Research Centre on El Niño in the development of early warning systems that allow for the implementation of anticipatory risk reduction measures that contribute to the reduction of the potential human, economic and environmental impacts of the phenomenon;

6. *Recognizes* the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization in producing regionally coordinated monthly and seasonal forecasts, in particular its establishment of a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, which receives contributions from several climate centres, including the International Research Centre on El Niño;

7. *Encourages* the World Meteorological Organization, in this regard, to continue to strengthen collaboration and the exchange of data and information with relevant institutions;

8. *Notes* the convening of the third International Conference on El Niño-Southern Oscillation in Guayaquil from 12 to 14 November 2014, which provided an opportunity to synthesize progress on research on the El Niño phenomenon, address linkages between climate and society and share experiences on El Niño vulnerability assessment methodologies;

9. *Welcomes* the convening of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and acknowledges the ongoing preparatory process for the Conference, which is taking place in Geneva;

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the measures necessary to further enhance the services provided by the International Research Centre on El Niño, and encourages the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to urgently provide financial, technical and capacity-building support to countries that are likely to be affected by the El Niño phenomenon;

12. *Underlines* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events, and emphasizes the need to further develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular developing countries;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, under the sub-item entitled “International Strategy for Disaster Reduction” of the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a section on the implementation of the present resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.3], adopted **resolution 69/219** without vote [agenda item 19 (c)].

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 60/195 of 22 December 2005, 64/200 of 21 December 2009, 65/157 of 20 December 2010, 66/199 of 22 December 2011, 67/209 of 21 December 2012 and 68/211 of 20 December 2013, and taking into consideration all other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Recalling also the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit, and welcoming its contribution to the existing political momentum with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change,

Noting also the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and its possible contributions to disaster risk reduction,

Stressing the importance of stronger interlinkages among disaster risk reduction, recovery and long-term development planning, calling for more coordinated and comprehensive strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation considerations into public and private investment, decision-making and the planning of development and humanitarian actions in order to reduce risks, increase resilience and provide a smoother transition between relief, recovery and development, and in this regard recognizing the need to integrate a gender perspective

and the perspectives of persons with disabilities into the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk management,

Noting that 26 December 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, which struck the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian regions and killed approximately 240,000 people, affecting the lives of victims and their families, and resulted in severe socioeconomic and environmental damage,

Recalling that the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, will review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/211;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies to take into consideration the important role of co-ordinated disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development;

3. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters within the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the development of strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, including government-led strategies, in particular in developing countries, to achieve disaster risk reduction, reiterates the need to further develop regional initiatives and the risk reduction capacities of regional mechanisms, where they exist, and to strengthen them within national disaster management planning, where appropriate, and requests the regional commissions, within their mandates, to support the efforts of States in this regard, in close coordination with the implementing entities of the United Nations system;

5. *Stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters and to build resilience and strengthen coping capacities, in particular in developing countries, through, inter alia, the exchange of best practices, the transfer of technology, as mutually agreed, and technical knowledge, the provision of educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction and access to relevant data and information, the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation, recognizing that women play a vital role in disaster risk reduction, ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches and a people-centred, holistic approach, in order to build an inclusive society and to protect livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

6. *Reiterates its appreciation* to the Government of Japan for its generous offer to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its generous pledge to cover the costs of the Conference, welcomes the voluntary contributions already made to facilitate the participation in the Conference of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and invites those States that have not yet done so to make such voluntary contributions;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Switzerland for hosting and covering the costs of two meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference;

8. *Welcomes* the work of the ongoing preparatory process for the Third World Conference, which is being carried out in Geneva, and reiterates its decision that the Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document;

9. *Invites* voluntary commitments by all stakeholders and their networks to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and to support the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

10. *Reiterates its strong encouragement* of and the need for effective coordination and coherence between the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the post-2015 development agenda and other relevant intergovernmental and United Nations processes, in order to build synergies;

11. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, including regional development banks, to participate actively in the Third World Conference, and encourages major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute further to and participate actively in the Conference, according to the rules of procedure agreed upon by its Preparatory Committee;

12. *Recognizes* in this context the importance of the contributions and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Hyogo Framework for Action, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, at the Third World Conference and during its preparatory process;

13. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction;

14. *Reiterates* the importance of regional coordination in the framework of the preparatory process in order to promote broad participation in the Third World Conference, and welcomes in this regard the deliberations of the regional platforms and meetings which have been held in Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Italy, Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Thailand;

15. *Takes note* of the update on progress regarding the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action at the national, regional and global levels, as contained in the report entitled “Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action: summary of reports 2007–2013”, and notes the support work of intergovernmental organizations and other relevant bodies in this regard;

16. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the United Nations in disaster risk reduction, the growing

demands on the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the need for increased, timely, stable and predictable resources for the implementation of the International Strategy, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to recommend options on how best to support the implementation of the natural disaster reduction strategy so as to enable the secretariat to effectively coordinate the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the outcome document of the Third World Conference to the attention of Member States, relevant international and regional organizations, multilateral financial institutions and the regional development banks, as well as relevant intergovernmental processes and conferences;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “International Strategy for Disaster Reduction”;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the outcome of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Special economic assistance

African economic recovery and development

New Partnership for Africa’s Development

The General Assembly in 2002, by resolution 57/7 [YUN 2002, p. 910], endorsed the Secretary-General’s recommendation [*ibid.*, p. 909] that the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), adopted in 2001 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity [YUN 2001, p. 900], should be the framework within which the international community should concentrate its efforts for Africa’s development. During 2014, efforts continued to focus on UN and international support for NEPAD and its implementation.

Implementation and support for NEPAD

First Biennial Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 66/293 [YUN 2012, p. 927], the Secretary-General submitted in July the first biennial report [A/69/163] on the review of the implementation of commitments made towards Africa’s development. The interim report outlined the establishment and operationalization of the United Nations monitoring mechanism, the first such mechanism aimed at monitoring commit-

ments made towards Africa’s development, including commitments made by African countries and their development partners. The report provided an in-depth review of the implementation of commitments in four thematic areas: agriculture, food security and nutrition; financing for development; environmental sustainability and climate change; and good governance. The report highlighted the most significant commitments made by African Governments and their development partners; examined progress towards the implementation of those commitments; identified gaps and remaining challenges; and proposed measures to ensure the accelerated implementation of those commitments and deliver on their expected outcomes.

In terms of agriculture, food security and nutrition, Africa’s efforts were supported by many initiatives, including the Zero Hunger Challenge, launched by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780] and taken forward by the 23 UN system entities that made up the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis [YUN 2008, p. 1343]. At the 24th African Union Summit (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, June 2014), NEPAD launched an alliance of diverse partners to reach six million farming families through climate-smart agriculture processes over the next seven years. Bilateral development partners also launched specific programmes, including the Yokohama Declaration 2013, adopted at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, that contained specific commitments to support agricultural development in Africa through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Efforts to mainstream nutrition in food security policies and initiatives were in their early stages, and limited information was available on results achieved, constraints, challenges and opportunities.

In terms of financing for development, official development assistance (ODA) to Africa had been essential in helping accelerate economic growth and lift people from extreme poverty over the past few decades and was expected to remain a critical source of development financing. Declines in global ODA in 2011 and 2012, caused in part by the eurozone crisis, raised key questions as to the reliability of ODA in the future. The challenges facing Africa were to enhance domestic revenue mobilization and, at the same time, to adopt the right policies and create credible institutions to leverage additional resources from external public and private sources. Although Africa’s share of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee aid allocation was the highest, Africa’s share of total OECD/Development Assistance Committee aid allocation had remained relatively constant, averaging around 37 per cent during the past

three years. That indicated that donors were not prioritizing Africa in aid allocation, despite pledges to do so.

In terms of environmental sustainability and climate change, while Africa was doing well in limiting carbon dioxide emissions and had reduced its consumption of ozone-depleting substances, the forest cover was contracting and the continent remained far off-track for meeting targets related to water and sanitation. African countries had integrated pro-poor environmental sustainability in national development plans and sector plans. About half of the countries in Africa had reached the target of protecting at least 10 per cent of their territorial and marine areas, compared with 20 countries in 1990. A total of 53 African countries had completed national biodiversity strategies and action plans and two thirds were developing or implementing national forest programmes. In addition, as of 2013, 31 African least developed countries had developed national adaptation programmes of action on climate change and 21 of them were implementing climate adaptation projects. Those efforts notwithstanding, on average African Governments allocated less than 3 per cent of national budgets to environment ministries and support for the environment represented less than 2 per cent of total ODA to Africa.

In terms of governance, the African Union (AU) had offered a range of support to African countries' electoral efforts. In 2013, the AU Long-Term Observer Mission witnessed elections, on a pilot basis, in five countries. Its Short-Term Observer Mission witnessed elections in 13 African countries. The AU also provided Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections training workshops for officials of election management boards from eight countries. As at February 2014, 34 African countries had subscribed to the African Peer Review Mechanism, committing to a broad array of international and regional governance norms and standards. The AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption aimed to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption and related offences in Africa, had forty-five signatures and 31 ratifications.

In his recommendations, the Secretary-General noted that while Africa's new development partners continued to make important contributions towards the continent's development, the lack of reliable data on their engagement made it difficult to assess the impact of their growing partnership with the continent. Africa's new development partners should strengthen their efforts to monitor and report on their development cooperation activities in the spirit of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. In addition, there was a need for stronger support for the delivery of impactful results in the four thematic areas.

CPC action. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its fifty-fourth session (New York, 2–27 June), considered the proposed strategic framework of the United Nations support for NEPAD

for the period 2016–2017 and recommended that the General Assembly approve it.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 July [meeting 104], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/301** [draft: A/68/L.41/Rev.1 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 63 (a)].

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002 on the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling also its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and resolutions 58/233 of 23 December 2003, 59/254 of 23 December 2004, 60/222 of 23 December 2005, 61/229 of 22 December 2006, 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July 2012 and 67/294 of 15 August 2013, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support",

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome, including the recognition of the need to meet the special needs of Africa, and recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Recalling the political declaration on Africa's development needs, adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs on 22 September 2008,

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document, including the recognition that more attention should be given to Africa, especially to those countries most off track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Recalling further that significant challenges remain in achieving sustainable development in Africa, as emphasized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", including the importance of fulfilling all commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa's sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 66/293 of 17 September 2012, by which it established a United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development, and looking forward to the first biennial report, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session,

Recalling also the holding of the high-level thematic debate of the General Assembly on the promotion of investment in Africa and its catalytic role in achieving Africa's development objectives, including those of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, on 17 July 2014,

Taking note of other initiatives, such as the first high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation on the theme "Building towards an inclusive post-2015 development agenda", held in Mexico City on 15 and 16 April 2014,

Stressing that addressing Africa's special development needs should be given due attention in the post-2015 development agenda,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and bearing in mind also the need for their development efforts to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,

Noting with appreciation the recent progress made by the 34 African countries and the 4 regional economic communities that voluntarily adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and committed to ensuring an annual rate of growth in agriculture of 6 per cent and to allocating at least 10 per cent of public expenditure to the agricultural sector, as appropriate, and noting with appreciation also that, today, nine countries have reached or surpassed the 10 per cent budget allocation target, while another nine countries are currently spending between 5 and 10 per cent,

Welcoming the decision, taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held on 15 and 16 July 2012, to proclaim 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa,

Reiterating the need for the international community to implement all commitments regarding the economic and social development of Africa,

1. *Welcomes* the eleventh consolidated report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Reaffirms its full support* for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the full implementation of the political declaration on Africa's development needs, as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted as the outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008;

4. *Recognizes* the progress made in the implementation of the New Partnership as well as regional and international support for the New Partnership, while acknowledging that much needs to be done in its implementation;

5. *Takes note* of the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013, on the progress made in implementing the Abuja actions towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030, also takes note of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted at the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS on 10 June 2011, further takes note of the declaration of the extraordinary summit meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases, held in Abuja from 24 to 27 April 2001, and reaffirms the resolve to provide assistance for prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an HIV/AIDS-, malaria- and tuberculosis-free Africa by addressing the

needs of all, in particular the needs of women, children and young people, and the urgent need to scale up significantly efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support in African countries, to accelerate and intensify efforts to expand access to affordable and quality medicines in Africa, including antiretroviral drugs, by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs available, and to ensure strengthened global partnership and increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems;

6. *Also takes note* of the road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response in Africa, from 2012 to 2015, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, notes the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as an African high-level platform to advocate action, accountability and resource mobilization for response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa, and requests, as appropriate, and in line with other international obligations, development partners and the United Nations system to support efforts of African countries and organizations to reach the main objectives put forward in the African Union road map, including achieving diversified sustainable financing, strengthening regulatory harmonization and local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and enhancing leadership and governance of the responses;

7. *Recognizes* that HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world, in particular the African continent, and serious challenges to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of diseases, including of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

9. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, held in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, and acknowledges the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa;

10. *Takes note* of the declaration of the high-level meeting of African and international leaders, entitled "Toward African renaissance: renewed partnership for a unified approach to end hunger in Africa by 2025 under the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme";

11. *Expresses deep concern* about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizes evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, is cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to

contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among young people, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stresses the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date;

12. *Expresses concern* about the negative consequences of the uneven global recovery, the increasing challenges posed by climate change, drought, land degradation, desertification, the loss of biodiversity and floods, and the serious challenges these impacts pose to the fight against poverty and hunger, which could pose serious additional challenges to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in Africa;

13. *Recognizes* that, while global growth is returning, there is a need to further strengthen the recovery, which is still uneven, stresses the urgent need for full recovery and sustained and accelerated growth, which translates into new employment opportunities, secure incomes and improved livelihoods, and reaffirms the need to continue to support the special needs of Africa and to take action to mitigate the multidimensional impacts of the crisis on the continent;

14. *Notes* that the rapid economic growth of some developing countries has had a positive impact on the efforts of the African continent to sustain and expand growth, despite the fact that those developing countries continue to face development challenges;

15. *Expresses concern* at Africa's disproportionately low share in the volume of international trade, which stands at approximately 3 per cent, also expresses concern that official development assistance to Africa fell in 2013, and further expresses concern at the increased debt burden of some African countries;

16. *Notes* that foreign direct investment is a major source of financing for development, that it has a critical role in achieving development objectives and inclusive economic growth, including through the promotion of job creation and poverty eradication, and that it contributes to the active participation of the African economies in the global economy and facilitates regional economic cooperation and integration, and in this regard calls upon developed countries to continue to devise source-country measures to encourage and facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment, inter alia, through the provision of export credits and other lending instruments, risk guarantees and business development services;

17. *Also notes* the importance of promoting the formalization of informal sector activities in Africa;

18. *Calls upon* developing countries and countries with economies in transition to continue their efforts to create a domestic environment conducive to attracting investments by, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights;

19. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including inclusive industrial development, and policies which

seek to enhance productive capacities in Africa can generate employment and income for the poor and, therefore, be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

20. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries, including African countries, in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, notes the steps taken in this regard, and emphasizes in this context the need to avoid further marginalization of the African continent;

I

Actions by African countries and organizations

21. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to continue their efforts towards achieving development goals, developing and strengthening institutions for governance, creating an environment conducive to involving the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, in the New Partnership implementation process, developing public-private partnerships for financing infrastructure projects and attracting foreign direct investment for development;

22. *Also welcomes* the collaboration between the African Private Sector Forum and the United Nations Global Compact, and encourages the strengthening of this partnership in conjunction with the African Union Commission in support of the development of the African private sector and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in line with the relevant executive decisions of the African Union;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts exerted by the African Union and the regional economic communities in the area of economic integration, as well as ongoing efforts by the African Union in the operationalization of the provision contained in General Assembly resolutions 59/213 of 20 December 2004, 61/296 of 17 September 2007 and 63/310 of 14 September 2009, and stresses the key role of the United Nations system in supporting the African Union in the social, economic and political fields and in the area of peace and security;

24. *Recognizes* the important role that African regional economic communities can play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encourages African countries and the international community to give regional economic communities the support necessary to strengthen their capacity;

25. *Welcomes* the decision by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at its eighteenth ordinary session, on 29 and 30 January 2012, to strengthen intra-African trade, which plays an important role in promoting economic growth and development, and calls upon the United Nations system and development partners to continue to support the efforts of African countries, the African Union and regional economic communities to enhance intra-African trade;

26. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the African leaders to Africa's political, social and economic integration agenda and to the ideal of pan-Africanism and African re-

naissance, as reaffirmed in the solemn declaration adopted on 26 May 2013 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union;

27. *Takes note* of the progress in the development of the African Union Agenda 2063 as a strategic vision and action plan for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, particularly through regional integration, industrialization, diversification of the economy and job creation;

28. *Welcomes* the commendable progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the completion of the peer review process in 17 countries, and welcomes the progress in implementing the national programmes of action resulting from those reviews, and in this regard urges African States that have not yet done so to consider joining the Mechanism process and to strengthen the Mechanism process for its efficient performance;

29. *Welcomes and appreciates* the continuing and increasing efforts of African countries in mainstreaming a gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the New Partnership;

30. *Encourages* African countries to accelerate the achievement of the objective of food security in Africa, welcomes the commitment made by African leaders to raise the share of agriculture and rural development in their budget expenditures and ensure better governance to effectively manage the resources allocated, and in this regard reaffirms its support for, inter alia, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, under the strong leadership of African countries, in accordance with the targets set by the New Partnership;

31. *Also encourages* African countries to strengthen and expand local and regional infrastructure and to continue sharing best practices with a view to strengthening regional and continental integration, and in this regard notes with appreciation the work of the high-level subcommittee of the African Union on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, which seeks to further strengthen the development of infrastructure on the African continent in collaboration with relevant development partners;

32. *Further encourages* African countries to maintain the trend of increasing investment in infrastructure development and improving the efficiency of existing infrastructure investment, in the context of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms needed to produce the expected results;

33. *Encourages* African countries to continue their efforts in investing in education, science, technology and innovation to enhance value addition and industrial development;

II

Response of the international community

34. *Welcomes* the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership;

35. *Also welcomes* the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners, as well as other initiatives, emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa and the need for their effective implementation, and in this

regard recognizes the important role that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can play in supporting Africa's development efforts, including in the implementation of the New Partnership, while bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation;

36. *Urges* continued support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and hunger, job creation and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, fulfilment of commitments on official development assistance and increased flows of foreign direct investment, and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

37. *Expresses deep concern* about the continuing negative effects of desertification, land degradation and drought on the African continent and, in particular, the critical situation in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa region, which have experienced one of the worst droughts in history, and underlines the need for short-, medium- and long-term measures, and in this regard calls for the continued effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, including its 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), to address the situation;

38. *Recognizes* that Africa, which contributes the least to climate change, is one of the regions most vulnerable and most exposed to its adverse impacts, and in this regard calls upon the international community, in particular developed countries, to continue to support Africa in its adaptation and sustainable development efforts through, inter alia, the transfer and deployment of technology, on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and the provision of adequate and predictable new resources, in line with existing commitments;

39. *Notes* the progress made at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, and looks forward to the timely implementation of the “Bali package”, including the trade facilitation agreement, and calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations;

40. *Reiterates* the important role of trade as an engine of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, in particular its contribution to boosting job creation, given high youth unemployment in Africa, and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and emphasizes the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to rectify any trade-distorting measures already taken that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, while recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize their flexibilities consistent with their commitments and obligations as members of the World Trade Organization;

41. *Also reiterates* the need for all countries and relevant multilateral institutions to continue efforts to enhance coherence in their trade policies towards African countries, and acknowledges the importance of efforts to fully integrate African countries into the international trading system and to build their capacity to compete through such initiatives as aid for trade and, given the world economic

and financial crisis, the provision of assistance to address the adjustment challenges of trade liberalization;

42. *Calls for* a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, and recognizes the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and debt restructuring, as debt crisis prevention and management tools for mitigating the impact of the world financial and economic crisis in developing countries;

43. *Welcomes* the efforts of some developed countries which are on target to meet the commitments made in terms of increased official development assistance;

44. *Expresses deep concern* at the fact that the commitment to double aid to Africa by 2010, as articulated at the Summit of the Group of Eight held at Gleneagles from 6 to 8 July 2005, was not entirely reached, and in this regard stresses the need to make rapid progress in order to fulfil the Gleneagles and other donors' substantial commitments to increase aid through a variety of means;

45. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

46. *Considers* that innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution towards assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis and that such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing, and, while highlighting the considerable progress on innovative sources of financing for development achieved to date, stresses the importance of scaling up present initiatives and developing new mechanisms, as appropriate;

47. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

48. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture and food security in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;

49. *Also recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners to align their efforts in infrastructure investment towards supporting the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa;

50. *Invites* all of Africa's development partners, in particular developed countries, to support African countries in promoting and maintaining macroeconomic stability, to help African countries to attract investments and promote policies conducive to attracting domestic and foreign investment, for example by encouraging private financial flows, to promote investment by their private sectors in Africa, to encourage and facilitate the transfer of technology to African countries, on mutually agreed terms, and to assist in strengthening human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the New Partnership, consistent with its priorities and objectives and with a view to furthering Africa's development at all levels;

51. *Stresses* that the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and post-conflict consolidation are essential for the achievement of the objectives of the New Partnership, and welcomes in this regard the cooperation and support granted by the United Nations and development partners to the African regional and sub-regional organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership;

52. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in assisting post-conflict countries in Africa, particularly the six African countries for which the Commission has established country-specific configurations;

53. *Urges* the international community to give due attention to Africa's priorities, including the New Partnership, in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda;

54. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership and to African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of the New Partnership and to place greater emphasis on monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of the effectiveness of its activities in support of the New Partnership;

55. *Emphasizes* African ownership of the African Peer Review Mechanism process, and invites the international community to support the efforts of African countries, at their request, in implementing their respective national programmes of action arising from the process;

56. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the United Nations development system to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives through, inter alia, the Millennium Villages Project, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report an assessment of those quick-impact initiatives;

57. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all its normative and operational activities;

58. *Welcomes* the establishment of a United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made related to Africa's development, and invites Member States

and all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa, and all relevant international and regional organizations to contribute to the effectiveness and reliability of the review process by cooperating in the collection of data and the evaluation performance;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the basis of inputs from Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other stakeholders in the New Partnership.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 68/301 (see above), the Secretary-General submitted in July the twelfth consolidated report [A/69/161] on NEPAD implementation and international support. The report highlighted policy measures taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of NEPAD as well as the response of the international community and support provided by the United Nations system. Also highlighted were activities undertaken by the private sector and civil society in support of NEPAD. In regard to actions initiated by African countries and organizations, the NEPAD Agency took initiatives in infrastructure development, agriculture and food security, health, education and training, environment and tourism, information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation, and gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation. On the political front, the African Peer Review Mechanism [YUN 2003, p. 938] continued to strengthen and institutionalize good political, economic and corporate governance throughout the continent. In January Equatorial Guinea joined the Mechanism, bringing its membership to 34 countries. In spite of a steady increase in membership, there was slow progress in the conduct of national review exercises, partly due to financial constraints. South Africa and Mozambique submitted their progress reports on the implementation of their national programmes of action for review by the African Peer Review Forum during the twentieth summit, held in January. As at June, 17 countries had been reviewed: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

According to the International Monetary Fund, although global economic activities increased considerably in the second half of 2013, Africa continued to show strong resilience with GDP growth averaging 4 per cent in 2013, 1 per cent faster than the global average. Though the recovery in commodity prices had been important for Africa's recovery from the global economic slowdown, efforts undertaken by African countries to reform their economies, tackle conflicts and strengthen governance had also played an im-

portant role in supporting growth. Despite improved performance, growth in Africa remained inadequate to make significant progress in poverty reduction. More remained to be done to raise growth to the 7 per cent target considered critical for sustained poverty reduction as well as for progress towards the achievement of other Millennium Development Goals targets.

In his conclusions and recommendations, the Secretary-General noted that overall progress had been made in the previous 12 months in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. In the decade since its establishment, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme had served as an important framework for agriculture development; progress had also been evident in the implementation of other NEPAD priority sectors, including health, education and gender mainstreaming. An increasing number of countries were attaching great importance to good governance, as evidenced by the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism. On the international front, official development assistance to Africa increased, reversing the downward trend of the past two years. Africa's development partners should make every effort to increase financing for Africa's agriculture in line with relevant commitments, including those contained in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. While progress had been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, lack of financing remained a serious challenge and there was a need to leverage private sector participation in infrastructure through innovative public-private partnerships as underscored by the Dakar Agenda for Action. The Secretary-General underscored that gender and women's empowerment issues had to be mainstreamed into national development policy frameworks in order to undergird efforts towards gender equality and accelerate development outcomes.

Social dimension of NEPAD

The Commission for Social Development at its fifty-second session (New York, 15 February 2013 and 11–21 February 2014) [E/2014/26-E/CN.5/2014/10] recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption resolution 2014/4 (see below) on the social dimensions of NEPAD.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/4** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and of the twenty-fourth special session of the

General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document, the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development of 16 September 2002, General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Recognizing the commitments made with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa’s development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008, and noting the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004, including relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development,

Recalling the first session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development, held in Windhoek from 27 to 31 October 2008, and the second session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Khartoum from 21 to 25 November 2010 on the theme “Strengthening social policy action towards social inclusion”, welcoming the third session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 November 2012, recalling in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009, as well as the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation, for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014), and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010–2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and taking note of the African Common Position on the Human Rights of Older Persons in Africa,

Noting the full integration of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development into the structures and processes of the African Union and the establishment of the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African Union to replace the secretariat of the New Partnership,

Noting with appreciation the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms needed to produce the expected results aimed at promoting economic and social development and reducing poverty in the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

Welcoming the ministerial statements on the themes “Unleashing Africa’s potential as a pole of global growth”

and “Industrialization for an emerging Africa”, adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at their fifth and sixth joint meetings, held in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 March 2012 and in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013 respectively, and the consensus statement on the theme “Governing and harnessing natural resources for Africa’s development” adopted at the eighth African Development Forum, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 October 2012,

Remaining concerned that, while Africa continues to make steady progress towards attainment of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, this progress is, however, not enough for all countries to attain all of the Goals by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Expressing concern that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and challenges posed by climate change,

Stressing that addressing Africa’s special development needs should be given due attention in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Noting that Africa is abundantly endowed with natural resources, including many industrial minerals and agricultural resources that are exported mainly in primary form, and that the exploitation of the natural resources sector in Africa has for many years attracted foreign direct investment in capital-intensive enclave sectors that has the potential, when paired with appropriate policies, including employment-intensive policies, to spur structural transformation, create employment, contribute to poverty eradication and reduce inequality,

Emphasizing that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa,

Recognizing the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa’s Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities,

Recognizing also that capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and best practices are essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership, and recognizing also the need for continued support from the international community, partners of the New Partnership and United Nations agencies to continue to work towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development on the African continent, and for greater synergy and effective coordination between the New Partnership and the international initiatives related to Africa, and emphasizing the importance of the close collaboration of the

African Union Commission and the United Nations as the co-organizers of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development,

Recognizing further that investments in people, especially their social protection, health and education, are essential to enhancing agricultural productivity and performance, and thereby key to growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to 35 countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the good progress that has been made in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, as reflected in particular by the number of countries that have signed up to participate in the Mechanism, the completion of the peer review process in some countries, the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in those countries and the completion of the annual progress reports and self-assessment processes, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of national preparatory processes for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism as a matter of priority and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

4. *Notes* the development of Agenda 2063 as the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities, and welcomes the decision on the organization of an extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to assess the progress in implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, to be organized by the African Union in September 2014;

5. *Recognizes* the valuable efforts made by the Steering Committee of the New Partnership in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, particularly through the mechanism of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, under which

impressive progress has been recorded in the conception of many critical infrastructure projects on the continent;

6. *Stresses* that industrialization is a critical engine of economic and social development, and emphasizes the need to accelerate Africa's industrialization by the adoption and implementation of specific measures and actions at the national, regional and continental levels and with the support of and in collaboration with development partners and the international community;

7. *Also stresses* the importance of taking measures to promote the dynamic diversification of African economies through transforming African economies from resource dependence, increasing local processing of and value addition to natural resources in order to expand the domestic economy and increase revenue, and developing new industries in order to transform lives and create opportunities for more and better jobs;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

9. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, held in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, and acknowledges the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa;

10. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

11. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

12. *Further emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptable high levels of poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure employment creation and decent work for all, to promote education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

13. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

14. *Encourages* African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve

public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty;

15. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, infrastructural development and structural transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

16. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and the target of allocating between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

17. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results, inclusive development partnerships and transparency and mutual accountability;

18. *Recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

19. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

20. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives undertaken by Africa's development partners in recent years, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring the effective implementation of existing commitments, including through the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development African Action Plan 2010–2015: Advancing Regional and Continental Integration in Africa, which remains at the centre of the continent's engagement with partners;

21. *Encourages* African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and the implementation of commitments and

the achievement of all development goals at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

22. *Urges* continuous support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, with special emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals related to poverty and hunger, health, education, the empowerment of women and gender equality, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, reduced cost of sending remittances through official channels, the empowerment of women in all aspects, including economic and political aspects, the promotion of social protection systems and the conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization;

23. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase access for smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

24. *Urges* Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

25. *Notes* the decision taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, to proclaim 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

26. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture and food security in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;

27. *Also recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second Decade (2008–2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

28. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, which should be aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing employment and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

29. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities;

30. *Also emphasizes* the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education, and in this regard notes the Global Education First Initiative of the Secretary-General and its objectives and invites Member States to contribute to the Initiative, as appropriate, including through the allocation of adequate resources;

31. *Urges* African countries and development partners to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of education and training programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

32. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

33. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments to take advantage of the continent's demographic transition while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

34. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

35. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support and fulfil its commitments to take further action in areas critical to Africa's economic and social development, and welcomes the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership;

36. *Encourages* all development partners to implement principles of aid effectiveness, as recalled in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted on 2 December 2008 by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;

37. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

38. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

39. *Expresses deep concern* that illicit financial flows and poor legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks for mineral resources undermine national development efforts, encourages African countries to take measures to address these challenges, and invites development partners to continue to assist African countries in tackling illicit financial flows;

40. *Encourages* Africa's development partners to continue to integrate the priorities, values and principles of the New Partnership into their development assistance programmes;

41. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012;

42. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;

43. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on communication, advocacy and outreach to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership and to urge the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

44. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect acknowledges commitments made by development partners;

45. *Encourages* the international community to support African countries in addressing the challenges of climate change by providing the financial and technological resources and capacity-building training needed to support adaptation and mitigation action;

46. *Notes* the decision of the General Assembly to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, enabling it to effectively fulfil its mandate, including by monitoring and reporting on progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa;

47. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

48. *Invites* engagement in intergovernmental efforts to continue to improve the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system in support of Africa and to continue to support the Economic Commission for Africa in the execution of its mandate, particularly by working with its members to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda gives due consideration to Africa's social development priorities;

49. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership at its fifty-third session;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July 2012 and 67/294 of 15 August 2013, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its fifty-third session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to social development in Africa, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/4 (see above), the Secretary-General submitted a November report [E/CN.5/2015/2] on the social dimension of NEPAD, highlighting progress made in eradicating poverty and hunger, creating jobs, improving education and health outcomes, promoting gender equality, boosting agricultural productivity, investing in infrastructure, improving governance and mobilizing resources for inclusive development.

Despite having 11 of the top 20 fastest-growing economies in the world, African countries still had much more to do to achieve broadly shared prosperity and to reduce poverty and inequality. Estimates of global poverty released in October by the World Bank showed that about 39.6 per cent of Africa's population

(437.1 million people) lived on less than \$1.25 a day compared with 46.6 per cent (295.8 million people) in 1990, indicating that, despite a collective effort, Africa would not halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. The number of hungry people in Africa increased from 217 million in the period 2008–2010 to 227 million in 2012–2014, a time period when the number of undernourished people in the world declined from 840 million to 805 million. Sub-Saharan Africa had become home to more than a quarter of the world's undernourished people. The situation in North Africa remained positive, however, the number of food-insecure people in the Sahel region had risen, from 11.3 million in 2013 to 20 million in 2014.

The total unemployment rate in sub-Saharan Africa had slightly declined, from 7.7 per cent in 2009 to 7.6 per cent in 2014. There were no improvements in unemployment levels among women; in both 2009 and 2014, the rate was 8.4 per cent. Youth unemployment levels also remained elevated despite the fact that an estimated 11 million young people were expected to join the job market every year for the next decade in sub-Saharan Africa alone. In the Middle East and North Africa, the unemployment rate increased from 10.4 per cent in 2009 to 11.5 per cent in 2014.

Progress had been made across Africa in increasing enrolment of children in school. Primary enrolment more than doubled between 1990 and 2012, from 62 million to 149 million in sub-Saharan Africa, with a net enrolment rate increasing from 52 per cent in 1990 to 78 per cent in 2012, while North Africa had almost achieved universal primary education, with a net enrolment rate of 99 per cent in 2012 compared with 90 per cent in 2000.

There had been significant improvements in child immunization rates, and the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapies. The number of child and maternal deaths and deaths owing to malaria and HIV/AIDS had also been reduced. Nonetheless, sub-Saharan Africa still had the highest maternal mortality ratio in the world.

In 2014, 20 per cent of seats in African national parliaments were held by women. Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles and South Africa were among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest percentage of women parliamentarians. The percentage of women parliamentarians ranged from 41 per cent in South Africa to 64 per cent in Rwanda. Despite the obvious gains to society from the empowerment of women, progress was being hampered by widening inequalities, disproportionately high levels of unemployment among women, as well as gender-based violence and exploitation.

To promote effective and accountable governance, 34 more countries had acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism. Seventeen countries had

completed their self-assessments and had been peer-reviewed. In mobilizing finances for inclusive development, total collected tax revenue in Africa increased from \$137.5 billion in 2000 to a record \$527.3 billion in 2012; however, greater efforts were also required to curb illicit financial flows connected to trade mispricing, tax evasion, corruption and other illegal activities that were costing Africa an estimated \$50 billion a year.

The Secretary-General recommended the Commission for Social Development encourage African countries and their development partners to promote policies that foster agricultural transformation, including meeting the commitments on agriculture contained in the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security; promote industrial policies that create diversified economies and contribute to poverty eradication and social inclusion through job creation; reduce inequality and vulnerability by implementing basic social protection floors and expand opportunities available to disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups; promote gender perspective across policies and programmes; prioritize investments in health care; encourage the international community to honour existing aid commitments, provide debt relief and make predictable disbursements of ODA; and set bold domestic resource mobilization targets for the implementation of national and regional development programmes.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on NEPAD: progress in implementation and international support would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

African countries emerging from conflict

Report of Secretary-General. In October [E/2014/94], the Secretary-General presented his third report to the Economic and Social Council on integrated, coherent and coordinated support to the Government of South Sudan following the country's independence in July 2011. The report reviewed major developments in South Sudan since July 2013, with a focus on the political crisis that erupted into violence in December. It also described the impact of the conflict on prospects for development and some of the key actions taken by the international community, including the United Nations system, to help the country to end the conflict so that development could be resumed.

A political crisis that led to a violent conflict had reversed much of the progress of the past two years. A crisis of governance within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) led to armed violence on 15 December 2013. A leadership struggle within SPLM rapidly deteriorated into armed conflict, causing significant loss of life and large-scale displacement, with an estimated 1.3 million people internally displaced

in more than 100 locations, 100,000 of whom sought protection at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) bases. In addition, nearly 450,000 people fled to neighbouring countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda.

Since the onset of the crisis, UNMISS had to put its State-building and peacebuilding activities on hold. As the crisis persisted in May, the Security Council (see p. 338) revised the UNMISS mandate to focus on four priority areas: protection of civilians; human rights monitoring and reporting; creating the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and supporting the cessation of hostilities agreement. With respect to humanitarian assistance and protection, the Emergency Relief Coordinator declared a three-month Standing Committee system-wide level-three emergency response to the escalating conflict in South Sudan in February, subsequently extended by an additional six months until November.

The conflict had undermined the prospects for future growth. The most immediate impact had been on oil production. Financing nearly 80 per cent of the Government's overall budget, oil provided 98 per cent of public sector revenue, contributed 60 per cent to gross domestic product and to almost all foreign exchange earnings, thus making the South Sudanese economy highly vulnerable to changes in oil prices and oil production levels. The conflict led to the shutdown of operations of some oil fields and the partial shutdown of others, leading to oil production at less than half of the 350,000 barrels per day at the time of independence in July 2011.

As at the time of reporting, approximately 57 per cent of children and adolescents in South Sudan did not attend school. There were high levels of dropouts and delayed entry: 75 per cent of 6-year-olds were not in school and 92 per cent of grade 8 students were overage. The percentage was much higher in conflict-affected states, where children were prevented from attending school as a result of insecurity, displacement or schools' occupation by armed forces. It was estimated that only 5 to 10 per cent of about 1,130 primary schools in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States were functioning.

The Secretary-General noted that while a cessation of hostilities agreement had been signed and a commitment made to work on the formation of a transitional Government, both sides continued to pursue a military solution. No concrete evidence had yet emerged that the political will existed to meet the commitments made under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-led mediation. Given the unique peace, security, peacebuilding and development challenges facing South Sudan, the integrated United Nations support being provided at the technical and operational levels should be complemented by strong, integrated policy support and guidance at the intergovernmental level by all relevant

United Nations organs and bodies, within their respective mandates and competencies.

On 18 November (**decision 2014/256**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report and requested that another report on the subject be submitted to the Council at its substantive session in 2015.

Other economic assistance

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on special economic assistance to individual countries and regions would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Haiti

Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. In October [E/2014/95], following its visit to Washington, D.C., of 28 April, and to Haiti, from 12 to 15 May, the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti presented its tenth report since its reactivation in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 939].

The Group welcomed the progress observed in Haiti on the economic and social fronts, which went well beyond post-earthquake recovery efforts. It also expressed concerns on the sustainability of the development process in the then political context. The Group emphasized the need for continued donor engagement given the high vulnerability of the country, in terms of both natural disasters and economic shocks, and the need to sustain the development progress that had been achieved. The Group also advocated a “Delivering as one” approach to guide UN action on the ground. With a growth rate of 4.3 per cent in 2013, Haiti had reached a new phase in its development process. The overall objective of the strategic plan for the development of Haiti formulated by the Government for the period 2010–2030 was for Haiti to become an emerging country within 15 years. Although that required massive investments and a marked increase in the average income of the population, progress suggested that Haiti had embarked on a path that could bring it closer to that ambitious goal if progress was sustained and Haiti did not relapse into political turmoil.

Some social progress was also observed. It was estimated that poverty decreased by 4 to 5 per cent in urban areas, although inequality remained high. Extreme poverty had declined from 31 per cent to 24 per cent since 2000, and some targets had been reached ahead of the deadline, such as the reduction by half in the number of underweight children.

At the political level, the inter-Haitian political dialogue took several steps forward. Following the political agreement known as the El Rancho accord, the Cabinet was reshuffled and the Chamber of Depu-

ties adopted an electoral law. Although the process had not eased political tensions, the fact that political parties were holding a dialogue, with the support of civil society actors, was a step in the right direction in building the capacity to devise collective solutions.

On the humanitarian front, some 90,000 displaced persons lived in camps, a sharp decrease compared with 1.3 million following the 2010 earthquake. Living conditions, in particular the sanitary situation, were extremely poor. In spite of training and awareness-raising activities implemented by the International Organization for Migration and others, the national and international presence in those camps did not appear as being commensurate with the needs of the population. The Group therefore called for continued humanitarian assistance and a high level of support to the Haitian National Police.

To sustain the development process, the Group encouraged Haiti’s development partners to take proactive steps to ensure that support was in line with the priorities and programmes set by the Government, as contained in the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti and the triennial investment plans; to simplify disbursement procedures in order to accelerate project implementation; and to provide continued support to the national police and its development plan for the period 2012–2016.

The UN system was called on to plan for a smooth transition process in relation to the consolidation of United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in such a way as to secure continued assistance by the UN system in peacebuilding-related areas; to consider how the United Nations could best support peacebuilding efforts in Haiti, including through the possible involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, if requested by Haiti; and to assert its role as a promoter of aid effectiveness by providing secretariat support to the Group of Twelve Plus.

The Group also called on the Haitian authorities to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the senatorial, municipal and local elections were held without further delay; to enforce the new law against corruption; and to invest in the strengthening of the national police, the judiciary, the penitentiary system and institutions geared towards embedding the rule of law in Haiti.

Communications. In letters dated 19 December 2013 [E/2014/8] from Argentina, 31 March 2014 [E/2014/54] from Colombia, and 13 May from Uruguay [E/2014/73], Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay expressed their wishes to become members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. On 30 January (**decision 2014/207**) and 23 April (**decision 2014/210**), the Economic and Social Council decided to appoint Argentina and Colombia as members, and on 13 June (**decision 2014/221**), it further appointed Uruguay as a member of the Group.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 November [meeting 52], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/37** [draft: E/2014/L.34] without vote [agenda item 10 (d)].

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009, 2010/28 of 23 July 2010, 2012/21 of 26 July 2012 and 2013/15 of 23 July 2013 and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/207 of 17 February 2011, 2011/211 of 26 April 2011, 2011/268 of 28 July 2011, 2013/209 of 15 February 2013, 2014/207 of 30 January 2014, 2014/210 of 23 April 2014 and 2014/221 of 13 June 2014,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* that political stability and socioeconomic recovery are essential to the long-term development of Haiti, and welcomes the efforts of the United Nations and the international community in both fields;

3. *Commends* the continued progress in the economic and social situation in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of January 2010 and congratulates the Haitian authorities and all Haitian development actors on their work in that regard, and looks forward to continued support from donors and other partners, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions;

4. *Calls upon* donors to remain engaged in support of the reconstruction and development of Haiti, in line with priorities set by the Government of Haiti, and calls upon the Haitian authorities and international partners to take an active part in the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti with a view to making full use of its potential for effective international support;

5. *Recognizes* the External Aid Coordination Framework, established as a platform to strengthen mutual accountability and coordination under the leadership of the Haitian authorities with the support of the donor community;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti to fully operationalize the External Aid Coordination Framework and its mechanisms in keeping with the road map adopted in 2014, and calls upon the development partners of Haiti and the United Nations system to play an active role in donor coordination mechanisms in order to better coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of aid and the impact of development cooperation;

7. *Encourages* donors to continue funding humanitarian activities, with a view, inter alia, to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including those still living in camps, and to improve the sanitation and health sectors;

8. *Invites* donors to align their efforts with the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti as well as other national activities to prevent waterborne diseases, and to provide the financial resources necessary for their implementation;

9. *Calls upon* the Haitian authorities to take all the steps necessary to ensure the regular functioning of public institutions, and calls upon all the political actors in Haiti to work cooperatively and without further delay to ensure

the holding of overdue legislative and local elections so that legitimate, credible and well-functioning authorities are in place to contribute to the recovery and development process, and to continue to interact with development partners in a constructive manner;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system in Haiti to review its integrated strategic framework with a view to promoting appropriate approaches to consolidated planning, fundraising and programme implementation, and calls for a smooth transition process in order to ensure continued assistance by the United Nations system, including in peacebuilding and related areas, such as governance, institution-building and human rights issues;

11. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2015 session, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

12. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Advisory Group, and requests him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources;

13. *Requests* the Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank, and other major stakeholders, and in this regard welcomes the continuation of the dialogue between the members of the Advisory Group and the Organization of American States;

14. *Also requests* the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its 2015 session.

Kazakhstan

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 66/193 [YUN 2011, p. 901], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/257] on the status of the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan and the progress made in accelerating development between 2011 and 2013, through programmes and actions organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies. The Semipalatinsk test site, also known as “the Polygon”, was the primary nuclear test site of the former Soviet

Union. In total, 456 nuclear tests were conducted between 1949 and 1989 at Semipalatinsk, including 340 underground and 116 atmospheric explosions. Altogether, nuclear explosions at Semipalatinsk were the equivalent of over 2,500 Hiroshima bombs. The former Soviet Union had other nuclear test sites, but this was the only one close to major settlements. The resulting fallout from such tests severely affected the ecosystems of the region and the traditional way of life of its inhabitants. The site was closed on 29 August 1991, a date designated by the General Assembly in 2009 as the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

The Government of Kazakhstan, with the assistance of donors and the direct involvement of UN agencies, had carried out a considerable amount of work in the Semipalatinsk region over recent years. Numerous projects in the socioeconomic sphere and in the areas of environment, public health and education had been implemented. Much remained to be done, however. More investment would be required in human development over the coming years, in order to ensure a stable pattern of development and growth for the region. To achieve that objective, governmental and international efforts, inter alia, should focus on improving mother and child primary health-care services, and child and youth protection mechanisms; strengthening the capacity of local authorities, particularly in rural areas, in the use of evidence-based decision-making; promoting community awareness of the equal rights of vulnerable groups; and increasing the efficiency of the use of State resources in socioeconomic programmes at the local level.

The Secretary-General called on the international community to support the joint work of the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations by enhancing the social inclusion of vulnerable groups in the region, with the aim of reducing their stigmatization and isolation and promoting their integration into the community; and by strengthening coordination to plan, implement and monitor inclusive regional social programmes and services.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/209** [A/69/468 & Corr.1] without vote [agenda item 19].

International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997, 53/1 H of 16 November 1998, 55/44 of 27 November 2000, 57/101 of 25 November 2002, 60/216 of 22 December 2005, 63/279 of 24 April 2009 and 66/193 of 22 December 2011,

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991,

remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term consequences of its activity for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Taking into account the fact that a number of international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed since the closure of the nuclear testing ground, but that serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

Taking into consideration the results of the International Conference on Semipalatinsk, held in Tokyo on 6 and 7 September 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

Acknowledging the progress made towards accelerating the development of the Semipalatinsk region during the period from 2011 to 2013, through programmes and actions of the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies,

Recognizing the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing also the challenges that Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan to ensure the effective and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to health care and environmental sustainability,

Recognizing further that the Government of Kazakhstan may call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to render assistance in conducting consultations for establishing a multi-stakeholder mechanism, with the participation of various government bodies, local governments, civil society, the donor community and international organizations, to improve governance and enable the more efficient use of resources allocated for the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular regarding the areas of radiation safety, socioeconomic development and health and environmental protection, and for the provision of information on risks to the population,

Emphasizing the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts of Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region and the need for the international community to continue to pay due attention to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Taking note of the need to utilize modern technologies to minimize and mitigate radiological, health, socioeconomic, psychological and environmental challenges in the Semipalatinsk region,

Considering the importance of cooperation with the United Nations in establishing a coherent framework for coordination in addressing the needs of the region to introduce innovative approaches to regional planning and social assistance to the population of the Semipalatinsk region, especially its most vulnerable groups, aimed at improving its quality of life,

Emphasizing the importance of the new development-oriented approach in tackling problems in the Semipalatinsk region in the medium to long term,

Expressing appreciation to donor countries and organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and related organizations mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General for their contribution to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 66/193 and the information contained therein on measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems in the Semipalatinsk region;

2. *Welcomes and recognizes* the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, implementing measures for optimizing public administration of the territory and facilities of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and surrounding areas, ensuring radiation safety and environmental rehabilitation and reintegrating the use of the nuclear test site into the national economy;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in formulating and implementing special programmes and projects for the treatment and care of the affected population, as well as in efforts to en-

sure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region, including increasing the effectiveness of existing programmes;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue pursuing a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing and coordinating the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in his report;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

International trade, finance and transport

In 2014, the work of the United Nations on international trade, finance and transport continued to focus on multilateral efforts to support the global recovery from the world economic and financial crisis of 2008. Efforts to bolster inclusive and sustainable growth and development were at the forefront for the international community as it prepared to negotiate the development agenda beyond 2015.

Growth in world merchandise trade in 2014 grew by only 0.3 per cent, reaching \$19 trillion, as a result of the significant fall in the prices of major commodities. In developed countries, trade accelerated, with the European Union and Japan increasing their import volumes by approximately 2.8 per cent and the United States by 4.7 per cent. Exports of the transition economies increased by 0.2 per cent, while import volumes plunged by 8.5 per cent, mostly due to economic and financial difficulties in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. In developing countries, import volumes fell by 2.0 per cent and export volumes fell by 2.9 per cent. Africa's real exports showed a contraction resulting from shrinking oil exports in Libya. In Latin America and the Caribbean, international trade measured in current values practically came to a standstill, largely due to the fall in export unit values. In East Asia, the growth rate of trade was unusually low for the region, at less than 4 per cent in 2014. Commodity markets witnessed turbulent times in 2014, as they continued the downward trend from their peaks of 2011–2012.

In April, the special high-level meeting was held between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The theme of the meeting was “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda”. In June, the Council held a special meeting on international cooperation in tax matters.

The Trade and Development Board—the governing body of UNCTAD—at its twenty-eighth special session, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UNCTAD. In September, the Board adopted agreed conclusions on the UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, and on UNCTAD technical cooperation activities.

In June, the General Assembly decided to convene the third International Conference on Financing for

Development in Addis Ababa in 2015 to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, and to reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process.

In September, the General Assembly agreed to negotiate and adopt a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes to improve the global financial system. In December, it established an ad hoc committee to elaborate, through a process of intergovernmental negotiations, the multilateral legal framework.

International trade and development

According to the *Trade and Development Report, 2015* [Sales No. E.15.II.D.4], the growth rate of world merchandise trade (by volume) stood at 2.3 per cent in 2014. In developed countries, trade accelerated. Positive gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates in the European Union and Japan helped boost their import volumes by around 2.8 per cent in 2014. In the United States, imports rose faster, by 4.7 per cent, partly due to dollar appreciation. All these factors, combined with the fact that import volume growth in developing and transition economies continued to fall short of that achieved in earlier years, made developed countries the country group with the highest annual growth of imports for the first time since the late 1990s.

Regarding the transition economies, exports in 2014 slightly increased by 0.2 per cent, while import volumes plunged by 8.5 per cent, mostly on account of economic and financial difficulties in the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

In developing countries, import volumes fell by 2.0 per cent and export volumes fell by 2.9 per cent. Africa's real exports showed a contraction as a result of shrinking oil exports in Libya. In Latin America and the Caribbean, international trade measured in current values practically ground to a halt, largely due to the fall in export unit values. Weaker demand from China and the slowdown of intraregional trade affected mostly South American countries. In West Asia, oil-exporting economies faced adverse terms of trade. Armed conflicts in several countries of the sub-region further affected intraregional trade, with spill-

over effects in some North African countries' exports, including from Egypt. In East Asia, the growth rate of trade, by volume, was unusually low for the region, at less than 4 per cent in 2014. To a large extent, this reflects the slowdown of China's international trade. Its exports, by volume, grew by 6.8 per cent in 2014, which was a slower rate than that of its GDP. Meanwhile, the growth of China's imports by volume decelerated even more, to 3.9 per cent. As a result, developing and transition economies which exported primary commodities experienced a significant slowdown in demand from China in 2014. In South-East Asia, export growth by volume also decelerated in 2014 to 3.4 per cent, while import growth slowed even further to 1 per cent. Both rates were lower than the subregional economic growth rate.

In 2014, commodity markets witnessed turbulence with the significant fall of commodity prices, continuing the declining trend that began after their peaks reached in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 902]. A notable slump in crude oil prices resulted mainly from greater global production. Transition economies were among the regions most affected by lower commodity prices and capital outflows.

Multilateral trading system

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/199 [YUN 2013, p. 909], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/179] on international trade and development. The report discussed evolutions in international trade, developments in the multilateral trading system and regional trade agreements.

The Secretary-General stated that international trade had undergone transformative shifts in size, structure and patterns over the past two decades, opening new opportunities and challenges. An open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system remained an integral part of an enabling economic environment. The difficulties experienced by World Trade Organization (WTO) members in bringing the 12-year-long Doha Round negotiations to a conclusion had underlined the need to seek new ways to foster multilateral consensus in addressing trade barriers and enhancing more open and fairer international trade. The international trading system was facing fragmentation as the prevalence of regional and "plurilateral" processes increases, challenging the centrality and credibility of the multilateral trading system. In considering the creation of an enabling environment, such ongoing processes needed to be factored in and coherence among policies at the national, regional and international levels needed to be enhanced, including for supporting productive capacities and greater participation in production processes to achieve sustainable growth.

On 19 December (**decision 69/543**), the General Assembly took note of the report.

WTO report. According to *WTO Annual Report 2015*, its work in 2014 focused on implementing the decisions taken at the Ninth Ministerial Conference [YUN 2013, p. 909] and on advancing the remaining Doha Development Agenda (Doha Round) issues. After a mid-year setback, WTO members succeeded in getting trade negotiations back on track by approving at the end of the year a number of important decisions related to public stockholding for food security purposes, Trade Facilitation Agreement and the post-Bali work programme. Progress was made in implementing the Bali decisions related to the least developed countries (LDCs), while a new facility was launched to help developing countries and LDCs implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

During the year, Yemen became the 160th member of WTO, while Seychelles' accession package was approved in December. The General Council decided that Nairobi, Kenya, would host the Tenth Ministerial Conference of WTO in December 2015.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/466/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/205** without vote [agenda item 17 (a)].

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003, 63/203 of 19 December 2008, 66/185 of 22 December 2011, 67/196 of 21 December 2012 and 68/199 of 20 December 2013 on international trade and development,

Noting its resolutions 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 64/188 of 21 December 2009 and 65/142 of 20 December 2010 on international trade and development,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

Recalling also the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries,

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,

Recalling the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Doha from 21 to 26 April 2012, and its outcome documents,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,

1. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;

2. *Expresses serious concern* at the lack of progress in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, reiterates the call for the necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the current impasse in the negotiations, and in this regard calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations, in keeping with the development mandate of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the decision of 1 August 2004 of the General Council of the World Trade Organization and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of the Bali Ministerial Declaration and the set of ministerial decisions, understandings and declarations known as the “Bali package” of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 6 December 2013, and calls upon Member States to implement all decisions therein in a timely manner, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, the decision on public stockholding for food security purposes and the commitment stated in the Bali Ministerial Declaration to prepare a work programme on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Agenda;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on international trade and development, including on the implementation of its resolution 68/199 and taking into account the post-2015 development agenda and other relevant processes;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “International trade and development”.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Trade and Development Board

In 2014, the Trade and Development Board (TDB)—the governing body of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)—held its twenty-eighth special session (17 June) [A/69/15 (Part II)]; sixty-first annual session (15–26 September) [A/69/15 (Part IV)]; and fifty-ninth (23–25 June) [A/69/15 (Part III)] and sixtieth (10–12 December) [A/70/15 (Part I)] executive sessions, all in Geneva.

At its twenty-eighth special session, TDB celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UNCTAD.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General underscored the need to strengthen multilateral cooperation and global partnership and entrusted UNCTAD to play a vital role in sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

At its fifty-ninth executive session, TDB considered the report by the UNCTAD Secretary-General [TD/B/EX(59)/2] on activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa. The Board took note of the report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget [TD/B/WP/260] on its sixty-seventh session; the report of the Trade and Development Commission [TD/B/C.I/35] on its sixth session; and the report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission [TD/B/C.II/26] on its sixth session and endorsed the agreed conclusions contained therein (see p. 1105). The Board approved three topics for single-year expert meetings scheduled to be held in 2015 and 2016. Further, it agreed that a fourth topic would remain under consideration by Member States.

At its sixty-first annual session, TDB adopted agreed conclusions on the third progress report on the UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011–2020 (see below), and on the review of UNCTAD technical cooperation activities (see below).

At its sixtieth executive session, TDB took note of UNCTAD *Least Developed Countries Report 2014* [Sales No. E.14.II.D.7], and the report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its sixty-ninth session. It also endorsed the agreed conclusions [TD/B/WP/267/Rev.1], and approved the applications of two non-governmental organizations seeking observer status.

On 19 December (**decision 69/543**), the Assembly took note of the report of TDB on its fifty-eighth executive session, twenty-eighth special session, fifty-ninth executive session and sixty-first regular session [A/69/15 (Parts I–IV)].

Implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs (2011–2020)

At its sixty-first annual session [A/69/15 (Part IV)], TDB had before it the third progress report [TD/B/61/8] on the contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the Decade 2011–2020. The report summarized UNCTAD activities in support of LDCs in 2013 under three pillars of work: research and policy analysis; consensus-building and intergovernmental support; and technical cooperation and capacity-building. The report concluded that national and global actions in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action required concerted efforts by LDCs and increased support by UNCTAD and other development partners. Such efforts should aim to address the root causes of underdevelopment in LDCs.

TDB urged UNCTAD to expedite its work on developing indicators and benchmarks for productive capacities aimed at assisting LDCs to mainstream such capacities into their domestic policies and strategies, pursuant to paragraph 65 (e) of the Doha Mandate. The Board invited UNCTAD to analyse experience gained from successful assistance projects carried out in certain LDCs, and to utilize its conclusions and insights for the benefit of other LDCs within and outside of the same region [agreed conclusions 522(LXI)].

Review of UNCTAD technical cooperation activities

At its sixty-first annual session [A/69/15 (Part IV)], TDB took note of the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the review of UNCTAD technical cooperation activities and their financing [TD/B/WP/262 & Add.1, 2]. The Board expressed concern about the decrease in contributions to UNCTAD trust funds and called on developed countries and other development partners to make multi-year contributions to UNCTAD technical cooperation [A/69/15 (Part IV) (dec. 523(LXI))].

Evaluation

In June, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD reported on the evaluation of UNCTAD activities [TD/B/WP/263], providing an overview of the external evaluations of UNCTAD programmes and projects undertaken between January 2013 and March 2014. The report presented a summary of evaluation findings on subprogramme 1: Globalization, interdependence and development, 2008–2012 and four development account projects. It also presented lessons learned in the areas of project design, implementation approaches and monitoring and evaluation. The Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget was invited to review the evaluation plan for 2015 and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to TDB.

Economic development in Africa

Catalysing investment for transformative growth in Africa

At its sixty-first annual session [A/69/15 (Part IV)], TDB had before it UNCTAD *Economic Development in Africa Report 2014: Catalysing Investment for Transformative Growth in Africa* [Sales No. E.14.II.D.2]. The report examined how to boost and use investment for economic transformation and sustained growth in Africa. The Board also had before it the overview report on the topic [TD/B/61/4].

UNCTAD activities in support of Africa

At its fifty-ninth executive session [A/69/15 (Part III)], TDB had before it the report [TD/B/EX(59)/2] on activities undertaken by UNCTAD in support of Africa. The report summarized the contributions of UNCTAD in research and analysis, consensus-building and

technical cooperation. It also provided an assessment on policy design, formulation and implementation in Africa; and building of capacities of African government officials, institutions, the private sector and civil society. The Board also had before it the note by UNCTAD secretariat on monetary unions and regional trade in Africa [TD/B/X(59)/3].

Subsidiary bodies

During the year, the Trade and Development Commission held its sixth session (Geneva, 5–9 May) [TD/B/C.I/35] (see below); the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission also held its sixth session (Geneva, 28 April–2 May) [TD/B/C.II/26] (see below); the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy held its fourteenth session (Geneva, 8–10 July) [TD/B/C.I/CLP/34] (see p. 1119); the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) held its thirty-first session (Geneva, 15–17 October) [TD/B/C.II/ISAR/71] (ibid.); and the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget held its sixty-seventh (Geneva, 12–14 March) [TD/B/WP/260], sixty-eighth (Geneva, 3–5 September) [TD/B/WP/265] and sixty-ninth sessions (Geneva, 1–5 December) [TD/B/WP/267/Rev.1] (see p. 1106).

Trade and Development Commission

The Trade and Development Commission, at its sixth session [TD/B/C.I/35], took note of the reports of UNCTAD on the contribution of international trade to development [TD/B/C.I/33]; the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation on its first session [TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/3]; and the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development on its sixth session [TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/27].

The Commission also had before it the reports on the second session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development [TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/6]; the role of international trade in the post-2015 development agenda [TD/B/C.I/33]; developing sustainable and resilient transport systems in view of emerging challenges [TD/B/C.I/34]; the activities of UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics [UNCTAD/DTL/2014/1]; and the activities of UNCTAD Division on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities [UNCTAD/DITC/2014/1].

In agreed conclusions, the Commission stressed that open, universal, equitable, rules-based and non-discriminatory participation in international trade could deliver major benefits for development. It recognized that the role of trade in development should be adequately reflected in the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals as a key enabler and means to achieve inclusive economic growth and sustainable development. The Commission also recognized that for transport systems to be sustain-

able and resilient, more attention should be given to addressing their social, economic and environmental dimensions. It stressed the need to mobilize financial resources at all levels to support the implementation of sustainable and resilient freight transport systems.

Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission

The Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, at its sixth session [TD/B/C.II/26], addressed issues in the areas of entrepreneurship and productive capacity-building, private sector investment, and technology and innovation for inclusive economic development.

The Commission took note of the report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development on its second session [TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/6] and the report of ISAR on its thirtieth session [TD/B/C.II/ISAR/68].

The Commission also had before it an annual activity report [UNCTAD/DTL/2014/1] on the implementation of the provisions of the Accra Accord related to the areas of work on science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies, and a presentation based on an UNCTAD progress report [UNCTAD/DIAE/2014/2] on promoting and strengthening the synergies among its three pillars of work in the area of investment and enterprise development.

In agreed conclusions, the Commission acknowledged the relevance and usefulness of the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework for the assessment, review and promotion of entrepreneurship policies in Member States and recommended that it be widely disseminated as a contribution to assist policymakers with policy formulation and the provision of capacity-building. The Commission encouraged UNCTAD to further enhance its cooperation on entrepreneurship programmes with other relevant international and regional organizations, and requested the secretariat to continue its assistance to developing countries, particularly LDCs and countries with economies in transition, in strengthening their national capacity in science, technology and innovation.

Working Party on the Strategic Framework and Programme Budget

The Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, at its sixty-seventh session [TD/B/WP/260], adopted agreed conclusions on the review of the implementation of the communications strategy and on the consideration of the draft UNCTAD fundraising strategy. It encouraged the secretariat to reassess its methods and strengthen its capacity to monitor and evaluate its media and online presence, and to further streamline its publications where appropriate. It also urged the secretariat to enhance synergies between UNCTAD publications

and the other pillars of UNCTAD, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the recommendations contained in its publications.

During its sixty-eighth session [TD/B/WP/265], the Working Party considered the External evaluation of UNCTAD subprogramme 2: Investment and enterprise, and requested the secretariat to implement the evaluation plan for 2015.

At its sixty-ninth session [TD/B/WP/267/Rev.1], the Working Party concurred with the proposed programme narrative for UNCTAD for the biennium 2016–2017 [TD/B/WP(69)/CRP.1/Rev.1].

International Trade Centre

In 2014, the joint UNCTAD/WTO International Trade Centre (ITC), as set forth in its Annual Report 2014 [ITC/AG(XLIX)/258], marked its fiftieth anniversary of establishment. It delivered 35 per cent more technical assistance, capacity building and market intelligence than the year before, with extra-budgetary expenditures reaching a record \$53 million.

The report presented ITC achievements during the year against six strategic objectives: supplying trade and market intelligence for small- and medium-sized enterprise competitiveness; supporting regional and economic integration and South-South trade; connecting to value chains: small- and medium-sized enterprise competitiveness, diversification and links to export markets; strengthening trade and investment support institutions; promoting and mainstreaming inclusive and green trade; and building a conducive policy and business environment through public-private partnerships. In 2014, ITC had 104 active projects in 96 countries, and provided programme support that enabled 957 enterprises to meet potential buyers and conduct business transactions. National counterparts endorsed 35 export development strategies and 416 trade support institutions improved their services and management capacities. ITC conducted 497 capacity-building workshops with 25,546 participants of whom 42 per cent were women.

Joint Advisory Group

The Joint Advisory Group on ITC, at its forty-eighth session (Geneva, 11–12 June) [ITC/AG(XLVIII)/256], discussed findings and recommendations of the external independent evaluation of ITC, the management response to the recommendations and the draft ITC strategic plan for 2015–2017.

Administrative and budgetary matters

In July, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the ITC financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2013 and the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements [A/69/5 (Vol. III)]. The Board

noted that of the 20 recommendations made for the 2010–2011 biennium, 11 were fully implemented, 7 were under implementation, 1 was not implemented and 1 had been overtaken by events. For the 2012–2013 biennium, total income was \$158.6 million and total expenditure was \$155.6 million. Based on its audit, the Board made four recommendations: RTC should regularly inform the General Assembly and the WTO General Council of the projected future level of funding required to support end-of-service liabilities; further develop the project plan for costing methodology work, including key milestones and outputs to enable active monitoring of the project; clearly identify the objectives and envisaged wider benefits of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards project, and develop a methodology to track and manage benefits realization; and evidence more thoroughly the evaluation of candidates when recruiting consultants, and ensure quality assurance of performance evaluations.

Other matters

Public Symposium

The fifth UNCTAD Public Symposium (Geneva, 15–26 September) [TD/B/61/6 & Corr.1] focused on the theme of a better world economic order for equality and sustainable development beyond 2015. Participants discussed a range of issues related to macro-economic dimensions of inequality and best policy practices to address growing inequality. Attention was paid to how growing income inequalities within and between countries translated into insufficient aggregate demand and increased reliance on unsustainable debt-driven consumption. Participants called for UNCTAD to consider the rules on investment and tax shifting, and encouraged it to strengthen its work on debt-related issues. Participants also emphasized the role of civil society in helping to generate political will to address the external conditions fuelling inequality.

Commodities

Individual commodities

Cocoa. As at 31 December, the International Cocoa Agreement, 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 944] had 12 parties. Liberia became a party during the year.

Grains. As at 31 December, there were 29 parties to the Grains Trade Convention, 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 1332].

Sugar. On 28 November, the International Sugar Council decided to extend the time limit for the deposit of constitutional instruments (article 38) of the International Sugar Agreement, 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 625] until 31 December 2015. As at 31 December, the Agreement had 62 parties. Madagascar became a party during the year.

Tropical timber. As at 31 December, there were 69 parties to the International Tropical Timber

Agreement, 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1124]. The Central African Republic, Suriname and Viet Nam became parties during the year.

Other commodities. During the year, the following commodities agreements remained in force without changes to their lists of parties: Asian Coconut Community (12 parties); Asian Rice Trade Fund (5 parties); International Pepper Community (6 parties, 1 associate member); and International Tea Promotion Association (8 parties).

Common Fund for Commodities

In 2014, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), established in 1980 to realize the potential of commodity production, processing, manufacturing and trade for the benefit of the poor [YUN 1980, p. 621], had 103 Member States plus ten institutional members. At its annual meeting (The Hague, Netherlands, 10 December), the Governing Council adopted the proposed amendments to the Agreement Establishing CFC; took note of the report on the First Account Net Earnings Programme and the activities under the Second Account for 2014; and approved the administrative budget for 2015 and the audited financial statements for 2013.

Global Forum

The fifth Global Commodities Forum (Geneva, 7–8 April) [UNCTAD/SUC/2014/4] was held on the theme “Global value chains, transparency and commodity-based development”. Approximately 300 representatives from government, civil society organizations, private industry, academia and media attended the Forum that consisted of one keynote session and five plenary sessions. The Forum concluded that there was a need for further study of the methods by which developing countries could earn more durable benefits from participation in global value chains. Participants called for multi-stakeholder cooperation in harmonizing standards initiatives, and for UNCTAD Special Unit on Commodities to facilitate a multi-stakeholder working group to develop a governance framework for the commodities sector.

Coercive economic measures

On 28 October, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/5** (see p. 404) on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

International financial system and development

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/201 [YUN 2013, p. 921], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/188] on the international financial system and development. The report contained information on recent trends in international official and private capital flows to developing countries and efforts to strengthen the international financial system towards the post-2015 development agenda. Ongoing challenges in the key areas of financial regulation, sovereign debt distress, the global financial safety net, multilateral surveillance, policy coordination and governance reform of the international financial institutions were highlighted.

The Secretary-General concluded that despite notable progress, international financial regulatory reform remained behind schedule. For the system to be instrumental in financing the post-2015 development agenda, more attention needed to be given to how regulatory structures impact access to credit in areas that were critically important for sustainable development, such as infrastructure, innovation, and small and medium-sized enterprises. Fundamental reform of the global financial system would require progress in building resilience of financial institutions; transforming shadow banking to transparent and resilient market-based financing; ending “too-big-to-fail”; and increasing the safety of derivatives markets. Enhanced cooperation and increased complementarities between International Monetary Fund (IMF) and regional financing arrangements were important for global financial stability and sustainable growth.

Communication. By a letter dated 8 October [A/C.2/69/3], Singapore, on behalf of the Global Governance Group (3G), comprised of 30 UN Member States, transmitted to the Secretary-General a document entitled “Global Governance Group input to the Group of 20 (G20) on development and governance”. The 3G emphasized that the United Nations was the only global body with universal membership and unquestionable legitimacy and that it should make final decisions on shaping the process of the new global framework. The 3G urged the G20 to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and called on the G20 to push for the early and comprehensive implementation of the “Bali Package” [YUN 2013, p. 909].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/466/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/206** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

International financial system and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/186 of 20 December 2000 and 56/181 of 21 December 2001, both entitled “Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity”, as well as its resolutions 57/241 of 20 December 2002, 58/202 of 23 December 2003, 59/222 of 22 December 2004, 60/186 of 22 December 2005, 61/187 of 20 December 2006, 62/185 of 19 December 2007, 63/205 of 19 December 2008, 64/190 of 21 December 2009, 65/143 of 20 December 2010, 66/187 of 22 December 2011, 67/197 of 21 December 2012 and 68/201 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,

Recalling further the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and their respective outcome documents,

Recalling further the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,

Recognizing the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, and taking note of its progress report,

Recalling the meeting of the Second Committee, held on 13 November 2013, pursuant to resolution 67/197, to discuss actions in response to the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development and prospects for restoring confidence and economic growth,

Recalling also its resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014 on the modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,

Recalling further the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, and recognizing in this context that the international financial institutions should be supportive, in

accordance with their mandates, of the special needs and priorities of the least developed countries,

Emphasizing that the international financial system should bolster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and job creation and promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Recognizes* the need to continue and intensify efforts to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, and reiterates the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national efforts to ensure sustainable development, including strong, sustained, balanced, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Reiterates* the need to act decisively to tackle the challenges confronting the global economy in order to ensure balanced, sustained, inclusive and equitable global growth with full and productive employment and quality jobs, and also reiterates the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing in order to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International financial system and development";

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be prepared in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

Also on 19 December (**decision 69/542**), the General Assembly took note of the report [A/69/466 & Add.1–3] of the Second Committee on macroeconomic policy questions, including those related to the international financial system and development.

Debt situation of developing countries

External debt sustainability and development

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/202 [YUN 2013, p. 924], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/167] on external debt sustainability and development. According to the report, the total external debt stocks of developing countries and transition economies reached \$6 trillion in 2013, indicating an 8.7 per cent increase over 2012. This marked the fourth consecutive year that the external debt growth of developing countries had exceeded the average growth rate of approximately 7 per cent. Long-term debt represented approximately 72 per cent of total debt stocks in 2013, as in 2012, and was mainly owed to private creditors. The share of official long-term lending to developing countries continued to

decline in 2013, as in 2012. The share of short-term debt, however, increased from \$1.26 trillion in 2011 to \$1.35 trillion in 2012, reaching \$1.5 trillion in 2013.

Despite the slight improvement in export growth, debt ratios continued to worsen in 2013. Total debt to gross domestic product (GDP) increased to 22.7 per cent in 2013, following increases in ratios in 2011 and 2012 to 20.9 and 21.7 per cent, respectively. Debt service to exports rose from 7.9 to 8.3 per cent, and total debt to exports increased from 72.8 per cent to 75.9 per cent from 2012 to 2013.

International reserves for developing countries increased to \$6.8 trillion in 2013 from nearly \$6.3 trillion in 2012. This represented a major improvement in the growth rate of reserves from 4.5 per cent in 2012 to 8.5 per cent in 2013. The stock of international reserves continued to exceed the stock of total debt for developing countries as a whole; the faster growth of debt than reserves since 2008, however, was a concern.

The report also provided an assessment of progress under international debt relief initiatives and the reform of credit rating agencies; and discussed emerging and existing challenges of developing countries in maintaining debt sustainability and the renewed debate surrounding a sovereign debt workout mechanism.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/466/Add.3], adopted **resolution 69/207** by recorded vote (125-4-44) [agenda item 17 (d)].

External debt sustainability and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009, 65/144 of 20 December 2010, 66/189 of 22 December 2011, 67/198 of 21 December 2012 and 68/202 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000, and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling further the International Conference on Financing for Development and its outcome document and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Mon-

terrey Consensus and its outcome document, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling further its resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014 on the modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,

Recalling its resolution 68/304 of 9 September 2014, in which it decided to define the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations and the adoption of the text of the multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes at the main part of its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014,

Stressing the need for effective coordination and coherence in order to build synergies with other relevant United Nations intergovernmental processes,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Emphasizes* the special importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries to promote their economic growth and development;
3. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the sub-item entitled “External debt sustainability and development”;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a comprehensive report on the issue;
5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the sub-item entitled “External debt sustainability and development”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/207:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Canada, Israel, Japan, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on external debt sustainability and development would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Sovereign debt restructuring process

Communications. By a letter dated 7 July [A/68/946-E/2014/91], Bolivia, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, transmitted to the Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council a declaration in support of Argentina regarding the ruling on *NML Capital Ltd. vs. the Republic of Argentina*. It recalled its declaration adopted on 15 June in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia and reiterated the urgent need for the international community to examine options for an effective, equitable, durable, independent and development-oriented international debt resolution mechanism.

On the same day [A/68/948], Bolivia, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, transmitted to the Secretary-General a declaration entitled “For a new world order for living well”, in which it stressed the importance of not allowing vulture funds to paralyse the debt-restructuring efforts of developing countries.

On September, the General Assembly decided to elaborate and adopt through a process of intergovernmental negotiations, as a matter of priority during its sixty-ninth session, a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes to improve the international financial system. It also decided to define the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations and the adoption of the text of the multilateral legal framework at the main part of its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014 (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 September [meeting 107], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/304** [draft: A/68/L.57/Rev.1] by recorded vote (124-11-41) [agenda item 14].

Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000, and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling further the International Conference on Financing for Development and its outcome document, in which sustainable debt financing is recognized as an important element for mobilizing resources for public and private investment, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and its outcome document, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, as well as General Assembly resolution 68/204 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling its resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014 on the convening of the third International Conference on Financing for Development to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, identify obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, and address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation, taking into account the current evolving development cooperation landscape, the interrelationship of all sources of development finance and the synergies among financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling further its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009, in which it endorsed the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York from 24 to 30 June 2009,

Stressing the need to reinforce coherence and coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts with regard to the financing for development process,

Taking note of the report of the Commission of Experts on Reform of the International Monetary and Financial System, convened by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session,

Recalling its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009, 65/144 of 20 December 2010, 66/189 of 22 December 2011, 67/198 of 21 December 2012 and 68/202 of 20 December 2013,

Noting that sovereign debt crises are a recurring problem that involves very serious political, economic and social consequences and that the restructuring processes of sovereign debt are a frequent phenomenon in the international financial system,

Noting with concern that there remain a number of low- and middle-income developing countries that are still facing difficulties in finding a durable solution to their external debt problems, which could adversely affect their sustainable development,

Recognizing that addressing the sovereign debt problems of developing countries is an important part of international cooperation,

Stressing the importance for developing countries, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention and management tools,

Stressing also the need to work towards the establishment of responsible and preventive financial crisis policies to enhance transparent and sustainable national financial systems,

Recognizing the sovereign right of any State to restructure its sovereign debt, which should not be frustrated or impeded by any measure emanating from another State,

Recognizing also that the efforts of a State to restructure its sovereign debt should not be frustrated or impeded by commercial creditors, including specialized investor funds such as hedge funds, which seek to undertake speculative purchases of its distressed debt at deeply discounted rates on secondary markets in order to pursue full payment via litigation,

Noting that private creditors of sovereign debt are increasingly numerous, anonymous and difficult to coordinate and that there are a variety of debt instruments and a wide range of jurisdictions in which debt is issued, thus complicating the restructuring of sovereign debt,

Noting also the concern expressed in the declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China on the theme “For a New World Order for Living Well”, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 14 and 15 June 2014, concerning the so-called “vulture funds” and their actions of a highly speculative nature, which pose a risk to all future debt restructuring processes, for both developing and developed countries,

Taking into account the initiatives studied in the framework of the International Development Association of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to address the activities of the so-called “vulture funds”, with the objective of, inter alia, preventing such funds from benefiting from litigation initiated against indebted countries, which are forced to divert many of their resources to handle such litigation, thereby undermining the purpose of the debt restructuring processes,

Recalling, among other things, the work carried out by the International Monetary Fund in 2003, with the support of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, to formulate a proposal for a sovereign debt restructuring mechanism,

Stressing the importance of the Principles on Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on 4 May 2011, which aim to reduce the prevalence of sovereign debt crises, prevent unsustainable debt situations, maintain steady economic growth and help achieve the Millennium Development Goals, encouraging to that end responsible sovereign borrowing,

Stressing also the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system,

Noting with concern that the international financial system does not have a sound legal framework for the orderly and predictable restructuring of sovereign debt, which further increases the cost of non-compliance,

Recognizing the need to create a legal framework that facilitates the orderly restructuring of sovereign debts, allows the re-establishment of viability and growth without creating incentives that inadvertently increase the risk of non-compliance and acts as a deterrent to disruptive litigation that creditors could engage in during negotiations to restructure sovereign debts,

Stressing, in this context, the importance of establishing a clear set of principles for the management and resolution of financial crises that take into account the obligation of sovereign creditors to act in good faith and with a cooperative spirit to reach a consensual rearrangement of the debt of sovereign States,

Recognizing that debt-restructuring processes should have as their core element a determination of real payment capacity so that they do not adversely affect economic growth and the fulfilment of the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda,

Stressing that, in the restructuring of sovereign debt, the progressive development and codification of international law are necessary in order to make it a more effective means to implement the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to give greater importance to its role in the relations among States,

1. *Emphasizes* the special importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries in order to promote their inclusive economic growth and development;

2. *Calls for* the intensification of efforts to prevent debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, in cooperation with the private sector, with a view to finding solutions acceptable to all;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions and the private sector, to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular those related to the question of the external debt sustainability of developing countries;

4. *Recognizes* the roles of the United Nations and the international financial institutions in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustainable development and a durable solution to the problem of the debt of developing countries;

5. *Decides* to elaborate and adopt through a process of intergovernmental negotiations, as a matter of priority during its sixty-ninth session, a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes with a view, inter alia, to increasing the efficiency, stability and predictability of the international financial system and achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;

6. *Also decides* to define the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations and the adoption of the text of the multilateral legal framework at the main part of its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 68/304:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Bra-

zil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Japan, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine.

ACABQ report. On 12 December, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) transmitted to the General Assembly its report [A/69/658] on modalities for the implementation of resolution 68/304 (see p. 1110) on establishing a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes. ACABQ recommended that upon adoption of the draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.4/Rev.1] (see below), additional resources in the amount of \$251,900 would be required of the programme budget for the 2014–2015 biennium.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/466/Add.3], adopted **resolution 69/247** by recorded vote (120-15-35) [agenda item 17 (c)].

Modalities for the implementation of resolution 68/304, entitled “Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes”

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/304 of 9 September 2014, entitled “Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes”,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000, and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development and its outcome document and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and its outcome document, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, as well as General Assembly resolution 68/204 of 20 December 2013, and the upcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",

Recalling further its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009, in which it endorsed the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York from 24 to 30 June 2009,

Stressing the need for effective coordination and coherence in order to build synergies with other relevant United Nations intergovernmental processes, including in particular the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recognizing the work carried out by the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Paris Club on sovereign debt restructuring,

Recognizing also the roles of the United Nations and the international financial institutions in accordance with their respective mandates, and encouraging them to continue to support global efforts towards sustainable development and a durable solution to the problem of the debt of developing countries,

1. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers of the United Nations, to elaborate through a process of intergovernmental negotiations, as a matter of priority during its sixty-ninth session, a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes with a view, inter alia, to increasing the efficiency, stability and predictability of the international financial system and achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;

2. *Also decides* that the ad hoc committee shall hold at least three meetings of a duration of three working days each late in January and in May and June/July of 2015, and that the ad hoc committee may hold additional consultations and drafting sessions as required;

3. *Further decides* that the ad hoc committee shall meet at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

4. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to make the necessary organizational arrangements to ensure that the ad hoc committee completes its work in a timely manner;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States and observers to submit their comments on the necessary elements of the multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes no later than 10 days

before the first meeting of the ad hoc committee, and to make such comments available electronically;

6. *Invites* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including regional and international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia, with an interest in the matter to make contributions to the work entrusted to the ad hoc committee, in accordance with the established practices of the United Nations;

7. *Calls upon* the regional commissions to contribute to the work of the ad hoc committee, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the ad hoc committee, including through ensuring inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, in particular by taking advantage of the technical expertise of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and regional and international financial institutions, as appropriate, and in accordance with their respective mandates;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to enhance the active participation of representatives from developing countries, particularly countries in special situations, in the work of the ad hoc committee, to make efforts to use the available resources for that purpose, and also invites international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the work of the ad hoc committee through voluntary contributions, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses;

10. *Requests* the ad hoc committee to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a proposal for consideration and appropriate action.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/247:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine.

Financing for development

In 2014, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as other UN bodies, continued to follow up on the outcomes of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico [YUN 2002, p. 953] and the 2008 Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha, Qatar [YUN 2008, p. 1076].

Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and IMF), WTO and UNCTAD (New York, 14–15 April) under the theme “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda”. The meeting was organized around one high-level panel on “World economic situation and prospects”; and two thematic debates on “Mobilization of financial resources and their effective use for sustainable development” and “Global partnership for sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda”.

The meeting had before it a March note by the Secretary-General [E/2014/53] on coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda, which provided background information and suggested points for discussion on the above three themes.

In his concluding remarks [A/69/83-E/2014/71], the President of the Economic and Social Council noted that the deliberations on the state and prospects of the world economy had highlighted that there was a need for greater cooperation and coherence in macroeconomic policies. Moreover, the deliberations had highlighted that the mobilization of resources for sustainable development would depend on strengthened international cooperation anchored in a coherent financing framework for sustainable development. He echoed the calls made for a renewed and strengthened global partnership for sustainable development to mobilize a wide range of stakehold-

ers in support of the post-2015 agenda. He expressed the view that, in the light of the recently adopted reforms of the Council, a strengthened Council would be able to play an effective coordinating role and meaningfully support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 13 June [meeting 25], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/11** [draft: E/2014/L.16] without vote [agenda item 9 (a)].

Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit, held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, and its outcome document,

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York from 24 to 30 June 2009, and its outcome document,

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document, and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, 68/204 of 20 December 2013 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development and 65/146 of 20 December 2010 on innovative mechanisms of financing for development, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2009/30 of 31 July 2009 on a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up and 2013/44 of 26 July 2013 on the follow-up to the International Conference, and all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Council,

Taking note of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in New York on 14 and 15 April 2014,

Taking note also of the note by the Secretary-General on coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda,

Reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development in its en-

tirety, its integrity and its holistic approach, and recalling the resolve to take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus and address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming also that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Acknowledging the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on development, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, expressing its appreciation for the efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, and acknowledging also that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires timely implementation of all development commitments,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of staying fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, and of continuing unrelenting efforts to build bridges between all relevant stakeholders within the holistic agenda of the financing for development process;

2. *Reiterates* the role played by the United Nations as a focal point for the financing for development follow-up process and the need to maintain that role to ensure the continuity and dynamism of the process, while reaffirming the need to further intensify the engagement of all stakeholders, including the United Nations system, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, in the follow-up to and implementation of the commitments made at Monterrey and Doha;

3. *Welcomes* the decision made by the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/204 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, to convene a third international conference on financing for development;

4. *Also welcomes* the conclusion of the consultations on the modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development;

5. *Reiterates* that the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its role in promoting coherence, coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration and as a forum for multi-stakeholder involvement;

6. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the ongoing efforts, in accordance with resolution 68/1 and the annex thereto, to strengthen the Council within its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations, as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the

economic, social, environmental and related fields, and to ensure its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

7. *Looks forward* to the reports of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/6 of 9 October 2013, which are to serve as important inputs to the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the outcome of which should constitute an important contribution to and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for effective coordination between the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparations for the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in order to promote coherence and to minimize duplication of effort;

9. *Encourages* the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to continue providing effective secretariat support to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and to the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, in order to ensure a coherent and integrated approach with other related processes;

10. *Emphasizes* that the financing for development follow-up process should constitute a continuum of events, each contributing to and feeding into the next, ensuring the holistic nature of the process and making better and more effective use of existing mechanisms and resources;

11. *Welcomes* the substantive discussions at the previous High-level Dialogues on Financing for Development of the General Assembly and the special high-level meeting of the Council with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and emphasizes that those discussions are an integral and mutually reinforcing part of the financing for development follow-up process, including the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development;

12. *Stresses* the need to further improve the dialogue between Member States and representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development during the special high-level meeting of the Council, as part of a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue;

13. *Welcomes* the increased interaction and coordination at the staff level with the institutions involved prior to the special high-level meeting of the Council;

14. *Recognizes* the efforts of the President of the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with Member States, to continue to work with the appropriate representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to improve the agenda and the format of the special high-level meeting of the Council, considering innovative approaches

that are conducive, inter alia, to the high-level participation of those institutions;

15. *Requests* the President of the Council, in close consultation with Member States, to continue close cooperation and dialogue with the relevant organizations and stakeholders on all the elements of the preparations for the special high-level meeting of the Council, in particular the date and agenda of the meeting of the following year, in order to seek a more interactive, dynamic and substantive discussion on key issues related to the financing for development framework;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to give more prominence to the consideration of the agenda item on financing for development during the annual substantive session of the Council, including its coordination and management meetings, and stresses the need to continue to improve those modalities;

17. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to consider organizing seminars, panel discussions and briefings as part of the preparations for and contribution to the above-mentioned events in order to raise visibility, attract interest and participation and promote substantive discussions on a continuing basis;

18. *Notes* the ongoing discussions on innovative mechanisms of financing for development, while reiterating that such voluntary mechanisms should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of further improving cooperation between the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, based on a clear understanding of and respect for their respective mandates and governance structures;

20. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the invitation by the Chairman of the joint Development Committee of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund to the President of the Council to participate in the meeting of the Committee, and notes that the participation of the President of the Council in meetings of the intergovernmental bodies of the international organizations, as appropriate, can contribute to the financing for development follow-up process;

21. *Encourages* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, especially the Financing for Development Office, to maintain regular interaction at the staff level with the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the interest of greater coherence, coordination and cooperation, each acting in accordance with its respective mandates and governance structures;

22. *Reiterates its appeal* to Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, which would facilitate the implementation of a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up, including the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/279** [draft: A/68/L.49] without vote [agenda item 18].

Modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Recalling also its resolution 68/204 of 20 December 2013 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development and all its previous resolutions on the subject, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/44 of 26 July 2013 on the follow-up to the Conference and all the previous resolutions of the Council on the subject,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,

Recalling also the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document, and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Recalling further the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,

Taking note of the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in New York on 7 and 8 October 2013,

Noting the steps taken by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session to convene inclusive and transparent intergovernmental consultations, with the participation of the major institutional stakeholders involved in the financing for development process, as appropriate, on all issues related to the conference, including the date, format, organization and scope, taking into account the elements contained in its resolution 68/204,

1. *Decides* that the third International Conference on Financing for Development:

(a) Shall be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015;

(b) Shall be held at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government, relevant ministers, including ministers for finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation and special representatives and other representatives, as appropriate;

(c) Shall result in an intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome;

(d) Shall also result in summaries of the plenary meetings and other deliberations of the Conference, to be included in the report of the Conference;

2. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Ethiopia to host the third International Conference on Financing for Development;

3. *Reiterates* the scope of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, as in resolution 68/204;

4. *Reaffirms* the relevance of the holistic financing for development agenda, as contained in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and in this regard emphasizes that the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration provide the conceptual framework, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, for the mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing required for the achievement of sustainable development;

5. *Stresses*, in this regard, the need to reinforce coherence and coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts with regard to the financing for development process, with a view to ensuring a single, comprehensive, holistic, forward-looking approach addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for effective coordination between the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparations for the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in order to promote coherence and to minimize duplication of effort;

7. *Reaffirms* that the third International Conference on Financing for Development will assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, identify obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, and address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation, taking into account the current evolving development cooperation landscape, the interrelationship of all sources of development finance, the synergies among financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

8. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to contribute to the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, as appropriate, including through its special high-level meeting with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in 2015;

9. *Looks forward* to the reports of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as mandated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, as mandated in its resolution 68/6 of 9 October 2013, which are to serve as important inputs to the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the outcome of which should constitute an important contribution to and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to continue direct intergovernmental consultations on all issues related to the third International Conference on Financing for Development and its preparatory process, and decides that those consultations must be scheduled in advance in order to facilitate participation from capitals in the informal consultations and drafting sessions and must be open, inclusive and transparent;

11. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to provide a programme of work, from within existing resources, including substantive informal sessions, with balanced geographical participation of experts and institutions, on relevant thematic areas, of a maximum duration of eight working days plus two working days for informal interactive hearings with representatives of civil society and the business sector during the period from September 2014 to March 2015, and to prepare summaries which may serve as inputs to the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development;

12. *Requests* that the first draft of the outcome document be prepared by the co-facilitators on the basis of informal consultations, taking into account inputs from Member States, and presented by February 2015, and that informal consultations and drafting sessions on the outcome document be held as follows: in January 2015 for three days, in April 2015 for five days, and in June 2015 for five days;

13. *Stresses* the need for flexibility in the informal consultation process, including the possibility of convening additional consultations and drafting sessions, as required, although not after the conclusion of the third informal consultation;

14. *Decides* that all the negotiations of the outcome document shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

15. *Also decides* that the third International Conference on Financing for Development and its preparatory process shall be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations or States members of specialized agencies and observers in the General Assembly, in accordance with arrangements utilized for previous international conferences on financing for development;

16. *Stresses* the importance of the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration at all levels, and also stresses the importance of their full participation in the third International Conference on Financing for Development and its preparatory process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in particular the accreditation procedures and modalities of participation utilized at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha, and in their preparatory processes;

17. *Invites and encourages* non-governmental organizations and business sector entities, including small and medium enterprises from developing countries, to participate in the third International Conference on Financing

for Development and its preparatory process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in particular the accreditation procedures and modalities of participation utilized at the Monterrey and Doha Conferences and their preparatory processes, and decides that:

(a) Registration shall be open to all non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and to all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities accredited to the Monterrey and Doha Conferences or to their follow-up processes;

(b) Interested non-governmental organizations and business sector entities that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or were not accredited to the Monterrey or Doha Conferences shall apply to the General Assembly for accreditation, following the accreditation procedures established during the Conferences;

(c) The above arrangements concerning participation of non-governmental organizations and business sector entities in the Conference and its preparatory process shall in no way create a precedent for meetings of the General Assembly;

18. *Reaffirms* the special role that the international financial and trade institutions, in particular the major institutional stakeholders involved in the financing for development follow-up process, should play in all aspects of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, including their active involvement in its preparatory work, following the experience of the Monterrey and Doha Conferences;

19. *Calls upon* the regional commissions, with the support of regional development banks and other relevant entities, to hold regional consultations, as appropriate, the outcome of which could serve as input to the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development;

20. *Invites* all Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, in order to support the activities involved in the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the travel and participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the third International Conference on Financing for Development;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/204 [YUN 2013, p. 931], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/358] on the follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus [YUN 2002, p. 953] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development [YUN 2008, p. 1069]. The report presented developments

in six thematic areas: mobilizing domestic financial resources for development; mobilizing international resources for development; foreign direct investment (FDI) and other private flows; international trade as an engine for development; increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development; external debt; and addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development. The report also presented an update on intergovernmental follow-up processes in the lead-up to the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Net private financial flows to developing countries reached \$420 billion in 2013, with FDI exhibiting the largest net increase over the last decade. Gross FDI inflows to developing economies reached a new high of \$778 billion in 2013. Although the value of projects from greenfield FDI—the form of FDI that had the most impact on sustainable development—increased by 9 per cent, it remained significantly below historical levels. Moreover, outward FDI from developing countries increased sharply, reaching \$454 billion.

Official development assistance (ODA) rose by 6.1 per cent in real terms from 2012 to 2013, reaching a record of \$134.8 billion; the overall share of ODA allocated to the least developed countries, however, fell in recent years. Attention turned to climate financing in ODA, with a broad focus on mitigation, while financing for adaptation was limited.

In 2013, the external debt-to-GDP ratio for developing countries stood at 22.6 per cent, with low-income countries registering higher ratios than middle-income countries. There was a need for timely reform of the architecture for sovereign debt restructuring, including creating rules that provided comprehensive and fair treatment for all components of debt.

Efforts to improve the functioning, stability and resilience of the international monetary and financial system continued. Additional initiatives were needed in key areas relating to international economic policy coordination, multilateral surveillance, the global financial safety net, global governance and financial regulation.

Note by Secretary-General. In October [A/69/542], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a note on the organization of work of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/279 (see p. 1116). Annexed thereto were the provisional rules of procedure, provisional agenda and the proposed timetable for the work of the Conference.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/467], adopted **resolution 69/208** without vote [agenda item 18].

Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and its resolutions 68/6 of 9 October 2013, 68/204 of 20 December 2013 and 68/309 of 10 September 2014 concerning the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288 and resolution 69/108 of 8 December 2014 on the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/11 of 13 June 2014,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling further the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document, and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",

Recalling also the sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in New York on 7 and 8 October 2013,

Recalling further its resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014 on modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in which it welcomed the offer of the Government of Ethiopia to host the Conference, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development;

2. *Invites* all Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, in order to support the activities involved in the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the travel and participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the outcome of the Conference;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session an item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development".

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development

and the 2008 Review Conference would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Other matters

Competition law and policy

Group of experts

At its fourteenth session (Geneva, 8–10 July) [TD/B/C.I/CLP/34], the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy considered the following topics: benefits of competition policy for consumers; communication strategies of competition authorities as a tool for agency effectiveness; informal cooperation among competition agencies in specific cases; review of capacity-building activities; UNCTAD online data bank on competition cases; and voluntary peer reviews of competition law and policy for Namibia, Seychelles and the Philippines.

In agreed conclusions, the Group reaffirmed the fundamental role of competition law and policy for sound economic development; noted that the Millennium Development Goals and UNCTAD XIII had focused on addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development and poverty reduction; underlined that competition law and policy was a key instrument for addressing globalization; and recognized that an effective enabling environment for competition and development may include both national competition policies and international cooperation. The Group decided that UNCTAD should undertake further voluntary peer reviews on the competition law and policy of Member States or regional grouping of States during the seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set in 2015. It requested UNCTAD to prepare studies for the seventh Conference. In addition, the Group requested UNCTAD to prepare a report on the implementation of the work programme and decisions taken at the sixth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 961], and an updated review of capacity-building and technical assistance.

International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

Group of experts

At its thirty-first session (Geneva, 15–17 October) [TD/B/C.II/ISAR/71], the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting underscored the facilitating role that reliable and globally comparable corporate reporting would have on attaining the sustainable development goals. The Group agreed on the critical role that monitoring of compliance and enforcement mechanisms played in the effective implementation of global standards and codes for high-quality corporate

reporting; and called on UNCTAD to continue facilitating sharing of experiences and providing information on good practices in the area of monitoring of compliance and enforcement. The session requested the UNCTAD secretariat to constitute a consultative group to assist with the preparation of a guiding document on such practices.

The Group took into consideration the note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat [TD/B/C.II/ISAR/70], entitled “Key foundations for high-quality corporate reporting: Good practices of monitoring and enforcement, and compliance mechanisms”, which described the key elements that needed to be considered when building efficient monitoring and enforcement systems for companies, audit firms and professional accountants. It also highlighted standards and guidance issued by international and regional bodies; selected national good practices; and discussed the main challenges faced by countries in their efforts to establish efficient mechanisms for the monitoring of compliance and enforcement.

International cooperation in tax matters

Special meeting of the Economic and Social Council. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/24 [YUN 2013, p. 939], the Council held a one-day meeting (New York, 5 June) to consider the question of international cooperation in tax matters, including its contribution to mobilizing domestic financial resources for development and the institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation. Participants included representatives of national tax authorities and international organizations active in the tax area. The Council had before it the report [E/2013/45-E/C.18/2013/6] of the ninth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters [YUN 2013, p. 940]. The meeting included panel discussions on “International tax cooperation: Current issues on the agenda of international organizations” and “Current issues in domestic resource mobilization for development: Base erosion and profit shifting”, and an interactive discussion on “Extractive industries taxation issues for developing countries”.

Committee of experts

Committee session. On 13 June, the Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2014/220**, decided to convene the tenth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters in Geneva from 27 to 31 October 2014 [E/2014/45-E/C.18/2014/6]. The meeting discussed, inter alia, issues related to Article 4 (Resident): application of treaty rules to hybrid entities; Article 5 (Permanent establishment); Article 8 (Shipping, inland waterways transport and air transport); and Article 9 (Associated enterprises): update of its commentary and

transfer pricing issues. The Committee decided to hold its eleventh session in Geneva from 19 to 23 October 2015, and approved its provisional agenda for the session.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 13 June [meeting 25], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/12** [draft: E/2014/L.17] without vote [agenda item 16 (b)].

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/69 of 11 November 2004 and 2013/24 of 24 July 2013,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013,

Recognizing the call made in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development for the strengthening of international tax cooperation through enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities and greater coordination of the work of the multilateral bodies and relevant regional organizations concerned, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Recalling the request to the Economic and Social Council made in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development to examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,

Recalling also its decision to hold, on an annual basis, a special meeting of the Council to consider international cooperation in tax matters, including, as appropriate, its contribution to mobilizing domestic financial resources for development and the institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation,

Recognizing that, while each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters, including in the area of double taxation,

Recognizing also the need for an inclusive, participatory and broad-based dialogue on international cooperation in tax matters,

Noting the activities developing and launched within concerned multilateral bodies and relevant subregional and regional organizations, and recognizing ongoing efforts to promote collaboration between the United Nations and other international bodies dealing with cooperation in tax matters,

Taking note of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its sixteenth session,

Welcoming the discussion in the Council on 5 June 2014 on international cooperation in tax matters and its contribution to promoting the work of the Committee of Experts,

Noting the workshop on protecting the tax base of developing countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 4 June 2014,

Taking note of the report of the Committee on its ninth session,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to implement the mandate given to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2004/69, and encourages the Committee to continue its efforts in this regard;

2. *Notes* the decision of the Committee, at its ninth session, to set up six subcommittees on substantial matters, namely article 9 (associated enterprises): transfer pricing; tax treatment of services; exchange of information; base erosion and profit-shifting issues for developing countries; extractive industries taxation issues for developing countries; and negotiation of tax treaties—practical manual, as well as an advisory group on capacity development;

3. *Acknowledges* the need for enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities on issues related to international cooperation in tax matters;

4. *Decides* to continue, including at its 2015 special meeting to consider international cooperation in tax matters, consultations on options with regard to the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, taking into account the need for an inclusive, participatory and broad-based dialogue on international cooperation in tax matters, including on the issue of the conversion of the Committee into an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Council;

5. *Emphasizes* that it is important for the Committee to enhance its collaboration with other international organizations active in the area of international tax cooperation, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and with relevant regional and subregional bodies;

6. *Encourages* the President of the Economic and Social Council to issue invitations to representatives of national tax authorities to attend the annual special meeting of the Council to consider international cooperation in tax matters;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, at its special meeting to consider international cooperation in tax matters, a report, within existing resources and reflecting the views of Member States, on options for further strengthening the work and operational capacity of the Committee, with an emphasis on better integrating its work into the programme of work of the Council following its reform and effectively contributing to the financing for development follow-up process and to the post-2015 development agenda;

8. *Recognizes* the progress made by the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in developing, within its mandate, a capacity development programme in international tax cooperation aimed at strengthening the capacity of the ministries of finance and the national tax authorities in developing countries to develop more effective and efficient tax systems, which support the desired levels of public and private investment, and to combat tax evasion, and requests the Office, in partnership with other stakeholders, to continue its work in this area and to further develop its activities within existing resources and mandates;

9. *Stresses* the need for appropriate funding for the subsidiary bodies of the Committee to enable those bodies to fulfil their mandates;

10. *Reiterates*, in this regard, its appeal to Member States, relevant organizations and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters, established by the Secretary-General in order to supplement regular budgetary resources, and invites the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to that end.

Transport

Maritime transport

The *Review of Maritime Transport, 2015* [Sales No. E.15.II.D.6] stated that global seaborne shipments increased by 3.4 per cent in 2014, reaching 9.84 billion tons. The world fleet grew by 3.5 per cent, to 1.75 billion deadweight tons (dwt), representing the lowest annual growth rate in over a decade. For the first time since the peak of the shipbuilding cycle, the average age of the world fleet increased slightly during 2014.

Container freight rates remained volatile throughout the year. Developing countries, especially in Africa and Oceania, paid 40 to 70 per cent more on average for the international transport of their imports than developed countries, mainly due to those regions' trade imbalances, pending port and trade facilitation reforms, lower trade volumes and shipping connectivity. Furthermore, developing economies' share of world container port throughput increased marginally to 71.9 per cent, reflecting an increase in South-South trade.

In 2014, important regulatory developments in transport and trade facilitation included the adoption of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), as well as a range of regulatory developments relating to maritime and supply chain security and environmental issues.

Transport of dangerous goods

Committee of experts

The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, at its seventh session (Geneva, 12 December) [ST/SG/AC.10/42 & Add.1-3 & Add.1/Corr.1-3 & Add.3/Corr.1], considered the reports of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its forty-third (24–28 June 2013) [ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/86 & Add.1], forty-fourth (25 November–4 December 2013) [ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/88], forty-fifth (23 June–2 July 2014) [ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/90] and forty-sixth (1–9 December 2014) [ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/92] sessions; and the reports of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling

of Chemicals on its twenty-fifth (1–3 July 2013) [ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/50], twenty-sixth (4–6 December 2013) [ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/52], twenty-seventh (2–4 July 2014) [ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/54] and twenty-eighth (10–12 December 2014) [ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/56] sessions, all held in Geneva.

The Committee endorsed the reports of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, including the amendments to the existing recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods

and the new recommendations made. The Committee likewise endorsed the reports of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, including the amendments to the existing text of the Sub-Committee and the new provisions adopted. The Committee also approved a programme of work for the biennium 2015–2016 and adopted a draft resolution on its work for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its 2015 session.

Regional economic and social activities

In 2014, the five UN regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council—the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)—continued to provide technical cooperation, including advisory services, to their Member States, promote programmes and projects and provide training to enhance national capacity-building. Four of them—ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA—held regular sessions during the year while ECE did not meet in 2014. The Executive Secretaries of the commissions continued to hold periodic meetings to exchange views and coordinate activities and positions on major development issues.

ECA held its forty-seventh session under the theme “Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa”. A defining feature of 2014 was the adoption by African leaders of key frameworks for the continent’s economic and social development, in particular the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the AU “Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda”. The ECA engagement with leading pan-African institutions, notably the AU Commission, resulted also in the endorsement of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. At the Commission’s ninth African Development Forum, over 900 stakeholders from across the continent adopted the Marrakech Consensus on innovative financing for Africa’s transformation.

ESCAP held its seventieth session in May and August, exploring the relationship between regional connectivity and shared prosperity, particularly the mechanisms through which regional connectivity affected and contributed to prosperity. During the year, three priority areas emerged for the Commission: solidifying its role as a regional knowledge hub; enhancing its role as the preeminent regional intergovernmental platform for building consensus on norms, agreements and policies; and seeking innovative partnerships between government and civil society.

At its thirty-fifth session, ECLAC considered the document entitled “Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future” which, along with the 2010 and 2012 documents, completed the trilogy on the subject of equality. On 24 April, the International Year of Small Island Developing States was launched in

Kingston, Jamaica. On the recommendation of ECLAC, in November, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission that would contribute to the progress of social development policies and activities in the countries of the region. Further, on the recommendation of the Commission, the Council endorsed the admission of Sint Maarten as an ECLAC associate member.

The theme of the ESCWA twenty-eighth session was social justice in the policies of Arab States. The session concluded with the adoption of the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region, despite the political instability that continued to characterize the Arab region in 2014. The Declaration represented a contract between ESCWA and its Member States to promote social justice through the development of policies based on rights, equality and equity, and the elimination of all forms of social injustice and discrimination in Arab countries through legislative and constitutional reforms.

On the recommendation of ESCWA, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the establishment of an intergovernmental committee on technology for development that would replace the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation; and redesignated the ESCWA Technical Committee as the Executive Committee.

Regional cooperation

In 2014, the United Nations continued to strengthen cooperation among its regional commissions, between them and other UN entities, and with regional and international organizations. In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/1 [YUN 2013, p. 1413], the Economic and Social Council “coordination segment”, under which the Council had previously discussed regional activities, was replaced by the “coordination and management meetings”. One of the main functions of those meetings was to review the reports of the Council’s subsidiary bodies, including the regional commissions.

Meetings of Executive Secretaries. The Executive Secretaries of the five regional commissions met in Santiago, Chile, in March; in New York, in July on the margins of the high-level political forum

and the Economic and Social Council; again in New York in September on the margins of the General Assembly; and in December through videoconferencing [E/2014/15 & E/2015/15]. The issues discussed included accountability in the post-2015 development agenda; providing input to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet”; preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in July 2015; and interregional policy cooperation.

Cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) [YUN 1962, p. 293] and Economic and Social Council resolution 1817(LV) [YUN 1973, p. 449], the Secretary-General in June submitted a report [E/2014/15] structured in two main sections. The first provided regional perspectives on three global processes: the post-2015 development agenda; the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Samoa in September; and the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. The second part covered developments in selected areas of regional and interregional cooperation, including policy matters, efforts to promote coherence at the regional level, cooperation with non-United Nations regional organizations and enhanced interregional cooperation among the regional commissions.

Two addendums [E/2014/15/Add.1, 2 & Add.1/Rev.1] contained information on resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; the Economic Commission for Africa; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia at their regular sessions.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the report and related addendums on 17 November (**decision 2014/255**).

Africa

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/4 [YUN 2007, p. 1014], the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) held its forty-seventh session on 29 and 30 March, as part of the seventh joint annual meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance (Abuja, Nigeria, 25–28 March) [E/2014/38-E/ECA/CM/47/8], under the theme “Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa”.

The Commission, including its experts and ministerial segments, discussed a number of issues: the cost of hunger in Africa [E/ECA/COE/33/9]; economic and social developments in Africa in 2013 [E/ECA/COE/33/2]; the statutory report on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning [E/ECA/COE/33/13]; the report on the UN support to the AU and its New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) [E/ECA/33/15]; progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa [E/ECA/COE/33/3]; status of integration in Africa [E/ECA/COE/33/5], the African regional integration index [E/ECA/COE/33/20]; a proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017 [E/ECA/COE/33/12]; the establishment of the South-South and triangular coalition for Africa post-2015 [E/ECA/COE/33/8]; outcomes of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [E/ECA/COE/33/18]; a new continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women’s empowerment [E/ECA/COE/33/19]; and the Extraordinary Experts’ Meeting of AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance [E/ECA/COE/33/10].

The Commission adopted 15 resolutions [E/2014/38-ECA/CM/47/8] providing mandates to ECA and the AU Commission to undertake work in the following areas: renewable energy in Africa’s industrialization and economic transformation [res. 913(XLVII)]; African regional integration index [res. 914(XLVII)]; a new continent-wide initiative on gender equality and women’s empowerment [res. 915(XLVII)]; illicit financial flows [res. 916(XLVII)]; country profiles for a structural transformation of African economies [res. 917(XLVII)]; strategic framework and biennial programme plan ECA for the biennium 2016–2017 [res. 918(XLVII)]; green economy and structural transformation in Africa [res. 919(XLVII)]; extraordinary meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance [res. 920(XLVII)]; agricultural transformation for an industrialized Africa [res. 921(XLVII)]; industrialization for inclusive and transformative development [res. 922(XLVII)]; post-2015 development agenda [res. 923(XLVII)]; postal financial services [res. 924(XLVII)]; productivity, competitiveness and industrialization [res. 925(XLVII)]; alternative sources of financing for the AU [res. 926(XLVII)]; and the establishment of the African Risk Capacity agency: sovereign disaster risk solutions [res. 927(XLVII)].

The activities of the Commission were summarized in the ECA annual report 2015 [E/ECA/COE/34/11].

Economic trends

A defining feature of 2014 was the adoption by African leaders of transformative frameworks for the continent’s economic and social development, in particular, the AU Agenda 2063 and the document adopted by the AU entitled “Common African Position on the

post-2015 development agenda". ECA engagement with leading pan-African institutions, notably the African Union Commission (AUC), resulted also in the endorsement of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. At the Commission's ninth African Development Forum, over 900 stakeholders from across the African continent adopted the Marrakech Consensus on innovative financing for Africa's transformation, which promised to exert significant influence in the lead-up to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015. Similar efforts by ECA and collective approaches helped to inform and strengthen the negotiating positions of the African Group in relation to the post-Bali work programme of the World Trade Organization.

Despite the weak global economy, Africa's growth increased from 3.7 per cent in 2013 to 3.9 per cent in 2014 [E/2015/17], making Africa the second fastest-growing region after East and South Asia. The continent's growth was underpinned by improved governance and macroeconomic management, investment in infrastructure, rapid urbanization, a growing middle class and rising aggregate demand, diversified trade and investment ties with emerging economies, and improved regional integration and diversified trade partnerships within the region.

Private consumption and investment, which grew by 3.3 per cent and 1.6 per cent during the year, down from 3.4 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively in 2013, remained the key drivers of gross domestic product (GDP) growth. Growth in private consumption was underpinned by increased consumer confidence and an expanding middle class. Investment was driven mainly by an improved business environment, and increased government spending on infrastructure was also an important driver of GDP growth in 2014.

Although crude oil prices continued to fall between June and December, the impact on Africa's growth was marginal. In fact, the low prices helped the continent's GDP to grow by an extra 0.03 per cent, owing to the positive impact on oil-importing countries and the marginal negative impact on oil-exporting countries. Deteriorating oil prices were the key driver of fiscal deficit increases among oil-exporting countries, in addition to fuel subsidies and infrastructure spending in many countries. Nonetheless, African oil-exporting countries (except for Libya) grew faster than other African countries in 2014, with growth of 4.7 per cent, up from 4.4 per cent in 2013.

The region's average fiscal deficit widened from 3.6 per cent of GDP in 2013 to 4.6 per cent in 2014. The continent, however, continued to attract more and more private capital owing to an improved business environment resulting, *inter alia*, from regulatory improvements, such as those observed in Mauritius and Rwanda. Foreign direct investment (FDI) was the second largest source of external private equity

inflows and increased from \$57.2 billion in 2013 to \$61.1 billion in 2014, while portfolio flows decreased from \$31.6 billion in 2013 to \$24.1 billion in 2014. Overseas development assistance received by Africa accounted for 3.7 per cent of the continent's GDP.

At the subregional level, Central and Southern Africa's growth was expected to continue; strengthened regional integration continued to boost GDP growth in East Africa; North Africa's growth (excluding Libya) fell slightly, from 2.8 per cent in 2013 to 2.7 per cent in 2014; and West Africa grew by 5.9 per cent in 2014, up one percentage point from 2013, despite the impact of the Ebola outbreak on the GDP of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In March, the 2014 edition of the ECA annual flagship report, the *Economic Report on Africa* on the theme "Dynamic Industrial Policy in Africa" was launched at different venues, both within and outside Africa.

On 17 November (**decision 2014/255**), the Economic and Social Council took note of document titled "Overview of economic and social conditions in Africa, 2013–2014" [YUN 2013, p. 946].

Activities

In 2014, the ECA programme of work was organized under ten subprogrammes: macroeconomic policy; regional integration and trade; innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources; statistics; capacity development; technical cooperation; gender and women in development; subregional activities for development; development planning and administration; and social development [E/ECA/COE/34/11]. Other activities included the review of the key issues and outcomes of the meetings of ECA subsidiary bodies. A review of the Commission's intergovernmental machinery, undertaken in 2013 as part of the institutional reforms, resulted in the elimination of overlapping bodies. Accordingly, in 2014, the intergovernmental machinery focused on overall development issues at the subregional and regional levels, as well as several expert-level subsidiary bodies. It consisted of the following organs: the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which provided the necessary legislative mandate and policy guidance to the Commission; its Committee of Experts, providing technical support to the Conference; and the Bureau of the Commission, including a representative from each of the five subregions. Five intergovernmental committees of experts oversaw the overall formulation and implementation of the programme of work and priorities of their respective offices and made recommendations on economic and social development, and the promotion and strengthening of subregional economic cooperation and integration. Four organs under the Commission had functional and sectoral

responsibilities: the Committee on Gender and Social Development, the Committee on Sustainable Development, the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration, and the Committee on Statistics.

Macroeconomic policy

The subprogramme on macroeconomic policy aimed to promote policies, strategies and programmes for sustainable growth and development and to contribute to economic transformation in Africa, while helping to mitigate any possible adverse effects of policies.

In 2014, the subprogramme released a report on the macroeconomic framework for the structural transformation of African economies, which reviewed existing frameworks and proposed a new one.

Throughout the year, the subprogramme worked in partnership with AUC on the production and dissemination of the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda, the translation of the related documents into goals and targets, and the development of an advocacy strategy. Most elements of the African common position were reflected in the proposal submitted by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals.

In April, ECA contributed extensively to the Pan-African Conference on Inequalities in the Context of Structural Transformation, held in Accra, Ghana. The conference culminated in a draft policy statement calling upon all governments and stakeholders to make the reduction of inequalities in Africa a priority in their current and forthcoming development agendas.

In May, a collaborative effort with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs resulted in ECA hosting a regional outreach meeting for the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The Committee was formed after the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780] and was mandated by the General Assembly to produce a report proposing options for an effective financing strategy in achieving sustainable development objectives.

In June, the *African Governance Report III* on the theme “Elections and the management of diversity in Africa” was launched, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and in July, ECA convened an expert group meeting in Addis Ababa to explore the theme and methodology of the *African Governance Report IV*.

In August, ECA, in collaboration with the AUC, the African Development Bank and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, conducted a regional consultative meeting on the post-2015 accountability framework, which brought together officials of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, civil society, governments and the private sector in the re-

gion. The outcome document outlined key elements of an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda from an African perspective.

In October, the ninth African Development Forum was held in Morocco under the theme “Innovative sources of financing Africa’s transformation”, on issues relating to domestic resource mobilization, illicit financial flows, private equity, and new forms of partnership, which resulted in the Marrakech Consensus outlining key commitments towards innovative financing for Africa’s transformation.

From 1 to 3 November, ECA hosted the ninth annual African Economic Conference, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Also in November, the *MDG Report 2014: Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals* was launched in Addis Ababa. It assessed performance by African countries, both individually and as a region, in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and included a discussion of the initial development conditions in Africa at the time of the adoption of the Goals.

At the end of the year, the prototype of an Africa-oriented economic forecasting model was developed and was expected to be finalized and launched in 2015.

Regional integration and trade

The regional integration and trade subprogramme prioritized support for Africa’s efforts to establish a continental free trade area and a common market by 2017. It also provided policy-oriented research on the linkages between investment policy and the principal driving forces of regional integration, namely, land, agriculture, food security, energy, infrastructure, trade and industrialization.

In 2014, ECA provided evidence-based policy support to countries to enhance their capacity to mobilize resources for development and improve private sector competitiveness. The Commission assessed investment needs and opportunities, with attention to the needs of regional projects; the promotion of agricultural and rural development, food security and land management; and the growth of agribusiness and value chains in Africa. It also provided evidence-based analysis of the extent to which Africa’s export expansion had been accompanied by a diversification of its trade.

Progress was made in furthering the initiative on boosting intra-African trade and promoting a continental free trade area among Member States and regional economic communities. The initiative was formulated in response to a directive from the AU Assembly at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in June, that requested the AUC, ECA, the African Development Bank and other relevant agencies to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the road map on the continental free trade area.

In March, ECA and AUC presented a proposed methodology for an African regional integration index to the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance at their seventh joint annual meetings. Both bodies passed resolutions supporting the index. The project was then merged with a similar initiative by the African Development Bank and ECA. The Bank and AUC finalized a joint methodology and road map to implement the project. ECA contributed to the development of metadata and questionnaires for the indicators and presented a first progress report on the index to the Committee of Directors General of African National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa at their first joint session, held in Tunis, Tunisia, in December.

During the year, the ECA Observatory on Regional Integration in Africa became fully operational and was regularly updated, so that it could serve as a repository of real-time data on country profiles, treaties and other sources of information. The Commission provided capacity-building support to the African group of negotiators in Geneva in the run-up to the ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which resulted in the consolidation of the African group position on the WTO post-Bali work programme.

ECA also undertook a major review of bilateral investment policies and the bilateral investment treaties in 36 African countries to explore the prospects for regional integration in Africa and its implications, with the objective of assessing the prevalence, scope and application of such policies and treaties in Africa and their contribution to investment, and to come up with appropriate policy recommendations.

In 2014, ECA provided training to Member States on emerging trends in international agricultural markets and the strategic interests of African countries, thus helping them to promote regional integration and the establishment of the continental free trade area.

In April, ECA provided services for the third session of the AU Conference of African Ministers of Transport, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The Conference adopted the Road Safety Charter for Africa and the African regional review on the status of implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action [YUN 2003, p. 875]. In addition, ECA organized a regional seminar on promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, which focused on investment and financing challenges. During the year, ECA initiated the Regional Forum on the Implementation of Cross-Border Transport Infrastructure Projects in Africa as a platform for the monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure projects. The first meeting of the Forum was convened in July.

In May, the AU-ECA Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture made commitments to adopt and implement the seven goals of the programme for Africa's accelerated agricultural growth and transformation by 2015 and, in that context, the subprogramme led the work of drafting the report on the state of food and nutrition security in Africa.

In the area of land management in Africa, six regional economic communities and two Member States, with the ECA support, developed workplans for the implementation of the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa. In June, ECA submitted its implementation status report on the Declaration, along with a proposed monitoring and evaluation mechanism and a capacity development framework.

Innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources

The focus of the subprogramme was to promote the adoption and implementation of initiatives in the areas of natural resources management, climate change and new technologies, in order to promote economic and social transformation in Africa.

During the year, 15 capacity-building initiatives were adopted by the ECA Member States, regional economic communities and AUC, including the development of an e-government indicator manual and the e-government strategy in Guinea; the development of continental guidelines on open government and related data in Africa; and the formulation of implementation plans for an information and communications technology policy in Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana and Morocco.

In 2014, ECA contributed to the annual African meeting on innovation, science and technology—IST-Africa 2014—held in Mauritius in May; to the annual conference on technologically enhanced education and training in Africa—e-Learning Africa—held in Kampala, Uganda, also in May; and to the high-level meeting for a ten-year review of progress on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society organized by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva in June.

In partnership with Nigeria, ECA organized the third meeting of the African Internet Governance Forum, held in Abuja in July, and participated in the ninth annual meeting of the global Internet Governance Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in September.

In 2014, ECA engaged with students and researchers in designing and marketing technological innovations for improved health care in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.

The African Green Economy Partnership, adopted at the fourteenth African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in 2012, had demonstrated the

strong commitment of African leaders towards the green economy. Accordingly, the subprogramme continued to encourage African experts and policymakers to identify the necessary measures for an inclusive green economy in Africa, and conducted case studies on green economy in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique and Tunisia.

ECA assisted Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania, Ghana and Guinea in implementing and designing their country mining visions. During the year, the ECA-assisted African Minerals Development Centre launched the Africa Mining Vision Day to build on the outcomes of the third session of the AU Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development. The Centre also launched a project to review tax design and management in four mineral-exporting African countries, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia; and initiated a study on gender and mining, to review existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in the mining sector and proposed recommendations that integrated gender parity in mining policies.

In 2014, ECA launched initiatives on the building of climate resilience in 27 Member States, and increased its support for climate change adaptation efforts to small island developing States such as Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles. Activities implemented included research and capacity development in identifying sustainable development choices, in line with the recommendations set out in the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [YUN 1994, p. 783] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [YUN 2005, p. 946].

The subprogramme also led the preparations for Africa's participation in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in September, and for the ECA participation in the Climate Summit, convened by the UN Secretary-General in New York later that same month. At both summit meetings, specific side events were organized to ensure that Africa's perspectives were given due consideration.

The high point of the work of the African Climate Policy Centre in 2014 was the organization, in October, of the fourth annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, held in Marrakech, Morocco, and attended by more than 400 participants who agreed that the subprogramme would serve as the secretariat for the Climate Research for Development platform.

Under the auspices of the Climate for Development in Africa programme—a joint initiative of ECA, AUC and the African Development Bank—an Africa Day

event was organized in Lima, Peru, during the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change, with the theme “Africa in the post-2015 new climate agreement”.

Statistics

The objective of the ECA work under the statistics subprogramme, managed by the Commission's African Centre for Statistics, was to improve national statistical data and information for informed policymaking and economic management. In 2014, the subprogramme worked to enhance the capacity of Member States to produce and disseminate high quality statistics.

During the year, ECA and the African Development Bank conducted evaluations of Member States' first-generation national strategies while promoting the development of second-generation strategies. The Comoros, Djibouti, Nigeria and Togo made progress in developing legal frameworks and establishing autonomous statistical agencies.

In January, the African project on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts was officially launched by the African Group on National Accounts under the auspices of the Statistical Commission for Africa. The project dealt with the challenges that African countries faced in producing timely and good quality national accounts and economic statistics. ECA hosted the secretariat of the project and oversaw coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

During the year, ECA led the training component for improving agricultural and rural statistics. In January, the Commission organized a course for human resource managers from agricultural statistics offices to equip them with the necessary skills to design human resource policies in support of agricultural statistics. In all, 45 human resource officers from 23 countries participated. Another course for agricultural statisticians was held in August.

The African Centre for Statistics continued to provide leadership in the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. In February, the ninth session of the African Symposium on Statistical Development was held in Gaborone, Botswana, and focused on promoting the use of civil registration and vital statistics in support of good governance in Africa. In April, a global meeting on civil registration and vital statistics was held in Addis Ababa. The meeting was co-hosted by ECA, the World Health Organization and the World Bank to discuss strengthening the civil registration and vital statistics system. A draft investment plan developed by the World Bank for scaling up the civil registration and vital statistics was also discussed.

In March, the 2014 edition of the *African Statistical Yearbook*, jointly produced by ECA, the African Development Bank and AUC, was submitted for review by representatives of 34 countries at an expert group meeting.

ECA designed and circulated posters, communiqués and materials for African Statistics Day, which was widely celebrated on 18 November by the majority of African countries on the theme “Open data for accountability and inclusiveness”.

In December, the fourth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa was held in Tunis, at which the Commission reviewed progress in the development of statistical systems, and identified statistical development issues requiring attention, including the data revolution in Africa and its implications for the post-2015 development agenda; the meeting was preceded by the sixth meeting of the Forum for African Statistical Development, whose theme was “Fostering coordination, collaboration and partnerships in support of statistical development in Africa”.

Along with other entities, ECA played a major role in encouraging African countries to undertake national censuses. During the year, the Commission, along with the African Development Bank, completed an assessment report of the 2010 round of censuses in Africa and presented it to the United Nations Statistical Commission and to the Statistical Commission for Africa in December. In addition to highlighting the unprecedented achievement by the continent, with 47 countries conducting at least one population and housing census in the 2010 round, the assessment report also drew attention to the use of technology and improved processing and dissemination of data and put forward key recommendations for the 2020 census round. Additionally, two technical manuals were produced in 2014: a handbook on the supply and use of tables and a guidebook on use of administrative data in national accounts.

During the year, ECA continued to improve the availability and use of geospatial information. The African Geodetic Reference Frame was designed to unify the many geodetic reference frames of Africa, taking data from a network of permanent global navigation satellite systems stations. The Commission finalized the logistical details for the roll-out of nearly 90 donated reference stations and agreed to install the stations in a number of countries all over the continent. In December, ECA, AUC and the international steering committee for the African Geodetic Reference Frame organized an expert meeting in Tunis in preparation for the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa.

The African Centre for Statistics also convened the inaugural meeting of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa. A transitional bureau was elected and four working

groups established, with ECA serving as secretariat. Further, in 2014, the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Cartographic Section revitalized the Second Level Administrative Boundaries dataset project. In that context, the Commission concluded a memorandum of understanding with Ethiopia on the sharing of the datasets.

Capacity development

The aim of the capacity development subprogramme was to strengthen the capacity of Member States, pan-African institutions, regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations to formulate, implement and monitor evidence-based policies in support of Africa’s development. The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lay with the Capacity Development Division, which worked to strengthen the governance structure of the AU and its organs and to deepen regional integration within the context of AU Agenda 2063—agreed upon by the African leaders in 2013 through the Solemn Declaration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity [YUN 2013, p. 896].

In 2014, ECA provided technical support to the AU and NEPAD related to Agenda 2063, including through research, advisory services, workshops and seminars, and supported the process of aligning existing national development plans with Agenda 2063.

ECA was also responsible for coordinating the work of UN agencies working in Africa, through the regional coordination mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa). In 2014, UN entities continued to improve the alignment of their programmes with those of AUC, the NEPAD Agency and the regional economic communities. At the fifteenth session of RCM-Africa (Abuja, 28–30 March), participants agreed to develop linkages between RCM-Africa, the subregional coordination mechanism, the Regional Directors Team of the United Nations Development Group and the UN country teams, in order to strengthen coherence and coordination.

In collaboration with the NEPAD Agency, UNDP and the AU, ECA supported the capacity-development mapping and scoping exercise carried out by the regional economic communities. In January, the AU Assembly, at its twenty-second ordinary session, endorsed the scoping report.

The year also saw the alignment of RCM-Africa clusters with the AU strategic plan for 2014–2017 and Agenda 2063, with two major achievements: a study on the feasibility of a self-financing mechanism for regional integration in the Arab Maghreb Union, and a regional food security programme in East Africa covering six pilot countries and mainstreaming intelligent transport systems. Furthermore, throughout the year, RCM-Africa continued to implement demand-driven business plans focusing on key cluster

activities. Subregional coordination mechanisms became operational in all ECA five subregions—Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa—with the mechanism for North Africa officially established in June.

In 2014, the Commission provided support to the secretariat of the NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism [YUN 2003, p. 938] process for the harmonization of the national plans of action of Lesotho and Zambia; and assisted with concluding a memorandum of understanding between Senegal and the African Peer Review Panel, a road map for Senegal and a national action plan.

Following the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa (see p. 1355), ECA undertook a study on the economic and social impact of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which provided an important African analysis of the impact of the virus. The report was launched in December in Niamey, Niger.

ECA also provided support for the development of sustainable tourism plans for Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda; in that context, a regional sustainable tourism plan was developed for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. In addition, ECA worked to determine the root causes of conflict in the Great Lakes Region, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa and the related development consequences.

Technical cooperation

Through technical cooperation, ECA translated its research work into operational activities for development. Funding for the ECA technical cooperation activities came from the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, the United Nations Development Account and extrabudgetary resources negotiated with bilateral and multilateral donors.

In 2014, Regular Programme funds provided technical assistance to four Member States and two regional economic communities to strengthen national development plans and design infrastructure policy frameworks.

As a capacity development programme of the UN Secretariat, the Development Account aimed at enhancing the capacities of developing countries in the priority areas of the Organization's development agenda. Funded from the Secretariat regular budget and implemented by 10 entities of the Secretariat, Development Account projects at ECA served to link the normative and analytical work of the Commission to its operational activities. During the year, ECA developed four new Development Account projects in the areas of statistics and data; development planning processes; strengthening African development planners' capacities for integrating the post-2015 development agenda into national development plans; and strengthening the monitoring of social protection in Member States.

Gender and women in development

Under the gender and women development subprogramme, ECA aimed to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of international and regional commitments.

During the year, one of the ECA goals was to ensure that women participated in and benefited equally from Africa's structural transformation. In March, the continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment, developed by the ECA African Centre for Gender, was endorsed at the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Conference of Ministers, and informed the Commission's 2014–2015 work programme on gender.

ECA Member States and regional economic communities reported a remarkable progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170]. Against a target of 15 Member States, 52 countries reported on the progress made in implementing those instruments in their 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Commission's summary report highlighted notable successes regarding the increased capabilities of women in social sectors, particularly primary education and health. The report was presented and endorsed at the ninth Regional Conference on Women, held in Addis Ababa in November. The outcome declaration of the Conference was a milestone in bringing Africa's priorities into the global 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in positioning gender equality and women's empowerment at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda.

In 2014, ECA increased the number of Member States and regional economic communities that made use of the knowledge generated through the African Gender and Development Index, gender statistics, gender-aware macroeconomic modelling, the African Women's Rights Observatory and the e-network for national gender machineries. The Commission Member States participated in two e-discussions held to address the eradication of female genital mutilation: the African regional conference on the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which took place in Addis Ababa in November; and the continent's preparations for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to be held in early 2015. A fact sheet entitled "Ban female genital mutilation worldwide" was produced by the subprogramme, along with a web-based information map on female genital mutilation.

Considering women's pivotal role in agriculture, the 2014 edition of the *African Women's Report* highlighted that tackling gender inequality was a cost-effective way of transforming the continent's agricultural sector, looking at six selected countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The Com-

mission's *Compendium on Good Practices and Initiatives on Economic Empowerment of Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Africa* and the *Report on Gender and Mining in Africa* provided a better understanding of gender-responsive mining policies and practices. Following an expert review meeting in August, ECA also published a report on women in informal cross-border trade in Africa.

ECA also organized a hands-on capacity-building exercise on the integration of gender into socioeconomic policies and public finance for African middle- and senior-level policymakers. Internally, the subprogramme finalized the development of the Commission's own in-house gender mainstreaming programme.

Subregional activities for development

In 2014, the ECA subregional offices (Central Africa, Eastern Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa) continued to assist Member States, regional economic communities and other subregional intergovernmental organizations in strengthening their capacity to formulate and harmonize evidence-based policies and plans in support of economic and social transformation and regional integration at the subregional level through research and analytical work, expert meetings and forums, and advisory services.

A priority for the subregional offices was the preparation of country profiles, which provided data, institutional and policy information, forecasts, indicators, policy and risk analysis, and recommendations on key social and economic variables. The profiles would provide policy analysis and forecasts from an African perspective to clients ranging from Member States to academics, policymakers, civil society representatives, analysts and investors from within and outside Africa.

Development planning and administration

The main objective of the development planning and administration subprogramme, managed by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, was to improve public sector management in respect of economic policy planning and analysis, and development planning by African Governments and other associated development actors.

During the year, a total of 25 training courses, attended by 521 officials from 25 Member States, were organized by the Institute for the benefit of African countries on approaches for better integrating long-term development concerns and economic policy formulation. Further, experts, public officials, leaders and representatives of the private sector and civil society from 33 African countries participated in the Institute's six high-level workshops on the African economic management and development. The Institute also carried out advisory missions to support policy reform efforts in Cameroon, Morocco,

Nigeria and Rwanda, and one to the NEPAD secretariat in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Institute published eight discussion papers as part of a special "Africa at 50" series, produced three episodes of a documentary series on development planning and developed new partnerships with several African institutions, including the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of East and Southern Africa, the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, the Pan-African Parliament, and the Bamanga Tukur African Institute for International Trade and Development.

Social development

The aim of the social development subprogramme was to formulate appropriate social development policies that promoted inclusive growth, specifically in the areas of employment and social protection, young people and population, urbanization and women's empowerment. In 2014, the subprogramme focused on the transformational role that social development policy could play in support of the structural transformation of African economies. It also sought to leverage the synergy with the ECA divisions for macroeconomic policy, statistics and capacity-building, which resulted in a more integrated approach to social development policy research in Africa.

The creation of the African Social Development Index was a direct response to ECA Member States' desire to assess the impact of exclusion on social development in Africa. The Index went through a validation process and was piloted in five Member States. Awareness-raising of the Index was done in collaboration with the subregional offices in Marrakech during the ninth African Development Forum, and in Lusaka, Zambia, and in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The Social Development Policy Division conducted a study of health insurance in Rwanda and Ghana, which appeared in the *African Social Development Report 2013–2014*, and was intended to contribute to the critical issue of health financing in Member States. Further, in 2014, the subprogramme participated in an interregional Development Account project to promote inclusive and sustainable youth policies, with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Programme and organizational questions

Strategic framework for 2016–2017

In March, the Conference of Ministers had before it the ECA proposed strategic framework for the 2016–2017 biennium [E/ECA/COE/33/12], which featured fewer subprogrammes than in the past as a

result of the ECA restructuring. While many of the priorities underpinning the biennial programme plan for 2016–2017 reflected continuity in the direction of the work carried out by ECA in the 2014–2015 biennium, a number of enhancements and refinements were made to the programme for 2016–2017 to address important emerging issues in support of Africa's transformation. A key new feature of the strategic framework was the implementation of the priorities of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

The Conference of Ministers endorsed the proposed strategic framework and the ECA biennial programme plan for 2016–2017 in a resolution [E/ECA/CM/47/8 (res. 918(XLVII))] adopted at the seventh joint annual meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance (Abuja, Nigeria, 29–30 March).

Construction of office facilities

Report of Secretary-General. In August, pursuant to section I of General Assembly resolution 63/263 [YUN 2008, p. 1546], the Secretary-General provided an update [A/69/359] on the completion of the construction of additional office facilities at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa and the full occupancy of the premises. It also presented the cost plan for finishing the remaining ancillary projects and closing out in mid-2015. The Secretary-General requested an additional appropriation of \$2,695,900 for the biennium 2014–2015 for an initial dedicated project management team and for consultancy services related to the proposed renovation of the Africa Hall Building. In addition, the Secretary-General proposed the establishment of an additional 18 security officer posts, effective 1 January 2015.

ACABQ Report. In October [A/69/415], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the remaining ancillary work was fully completed within the planned time frame—by June 2015—and avoid any further delay or cost escalation; the General Assembly approve 14 of the 18 additional security officer posts proposed to provide for safety and security for the new ECA office facilities; and the General Assembly approve the establishment of a multi-year special account for the duration of the Africa Hall renovation project.

Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held its seventieth session [E/2014/39] in Bangkok, Thailand, in two phases under

the theme “Regional connectivity for shared prosperity”. Phase one was held on 23 May and phase two was held from 4 to 8 August.

The Commission discussed Asia-Pacific least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific Island developing countries [E/ESCAP/70/1–3, E/ESCAP/70/4 & Corr.1 & E/ESCAP/70/30 & Corr.1]; issues and challenges to inclusive and sustainable development [E/ESCAP/70/5 & Corr.1, 2]; progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions [E/ESCAP/70/6]; regional economic cooperation and integration [E/ESCAP/70/7]; poverty through alleviation through sustainable agriculture [E/ESCAP/70/8]; trade and investment [E/ESCAP/70/9]; transfer of technology [E/ESCAP/70/10]; sustainable agricultural mechanization [E/ESCAP/70/11 & Rev.1]; transport [E/ESCAP/70/12]; environment and development [E/ESCAP/70/13]; disaster risk reduction [E/ESCAP/70/14]; information and communications technology [E/ESCAP/70/15]; population and disabilities [E/ESCAP/70/16–17]; statistics [E/ESCAP/70/18]; special programme for Central Asian economies [E/ESCAP/70/19]; report of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum [E/ESCAP/70/28]; and cross-border paperless trade [E/ESCAP/70/31].

The Committee also discussed management issues [E/ESCAP/70/20, E/ESCAP/70/22 & Rev.1], including programme changes for the biennium 2014–2015 [E/ESCAP/70/21 & Add.1], the programme performance for the biennium 2012–2013 [E/ESCAP/70/29] and the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017 [A/69/6 (Prog.16)]; the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management [E/ESCAP/70/23]; the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission between May 2013 and March 2014 [E/ESCAP/70/24]; details of the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015) [E/ESCAP/70/25 & Rev.1]; the theme of the seventieth session of the Commission (2014) [E/ESCAP/70/27]; and policy issues [E/ESCAP/70/26 & E/ESCAP/70/33].

In 2014, the Commission adopted 14 resolutions and 28 decisions. The Commission endorsed “Balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: from integration to implementation” as the theme for its seventy-first session.

Economic trends

The summary [E/2015/18] of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 2015* [Sales No. E.15.II.F.7] examined the economic growth performance and challenges in the region and stated that while growth had been more inclusive at the country level, large divergences of inclusiveness existed within countries between sexes and across the rural and urban sectors.

Real incomes per capita in developing economies of the region had doubled on average since the early

1990s. In Bhutan, Cambodia and Viet Nam, real income per capita had tripled, while in China it had grown more than sevenfold since 1990. Such impressive performances had lifted millions of people out of extreme poverty and had enabled the region as a whole to meet—ahead of the 2015 deadline—the first target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): reducing by half the proportion of people whose income was less than \$1.25 a day.

Economic growth, however, was not as high as it had been in the past. The growth potential of the region's developing economies was being held back by infrastructure shortages and the excessive commodity-dependence of some economies. The fragile global economic recovery was an additional constraint. There was also concern that economic growth had not benefitted all equally. Income inequalities were large and widening in many countries, and if not addressed, intergenerational inequities had the potential to be perpetuated.

In view of those challenges, a number of policy considerations emerged. One was the need to establish an enabling policy and institutional environment to support the flow of innovative and equitable finance for implementing the sustainable development agenda. A second consideration was the need for well-thought-out macroprudential measures to manage capital volatility, thus supporting economic stability and providing a resilient platform for inclusive growth. The imperative for commodity-dependent economies to diversify their economies into other sectors was the third area that was investigated. Fourth, some innovative actions could be taken by economies in the region to better address climate change, particularly topical in preparation for the 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change.

Making economic growth more inclusive required strengthening the developmental role of the State. While Governments should create an enabling environment for the private sector to act as the main engine of growth, more efforts were needed to ensure equality of opportunities. There was a need for countries to ensure more equal access to education and health care, provide stronger social-safety nets, broaden access to financial services, particularly in rural sectors, and give greater attention to fostering employment, particularly through the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises and of rural industrialization.

Policy issues

The obstacles to higher growth in Asia and the Pacific were partly related to slow economic growth and policies in the developed world, but also to long-term structural domestic impediments, highlighting the need for countercyclical government macroeconomic policies that could support growth in the short

term while helping remove structural impediments in the long term. Some possible supportive measures were: increasing spending on social protection, which would help support growth and reduce inequality; addressing the significant infrastructure shortage across the region; increasing spending to address environmental factors, which would otherwise hamper growth prospects; investing in youth by improving education systems; and mitigating the volatility of capital flows.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 2014* [E/2014/18] [YUN 2013, p. 954] on 17 November (decision 2014/255).

Activities

Least developed, landlocked developing and small island developing countries

At its seventieth session, the Commission had before it a note by the ESCAP secretariat [E/ESCAP/70/1] summarizing the preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which was scheduled to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 1 to 4 September. The theme of the Conference was “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”. Priorities for Pacific small island developing States in the lead-up to the Conference included economic management, climate change, sustainable energy, oceans and seas, health and non-communicable diseases, social development, including gender equality, and governance.

Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 546], small island developing States were considered a special case due to the inherent challenges they faced in pursuing development and reducing poverty such as remoteness from major markets and population centres, limited resource and export base, exposure to external economic shocks and vulnerability to climate change. In the Pacific region only, there were 20 small island developing States out of a total of 51.

The first international conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States [YUN 1994, p. 783] resulted in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (known as the “Barbados Programme of Action”) [ibid.]. In 2005, a second international conference [YUN 2005, p. 946] was held, which adopted the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [ibid.]. The Third International Conference (the Samoa Conference) (see p. 1134) in September 2014 was called for at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780] to assess

the progress in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to address the special needs of small island developing States, and identify challenges and priorities.

A preparatory process was established by the General Assembly, which involved meetings in each of the three regions of small island developing States—the Pacific, the Caribbean and the AIMS region (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas) and an interregional meeting, organized with the assistance from the United Nations system. The interregional meeting was held in Barbados in August 2013 and its outcome document formed the basis for the draft outcome document of the Samoa Conference, which was initially negotiated at the first preparatory meeting in New York in February 2014 by all United Nations Member States. The preparatory process for the Samoa Conference outcome document also contributed to the development of priorities of small island developing States for the development agenda beyond 2015.

In another note [E/ESCAP/70/2], the ESCAP secretariat provided an overview of and recommendations on how Pacific small island developing States could conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of fisheries in support of sustainable development.

The Commission also considered a review [E/ESCAP/70/3], provided by the ESCAP secretariat, of the progress made by the Asia-Pacific least developed countries in implementing the Programme of Action for the Decade 2011–2020 (also known as the Istanbul Programme of Action) [YUN 2011, p. 828] since the sixty-ninth session of the Commission [YUN 2013, p. 954]. The review showed that while some countries had made considerable progress, especially in enhancing transport connectivity both domestically and with neighbouring countries, much remained to be done. The document also contained a description of some of the challenges those countries faced, as well as a summary of activities undertaken by the ESCAP secretariat to assist them. At its seventieth session, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to organize the Asia-Pacific regional high-level policy dialogue on the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 [YUN 2011, p. 828] in early 2015 [E/2014/39 (res. 70/3)].

The Commission also had before it a summary of the status of the implementation of the Vientiane Consensus in the Asia-Pacific region [E/ESCAP/70/4 & Corr.1], providing an update on the topic since the Commission's sixty-ninth session. In March 2013, the Asian European Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action for assisting landlocked developing countries was held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic. The outcome document of that meeting, the Vientiane Consensus, had identified priorities of the global review of the Almaty

Programme of Action [YUN 2003, p. 875]. The trade structure of most of those landlocked developing countries was characterized by export baskets highly dominated by primary commodities—and those countries had become more exposed to commodity related risks, compared with a decade ago, making their economies more vulnerable to declines in world commodity prices. Their import baskets, on the other hand, were dominated by manufactured goods, indicating the need for creating a diversified manufacturing base, an area in which regional cooperation in trade and foreign direct investment could play a critical role. Under various kinds of arrangements, landlocked developing countries had made considerable progress in improving transport connectivity with neighbouring countries, as well as in enhancing domestic transport connectivity by improving and upgrading their transport networks. A number of projects had been planned or implemented involving the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway routes and other routes of international importance, including in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Progress had been also made by the landlocked developing countries in trade facilitation. For example, the time required to process exports in the Lao People's Democratic Republic was reduced from 66 days in 2006 to 26 days in 2012. Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan experienced also the highest reduction in the number of documents required to process imports, which, for both, was down to 10 documents in 2012 from 18 documents in 2006.

The Committee also considered a secretariat note on the perspectives of Asia-Pacific least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015 [E/ESCAP/70/30 & Corr.1]. As the year 2015 approached, evaluations were being made to assess how countries were performing in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although many countries in the Asia-Pacific region had made significant progress in achieving MDGs, the region's least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries had continued to face formidable challenges in realizing them. For example, while Goal 1 indicators on eradicating extreme hunger and poverty had, on the whole, been satisfactory, the indicator on the prevalence of underweight children showed that most of the least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries were off track. The least developed countries as a whole were not making good progress in ensuring universal enrolment in primary education or its completion by those who did enroll. Further, the region was falling behind as regards improving child and maternal health, with primary health-care infrastructure still unable to meet needs. As far as

environment-related targets were concerned, the trend in the Asia-Pacific region reflected success as regards most indicators, except in providing greater access to improved sanitation. Also, in several least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries, forest cover was being depleted rather than conserved; considering the challenges that those countries were facing, it was critical to provide them with a new strengthened development agenda, with the support from international and regional partners.

Issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission

At its seventieth session, the Committee had before it a secretariat note providing an overview of the issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific [E/ESCAP/70/5 & Corr.1, 2]. Those issues were addressed under eight headings: macro-economic policy and inclusive development, including the activities of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture; trade and investment, including the activities of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology; transport; environment and development; information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction, including the activities of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development; social development; statistics, including the activities of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific; and subregional activities for development.

The Commission also considered a note by the secretariat containing a summary of progress in implementation of Commission resolutions [E/ESCAP/70/6].

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development

While Asia and the Pacific continued to lead global economic growth, the region's performance had been buffeted by weak demand and volatility in the financial markets. Regional and domestic demand, which earlier helped offset a decline in exports to advanced economies, lost some of its momentum in 2012 and 2013, owing to a transition to lower growth in regional powerhouses, such as China, and softer demand in countries where government and household debt had increased. In India and Indonesia, monetary tightening, aimed at curbing inflation and stopping currency depreciation, also held back growth. Moreover, the region remained home to more than 700 million people living on less than \$1.25 a day and some one billion workers in poorly paid jobs with low security. The gap between the rich and the poor widened, limiting further gains in poverty reduction and social development and undermining the

foundations for future growth. Infrastructure shortages were severe, contributing to inflationary pressures as supply failed to keep pace with demand.

In the light of that, ESCAP had recommended a wide range of policy options which fell under the umbrella of "forward-looking macroeconomic policies", which included management of short-term capital and a monetary framework. On the fiscal front, countries were encouraged to look beyond deficit and debt and focus more on composition and quality of public expenditures, committing more to social investments important for long-term growth.

There was ample evidence that agriculture could drive inclusive growth and poverty reduction, particularly in the poorest countries. The agriculture sector, however, needed a major transformation in order to be able to provide adequate nutritious food, income and decent jobs to a growing population, while also addressing environmental challenges and sustaining progress towards eradicating poverty. Central to that transformation was a systemic shift to more sustainable food systems. In that context, the Commission adopted a resolution [E/2014/39 (res. 70/4)] on promoting sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific through technology transfer.

The Commission considered the report of the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 17–18 December 2013) [E/ESCAP/70/7]. The Conference adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, in which members and associate members resolved to work together to pursue enhanced regional economic cooperation in four areas: creating an integrated market; developing seamless connectivity; enhancing financial cooperation; and increasing economic and technical cooperation to address shared vulnerability and risks.

The Commission had also before it the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) on its tenth session (Bangkok, 13 December 2013) [E/ESCAP/70/8]. During the meeting, the Council reviewed the activities of CAPSA in 2013, including progress in implementing the Network for Knowledge Transfer on Sustainable Agricultural Technologies and Improved Market Linkages in South and Southeast Asia (SATNET Asia), and the administrative and financial status of CAPSA in 2013.

The Governing Council was informed that SATNET Asia, which aimed at strengthening South-South dialogue and intraregional learning on sustainable agricultural technologies and trade, had entered its second year of implementation. CAPSA facilitated training for approximately 500 participants. Through knowledge-sharing events, SATNET Asia was building capacity among researchers and extension workers to

better transfer knowledge on sustainable agricultural technologies and trade to farmers. The Governing Council endorsed the proposed financial plan and the workplan of CAPSA for 2014 and recommended that CAPSA continue its work in policy advocacy and networking in sustainable agriculture, data collection, storage and analysis.

The Commission endorsed the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific [E/2014/39 (res. 70/1)].

Trade and investment

The *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report, 2013* had introduced a new concept called “inclusive trade and investment”, whose central message to policymakers was that trade and investment would continue to play an essential role in reducing poverty and triggering growth, while stressing the need for complementary policies that spread the benefits of trade-led growth more fairly. In particular, more attention should be given to the impact of trade and investment policies on, among other things, productivity, access to employment and wages at the formulation stage. Business was assuming an ever-increasing role in addressing inclusive and sustainable growth. Many businesses in the region, however, had yet to adopt sustainable business practices along accepted international standards. The transfer and effective development and utilization of clean and green technologies played a central role in the development of innovation-based competitiveness, while ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth. In that regard, there was a need to strengthen innovation management and technology transfer capabilities of Member States.

The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session [E/ESCAP/70/9]; the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its ninth session [E/ESCAP/70/10]; the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its ninth session [E/ESCAP/70/11 & Rev.1]; and the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade [E/ESCAP/70/31].

The Committee on Trade and Investment recommended that those organizations providing technical assistance activities in the Asia-Pacific region in the area of trade and investment coordinate their activities with the ECLAC secretariat in order to use resources efficiently, maximize synergies and avoid duplication.

The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology endorsed the proposed programme of work of the Centre for 2014 and advised the Centre to raise its profile among government ministries and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region by highlighting the important role it

played. Particular focus should be placed on countries that had not engaged in any recent activities with the Centre. Taking note of the administrative, financial and human resources of the Centre, the Governing Council reiterated that there was a need for member countries to enhance their annual contribution of \$30,000 for developing countries and \$7,000 for least developed countries.

The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization reviewed reports of the Centre covering its work in 2013 and its administrative and financial status. It endorsed the five roles of the Centre identified in 2013 as a result of a strategic repositioning—to serve as a regional forum for policy dialogues; a data and information hub; a reference point for standards and protocols; a centre for capacity-building; and a platform to facilitate interregional agribusiness development and trade and adopted the terms of reference of the Asia-Pacific Network for the Testing of Agricultural Machinery.

The Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade (Bangkok, 22–24 April), reviewed and revised the draft agreement/framework arrangement on facilitating cross-border paperless trade. It also requested ESCAP to endorse the establishment of an interim intergovernmental steering group on cross-border paperless facilitation, which would be tasked, inter alia, with further improving the draft text of the regional arrangement as a potential intergovernmental agreement; and preparing a draft road map for the implementation of substantive provisions in the draft text.

In that context, ECLAC adopted two resolutions: one on strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development [E/2014/39 (res. 70/5)]; and one on the implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade [res. 70/6].

Transport

Transport-led regional connectivity played a key role in regional and subregional integration, economic and trade cooperation. To promote regional connectivity, high-quality, reliable and integrated transport infrastructure and services that supported sustainable and inclusive development were required. The Asia-Pacific region had a high negative growth effect from lost productivity resulting from urban congestion, as well as from the pollution-related health costs and the direct and indirect costs of road crashes. With those issues in mind, the Commission considered the report of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport at its second session [E/ESCAP/70/12] held in Bangkok in November 2013 and adopted the Ministerial Declaration

on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration. The Declaration served as a broad framework for the future direction of the ESCAP secretariat's work in collaboration with member countries and institutional partners to put in place policies aimed at developing efficient transport. That work would include continued implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012–2016) and the promotion of three intergovernmental agreements, namely, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports [YUN 2013, p. 957], which was opened for signature at the Forum and was signed by 14 countries and ratified by Thailand; the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network [YUN 2006, p. 1161]; and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network [YUN 2003, p. 1010].

The Commission adopted two resolutions on transport. One endorsed the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific [E/2014/39 (res. 70/7)], which had been adopted at the High-level Meeting on Strengthening Inter-island Shipping and Logistics in the Pacific Island Countries (Suva, Fiji, 23–25 July 2013); and the other [res. 70/8], endorsed the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration adopted at the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport (Bangkok, 4–8 November 2013).

Environment and development

While economic growth had supported significant development gains, the hidden costs—social, environmental and economic—of the resource-intensive economic growth had resulted in rapidly declining natural capital, climate-related impacts and alarming trends related to energy security, water resource management and urbanization. Short-term growth strategies aimed at maximizing gross domestic product growth had created a “vicious cycle”—growth driven by the exploitation of human and natural capital. Achieving sustainable development depended on shifting to a “virtuous cycle” of investment in people and the planet, where economic growth was a means of achieving shared prosperity and human well-being, rather than a goal in itself. ESCAP had strengthened the capacity of the region to deal with the challenge of sustainable development by extending support to Member States, while its secretariat continued to work with national entities to deliver capacity and policy development.

Emerging economies accounted for more than 90 per cent of global net energy demand growth, with most of it coming from the Asia-Pacific region. Meanwhile, as at 2010, some 628 million people in the region were without access to electricity and 1.8 billion people were using traditional biomass. Between 1990 and 2010, an estimated 1.5 billion people in the region

gained access to improved water sources; significant disparities, however, continued to exist between the proportion of the population with access to improved water sources in rural areas as compared to urban areas due to the high rates of economic development and urbanization.

The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its third session (Bangkok, 29–31 October 2013) [E/ESCAP/70/13]. The Committee reviewed emerging and persistent issues, including the environmental sustainability of economic growth, energy security, water resources management and sustainable urban development. The Committee also reviewed the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific [YUN 2010, p. 976], together with preparations for the seventh Ministerial Conference and for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which were to be held in 2015 and 2016, respectively.

The Committee made a number of recommendations, including recognizing that ESCAP was an appropriate platform for facilitating dialogue among Member States on regional implementation of the agenda for sustainable development, and linking the regional perspective to the ongoing global processes on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the development agenda beyond 2015.

The Commission also considered the report of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 27–30 May 2013) [E/ESCAP/70/28], which noted the progress achieved in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing the energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels, and reviewed opportunities for regional cooperation to promote enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy. The Forum adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific; and its Plan of Action, 2014–2018. The Forum recommended to the Commission the endorsement of its outcomes and invited the Executive Secretary to review periodically the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action and to take the necessary decisions in that regard. The Commission endorsed the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Forum [E/2014/39 (res. 70/9)]; recognized the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 [E/2014/39 (res. 70/10)]; welcomed the inaugural session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Thailand in May [res. 70/11]; and encouraged the strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region [res. 70/12].

Information and communications technology

Despite the innovative digital opportunities unleashed by broadband Internet and other information and communications technologies (ICTs), the Asia and the Pacific region remained the most digitally divided region in the world. For example, in the Republic of Korea, 99.6 per cent of young people had been active on the Internet for at least five years while, in Timor-Leste, that figure was less than 1 per cent.

A key barrier to the universal uptake of broadband Internet in Asia and the Pacific was the high cost of international bandwidth, attributed to weaknesses in the overall ICT infrastructure in the region, including reliance on sea-based optical fiber, fragmented land-based ICT infrastructure and a lack of sufficient cross-border connectivity. Most of the region's broadband connectivity had been developed in a hub-and-spoke configuration around technologically advanced countries, while the role of point-to-point connectivity utilizing land-based infrastructure remained limited. As a result, competition among suppliers was weak and bandwidth in the region was still significantly more expensive than in Europe and North America. In the light of those challenges, the ESCAP secretariat developed, in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union, the first regional map of Internet backbone networks in Asia and the Pacific. The map provided detailed route information for all the major fiber-optic networks in the region and was digitally superimposed onto the Asian Highway and Asian Trans-Railway maps. In addition, the map showed areas where key ICT infrastructure might be missing, as well as opportunities for synchronized planning and deployment of ICT and transport infrastructure, thus furnishing a crucial tool for policymakers. The ESCAP secretariat also carried out detailed broadband infrastructure studies and stakeholder consultations in South-East Asia and Central Asia, and planned to conduct similar activities in South Asia and in East Asia.

The Commission also considered the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) on its eighth session (Incheon, Republic of Korea, 12 December 2013) [E/ESCAP/70/15]. The Governing Council recognized the wide range of programmes and services the Centre had developed to address the capacity-building needs in the region and noted the increasing demand for the APCICT programmes not only in Asia and the Pacific, but also from around the world.

The Governing Council endorsed the APCICT work plan for 2014 and recommended that APCICT expand its programmes to address the needs of vulnerable groups. It requested the Centre to continue its analytical review of ICT for development indicators and to develop a comprehensive media strategy to enhance

the visibility of the Centre. The Governing Council called upon Member States to contribute to APCICT, including in-kind, in order to support its operations.

Disaster risk reduction

Regarding ICT and disaster risk reduction, the Asia and the Pacific continued to be the region most affected by frequent, intense and increasingly unpredictable disasters. It was, therefore, critical to take full advantage of progress in science and technology—areas in which the region excelled. While space and geographic information system (GIS) applications had proven effective in monitoring, providing early warning and facilitating emergency response during disasters and had become more affordable, the spread of such technologies had been uneven, not fully benefitting the region's most vulnerable. In many developing countries, those technologies continued to be underutilized due to lack of human, scientific and technological capacity, as well as of institutional resources and expertise. Since the sixty-ninth session [YUN 2013, p. 954] of the Commission, its secretariat had provided a series of training on the effective use of GIS applications for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, which had benefited approximately 400 policymakers and practitioners from almost 30 developing countries in the region. In the area of ICT for disaster risk management, the secretariat strengthened its partnership with the regional institutions. An online knowledge platform provided a range of interactive tools, including an inventory of vulnerability and risk assessments, geo-referenced data and images from disaster-affected areas, and a comprehensive database of programmes and policies that enabled planning authorities to mainstream disaster risk management principles, concepts and practices into development processes.

The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its third session (Bangkok, 27–29 November 2013) [E/ESCAP/70/14]. The Committee emphasized that building resilience to natural disasters was one of the most pressing contemporary challenges facing Asia and the Pacific and underscored the importance of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into planning and finance ministries. It also emphasized the importance of space and GIS applications in disaster risk reduction and disaster response. The Committee recommended action by ESCAP in several matters, including requesting the secretariat: to prepare a regional strategy for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development plans; to work towards monitoring the resilience of Member States to disasters through the development, inter alia, of a core set of disaster-related statistics; to strengthen regional support to assist Member States in using space-based information for supporting disaster risk reduction, impact assessment

and reconstruction, and drought monitoring and early warning; and to continue to provide near real-time satellite data and imagery to the Member States affected by severe disasters. The Committee also called on Member States to consider contributing financial support to the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries.

The Commission decided to establish an expert group comprising statisticians and disaster risk reduction experts [E/2014/39 (res. 70/2)]. It also took note of the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Changing Mindsets through Knowledge (Sendai, Japan, 22–23 April), which was organized by ESCAP [res. 70/13].

Social development

The year 2015 would mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by the Fourth World Conference on Women. As mandated in Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18 [YUN 2013, p. 1129], the international community was to undertake a global review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including challenges that affected the Platform's implementation, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda. In line with that mandate, ESCAP and the other four regional commissions initiated the regional review process.

The Committee considered the report of the sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (Bangkok, 16–20 September 2013) [E/ESCAP/70/16], held in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund. The Conference aimed, inter alia, at reviewing population and development trends in the Asia and the Pacific region and adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development.

The Committee had before it also the road map for the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific [YUN 2013, p. 959] [E/ESCAP/70/17]. The road map identified action at the regional, sub-regional and national levels, as well as the respective key actors; and proposed a time frame covering the period from 2013 to 2017. The initial draft road map was submitted for review to the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, which was established by the Commission in 2013. The first session of the Working Group was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 25 and 26 February 2014.

In the context of social development, the Commission adopted a resolution on enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific [E/2014/39 (res. 70/14)].

Statistics

With regard to statistics, some highlights during 2014 were the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 24–28 November), and the fourth session of the ESCAP Committee of Statistics (Bangkok, 16–18 December). In recognition of the importance of statistics training for achieving its goals, the Committee on Statistics decided to establish a body, the Network, to oversee the coordination of statistical training in the region, with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific serving as its secretariat. The overall role of the Network was to support the development programmes pursued by the Committee by facilitating information-sharing and promoting coordination among national, regional and international statistical training providers and donor agencies. The Network would build on existing partnerships, and work with agricultural training and research institutes participating in the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

The ESCAP secretariat also assisted Member States in meeting the need for more comprehensive and gender-sensitive statistics on women and men, initially through the development of a core set of gender statistics and indicators for the region. The first round of consultations on the preliminary draft set was conducted at a regional workshop held in Bangkok in November 2013.

The Commission also decided to establish an expert group comprising statisticians and disaster risk reduction experts [E/2014/39 (res. 70/2)], which were to report to the Committee on Statistics in 2014 and to the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.

At its seventieth session, the Commission had before it the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its ninth session [E/ESCAP/70/18], at which the Council commended the Institute for attaining the key results set out in its programme of work for the period 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013. Through 17 courses/workshops, 440 government statisticians and officials of planning, health, agriculture and labour ministries of 44 countries and their respective institutions improved the quality of statistical outputs and increased their use for planning, policy formulation and the monitoring of development goals.

The Governing Council also expressed appreciation for the successful deployment of more e-learning courses and the Institute's use of blended learning in some trainings. It recommended that the Institute accelerate further the delivery of online training and continue to work on creating a collaborative open online course platform for developing and delivering online statistical training.

Noting the expected increased demand for statistics in monitoring the development agenda beyond 2015,

the Council advised the Institute to consider expanding its training activities to cover new topics related to, among other things, governance, big data and sustainable development.

Subregional activities for development

The four ESCAP subregional offices (Pacific, East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, and South and South-West Asia) continued to assist Member States in several areas including strengthening and measuring regional integration, improving environmental sustainability, addressing socioeconomic disparities within national borders and promoting disaster resilient societies.

The Commission had before it the report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) on its eighth session [E/ESCAP/70/19], at which the Council expressed support for the inclusion of the development priorities of the SPECA countries—Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—into the development agenda beyond 2015; and approved the Joint Statement of the 2013 SPECA Economic Forum (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 19–21 November 2013). The Council also adopted SPECA workplan for 2014–2015 and called upon relevant UN agencies and programmes, as well as the donor community, to actively participate in the implementation and financing of projects contained therein.

Programme and organizational questions

The Commission had before it the programme changes for the biennium 2014–2015 [E/ESCAP/70/21 & Add.1], the programme performance for the biennium 2012–2013 [E/ESCAP/70/29]; and the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017 [A/69/6 (Prog. 16)].

The programme changes for the biennium 2014–2015 were designed to address new mandates adopted after the Commission's endorsement of the programme of work for 2014–2015, and had no additional regular programme budget implications.

The programme performance for the biennium 2012–2013 provided an account of the ESCAP performance for the biennium in question as assessed against the expected accomplishments set out in the strategic framework for each subprogramme. The report was central to holding ESCAP accountable to its members and associate members regarding the efficient use of resources and the delivery of mandated results. The report was reviewed by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission at its 353rd session, which was held on 24 March (see below).

The proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017 covered the first biennium of the UN development agenda beyond 2015. Its strategic direction was derived from internationally agreed development

mandates, including the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 782], which emphasized the role of the regional commissions in promoting the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859] on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which called for the adoption of collaborative approaches to support country-level development initiatives; and Commission resolution 69/1 [YUN 2013, p. 954] on a conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific.

The strategic framework comprised eight interconnected subprogrammes that reflected the priorities of Member States. It built on the achievements of the previous biennium and reflected the vital role of ESCAP in implementing the development pillar of the United Nations, while focusing on enhanced organizational effectiveness and attainment of measurable results.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives

The Commission had before it the report [E/ESCAP/70/24] of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission on the activities of the Committee between May 2013 to March 2014. Topics discussed included the outcome of the sixty-ninth session [YUN 2013, p. 954] of ESCAP and the relevant resolutions and decisions; the review of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016–2017; and the work of the secretariat in the subregions. The Advisory Committee provided important advice and guidance on key issues concerning ESCAP, including the organization of various intergovernmental meetings and initiatives; and highlighted the need for stronger measures to ensure fuller implementation of ESCAP resolutions, improved coordination among all relevant stakeholders and progress on the economic and social agenda of the Commission, in accordance with the development priorities of Member States.

Europe

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region included 56 Member States, with very different levels of development and economic situations: the world's advanced economies (Canada and the United States; the eurozone countries; and other advanced European economies), and a number of low- and lower-middle income economies among the European and Central Asian countries with economies in transition (new European Union member States that had not yet joined the eurozone; non-European Union countries in South-Eastern Europe, including Turkey;

and countries belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia).

The Economic Commission for Europe did not meet in 2014. Its sixty-sixth session was scheduled for 2015.

Economic trends

A report on the economic situation in the ECE region, including Europe, North America and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) [E/2015/16], indicated that the economic performance in the region improved somewhat in 2014, with gross domestic product (GDP) growth accelerating to 1.8 per cent from 1.2 per cent in 2013. There were, however, marked differences across subregions. The decline in oil prices was supporting the global recovery, including in most countries in the ECE region. For a number of energy-exporting economies in the CIS, however, that development represented a significant shock.

Countries with economies in transition suffered a downturn during the year. In South and Eastern Europe, that development reflected the impact of major natural disasters. In the CIS, the conflict in Ukraine and related geopolitical tensions contributed to a decline in GDP growth from 2.0 to 0.7 per cent. Sanctions against the Russian Federation by the United States and the conflict in Ukraine increased financing costs and undermined confidence. Falling oil prices, however, were the main factor affecting economic performance. Diminished economic prospects in the Russian Federation had a negative impact on other CIS countries through trade, investment and remittances channels. Currencies in the Commonwealth weakened sharply in late 2014 as a result of lower energy prices, capital outflows and the transmission of shocks across the subregion.

In the eurozone, there was a modest return to growth, which posted a 0.8 per cent GDP increase. After years of austerity, fiscal policy was becoming less of a drag on economic activity. Growth rates, however, across the eurozone varied widely, and, despite some progress, financial fragmentation remained.

On 17 November (**decision 2014/255**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report on “Economic situation in the Economic Commission for Europe region (Europe, North America and the Commonwealth of Independent States), 2013–2014” [YUN 2013, p. 963].

Activities

Trade

The Committee on Trade at its sixth session (Geneva, 10–12 February) [ECE/TRADE/C/2014/2] featured a high-level segment titled “Increasing the participation of transition economies in international

trade”, under which the following topics were discussed: recent achievements in removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Caucasus and the Balkans [ECE/TRADE/C/2014/3], with country studies focused on Tajikistan [ECE/TRADE/410] and Belarus [ECE/TRADE/C/2014/4]; the review of the 2005 reform of the ECE and General Assembly budget decisions [ECE/TRADE/NONE/2014/3 & Rev.1]; the ECE activities in support of the Aid-for-Trade processes in the countries of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and other countries with economies in transition [ECE/TRADE/C/2014/6–8]; ECE cooperation with other organizations [ECE/TRADE/C/2014/9 & Corr.1] and the ECE contribution to trade development in transition economies: other programmes [ECE/TRADE/C/2014/10]. Also reviewed were the programmes of work for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, including the biennial evaluation report for 2012–2013 [ECE/TRADE/C/2014/12], the programme of work 2014–2015 [ECE/TRADE/C/2014/13–15] and the draft strategic framework 2016–2017 [ECE/TRADE/NONE/2014/1]; as well as an overview of the ECE Committee on Trade and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration [ECE/TRADE/NONE/2014/2].

Forestry

The seventy-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (Kazan, Russian Federation, 8–21 November) [ECE/TIM/2014/2] focused on the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy [YUN 2013, p. 963] [ECE/TIM/2014/4] and showcased how actors within and outside the forest sector had contributed to the emerging green economy in the region [ECE/TIM/2014/5]. The Committee also discussed the “Forests for Fashion” event [ECE/TIM/2014/6], which took place on 21 March—the International Day of Forests—and analysed the challenges and possibilities of sustainable wood-based fibres; a study on forest ownership in the ECE region [ECE/TIM/2014/7], as well as a questionnaire on the same topic [ECE/TIM/2014/INF.4]; the role of forests in the post-2015 agenda [ECE/TIM/2014/8]; the review of the Committee’s 2014 activities and planned activities for 2015 [ECE/TIM/2014/9], and the biennial evaluation report for 2012–2013 of the Forestry and Timber Subprogramme [ECE/TIM/2014/10]; the implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) projects [ECE/TIM/2014/11]; the draft rules of procedure of the Committee [ECE/TIM/2014/12]; the report of the joint thirty-sixth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/ECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Geneva, 17–18 June) [ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2014/2]; the outcome of the first meeting of the FAO/ECE Team of Specialists on Forest Policy (Krakow, Poland, 16–18 September) [ECE/TIM/2014/INF.1]; the

global and regional reporting on forests and sustainable forest management by the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section [ECE/TIM/2014/INF.2]; the region's contribution to the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests [ECE/TIM/2014/INF.3]; draft policy issues for the following round of outlook studies [ECE/TIM/2014/INF.5]; and the implementation of the ECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management, which had taken place in Geneva in November 2013 [ECE/TIM/2014/INF.6].

Transport

The Inland Transport Committee (ITC), at its seventy-sixth session (Geneva, 25–27 February) [ECE/TRANS/240 & Corr.1] considered, among other topics, a draft programme of its policy segment on innovations for sustainable inland transport and mobility [ECE/TRANS/2014/1]; sustainable urban transport and mobility in the ECE region [ECE/TRANS/2014/2]; sustainable transport in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda [ECE/TRANS/2014/3]; myths and realities of air pollutants emitted by diesel engine exhausts [ECE/TRANS/2014/4]; progress of the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) global project [ECE/TRANS/2014/5]; climate change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks [ECE/TRANS/2014/6]; activities promoting innovative transport technologies and status of implementation of the Intelligent Transport Services Road Map [ECE/TRANS/2014/7], launched at the seventy-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee [YUN 2012, p. 975]; implementation of the project on customs-to-customs electronic document exchange [ECE/TRANS/2014/8]; strengthening the transport capacity of countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia, in particular landlocked countries [ECE/TRANS/2014/9]; the 10-year comprehensive review of the Almaty Programme of Action [ECE/TRANS/2014/10]; progress report on phase III (2013–2017) of the Euro-Asian Transport Links project [ECE/TRANS/2014/11]; the ECE road safety [ECE/TRANS/2014/13] and road transport activities [ECE/TRANS/2014/14]; proposal made by the Russian Federation on the development of a new convention on the facilitation of crossing of frontiers for passengers and baggage carried by rail [ECE/TRANS/2014/15]; a unified railway law [ECE/TRANS/2014/16]; International Maritime Organization (IMO)/International Labour Organization (ILO)/ECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) [ECE/TRANS/2014/17]; border-crossing facilitation and relevant legal instruments [ECE/TRANS/2014/18]; TIR Convention crisis in the Russian Federation (pertaining to the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets) [ECE/TRANS/2014/19]; activities by the Committee's subsidiary bodies in 2013 [ECE/TRANS/2014/20], as

well as results of the meetings of the Committee's Bureau in 2013 [ECE/TRANS/2014/21].

The Committee also approved the programme performance assessment for 2012–2013 (biennial evaluation) of the Transport subprogramme [ECE/TRANS/2014/22 & Corr.1]; the subprogramme's programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015 [ECE/TRANS/2014/23]; and the subprogramme's biennial evaluation plan (2014–2015) [ECE/TRANS/2014/24]. Furthermore, the Committee endorsed its own draft work plan for the period 2014–2018 [ECE/TRANS/2014/26]; took note of the information about the publication results in the 2012–2013 biennium [ECE/TRANS/2014/27]; adopted its schedule of meetings in 2014 and from January to March 2015 [ECE/TRANS/2014/28]; and was informed about the most important legislative and policy initiatives in the field of transport undertaken by the European Union in 2013 [ECE/TRANS/2014/29].

Energy

In line with the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative of the Secretary-General [YUN 2013, p. 982], the Committee on Sustainable Energy focused its twenty-third session (Geneva, 19–21 November) [ECE/ENERGY/96] on energy for sustainable development with a view to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all and helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector. The session consisted of a high-level segment, high-level thematic discussions and a general segment.

The theme of high-level segment was “Energy for sustainable development: must reality conflict with ambition?”. The ECE Executive Secretary noted that it would be necessary, by 2030, to ensure universal access to sustainable modern energy services for all; increase the share of renewable energy; double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies; and expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries.

Following a presentation by the International Energy Agency and the report of the Director of the Sustainable Energy Division on the first session of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (Geneva, 17–18 November), the Committee endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of that meeting, including the workplan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015.

The Committee then held discussions on the role of fossil fuels in delivering a sustainable energy future [ECE/ENERGY/2014/5/Rev.1 & ECE/ENERGY/2014/6]; ways in which renewable energy could help optimize energy systems [ECE/ENERGY/2014/7]; matters related to the future work of the Committee [ECE/ENERGY/2014/1–4]; and adoption of the report of the Committee's twenty-third session [ECE/ENERGY/2014/96].

Environment

The Committee on Environmental Policy, at its twentieth session (Geneva, 28–31 October) [ECE/CEP/2014/2], discussed the outcomes of the work of its Bureau from November 2013 to June 2014 [ECE/CEP/2014/3]; the opening of the ECE environmental instruments and their promotion beyond the region [ECE/CEP/2014/6]; multilateral environmental agreements: overview of national implementation reporting [ECE/CEP/2014/16]; revised guidelines for developing national strategies to use soil contamination monitoring as an environmental policy tool [ECE/CEP/2014/14]; targets and performance indicators for measuring progress in developing the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) [ECE/CEP/2014/8]—a system that would link all the existing data and information flows relevant at the country and international levels in support of the regular environmental assessment process tool; the outcomes of the work of the SEIS Group of Friends from March to July [ECE/CEP/2014/7]; the extension of the mandates of: the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment [ECE/CEP/2014/11], the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators [ECE/CEP/2014/12] and the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews [ECE/CEP/2014/13]; lessons learned from the Environment for Europe mid-term review of the Astana Conference main outcomes [ECE/CEP/2014/10]; the ECE/United Nations Environment Programme report on greening the economy in the pan-European region [ECE/CEP/2014/5]; and the proposed framework for preparing the eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in 2016 [ECE/CEP/2014/9].

The Committee also had before it the biennial performance plan of the Environment subprogramme for 2014–2015 [ECE/CEP/2014/4].

Economic cooperation and integration

The eighth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (Geneva, 12–14 February) [ECE/CECI/2014/2] focused on programmes on innovation and public-private partnerships for infrastructure development. The session featured, inter alia, a high-level substantive segment on the emerging landscape for innovation and public-private partnerships financing; a high-level substantive segment on Innovation Performance Review of Armenia; a review of the implementation of the programme of work since its seventh session; and a discussion on the programme of work and draft strategic framework.

The Committee considered, among others, the report on the sixth session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (Geneva, 10–11 October) [ECE/CECI/ICP/2013/2]; good practices and policy recommendations on innovation in the

public sector [ECE/CECI/2014/3] and on aligning entrepreneurship and innovation policies [ECE/CECI/2014/9]; the report on the fifth session of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships [ECE/CECI/PPP/2013/2]; and a report on capacity-building activities [ECE/CECI/2014/4]. In 2014, the work of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property was discontinued, as the Team's mandate had expired.

The Committee also considered a draft programme of work of the subprogramme on Economic Cooperation and Integration for 2014–2015 [ECE/CECI/2014/5]; the biennial performance evaluation of the Subprogramme for 2012–2013 [ECE/CECI/2014/6]; the Committee's biennial evaluation plan 2014–2015 [ECE/CECI/2014/7]; the publication plan for 2014–2015 [ECE/CECI/2014/8]; and the draft rules of procedure of the Committee [ECE/CECI/2014/10].

Housing and land

The Committee on Housing and Land Management, at its seventy-fifth session (Geneva, 8–9 October) [ECE/HBP/179], discussed the work of the Bureau of the Committee and the main decisions taken since the Committee's seventy-fourth session [ECE/HBP/2014/1]; the draft Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing in the ECE region [ECE/HBP/2014/2]; the biennial evaluation report for the period 2012–2013 [ECE/HBP/2014/3]; a proposal for developing a study on standards related to energy efficiency in buildings and disaster risk reduction [ECE/HBP/2014/4]; the draft terms of reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for 2015–2016 [ECE/HBP/2014/5]; a proposal for the development of a policy brief on spatial planning [ECE/HBP/2014/6]; and the Rules of Procedure for the Committee [ECE/HBP/2014/7], which were based on the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies.

Statistics

The sixty-second plenary session of the Conference of European Statistics (Paris, 9–11 April) [ECE/CES/87] discussed matters arising from the 2014 session of the United Nations Statistical Commission; the value of official statistics [ECE/CES/2014/20–22, ECE/CES/2014/32, ECE/CES/2014/20/50] and strategies for communicating the value of official statistics [ECE/CES/2014/23–25, ECE/CES/2014/33–35]; measuring recent and changing migration patterns [ECE/CES/2014/26–28, ECE/CES/2014/36–43]; methods to improve the measurement of migration [ECE/CES/2014/29–31, ECE/CES/2014/44–49, 52]; the work of the High-level Group for the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services [ECE/CES/2014/1–3, 51], set up in 2010; indicators of gender equality [ECE/CES/2014/4 & Add.1, 2]; recommendations on climate change-related statistics [ECE/CES/2014/5 & Add.1, 2]; a guide to measuring global production in the national accounts and balance of

payments statistics [ECE/CES/2014/6, Add.1–3]; role of official statistics with regard to leading, composite and sentiment indicators [ECE/CES/2014/10 & Add.1, ECE/CES/2014/11 & Add.1]; outcomes of the in-depth reviews (e.g. of big data and entrepreneurship statistics) carried out by the Conference Bureau [ECE/CES/2014/7 & Add.1, ECE/CES/2014/8 & Add.1, ECE/CES/2014/9 & Add.1, ECE/CES/2014/11 & Add.1]; the follow-up to the 2013 Conference seminars on challenges in implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and measuring sustainable development [ECE/CES/2014/12]; and challenges in providing access to micro-data for research [ECE/CES/2014/13].

The Conference also considered the programme of work of the ECE Statistics subprogramme [ECE/CES/2014/14–17 & ECE/CES/2014/53], as well as topics for the seminars to be held during the 2015 plenary session of the Conference [ECE/CES/2014/18 & Add.1, ECE/CES/2014/19].

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), at its thirty-fifth session (Lima, Peru, 5–9 May) [E/2014/40], considered the document titled “Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future” [LC/G.2586(SES.35/3)], which, along with the 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 988] and 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 977] documents, completed the trilogy on the subject of equality. The Commission also held a high-level seminar on the subject with four panels: the regional scenario; production, social and labour gaps; consumption patterns, the environment and natural resources; and compact for equality. A high-level dialogue was also held.

The Commission adopted 16 resolutions, including on the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean [res. 682(XXXV)] (see p. 1147); on the admission of Sint Maarten as an ECLAC associate member [res. 683(XXXV)] (see p. 1153); and on the venue of its thirty-sixth session [res. 689(XXXV)] (*ibid.*). Resolutions on the following topics were also adopted: ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2015–2016 [res. 676(XXXV)]; the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in the first half of 2015 [res. 677(XXXV)]; the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean [YUN 2000, p. 951], by which governments were requested to engage with statistical offices and institutes in the preparation of the national reports produced in the follow-up to summits, conferences and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals [res. 678(XXX)]; the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, by which the Commission decided to convene the twenty-fourth

meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning in Guatemala on 19 and 20 June [res. 679(XXXV)]; the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee [res. 680(XXXV)]; the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean [res. 681(XXXV)]; the ECLAC programme of work and priorities for the 2016–2017 biennium, by which the relevant programme of work was adopted in its totality, including the amendments proposed and the guidance provided by the resolutions adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission [res. 684(XXXV)]; the ECLAC follow-up activities to the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields [res. 685(XXXV)]; the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean [YUN 2012, p. 809], by which the Commission invited the countries in the region to participate actively in the fourth meeting of the focal points of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10, held in November at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile [res. 686(XXXV)]; the regional dimension of the post-2015 development agenda, by which the Commission’s secretariat was requested to prepare a report identifying areas of convergence between the countries of the region as regards the issues to be covered under the post-2015 development agenda and to submit it to Peru in its capacity as Chair of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission [res. 687(XXXV)]; South-South cooperation, by which the Commission decided to convene the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation in Lima during the second half of the year [res. 688(XXXV)]; the Lima Resolution, by which the Commission instructed its secretariat to conduct studies and formulate public policy proposals with a view to building national economic and social development capacities [res. 690(XXXV)]; and the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, by which the Commission took note of the 2013 Montevideo Declaration from the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean [YUN 2013, p. 974] and of the Plan of Work 2013–2015 for the implementation of the Plan of Action (eLAC2015), and invited all Member States to attend the preparatory meeting for the fifth Ministerial Conference, to be held in Costa Rica during the year, and the Conference itself, to be held in Mexico in 2015 [res. 691(XXXV)].

Economic trends

According to the report titled “Situation and outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014–2015” [E/2015/19], the region’s economy, in 2014, con-

tinued the slowdown that began after the upturn of 2011, in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. At 1.1 per cent, the region's 2014 growth rate represented a virtual standstill in per capita GDP. Falling prices for the region's principal export commodities worsened the terms of trade and kept the account deficit at 2.7 per cent of regional GDP, despite the contraction of imports. Imports showed a differentiated pattern by subregion. In most South American countries, the sharp slowdown in domestic demand led to heavy falls in import volumes (-4.1 per cent). By contrast, import volumes continued to climb in Colombia, Mexico and most of the Central American countries. The overall result was that import values for Latin America as a whole contracted for the first time since 2009, by 1.0 per cent.

The cooling of economic growth at the regional level impacted the labour demand and translated into a weak wage employment creation in many countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. The fiscal accounts of Latin America and the Caribbean showed the fiscal balance deteriorating slightly, on average, during the year. The region posted a fiscal deficit since 2009, but that did not push up public debt, which held steady at about 32 per cent of GDP. On the monetary and exchange-rate front, countries in the region adopted a mainly countercyclical approach in 2014, regardless of policy regime. More emphasis was placed on stimulating aggregate demand and setting and monitoring medium-term inflation targets. At the same time, authorities sought to mitigate the effects of external volatility on the region's financial markets by using international reserves and making changes to macroprudential regulations.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the document titled "Latin America and the Caribbean: economic situation and outlook, 2013–2014" [YUN 2013, p. 973] on 17 November (**decision 2014/255**).

Activities

A later ECLAC report on the Commission's work [LC/G.2664(SES.36/7)] addressed activities undertaken and progress made under its 14 subprogrammes: linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation; production and innovation; macroeconomic policies and growth; financing for development; social development and equality; mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development; population and development; sustainable development and human settlements; natural resources and infrastructure; planning of public administration; statistics; subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico; subregional activities in the Caribbean; and support for regional and subregional integration and cooperation processes and organizations.

Global economy, integration and regional cooperation

The ECLAC Division of International Trade and Integration focused on trade relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the rest of the world, particularly Asia-Pacific, Europe and the United States, and intraregional trade. Other topics included global trade negotiations, regional and global supply chains, regional integration, trade facilitation, dispute settlements, international cooperation, the role of small- and medium-sized enterprises in trade, the intersection between trade and climate change and the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building activities.

The 2014 edition of the flagship publication *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy* [E.14. II.G.5] examined the key features of the international context and their repercussions for world and regional trade; Latin American and Caribbean participation in global value chains; the contribution of regional integration to production integration; and intra- and extraregional trade relations of the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The Division continued to contribute to improving the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to participate effectively in global and regional trade flows and value chains through various activities, including technical assistance, research and capacity-building activities. As part of those efforts, the subprogramme on linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation successfully managed a series of Development Account projects: the project entitled "Towards productivity convergence: trade, financing, and technology for small-scale enterprises", which was implemented in Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Peru; the further implementation of the 2012 project entitled "Facilitating the effective integration of developing countries in the global economy through Aid for Trade schemes", within whose framework numerous events were held in 2014, including an interregional forum in Tunis, Tunisia, in April and a regional workshop in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, in September; and the project entitled "Strengthening the national capacities of export sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean to meet the challenges of climate change", which helped countries to identify the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

Production and innovation

The ECLAC Division of Production, Productivity and Management continued to work on structural change and industrial policies in Latin America and the Caribbean by focusing its efforts on strengthening the capacity of governments to formulate policies and strategies to transform the production structure in

the most innovative sectors. The Division published *Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean* [Sales No. E.15.II.G.4], which analysed the causes and consequences of the 16 per cent decline in foreign direct investment that took place in 2014 in the light of slow regional and global growth. Further, as the technical secretariat of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Division received recognition from several countries for its work in areas such as infrastructure access, information and communications technology and health, information technology industries, open data and education, thus consolidating ECLAC role as a regional focal point in science, innovation and technology. In that regard, at the first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies (Santiago, Chile, 9–10 June), established in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 977], national representatives of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean discussed opportunities for regional cooperation on training and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation; the role of information and communications technologies for the development of science, technology and innovation; and the need for institution-building in that area. At that session, the Santiago Declaration was adopted. In 2014, the Division supported the development of the national digital policy of Uruguay through a comprehensive set of measures and activities, which resulted in the Digital Agenda Uruguay 2011–2015. Other events organized under the subprogramme included seminars and summer schools.

Macroeconomic policies and growth

The Economic Development Division of ECLAC published its flagship *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* [Sales No. E.15.II.G.3], which analyzed, among others, the region's economic performance in 2014, and contained the notes relating to the economic performance of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean during the year. The Division also produced the 2014 *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* [Sales No. E.15.II.G.2], which focused on the economic activities of the region, domestic prices, employment and wages, the external sector and macroeconomic policies, while providing an overview of the international context and an outlook for the following year.

The Division held the twenty-sixth regional seminar on fiscal policy in Santiago, Chile, in January and a workshop on investment, volatility and growth in November, which examined policy options for reactivating investment in the region. The countries of the region were also active in enacting labour market reforms, incorporating components championed by

ECLAC. In particular, the Division—through its flagship reports and its longstanding collaboration with ILO—advocated that countries in the region adopt policies to increase the formalization of the labour force and to extend greater protection to workers. In 2014, Argentina and Chile adopted policy measures in line with the ECLAC recommendations. Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile also enacted measures in line with the ECLAC recommendations in the area of tax progressivity and the taxation of wealth and capital income. Further, the Division implemented several extrabudgetary projects related to fiscal and labour market policies and managed a Development Account project on the same topic.

Financing for development

One of the aims under the financing for development subprogramme was to improve the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean policymakers to formulate and implement financial policies on generating and allocating domestic resources and mobilizing foreign resources for development. To that end, four workshops were organized during the year. The Economic Development Division continued to participate in the discussions on how to improve the financial architecture at the global and regional levels, and to provide support to ECLAC and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in the areas of countercyclical balance-of-payments liquidity and financial integration. All 33 Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) reaffirmed the importance of regional financial cooperation and integration in the final declaration—the Havana Declaration—of the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Havana, Cuba, 28–29 January), and considered it essential for the stability and predictability of the international financial architecture to ensure that agreements reached between debtors and creditors within the context of sovereign debt restructuring processes were respected. The Division provided technical assistance to the UNASUR Working Group on Financial Integration on the financing of infrastructure. It also organized a regional meeting of the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance at ECLAC headquarters (Santiago, 14 January), which discussed, from a regional perspective, financing for sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, and was followed by another meeting in March (Santiago, 14–15 May). A technical workshop on financial cooperation and regional integration was also organized by the Division in June, in conjunction with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Division also undertook new research in various areas to support the ECLAC position on topics related to financing for development.

Social development and equality

In 2014, the Social Development Division worked towards achieving social development and equality through approaches based on human rights, while its long-term policies stressed the need to expand contributory and non-contributory social protection and investment, to improve sectoral policies on health and education and to improve labour market conditions and institutions. A milestone for the region was represented by the adoption by ECLAC of resolution 682(XXXV), by which the Commission established the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and decided to convene the Conference's first session in the second half of 2015.

The Division published the 2014 edition of *Social Panorama of Latin America* [Sales No. E.15.II.G.6], which presented measurements taken by ECLAC for the analysis of poverty and income distribution. Such measurements confirmed that structural poverty—deprivation reinforced by administrative, economic and social barriers preventing access to new skills, employment opportunities, improved health care and better housing—was still a feature of Latin American society, despite progress over the past decade. To contribute to a more comprehensive design of public policies aimed at overcoming poverty and socioeconomic inequality, the 2014 edition examined trends in social spending and set out a deeper gap analysis focused on three areas: youth and development, gender inequality in the labour market and urban residential segregation. Other initiatives in 2014, included a joint study by ECLAC and the Ibero-American Youth Organization, which concluded that public spending on youth was 50 per cent lower than on other social groups and emphasized the importance of investment in youth as a driver of development; and a collaboration between ECLAC and UNICEF, which led to the English version of the *Guide to Estimating Child Poverty*.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 November [meeting 51], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of ECLAC [E/2014/15/Add.1/Rev.1], adopted **resolution 2014/32** without vote [agenda item 13].

Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption on 9 May 2014 by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fifth session, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014, of resolution 682(XXXV), entitled “Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”,

Endorses the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as set out in Economic Commission for Latin America and the

Caribbean resolution 682(XXXV) and the annex thereto, which are annexed to the present resolution.

ANNEX

Resolution 682(XXXV)

Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and other relevant internationally agreed instruments constitute, together with the global dialogue on this issue, the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcome document of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Bearing in mind that the year 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,

Considering that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has been cooperating systematically in the field of social development to facilitate inter-agency coordination among the countries of the region, international organizations and the national agencies charged with carrying out projects to promote social development,

Considering also the key role played by the Commission in the region in recent years in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region, and thus in promoting the consolidation of institutions devoted to social development and to policies and regulatory frameworks for such activities,

Recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development,

Taking into account the need to promote cooperation in the sphere of social development,

Having reviewed the proposal for the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the proposed nature and the objectives of the Conference, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution,

1. *Approves* the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the objectives of which are set forth in the annex to the present resolution, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, bearing in mind the observations and suggestions included in the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session, with a view to eradi-

cating poverty in the region and promoting decent work, equality and social inclusion;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit such proposals as may be necessary for the establishment of the Conference to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;

3. *Decides* to convene the first meeting of the Conference during the second half of 2015;

4. *Takes note* of the fact that the seventh meeting of the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Mexico on 30 and 31 October 2014 and will be a discussion platform for promoting inclusive social development in the region;

5. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Peru to host the first meeting of the Conference;

6. *Invites* the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to join this initiative;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the present resolution at the thirty sixth session of the Commission.

Annex to resolution 682(XXXV)

I. Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Nature

1. The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall be a subsidiary body of the Commission that will contribute to the progress of social development policies and activities in the countries of the region.

Objectives

2. The objectives of the Conference shall be:

(a) To promote the improvement of national policies on social development, bearing in mind national requirements and recommendations made by specialized agencies and other relevant organizations;

(b) To further international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and institutions and international and regional agencies to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and joint activities in the field of social development;

(c) To examine multidimensional poverty and make progress on the measurement of poverty, inequality and structural gaps, in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in this field, in particular the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;

(d) To exchange experiences in relation to social matters and support and provide technical inputs for the summits of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and other regional forums;

(e) To contribute from the perspective of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the discussions and proposals considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Membership

3. The States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will be members of the Conference.

Meetings of the Conference

4. The Conference shall hold its regular meetings every two years. The Conference may accept an invitation from the Government of a member State to hold its regular meeting in that country.

Presiding Officers

5. The Conference shall elect Presiding Officers in accordance with the regulations established by the Commission. The Chair of the Presiding Officers shall also preside over the meetings of the Conference.

Secretariat

6. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall serve as the secretariat for the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The secretariat shall make available to the Conference such documents as have been approved by the Commission and the facilities necessary to carry out its work.

II. Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Nature

7. The Conference shall appoint Presiding Officers to support it, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 above.

Composition

8. The Presiding Officers shall be composed of a Chair and six members. The members shall be elected from among the member countries of the Commission. Special attention shall be devoted to ensuring that the subregional groupings of countries are duly represented among the Presiding Officers.

Election of the Presiding Officers and duration of mandates

9. At the beginning of each meeting of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Chair of the Presiding Officers, in consultation with the Presiding Officers and the Conference, shall draw up a proposal for the election of the next Presiding Officers.

10. The newly elected Presiding Officers shall take up their duties upon the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Conference at which they were elected, and shall remain in office until the conclusion of the next regular meeting.

11. The Presiding Officers, including the Chair, shall be elected by the Conference at its regular meeting for a term of two years.

12. The members of the Presiding Officers may serve for three successive terms. The Chair may not be re-elected to that office for a second consecutive term, but may be elected to serve as one of the Presiding Officers.

13. A Presiding Officer who has served for three successive terms may not be re-elected until two years have elapsed since the end of his or her previous mandate.

Duties

14. The Presiding Officers shall have the following duties:

(a) To carry out the tasks assigned to them by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) To follow up on the implementation of the agreements adopted and the tasks assigned by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) To decide on the documentation required for its meetings.

Meetings

15. The Presiding Officers shall meet at least once during the interval between regular meetings of the Conference. At the meeting preceding the next meeting of the Conference, the Presiding Officers shall adopt a programme of activities for the Conference, which shall be submitted to the Conference at its regular meeting.

16. The Presiding Officers may invite to their meetings any countries or experts they consider may make a contribution to the fulfilment of their duties.

Mainstreaming gender in regional development

The Division for Gender Affairs continued to support the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the institutional documents and work priorities of ECLAC and contributed to the preparation of the position document for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, which marked a turning point for the institution by deepening the gender perspective, highlighting the concept of autonomy, emphasizing the employment situation of women and proposing compacts. Further, the Division, through the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and its Presiding Officers, and the ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas, continued to work with the national authorities responsible for women's and gender affairs and national statistical offices. The Division organized the fiftieth meeting (Santiago, 19–20 May) and the fifty-first meeting (Santiago, 17–19 November) of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also continued its capacity-building activities for gender equality and better governance within the framework of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and, in that context, published the *Annual Report 2013–2014: Confronting violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean* [LC/G.2626 & Rev.1]. The report followed up on a previous commitment by the Observatory to analyse violence against women and focused on the situation across the region, progress in meeting international recommendations, national public policies, and constraints and challenges.

Advances in mainstreaming a gender perspective were also achieved through interdivisional collaboration with other ECLAC subprogrammes, country offices and subregional headquarters, building on

collaborative efforts in the areas of population and development, planning of public administration, and statistics. Other initiatives included Development Account projects such as the one titled “Strengthening national capacities to design and implement rights-based policies and programmes that address care of dependent populations and women’s economic empowerment in urban areas”, and a collaboration with UNICEF, which resulted in the implementation of a project aimed at studying the situation of the girl child in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Population and development

The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC continued to promote population issues and secure their inclusion in the development policies and programmes of Latin American and Caribbean countries, notably through the implementation of the 2013 Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development [YUN 2013, p. 730]. The Montevideo Consensus was the outcome of the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Uruguay in August 2013, and represented a regional milestone in the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 [YUN 2013, p. 1021]. The CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC continued to strengthen its relationship with the region’s countries by providing technical assistance on population-related subjects, including ageing, the impact of demographic changes on development, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations, internal and international migration, population estimates and projections, and censuses. Efforts focused on increasing the capacity of the region’s countries to include demographic inputs in their economic and social policies, benefiting a total of 45 government institutions. The Division maintained and updated its demographic databases on spatial distribution and urbanization, internal and international migration, and indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, which were important data sources for countries in the region. The Division also held courses and workshops on topics including indirect methods of estimating fertility and mortality, the production and use of indicators for policies and programmes, care and ageing, migration, adolescent reproduction and development and transfer accounts.

The joint work with the Latin American Population Association on a population estimates and projections network resulted in the publication of *Estimaciones y proyecciones de población en América Latina: desafíos de una agenda pendiente*, launched as part of the sixth Congress of the Association (Lima, Peru, 12–15 August).

In June, the Second International Forum on the Rights of Older Persons was held in Mexico City to assess the progress of international efforts to increase protection for the human rights of older persons throughout the world, paying particular attention to current and future challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean. A meeting was held in Santiago, Chile, on 24 July to discuss and review substantive issues in preparation of both the first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development and the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2015. The Division later organized the first meeting of the Presiding Officers (Santiago, 12–14 November).

Sustainable development and human settlements

The activities of the sustainable development and human settlements subprogramme focused on the interrelationships between economic growth, environmental protection, urban development and social equity, and were implemented by the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division.

The Division provided technical support on climate change adaptation, urban development, sectoral impacts of climate change, environmental taxation and the strengthening of technical and institutional capacities. The meetings of the Chief Negotiators on Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean provided an opportunity to strengthen capacities and prepare for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), to be held in 2015.

Significant progress was made on the regional process related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development [YUN 2012, p. 809] and on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Santiago Decision, adopted at the fourth meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10, held at ECLAC headquarters in November, represented a milestone and led to the initiation of negotiations on a regional agreement. The Presiding Officers were requested to steer the process, with the support of ECLAC as technical secretariat, with a view to concluding negotiations on a regional instrument by December 2016.

The Division supported the development of national and regional environmental data to promote access to information, encourage public participation in environmental policymaking and, when required, facilitate access to justice in environmental matters. The Division also focused on analysing the impacts of climate change on the coasts of the Latin America and Caribbean region. During the year, the Division

worked in close collaboration with the Statistics Division (subprogramme 11) and some national authorities to produce a document on public environmental information, including guidelines for decision makers to account environmental expenditures, entitled *El gasto en protección ambiental en América Latina y el Caribe: Bases conceptuales y experiencia regional*. In addition, a regional workshop on pollutant release and transfer registers, held in October, helped the countries to build key information on pollution as the core resource for environmental policy implementation. Workshops were also organized at the subnational level in Peru, Mexico and Brazil.

Natural resources and infrastructure

The Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division examined global issues related to sustainable energy, governance of natural resources, infrastructure gaps and the challenge of integrated and sustainable policies for logistics and mobility. Concepts as smart grids, sustainable cities and intelligent transport systems posed challenges related to industrial and technological restructuring, with a focus on increasing use of renewable energy and implementing sound energy efficiency programmes and projects. To that end, the subprogramme generated new methodological proposals and regional initiatives, such as the high-level energy efficiency policy dialogues and the Energy Efficiency Indicators Database, which gathered data for 20 countries of the region.

Several studies, workshops and conferences on the governance of natural resources were undertaken to discuss a new vision to capture revenues from natural resources and to use those rents to bring about a structural change. Further, the Division organized several events relating to trade and sustainable development, which included the sixth international seminar on carbon footprint (Santiago, 11–12 June). While the main target group of the ECLAC activities remained public policymakers from all levels of the executive, legislative and judicial branches, the Commission also worked increasingly with civil society, universities, NGOs, the private sector and international, regional and bilateral organizations.

The Commission's technical assistance to promote integrated and sustainable logistics and mobility policies had a major impact at the legislative level. National capacity-building workshops were carried out in Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Further, the technical assistance provided to the Haitian National Commission for the Modernization of Public Transportation enabled government and private sector representatives to consider the linkages between transport and sustainable development and to launch a national dialogue on a sustainable logistics and mobility policy.

During the year, ECLAC, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to improve analysis of infrastructure investment in the region, which resulted in more accurate data on the public and private investment in economic infrastructure in 16 countries and in the establishment of a joint database on infrastructure investment.

Public administration

The activities of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)—ECLAC public administration division—were shaped around coordination between levels of government, monitoring and evaluating public programmes, open government practices, and foresight studies and building visions for the future. In addition, the Institute's Regional Council for Planning continued to consolidate its role as a regional political forum for national planning authorities to discuss and exchange planning practices.

During the year, ILPES assisted the countries of the region in public and fiscal policies by providing support for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and policies, and by developing advisory activities and training. To that end, ILPES organized meetings of its Regional Council for Planning and of its Presiding Officers and international meetings of experts; issued publications on public management and territorial development in the region and other studies on specific topics; held training courses and workshops; provided technical cooperation and advisory services; and updated manuals and databases.

E-government and open government issues were incorporated into the ILPES programme of work in order to apply the potential of Information and communications technology (ICT) in public administration. Most countries in the region promoted and developed e-government initiatives aimed at making public services more efficient and increasing levels of transparency and citizen participation in public affairs.

ILPES carried out training and advisory activities in the region on foresight studies, future scenarios and building up long-term development visions. In that context, the Institute organized a seminar entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean in 2030: world visions, continental views", which was held in Santiago in September, and was attended by some 240 participants from 10 countries, including international experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States, Europe and Asia. During the year, the second symposium on economic and social planning was held, following a model that had been launched in 2013. At the symposium, 29 papers were presented on the theme of foresight and long-term planning, eight of which were selected and published as an e-book.

Also in 2014, the Institute issued the latest edition of the *Panorama de la Gestión Pública*, which highlighted the interconnectedness of public finances, public administration and planning challenges. Furthermore, during the year, ILPES launched an electronic repository to store and analyse development plans from the region, which made available, through a single digital portal, a comprehensive set of national, subnational and sectoral development plans, programmes and agendas, including a summary of the characteristics of each plan and its main strategic objectives.

Statistics

The Statistics Division's flagship publication, the *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2014*, presented a set of basic statistics on the economic, sociodemographic and environmental situation of the region as part of the CEPALSTAT—the ECLAC statistical databases and publications portal. At the thirteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas (Santiago, 12–14 August), the Committee reviewed, inter alia, the status of implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2014–2015, adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its seventh meeting [YUN 2013, p. 976], and the agreements adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee, both held in 2013.

The Division also worked to increase the Latin American and Caribbean countries' capacity to monitor economic, social and environmental trends and formulate evidence-based policies. Many activities were undertaken by countries, including Uruguay, Ecuador, Panama and Honduras, in compliance with the ECLAC recommendations. Countries also received assistance in monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and with the regional mechanism for defining indicators for the sustainable development goals. A seminar was held in August on the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008) to continue helping countries of the region with their implementation of the system. It was attended by professionals from national statistical offices and central banks directly involved in the production of national accounts.

Subregional activities

Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico

In 2014, the subregional headquarters in Mexico—which served the needs of the Central American subregion, together with Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico—continued to focus its efforts on economic and social development, energy, international trade and integration, agricultural development and climate change. Technical assistance on fiscal and monetary policies, national planning systems, and

integration was provided to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua.

International trade and integration remained an important focus area for the subregional headquarters in Mexico. Several meetings were organized during the year, including an experts' meeting in Guatemala in July on a strategy for trade and investments between Guatemala and China. A meeting of experts on coffee and climate change was held in Panama in October to discuss and analyse potential impacts and lines of action to address and mitigate risks. Also in October, the first meeting of the Regional Technical Group of the Joint ECLAC/International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) project on information management for public policies and projects of rural and agricultural development and food security in Central America took place in San José, Costa Rica.

A new framework agreement was established with the Central American Agricultural Council, which involved an initiative to alert decision makers to the risks of climate change and to support ministers of the environment of Central America, who, in their response to the challenge, would need to generate and disseminate solid evidence on vulnerabilities, impacts and policy options and to bring on board key sectors and fiscal authorities. The initiative included the seven Central American countries and the Dominican Republic.

The ECLAC subregional headquarters provided technical assistance to the countries it served, as well as to other stakeholders, to formulate several pieces of legislation. It also organized various workshops on the design and implementation of youth policies to promote the social inclusion of youth. Costa Rica, for example, was provided with technical assistance in the formulation of the Public Policy on Youth 2014–2019.

Among the publications issued during the year with the key contribution of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico were *Energy Efficiency in Central America: Progress and action towards the fulfillment of the goals of the Central American sustainable energy strategy*, in January; *Strengthening Value Chains as an Industrial Policy Instrument: Methodology and Experience of ECLAC in Central America*, in July; and *Structural Change and Growth in Central America and the Dominican Republic: An Overview of Two Decades, 1990–2011*, in November.

Caribbean

On 24 April, the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was launched in Kingston, Jamaica, with an event highlighting the vulnerabilities of those countries. Several Caribbean-wide activities were organized to engage the countries of the subregion and raise awareness, including a poster competition for primary and secondary schools, and an essay competition for secondary- and tertiary-level students.

The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean—based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago—facilitated regional dialogue, cooperation, and collaboration to address, among others, development issues of the subregion. At the third Caribbean Development Roundtable (Kingston, 23–24 April), development experts examined new approaches to the sustainable development of SIDS in the Caribbean, which resulted in thirty-seven conclusions and recommendations. Further, the twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (Kingston, 25 April) was convened at the ministerial level to address key Caribbean priorities ahead of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the integration of those priorities into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2014, ECLAC finalized a study assessing the progress made in implementing the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM)-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement—which had come into force at the end of 2008—and its impact on trade and economic development in the Caribbean, with special attention to the costs and consequences of implementation, and areas for adjustment. The findings of that study contributed to the first comprehensive five-year review of the Agreement.

Several meetings were convened during the year, including the sixth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Port of Spain, 15 April), which reviewed the progress made by Caribbean countries in implementing the Strategy; and the Caribbean Technical Meeting on the Beijing+20 Review and Appraisal of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Santiago, 14–15 November), at which a Caribbean Statement outlining the ongoing challenges facing the subregion with respect to gender and development was adopted; and an expert group meeting on demand model for maritime passenger transportation in the Caribbean. ECLAC also made contributions to the subregion's understanding of the application of information and communication technology (ICT) to development. In that regard, a study was commissioned, and an expert meeting convened on the possible impact of digital currency, such as Bitcoin, and mobile money in the Caribbean.

Support for regional and subregional integration

The Office of the Secretary of the Commission provided technical and substantive inputs to regional and subregional integration organizations in support of discussions and consensus-building on social, economic and sustainable development issues and facilitated

dialogue between the Latin American and Caribbean region and extraregional actors, such as Europe, China and the Republic of Korea. The Office responded to external requests; coordinated the collection and systematization of information, studies and technical reports; made arrangements for technical assistance missions; and generated guidelines for the formulation and implementation of plans and strategies.

Substantive contributions were provided to the second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Havana, Cuba, 28–29 January) in the shape of five documents on public policies for equality, literacy, financial architecture and governance of natural resources and on the socioeconomic outlook for the region. Of those studies, the *Economic and Social Panorama of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, 2014*, was published during the year, based on excerpts from some of the annual flagships published by the Commission in 2014, including the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2014*; *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy, 2014*; and *Social Panorama of Latin America, 2014*. Also, in 2014, as a follow-up to the earlier reports published in 2009 and 2011, UNASUR: *Fostering South American integration through development and cooperation* was published providing an overview of some key issues on the development agenda of the nations of South America.

Programme and organizational questions

At its thirty-fifth session, ECLAC decided to grant associate membership in the Commission to Sint Maarten [E/2014/40 (res. 683(XXXV))], and approved its calendar of conferences for the period 2015–2016 [res. 676(XXXV)].

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 November [meeting 51], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of ECLAC [E/2014/15/Add.1/Rev.1], adopted **resolution 2014/33** without vote [agenda item 13].

Admission of Sint Maarten as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 683(XXXV) of 9 May 2014, in which the Commission welcomed the request made by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Santiago on behalf of the Government of Sint Maarten that the latter be granted associate membership in the Commission and decided that Sint Maarten should be granted associate membership in the Commission,

1. *Approves* the granting to Sint Maarten of associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take the measures necessary for the implementation of the present resolution.

Venue of ECLAC thirty-sixth session

The Commission [E/2014/40 (res. 689(XXXV))] recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the holding of the Commission's thirty-sixth session in Mexico in the first semester of 2016.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 November [meeting 51], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of ECLAC [E/2014/15/Add.1/Rev.1], adopted **resolution 2014/34** without vote [agenda item 13].

Venue of the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

Considering the invitation of the Government of Mexico to host the thirty-sixth session of the Commission,

1. *Takes note* of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 689(XXXV) of 9 May 2014, by which the Commission accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Government of Mexico to host the thirty-sixth session of the Commission;

2. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to hold its thirty-sixth session in Mexico in the first half of 2016.

Western Asia

The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), at its twenty-eighth session (Tunis, Tunisia, 8–15 September) [E/2014/41], held eight plenary meetings and four closed meetings. The theme of the session was social justice in the policies of Arab States [E/ESCWA/28/8] and the plenary meetings were held in two segments, one for senior officials and the other for ministers. At the senior officials' segment, consideration was given to requests by UN Member States and/or its specialized agencies that were not members of ESCWA to participate as observers in the session [E/ESCWA/28/3]. The segment also reviewed the economic and social developments in the Arab region 2013–2014 [E/ESCWA/EDGD/2014/1/Summary]; the outcomes of the Arab High-level Forum on Sustainable Development (Amman, Jordan, 2–4 April) [E/ESCWA/SDPD/2014/WG.1/6/Report]; support for the Palestinian people and the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People [E/ESCWA/28/4]; the revised draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016–2017 [E/ESCWA/28/5]; the report of the Executive Secretary

on the activities of the Commission [E/ESCWA/28/6 & Part I–Part VI]; and management issues [E/ESCWA/28/7 & Part I–Part VI]. The ministerial dialogues covered social justice and a new development approach [E/ESCWA/28/8/Panel.1]; economic policies supportive of social justice [E/ESCWA/28/8/Panel.2]; intergenerational justice and access to natural resources [E/ESCWA/28/8/Panel.3]; and monitoring and measuring social justice [E/ESCWA/28/8/Panel.4]. The session concluded with the adoption of the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region and recommendations made by the senior officials' segment.

The Commission adopted eight resolutions to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for its action or attention on the following topics: the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development [res. 314(XXVIII)]; establishing an intergovernmental committee on technology for development [res. 315(XXVIII)]; support for the Palestinian people [res. 316(XXVIII)]; adoption of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016–2017 [res. 317(XXVIII)]; adoption of session reports of the ESCWA subsidiary bodies [res. 318(XXVIII)]; adoption of the proposed amendments to the programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015 [res. 319(XXVIII)]; redesignating the Technical Committee as the Executive Committee and amending its terms of reference [res. 320(XXVIII)]; and redesignating ESCWA as the Economic and Social Commission for Arab States [res. 321(XXVIII)].

Economic trends

The “Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region, 2014–2015” [E/2015/20] stated that the average growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) of the Arab region in real terms was estimated to be 1.5 per cent in 2014, barely changed from 2013. Negative growth estimates for Iraq, Libya and Syria, attributed to intensifying armed conflicts, contributed to the deceleration. In addition to conflicts and related security disruptions in the region, a significant fall in oil prices and the attending uncertain prospects became another predominant economic concern. From its peak in June 2014, oil prices plunged by more than 50 per cent in the second half of the year. Member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council expanding the non-oil sector, however, continued to lead the growth of the Arab region.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the “Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the Arab region, 2013–2014” [YUN 2013, p. 977] on 17 November (**decision 2014/255**).

Activities

ESCWA activities in its 2014–2015 work programme [E/ESCWA/29/4(Part IV)] were organized under its seven subprogrammes: integrated management of

natural resources for sustainable development; social development; economic development and integration; information and communication technology for regional integration; statistics for evidence-based policymaking; advancement of women; and conflict mitigation and development.

Construction of office facilities

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/249 [YUN 2011, p. 1398], the Secretary-General, in a February report [A/68/748], proposed mitigation measures to strengthen the safety and security of staff at ESCWA in Beirut. In late 2013, he initiated a comprehensive blast assessment to be conducted of the United Nations House in Beirut. To that end, a specialist firm was commissioned to perform the blast assessment and the results of that specialist assessment were received on 17 January 2014. The report set out the resource requirements securing the building for the biennium 2014–2015 and requested the General Assembly to approve the establishment of two temporary positions (1 P-4 and 1 Local level) and appropriate an additional non-recurrent amount of \$7,306,900 under the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015. The Secretary-General also requested the Assembly to note that the non-recurrent amount of \$7,306,900 would represent a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2014–2015.

ACABQ Report. In March [A/68/808], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended that the General Assembly establish one temporary position at the P-4 level under the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015; however, the Committee recommended against the proposed establishment of one temporary Local level position and a corresponding adjustment to the related operational requirements. The Committee also recommended that the Assembly appropriate an additional non-recurrent amount of \$5,722,400 under the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 comprising increases under section 22 (\$281,800) and section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance (\$5,440,600).

By **resolution 68/247 B** (section VI) of 9 April (see p. 1639), the General Assembly endorsed the ACABQ conclusions and recommendations.

Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

In 2014, ESCWA continued to work with Arab countries to achieve integrated and sustainable management of their natural resources through strengthened regional cooperation and policy coordination. In an effort to aid rural communities, the Commission prepared during the year field surveys

in four pilot countries (Jordan, Morocco, Oman, the Sudan) and linked locally sourced renewable energy technologies to production processes that enhanced productivity and increased income. ESCWA prepared technical material to map electricity management structures in Arab countries and ran projects to develop relevant skills in the public and private sectors with the goal of helping authorities to introduce reforms that enhanced financing of energy efficiency projects. ESCWA also responded to a request from Yemen to train officials in the use of solar energy in agricultural water pumps and in finance mechanisms for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Further, following the establishment of green help desks in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman and Tunisia, ESCWA conducted workshops on the help desks and green production, and a study tour for help desk coordinators and the directors of Cleaner Production Centres in the Arab region. A seminar on urban water management was held in Oman in February to foster the integrated management of water resources. In October, the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Cap-Net and the Water Footprint Network, held a training course in Oman for water and environment professionals.

On 18 September [E/2014/41 (res. 314(XXVIII))], the Commission invited Member States to widely participate in the session of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and requested ESCWA to hold sessions of the Forum periodically. It further requested ESCWA to monitor progress in achieving sustainable development in the Arab region, and the ESCWA Executive Secretary to present a report on actions undertaken in that respect at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission.

Social development

During the year, as part of its regular efforts to help Member States to pursue inclusive social development, ESCWA undertook field projects, seminars, meetings and e-forums on youth empowerment, population and development, social justice and democratic governance. The Commission provided Member States with technical assistance on a rights-based approach to policy and encouraged the mainstreaming of social justice in national reform plans. Throughout the year, the Commission conducted consultations on social policy reform aimed at a fairer redistribution of wealth, greater public involvement in policymaking and maximizing the benefits of population dynamics in the context of the youth bulge, large-scale displacement and labour migration.

The fifteenth Meeting of the Heads of National Population Councils in the Arab Region, co-organized by ESCWA, the League of Arab States and

the United Nations Population Fund, focused on four priority areas: the impact on development of forced migration resulting from conflicts and occupation; youth empowerment; equality and empowerment of women; and reproductive and sexual health. At a follow-up meeting, held by the Commission in November, a framework reference was proposed for priority population programmes implementing the 2013 Cairo Declaration on Development Challenges and Population Dynamics in a Changing Arab World.

In the course of the year, ESCWA convened a series of national workshops in Egypt, the State of Palestine and the Sudan on policymaking, strategic planning and evaluation, and programme cycle management. It also provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Development in Oman to develop the country's 10-year Social Work Strategy for the period 2016–2025. Approximately 136 officials benefited from those initiatives. Furthermore, the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region, adopted at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, represented a contract between ESCWA and its Member States to promote social justice through the development of policies based on rights, equality and equity, and the elimination of all forms of social injustice and discrimination in Arab countries through legislative and constitutional reforms.

Economic development and integration

In 2014, the subprogramme's areas of work, led by the Economic Development and Integration Division, were regional integration; globalization and financing for development; economic analysis; and development policy. In particular, ESCWA focused its work programme and interventions on deepening regional integration in three main areas: infrastructure and transport logistics; trade policies; and macroeconomic convergence and finance. The Commission also continued to follow-up on the implementation of outcomes of the Monterrey Consensus [YUN 2002, p. 953] and the Doha Conference on Financing for Development [YUN 2008, p. 1069] in the Arab region. It assisted Member States in mobilizing international resources, increasing financial and technical cooperation for development and organizing nine workshops on investment dispute settlement and double taxation avoidance, at which officials from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen participated.

Further, the Commission helped Member States to update their national development strategies through analytical outputs in macroeconomic policies, and through support in the design and implementation of policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation. During the year, research was initiated exploring the links between transport and infrastructure efficiency on the one hand, and economic growth on the other.

ICT for regional integration

In 2014, the subprogramme facilitated regional discussions on challenges and opportunities in the field of ICT. Global trends and good practices in e-government service integration were reviewed in a study titled "Integration of Service Delivery in the Arab Region: Role of Standards and Interoperability". Further, the Commission continued the implementation of the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in the ESCWA region, by organizing four core training modules to build capacity of government officials in harnessing ICT for development. ESCWA continued its work on expanding the digital Arabic content (DAC) in Egypt, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, where capacity-building workshops and awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of the DAC industry were held. Those events also featured the launch of national DAC competitions on the best project ideas. The Commission organized a thematic workshop on digital content for an inclusive knowledge society to explore various aspects of digital content and multilingualism and share good practices. A leaflet titled "Digital Arabic content: promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in the Arab region" was also published.

The Commission formulated a procedural framework for combating cybercrime and enhancing cybersafety in the region based on a study on the topic issued during the year. A capacity-building workshop on cybersafety was also organized (Muscat, Oman, 8–9 December).

On regional integration, the Commission prepared research papers to examine the impact of the establishment of a customs union in the Arab region. Those papers studied non-tariff measures, implementation scenarios and institutional frameworks for the creation of a customs union. They also underlined the importance of complete implementation of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area measures.

On 18 September [E/2014/41 (res. 315(XXVIII))], the Commission endorsed changing the name of subprogramme 4, from "Information and communications technology for regional integration" to "Technology for development and regional integration"; decided to establish an intergovernmental committee to be named "Committee on Technology for Development", comprising representatives from ESCWA Member States with experience in the field, and which would replace the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation; and also decided that the Committee should hold its sessions once every two years, with effect from 2016.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 November [meeting 51], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of ESCWA [E/2014/15/Add.2], adopted **resolution 2014/35** without vote [agenda item 13].

Establishment of an intergovernmental committee on technology for development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption on 18 September 2014 by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its twenty-eighth session of resolution 315(XXVIII),

Endorses the establishment of an intergovernmental committee on technology for development in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, as set out in Commission resolution 315(XXVIII), the text of which is annexed to the present resolution.

ANNEX

Resolution 315(XXVIII)

Establishment of an intergovernmental committee on technology for development

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which the States Members of the United Nations recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technology, are vital for the achievement of the development goals, and to Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/68 of 5 November 2004 on science and technology for development,

Referring also to the outcome of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, in particular the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and the international mechanisms and forums it generated,

Referring further to goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals, which includes a target on making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technology,

Recognizing the importance of increasing the participation of the Governments of States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in identifying priorities and planning and improving the Commission's programme of work in the field of technology for development,

Recognizing also the need to enhance coordination and integration between the Commission and Arab regional organizations regarding technology-for-development policies and programmes, to meet the needs of member States and develop such technology to achieve inclusive development in the Arab region,

Taking into consideration the recommendations resulting from the evaluation undertaken by the Commission of its working mechanisms, including a proposal to establish a committee on technology for development,

Stressing the important role of the Commission in promoting information and communications technology sectors and related industries and enhancing their role in development, the information society and the digital economy in member States and linking them to the international process of the World Summit on the Information Society and the mechanisms and international forums it generated for Internet governance; and invigorating the role of member States at the international level in those international forums,

Stressing also the important role of the Commission's Technology Centre in the fields of science and technology

and in networking scientific and technological research with major economic sectors in member States,

Taking into consideration the efforts undertaken by the Commission under subprogramme 4, Information and communications technology for regional integration, of programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the biennial programme plan and its achievements in that field in advancing the information and communications technology sector and scientific and technological research,

Guided by the work of other United Nations regional commissions regarding the establishment of specialized committees on technology for development,

1. *Endorses* changing the name of subprogramme 4 of programme 19 of the biennial programme plan, from "Information and communications technology for regional integration" to "Technology for development and regional integration";

2. *Decides* to establish an intergovernmental committee, to be named the Committee on Technology for Development, comprising representatives from States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia with experience in the field, which would replace the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation, use the resources allocated to it and undertake the following:

(a) Identifying priorities of the Commission's programme of work and medium-term plans regarding technology for development, including scientific research and innovation, the digital economy and the information society, knowledge economies and emerging areas;

(b) Monitoring the progress achieved in the field of technology, including information and communications technology, Internet governance, the digital economy and the information society on the one hand, and areas related to scientific research and transfer of technology on the other hand; and formulating recommendations to strengthen the development of those fields;

(c) Following up regional and international processes, conferences and forums relevant to subprogramme 4, and coordinating regional efforts to implement decisions and recommendations of those conferences;

(d) Supporting the secretariat of the Commission in continuing to follow up the implementation of the Tunis Agenda on the Information Society adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society and participating in the activities and projects related to the World Summit beyond 2015;

(e) Advancing the work of the secretariat in supporting cooperation with the ministerial councils and the organizations and unions of the League of Arab States, including the Council of Arab Ministers of Communications and Information Technology, the Arab Administrative Development Organization and other specialized organizations, in harmonizing policies and strategies, supporting communication and partnerships and coordinating positions at the international level in addition to building capacities;

3. *Also decides* that the Committee shall hold its sessions once every two years, with effect from 2016;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its twenty-ninth session.

Statistics

In the field of statistics, ESCWA worked closely with national statistics offices to formulate a strategy and identify priorities for the development of official statistics in the Arab region and the improvement of data quality, availability and dissemination. During the year, the Statistics Division was in the process of modernizing statistical systems at ESCWA and of creating a database to produce reliable, high-quality data accessible to all stakeholders. The achievement of that objective would help formulate evidence-based policies in Member States and promote statistical co-ordination at all levels.

One of the most important initiatives in terms of official statistics was the migration towards the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008. Most ESCWA Member States had made progress in that regard, particularly in implementing the input-output tables and supply and use tables in line with the SNA 2008 methodology. The importance of official statistics in the context of the data revolution and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda was highlighted in Executive Committee meetings and at the twenty-eighth ESCWA ministerial session.

Advancement of women

In 2014, the Commission played a key role in the area of the advancement of women's rights in the Arab region, leading a progress review on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 20 years later (Beijing+20), contributing to a High-level Ministerial Conference that adopted the Cairo Declaration on the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Women, and helping Member States to submit a record number of reports on the status of women. Legislative progress was made in several countries, with bolder commitments to gender equality and greater protection of women's rights.

ESCWA organized a series of expert group meetings in cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the League of Arab States to develop a detailed regional synthesis report on the issue of the advancement of women in the region. The Commission also examined the ways in which the right of access of women and girls to justice was put into practice in the region, and, in that context, organized an expert group meeting on women's access to justice (Beirut, Lebanon, 23–24 September). The Commission also examined the extent to which international human rights frameworks were implemented in the region.

ESCWA provided technical assistance to develop national women's machineries in Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, the Sudan and Tunisia. It also supported the League of Arab States in developing a strategic framework and action plan for the implementation of the Cairo Declaration on

the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Women: Opportunities and Challenges, adopted on 23 February by the Arab countries' Governments participating in the high-level meeting on "Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, Gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Arab region".

Conflict mitigation and development

Political upheaval, violence, instability and occupation continued to characterize the Arab region in 2014. The region spent almost 4.1 per cent of its GDP on weapons—more than twice the average for developing countries—making it the world's biggest arms-buying region in relative terms. The Arab region also included three out of the five countries with the greatest outflow of refugees—Syria (almost 3 million), Somalia (1.12 million) and the Sudan (648,900); and two of its countries, Lebanon (more than 1 million) and Jordan (around 700,000), hosted the highest number of refugees around the world.

The conflict mitigation and development subprogramme, implemented by the Emerging and Conflict-related Issues Division, aimed at assessing the social and economic costs of conflict and instability in countries such as Mauritania, the Sudan and Yemen, which suffered from structural vulnerabilities and chronic poverty. Evidence-based reports on the impact of the Occupied Palestinian Territory were also issued to assist decision makers, including from the UN General Assembly.

Further, the Commission carried out research on the impact of conflict and instability on development. A report on measuring the impact of the "neighbourhood effect" in the Arab region, for example, studied the effect of conflict and other upheavals on neighbouring countries and how to reduce their impact and the likelihood of contagion.

ESCWA contributed to the Fourteenth Annual Arab Administrative Development Organization Conference on Cooperation in Establishing Resilience toward Global Risks in the Arab Region (Cairo, 17–19 December), with research on policy options to mitigate risks in the economy, the environment, public administration and governance, and in infrastructure and social matters.

In the context of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Commission released a study on the social and economic situation of Palestinian women; commissioned a report on Israeli violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention; and organized a seminar on that subject in November. It also held meetings, in June and November, with NGOs assisting Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, as a result of which two research projects were initiated with the American University of Beirut and the Welfare Association. An online campaign about Palestine, "181 Posts", was launched in March, followed by the screening of two Palestinian films and photo and handicraft exhibitions.

On 18 September [E/2014/41 (res. 316(XXVIII))], the Commission welcomed General Assembly resolutions 67/19 [YUN 2012, p. 1426] and 68/12 [YUN 2013, p. 403], by which the Assembly accorded to Palestine the status of non-member observer State in the United Nations and proclaimed 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, respectively. The Commission called on the international community to support the Government of National Conciliation—formed according to the Palestinian National Reconciliation achieved in May—and requested the ESCWA secretariat to raise the level of its support for the Palestinian people and their institutions at all levels, including the enhancement of human resources for the conflict mitigation and development subprogramme.

Programme and organizational questions

At its twenty-eighth session, ESCWA adopted the draft strategic framework for 2016–2017 [E/2014/41 (res. 317(XXVIII))]; the session reports of the ESCWA subsidiary bodies [res. 318(XXVIII)], the amendments introduced to the programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015 [res. 319(XXVIII)]; the redesignation of the Technical Committee as the "Executive Committee" and the relevant amendment to its terms of reference [res. 320(XXVIII)], and the redesignation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the "Economic and Social Commission for Arab States" [res. 321(XXVIII)].

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 November [meeting 51], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of ESCWA [E/2014/15/Add.2], adopted **resolution 2014/36** without vote [agenda item 13].

Redesignation of the Technical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as the Executive Committee and amendment of its terms of reference

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption on 18 September 2014 by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its twenty-eighth session of resolution 320(XXVIII),

Endorses the redesignation of the Technical Committee as the Executive Committee and the amendment of its terms of reference as set out in resolution 320(XXVIII), the text of which is annexed to the present resolution.

ANNEX

Resolution 320(XXVIII)

Redesignation of the Technical Committee as the Executive Committee and amendment of its terms of reference

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to its decision of 11 May 2006 concerning the establishment of a technical committee that would meet once every six months to follow up the implementation of the programme of work,

Referring also to the terms of reference of the Technical Committee, as revised at its fifth meeting, held on 6 and 7 April 2011, which stipulate that the Committee shall hold three meetings per biennium, in support of the ministerial session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, to advise and assist the secretariat of the Commission in planning and implementing the programme of work and to take action on any other matters,

Having considered the recommendation of the Technical Committee at its seventh meeting to amend the mandate of the Committee in order to facilitate its work and strengthen its ability to take decisions and respond to regional and international developments,

Having also considered the recommendation of the Technical Committee at its eighth meeting to redesignate the Committee as the Executive Committee and amend its terms of reference, so that it may play a greater role in steering and coordinating the activities of the Commission,

Noting the increasing global and regional challenges and the need to develop swift regional responses to them,

Underscoring the importance of strengthening the intergovernmental engagement of member States in the decision-making processes of the Commission, in particular to ensure an integrated approach to the work of the Commission,

1. *Decides* to redesignate the Technical Committee as the Executive Committee;

2. *Also decides* to revise the role of the Technical Committee and its terms of reference, with immediate effect, as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex to resolution 320(XXVIII)

Terms of reference of the Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall submit a report on its activities to the Commission at its sessions.

2. The Executive Committee shall convene three meetings in the period between the biennial sessions of the Commission.

3. The Executive Committee shall be entrusted with submitting resolutions and reports to the Economic and Social Council on matters excluding the terms of reference of the Commission.

4. The Executive Committee shall undertake the following:

(a) Organize the sessions of the Commission;

(b) Review and adopt the programme of work of the subsidiary committees on the basis of criteria defined by the Executive Committee;

(c) Ensure consistency between subprogrammes;

(d) Deal with all matters related to programme planning.

5. The membership of the Executive Committee shall mirror that of the Commission.

6. The Chairs or Vice-Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission can be invited to the meetings of the Executive Committee.

7. The Executive Committee may propose amendments to its terms of reference, which shall be considered for adoption by the Commission.

8. The Executive Committee shall be chaired by a representative of the country chairing the Commission.

Energy, natural resources and geospatial information

The conservation, development and use of energy and natural resources along with the development and promotion of global geospatial information remained the focus of several United Nations bodies in 2014. The International Atomic Energy Agency, in addition to its work on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, continued to assist its member States in applying nuclear technology in areas such as energy security, human health and food security, water resources and the environment. During the year, the General Assembly, in addition to taking note of the annual report of the Agency as well as that of the Secretary-General on reliable and stable transit of energy, adopted a resolution promoting the use of new and renewable sources of energy.

Priority areas for the inter-agency mechanism UN-Water in 2014 included transboundary waters, water and climate change, water scarcity and water efficiency, water supply and basic sanitation, and water quality. The Assembly adopted a resolution inviting its President to convene a high-level interactive dialogue on progress achieved in the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015 and welcoming the offer of Tajikistan to host a high-level international conference on the implementation of the Decade in 2015.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the reports of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourth session and of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-eighth session. The Council also decided to accept the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 9 October 2015. The Council further decided that the fifth session of the Committee of Experts would be held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015 and that the twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts would be held in Bangkok on 25–29 April 2016.

Energy and natural resources

Energy

Nuclear energy

International Atomic Energy Agency

As set forth in its 2014 annual report [GC(59)/7], the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued

to focus—in addition to its work in strengthening global nuclear verification and non-proliferation efforts (see PART ONE, Chapter VII)—on promoting peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, nuclear safety and security, as well as ensuring through its technical cooperation programme that the benefits of nuclear science and technology were shared by all of its member States. The fifty-eighth session of the IAEA General Conference (Vienna, 22–26 September) [GC(58)/RES/DEC/(2014)] adopted resolutions on international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety; nuclear security; the Agency’s technical cooperation activities and those related to nuclear science, technology and applications; the effectiveness and efficiency of IAEA safeguards; implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; and application of the Agency’s safeguards in the Middle East, among other matters.

In August [A/69/255], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the IAEA annual report for the calendar year 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 979], of which the Assembly took note on 3 November 2014 by resolution 69/7 (see p. 1162).

Activities

According to the 2014 IAEA annual report, at the end of the year, there were 438 nuclear power reactors in operation around the world, making for a total nuclear energy-generating capacity of 376.2 gigawatts-electric. During 2014, five reactors were connected to the grid and one was permanently shut down, while construction began on three new reactors. Asia remained the centre of short- and long-term growth prospects, accounting for 46 of the 70 reactors under construction.

Among the major meetings organized by the Agency over the course of the year, the International Conference on Human Resource Development for Nuclear Power Programmes: Building and Sustaining Capacity (Vienna, 12–16 May) noted that more systematic training approaches were being used globally in the nuclear field and that development across the skills pyramid was improving. The International Symposium on Uranium Raw Material for the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Exploration, Mining, Production, Supply and Demand, Economics and Environmental Issues (Vienna, 23–27 June) highlighted recent developments in uranium exploration, mining and processing,

including innovative financing, the use of advanced technologies in “smart mines”, integrated exploration and “wealth from wastes”. The Symposium also addressed emergent issues such as the need for attention to social licensing and stakeholder engagement, the rollout of new technologies across the mining life cycle, sustainable recovery and replacement of low-cost resources. Participants in the 25th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 13–18 October) reviewed advances and achievements in physics and technology needed to demonstrate electricity production from fusion, along with progress in constructing the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor—the world’s largest tokamak. Key areas identified for future attention included blanket and radiochemistry technologies, systems integration, technologies for the steady-state operation of fusion systems and technologies for fusion-fission hybrid systems.

Throughout 2014, IAEA continued to support its member States in building, strengthening and maintaining capacities for the safe, peaceful and secure use of nuclear technology. It also focused on developing isotope techniques for groundwater assessments—including the assessment of the Guaraní aquifer shared by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay—in order to help meet the demand for freshwater resources and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Agency assisted other member States in evaluating programmes created to prevent and treat malnutrition in early life by using stable isotope techniques. It hosted an International Symposium on Understanding Moderate Malnutrition in Children for Effective Interventions (Vienna, 26–29 May) that determined that better tools were required to prevent and treat moderate malnutrition. In addition, IAEA conducted a Consultants Meeting on Particle Therapy in the 21st Century: Relevance to Developing Countries (Vienna, 11–14 November) that investigated the use of proton therapy to treat cancer for low- and middle-income countries. The Agency further endeavoured to help its member States develop competencies and capabilities in the safe and efficient practice of nuclear medicine by providing an open access, web-based learning programme to support professional development.

IAEA and its member States continued to make progress in strengthening nuclear safety and security by implementing the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety endorsed after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant [YUN 2011, p. 587]. In 2014, the Agency organized two major meetings to share lessons learned from the accident. The International Experts Meeting on Radiation Protection after the Fukushima Daiichi Accident (Vienna, 17–21 February) covered issues ranging from the releases of radioactive material to the environment, managing the impact of the radioactive releases from the accident, international

standards and communication. The International Experts Meeting on Severe Accident Management in the Light of the Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (Vienna, 17–20 March) focused on strengthening mitigation capabilities to deal with accidents and explored approaches that could be taken by operating organizations and regulatory bodies. Six Integrated Regulatory Review Service missions and four follow-up missions took place to improve the effectiveness of regulatory structures.

The Agency also carried out five Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) missions, seven follow-up missions and one corporate OSART mission that observed substantial improvements among member States in enhancing the ability of nuclear power plants to withstand severe accidents. Safe disposal solutions for low- and intermediate-level waste were in place for many member States, while progress was made on the disposal of high-level waste. The Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) (Vienna, 24 March–4 April) agreed by consensus on a number of amendments to the CNS guidance documents. The International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability (INLEX) continued to serve as the Agency’s main forum for questions related to nuclear liability. At its fourteenth regular meeting (Vienna, 20–22 May), INLEX discussed liability issues in the case of the transport of nuclear material, transportable nuclear power plants and the impact of the 2012 revision of the Agency’s Transport Regulations to exclude small quantities of nuclear material from the scope of the nuclear liability conventions. Joint IAEA-INLEX missions were conducted in an effort to raise awareness among policymakers and senior officials of the international legal instruments relevant for achieving a global nuclear liability regime.

The Agency further contributed to global efforts to achieve effective nuclear security wherever nuclear and other radioactive material was in use, storage or transport, as well as security of associated facilities. During 2014, IAEA assisted States in their efforts to meet their national responsibilities and international obligations to reduce risks and to respond appropriately to threats. The Seminar on the Promotion of the Entry into Force on the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 12 and 13 June) was held in order to encourage States to contribute to the reinforcement of the global nuclear security regime and to demonstrate commitment to the prevention, detection and punishment of offenses related to nuclear material. The Agency also organized the International Conference on Advances in Nuclear Forensics: Countering the Evolving Threat of Nuclear and Other Radioactive Material out of Regulatory Control (Vienna, 7–10 July)—the first-ever conference dedicated exclusively to nuclear forensics as part of nuclear security infrastructure.

In Africa, IAEA technical cooperation helped more than 40 member States use nuclear and isotopic techniques to increase food production, improve water management and develop capabilities for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The programme also strengthened radiation protection, built competence in radiation safety and strengthened the management of radioactive waste. During 2014, IAEA joined regional and international efforts to fight the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa (see p. 1355) by enhancing diagnostic capacities in Sierra Leone. In the Asia and the Pacific region, priorities remained the strengthening of nuclear safety and security, along with improving related human resources and technological capabilities in the human health and food and agriculture areas. In Europe, technical cooperation activities continued to focus on four priority areas: nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear energy, human health, and isotope and radiation technology applications. The strengthening of regulatory infrastructure for safety was a key component addressed by a two-week School for Drafting Regulations on Radiation Safety (Vienna). In Latin America, priority areas for technical cooperation included food security and agriculture, human health, environment, energy, radiation technology and radiation safety. Particular emphasis was given to supporting the use of stable isotope techniques, enhancing understanding of the processes that influence groundwater management and enhancing medical responses to emergencies. Overall in 2014, approximately €74 million was disbursed to 131 countries or territories, of which 33 were least developed countries.

On 3 November [A/69/PV.38], the Director General of IAEA presented the Agency's 2013 annual report [YUN 2013, p. 979] to the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 3 November [meeting 38], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/7** [draft: A/69/L.7 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 86].

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly,

Having received the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency for 2013,

Taking note of the statement by the Director General of the Agency, in which he provided additional information on the main developments in the activities of the Agency during 2014,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Agency,

Recognizing also the cooperation between the United Nations and the Agency and the Agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the Agency as approved by the General Conference of the Agency on 23 October 1957 and by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 1145(XII) of 14 November 1957,

1. *Takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency;*

2. *Takes note of resolutions GC(58)/RES/10 on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety; GC(58)/RES/11 on nuclear security; GC(58)/RES/12 on the strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities; GC(58)/RES/13 on strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications, comprising GC(58)/RES/13 A on non-power nuclear applications, GC(58)/RES/13 B on nuclear power applications and GC(58)/RES/13 C on nuclear knowledge management; GC(58)/RES/14 on strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards; GC(58)/RES/15 on the implementation of the Agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and GC(58)/RES/16 on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East; and decisions GC(58)/DEC/9 on the amendment to article XIV.A of the Statute of the Agency; and GC(58)/DEC/10 on the promotion of efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's decision-making process, adopted by the General Conference of the Agency at its fifty-eighth regular session, held from 22 to 26 September 2014;*

3. *Reaffirms its strong support for the indispensable role of the Agency in encouraging and assisting the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses, in technology transfer to developing countries and in nuclear safety, verification and security;*

4. *Appeals to Member States to continue to support the activities of the Agency;*

5. *Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Director General of the Agency the records of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly relating to the activities of the Agency.*

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly, apart from organizational matters and items that may have to be considered by operation of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, decided that the item entitled "Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency" remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2014) session.

New and renewable sources of energy

In an August report on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy [A/69/323] submitted to the General Assembly in response to resolution 67/215 [YUN 2012, p. 990], the Secretary-General addressed new and renewable sources of energy, not only as valuable options for energy supply but also as important factors for addressing global challenges such as universal energy access, energy security and climate change, as well as poverty eradication and sustainable development. Many developing and developed countries had demonstrated their potential to satisfy energy requirements with technological advances, lower costs and successful development, even as 2013 and 2014 had witnessed declining investments

globally as a result of the international economic crisis, changes in national policy environments and potential competition from new discoveries of unconventional fossil fuel resources. While the global use of renewable energy had increased in that period, there was much more needed to be done for growth in renewable energy to become self-sustaining and to pursue the accelerated deployment necessary to achieve critical universal goals. Towards limiting emissions from energy generation and supporting the transition to clean energy systems, there was a need to increase investments in renewable energy deployment and development and improve energy infrastructure and energy efficiency.

Sustainable Energy for All

In September, the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/69/395] to the General Assembly in response to resolution 67/215 (*ibid.*) by which the Assembly had declared 2014–2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, in recognition that access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries was essential for sustainable development. The report reviewed progress in the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General [YUN 2011, p. 966] along with actions and activities that had been undertaken to date in support of the Decade following its launch on 5 June by the President of the Assembly, including the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and the establishment of an annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum, the first of which was held in New York from 4 to 6 June, along with the work of the intergovernmental International Renewable Energy Agency. The report furthermore laid out a global plan of action for the Decade especially with regard to promoting more sustainable energy options, including a Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework supported by UN-Energy and more than 20 agencies. Recommendations addressed how a full spectrum of activities could be brought together to ensure long-term predictability and synergies towards the implementation and realization of sustainable energy for all, and stressed the need for well-structured public-private partnerships to mobilize finance and incentivize technology deployment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/468/Add.9], adopted **resolution 69/225** without vote [agenda item 19 (*ibid.*)].

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 Decem-

ber 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009 and 66/206 of 22 December 2011, as well as its resolutions 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and 67/215 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to declare 2014–2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

Recalling also its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the special event of the President of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013,

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and of Agenda 21, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling the high-level event on Sustainable Energy for All, which was held at its sixty-seventh session and which focused on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energies,

Noting the launch, on 5 June 2014, of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, as part of the first annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum, and noting also the initial two-year focus on energy for women, children and health,

Taking note of the Secretary-General’s Sustainable Energy for All initiative in this regard,

Taking note also of the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”, in particular the call for actions to promote sustainable energy in small island developing States,

Noting the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit, and welcoming its contribution to the existing political momentum, with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting that in its report the Open Working Group proposes a goal on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

Concerned that the lack of access to energy and sustainable modern energy services is an important factor that directly affects efforts towards poverty eradication, the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the developing world,

Deeply concerned that 2.6 billion people in developing countries rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that 1.2 billion people are without electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing also the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the provision of the efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be over-emphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Noting with appreciation the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which is aimed at promoting the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Highlighting the importance of the empowerment of developing countries as the way to achieve a rapid expansion of new and renewable sources of energy worldwide,

Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda for sustainable development, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, and encourages the rapid implementation of the strategic objectives defined in the global plan of action for the Decade;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy;

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency on its work programme and budget for 2014–2015, and encourages the Agency to support its member States in the achievement of their renewable energy objectives;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on the activities carried out to mark the Decade, related activities within the United Nations system and the long-term institutional arrangements and accountability arrangements to all stakeholders of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

5. *Stresses* the need to increase the share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy mix as an important contribution to achieving universal access to sustainable modern energy services, and recognizes that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are

prioritized according to their specific challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix;

6. *Emphasizes* that improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy and promoting cleaner and energy-efficient technologies are important for sustainable development;

7. *Recognizes* that the current share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy supply is still low owing to, among other factors, high costs and lack of access to appropriate technologies, and calls for action to achieve the economic viability of new and renewable sources of energy through enhanced research and development support along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

8. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and the diffusion of new and existing environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

9. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

11. *Reaffirms its determination* to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of giving due consideration to energy issues in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to galvanize efforts to make universal access to sustainable modern energy services a priority, as such services contribute to poverty eradication, improve the quality of life, reduce inequality, save lives, improve health and help to provide for basic human needs, as well as curb environmental risks, including those associated with climate change, and stresses that these services are essential to social inclusion and gender equality;

15. *Calls upon* Governments to promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design and implementation of energy policies and to mainstream a gender perspective into such policies;

16. *Also calls upon* Governments to ensure women's full and equal access to and use of new, renewable and sustainable energy to enhance their economic

empowerment, including employment and other income-generating opportunities;

17. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in the most rapid reduction in the cost of new and renewable sources of energy and increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment;

18. *Reiterates its call upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of stable and predictable financial resources and technical assistance and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account, inter alia, the initiatives taken by Member States and international organizations to create an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including measures to improve access to such technologies;

21. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to promote renewable energy and related sustainable practices in all United Nations facilities around the world and to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session the results of related actions;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".

Transit of energy

Report of Secretary-General. In an August report on the reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation [A/69/309], submitted in response to resolution 67/263 [YUN 2013, p. 983], the Secretary-General emphasized that energy transit required extensive international cooperation. Ensuring the security of energy supply, demand and transit were essential to securing a sustainable energy future. The Secretary-General considered there to be an opportunity for more detailed rules on transit and more comprehensive investment guidelines that would enhance the existing energy transit framework. In addition, he suggested that international cooperation could be strengthened by further dialogue focused

on developing enhanced transportation systems and pipeline networks at the international, regional and global levels. Other important areas of cooperation included the diversification of resources, the diversification of energy transportation routes, the design of enhanced oil and gas pipelines using advanced technologies, the improvement of pipeline systems and the development of pipeline networks and other energy infrastructure, including electricity grids. Such initiatives could be advanced by formulating concrete international legal principles and norms, taking into account the experience of Member States and international organizations.

Communication. In a later communication [A/69/725], Turkmenistan informed the Secretary-General that the Declaration on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development was adopted at the International Meeting of Experts on the Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy for Sustainable Development held in Ashgabat from 10 to 11 December.

By **decision 69/544** of 19 December, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General.

Natural resources

Water resources

UN-Water

According to the 2014 annual report issued by UN-Water, priority areas for the inter-agency mechanism during the year included transboundary waters, water and climate change, water scarcity and water efficiency, water supply and basic sanitation, and water quality.

In preparation of World Water Day (21 March), the annual UN-Water Zaragoza (Spain) conference, held from 13 to 16 January, broadened its focus from the immediate nexus of water and energy to a practical consideration of how partnerships could help implement responses that would achieve water and energy efficiency, secured access and sustainability. The celebration of World Water Day in Tokyo sought to raise awareness of the interlinkages between water and energy; contribute to a policy dialogue on the broad range of issues related to the nexus of water and energy; and demonstrate to decision makers in both the energy sector and the water domain that integrated approaches and solutions to water-energy issues could achieve greater economic and social impacts. World Water Week (Stockholm, 31 August–5 September) further highlighted the theme of energy and water.

The UN-Water celebration of World Water Day was organized by the United Nations University (UNU) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on behalf of UN-Water on 20–21 March and took place at UNU headquarters in Tokyo,

Japan. On this occasion, the World Water Development Report 2014 on Water and Energy was launched.

Also of note in 2014, the UN Watercourses Convention [YUN 1997, p. 1336] went into effect, as the number of accessing parties reached the required total of 35.

International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013

In August, the Secretary-General provided an overview of activities undertaken in the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 984].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/468/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/215** without vote [agenda item 19 (a)].

International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/193 of 22 December 1992 on the observance of World Day for Water, 55/196 of 20 December 2000, by which it proclaimed 2003 the International Year of Freshwater, 58/217 of 23 December 2003, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, to commence on World Water Day, 22 March 2005, 59/228 of 22 December 2004, 61/192 of 20 December 2006, by which it proclaimed 2008 the International Year of Sanitation, 64/198 of 21 December 2009 on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the Decade, 65/154 of 20 December 2010, by which it proclaimed 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation and 67/204 of 21 December 2012 on the implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013,

Recalling also its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting that, in its report, the Open Working Group proposes a goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all,

Recalling its resolution 68/157 of 18 December 2013 on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, including resolutions 24/18 of 27 September 2013 and 27/7 of 25 September 2014,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, the annex to which includes agreed guidelines and criteria for the proclamation of international years, and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years,

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and all its principles, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments made therein and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Recognizing that water is at the core of sustainable development, that it is critical for the eradication of poverty and hunger, and that it is indispensable for human health and well-being and central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other relevant internationally agreed goals in the economic, social and environmental fields,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals on water and sanitation, including the Millennium Development Goals, and noting that there has been progress in halving by 2015 the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water,

Noting that accelerated efforts are needed to halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to basic sanitation by 2015, and to develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans at all levels, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of cooperation at all levels, including support to developing countries, for the achievement of these goals,

Noting also national, regional and international efforts to implement the International Year of Sanitation, 2008, the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013, and the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015, and numerous recommendations from international and regional water and water-related events, with a view to taking concrete actions to accelerate progress at all levels towards achieving the internationally agreed water-related goals contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,

Noting further the holding of the sixth World Water Forum in Marseille, France, from 12 to 17 March 2012, and noting that the seventh World Water Forum will be held in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 17 April 2015,

Noting that the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, where the issue of integrated water resources management will be discussed, among other issues,

Noting also the World Water Development Reports, a joint project of United Nations agencies and entities,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;
2. *Welcomes* the activities related to water undertaken by Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and organizations of the United Nations system, inter alia, through inter-agency work, as well as contributions from major groups, for the observance of the International Year of Sanitation, 2008, the International Year of Water

Cooperation, 2013, and the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005–2015;

3. *Encourages* Member States, the Secretariat, organizations of the United Nations system through their coordination mechanisms, including UN-Water, and major groups to accelerate their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”;

4. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene during the week following World Water Day on 22 March 2015 a one-day high-level interactive dialogue of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly in New York on a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade, including the best practices and lessons learned relevant to the achievement of sustainable development;

5. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Tajikistan to host and fund, in June 2015, a high-level international conference on the implementation of the Decade, as a contribution to the comprehensive review of the Decade;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, in the implementation of the Decade at all levels and, as appropriate, in its comprehensive review;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with UN-Water, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system, to engage, as appropriate, in the comprehensive review of the Decade and take appropriate actions to support Member States in the implementation of the Decade during its remaining period;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution elaborating, inter alia, on the evaluation of the Decade, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67.

Geospatial information

Global geospatial information management

Committee report. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management held its fourth session (New York, 6–8 August) [E/2014/46-E/C.20/2014/15], during which it brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council one draft decision for adoption. The Committee also adopted 12 decisions on a global geodetic reference frame; activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development; a global map for sustainable development; determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes; integration of geospatial, statistical and other information; trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial

information management; development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information; development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management; legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data; implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community; reports by regional entities and thematic groups; and coordination of UN activities related to geospatial information management.

By **decision 2014/251** of 17 November, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Committee of Experts on its fourth session; decided that the fifth session of the Committee would be held in New York from 5 to 6 August 2015; and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for that session.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 17 November [meeting 50], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management [E/2014/46], adopted **resolution 2014/31** without vote [agenda item 16 (i)].

A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, in which the Assembly endorsed the resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, which included, inter alia, key actions to improve the efficiency and security of transport, search and rescue, geodesy and other activities by promoting the enhancement of, universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems, including Global Navigation Satellite systems,

Reaffirming further General Assembly resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, in which the Assembly endorsed the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), and means of implementation, which included, inter alia, strengthening cooperation and coordination among global observing systems and research programmes for integrated global observations, taking into account the need for building capacity and sharing of data from ground-based observations, satellite remote sensing and other sources among all countries,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in which Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations,

Noting its resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011, by which the Council established the Committee of Experts on

Global Geospatial Information Management, encouraged Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies, and emphasized the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in that field,

Noting also resolution 1, adopted on 1 November 2012 by the Nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 29 October to 1 November 2012, in which the Conference, realizing the need to improve the sustainability and capability of the Global Geodetic Observing System and the need to encourage and support the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame as the foundation reference frame, urged the Committee of Experts to consult with Member States to adopt and sustain the global geodetic reference frame and provide a road map for its implementation, and to participate in and make commitments to the Global Geodetic Observing System to ensure its long-term sustainability,

Noting further decision 3/102, adopted by the Committee of Experts on 26 July 2013, in which the Committee agreed that actions should be taken to facilitate the submission of a resolution to be tabled at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in order to seek support and commitment at the highest level, and requested the Secretariat to establish a working group, with equitable regional representation, to develop the conceptual note and draft text of the resolution through an open and inclusive process,

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, as no one country can do this alone, to realize the global geodetic reference frame and services to underpin Global Navigation Satellite Systems technology and provide the framework for all geospatial activity, as a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster mitigation and sustainable development,

Recognizing also the economic and scientific importance of and the growing demand for an accurate and stable global geodetic reference frame for the Earth that allows the interrelationship of measurements taken anywhere on the Earth and in space, combining geometric positioning and gravity field-related observations, as the basis and reference in location and height for geospatial information, which is used in many Earth science and societal applications, including sea-level and climate change monitoring, natural hazard and disaster management and a whole series of industrial applications (including mining, agriculture, transport, navigation and construction) in which precise positioning introduces efficiencies,

Recognizing further the extraordinary achievements made by national mapping and space agencies, geodetic commissions, research organizations and universities and other international organizations such as the International Federation of Surveyors, building upon initiatives of the International Association of Geodesy, representing the global geodetic community, in measuring and monitoring changes in the Earth's system on a best-effort basis, including the development of the now adopted International Terrestrial Reference Frame,

Recognizing the investments of Member States in developing satellite missions for positioning and remote sensing of the Earth, supporting a range of scientific endeavours that improve our understanding of the "Earth system" and underpin decision-making, and recognizing that the full societal benefits of these investments are realized only if they are referenced to a common global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Recognizing with appreciation that some Member States are already implementing open geodetic data-sharing mechanisms for the benefit of realizing, improving and accessing the global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Acknowledging that the global geodetic reference frame depends upon the participation of countries all around the globe, and the need to take action to strengthen international cooperation,

1. *Endorses* decision 3/102 of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, whereby a working group should be established, with equitable regional representation, to develop a global geodetic road map that addresses key elements relating to the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame;
2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international organizations to enhance global cooperation in providing technical assistance, especially for capacity development in geodesy for developing countries, with the aim of ensuring the development, sustainability and advancement of the global geodetic reference frame;
3. *Urges* Member States to implement open sharing of geodetic data, standards and conventions to contribute to the global reference frame and regional densifications through relevant national mechanisms and intergovernmental cooperation, and in coordination with the International Association of Geodesy;
4. *Invites* Member States to commit to improving and maintaining appropriate national geodetic infrastructure as an essential means to enhance the global geodetic reference frame;
5. *Also invites* Member States to engage in multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications towards the development of a more sustainable global geodetic reference frame;
6. *Further invites* Member States to develop outreach programmes that make the global geodetic reference frame more visible and understandable to society;
7. *Recommends* the present resolution to the General Assembly for endorsement.

Standardization of geographical names

Group of experts. The twenty-eighth session [E/2014/78] of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (New York, 28 April–2 May) was held in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/257 [YUN 2013, p. 985]. The Group considered reports from its 10 working groups; liaison officers and international organizations; and the Task Team for Africa. It also discussed preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, sched-

uled to be held in New York from 8 to 17 August 2017, as well as the agenda for the planned twenty-ninth session of the Group. The Group proposed two draft decisions by the Economic and Social Council on the report of the Group of Experts and the dates, venue and provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session as well as an amendment to its rules of procedure.

By **decision 2014/240** of 16 July, the Economic and Social Council decided that the twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts would be held from 25 to 29 April 2016 in Bangkok. Also on that date, by **decision 2014/241**, the Council approved an amendment to the rules of procedure of the Group of Ex-

perts, whereby the meetings of the Group and those of its working groups should be public, unless the Group should decide otherwise.

UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

By **decision 2014/252** of 17 November, the Economic and Social Council decided to accept the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 9 October 2015.

Environment and human settlements

In 2014, the United Nations continued its work in protecting the environment and improving the living conditions of people in cities through legally binding instruments along with activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in June, included a high-level segment on the themes “Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production” and “Illegal trade in wildlife”. The Environment Assembly reaffirmed commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome document, “The future we want”. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on science-policy interface; chemicals and waste; marine plastic debris and microplastics; the role of UNEP in promoting air quality; ecosystem-based adaptation; the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme; UN-system coordination on the environment; the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements; implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the programmes of work and budgets for 2014–2015 and 2016–2017; and amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility.

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its twentieth session in December, adopted the Lima Call for Climate Action, which confirmed that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action would complete the work required for the Conference of the Parties, at its twenty-first (2015) session, to adopt a protocol, legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention. Annexed to that decision were the elements for a draft negotiating text. Additional outcomes from the session included progress on the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, and the Lima work programme on gender.

In October, the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted 35 decisions, including those related to the integration of biodiversity into the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, and progress made in implementing the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the

Convention on Biological Diversity, serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, adopted 13 decisions, including those on risk assessment and risk management, socioeconomic considerations and monitoring and reporting. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization entered into force on 12 October. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted 13 decisions to advance implementation of the Protocol.

In November, the combined tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and twenty-sixth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol adopted 22 decisions.

UN-Habitat continued to support the implementation of the 1996 Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. The seventh session of the World Urban Forum took place in April under the theme “Urban equity in development: cities for life” and discussed, *inter alia*, urban equity in development law; urban planning for social cohesion; and raising standards for urban resilience. The outcome of the Forum: the Medellín Declaration, provided recommendations on four key areas: equity as a foundation of sustainable urban development; the city as opportunity; the new urban agenda; and contributing to the future.

In May, the first-ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council focused on sustainable urbanization and provided a platform for discussion on how urbanization could become an instrument for the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In September, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held its first session, at which the Habitat III Secretary-General reported on an outline of work leading up to the Conference in 2016.

Environment

UN Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly

The first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held in Nairobi from 23 to

27 June [A/69/25]. Ministerial-level consultations (26–27 June), which focused on the themes of “Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production” and “Illegal trade in wildlife”, included discussions on eradicating poverty and achieving prosperity within the earth’s safe operating space through sustainable consumption and production; and ensuring a healthy environment, restoring natural assets and enhancing the durability of infrastructure. Annexed to the report [UNEP/EA.1/10] was a summary of the views expressed during the ministerial dialogue on illegal trade in wildlife, convened on 26 June. For its consideration the Environment Assembly had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/7] by the secretariat on regional consultations with major groups and stakeholders leading up to the first session, and reports of the Executive Director on UNEP engagement with regional ministerial forums and their contributions to the Assembly [UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.2] and a draft policy on stakeholder engagement in UNEP [UNEP/EA.1/2].

The Environment Assembly adopted amendments to the rules of procedure [A/69/25 (res. 1/2)] and, recalling paragraph 6 of Governing Council decision 27/2 [YUN 2013, p. 988], decided that each of the five regions would be represented by two members in the 10-member UNEA Bureau [dec. 1/1]. The Assembly further decided to hold its second session in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016 [dec. 1/2].

The Committee of the Whole, established by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held six meetings during the Assembly to consider the agenda items assigned to it.

The Environment Assembly heard from the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on its preparations for the first session. A report [UNEP/EA.1/INF/4] submitted to the Assembly contained the minutes of meetings held by the Committee since the twenty-seventh (2013) session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

On 17 November (**decision 2014/254**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Environment Assembly on its first session.

The General Assembly took note of the report in resolution 69/223 of 19 December (see p. 1178).

Election. On 7 March (**decision 68/416**), the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, re-elected Achim Steiner (Germany/Brazil) as UNEP Executive Director for a two-year term beginning on 15 June 2014 and ending on 14 June 2016.

High-level segment

Sustainable consumption and production

The Environment Assembly had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/18] by the UNEP secretariat on environmental sustainability for human well-being in the

post-2015 development agenda. The note discussed an integrated framework for the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda; evidence from integrated solutions; and building the sustainability foundation for the post-2015 development agenda. The shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns through valuing, maintaining and increasing natural capital, sustainable innovation and dematerialization processes had created opportunities for poverty eradication, green jobs, business and prosperity. The note concluded that the integration of economic growth, social protection and justice, and environmental stewardship should be at the core of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

The Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/1)] adopted the ministerial outcome document of its first session, reaffirming its commitment to achieve a universal, implementable and realizable post-2015 development agenda with the aim of eradicating poverty, protecting the environment and promoting inclusive social and economic development in harmony with nature.

Report of Secretary-General. In a September report [E/2014/93] prepared in response to General Assembly resolutions 67/203 [YUN 2012, p. 811] and 68/210 [YUN 2013, p. 787], the Secretary-General summarized progress on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. Progress had been achieved through the adoption of the 10-year framework at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) [YUN 2012, p. 780], which created momentum for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns. Serving as the 10-year framework secretariat, UNEP put in place the framework’s mandated governance structure; organized regional meetings and workshops for national focal points; guided the multi-stakeholder consultation process to develop the framework programmes; and established procedures for the launch and development of such programmes. The secretariat established a trust fund to provide financial support to the framework and specific programmes and initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The report summarized key mechanisms to delivering capacity-building and implementation at the regional and national levels, as well as regional, national and international progress. The Secretary-General reported on the UN Environment Assembly’s focus at the ministerial level on sustainable consumption and production during its first session, noting that ministers highlighted the potential of the 10-year framework as an important tool for the development of economies on a sustainable basis. He also noted that sustainable consumption and production and the 10-year framework were included in the agenda and dialogues of the 2014 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and at the high-level political forum

on sustainable development, convened in New York from 30 June to 9 July (see p. 944). He concluded that progress had been achieved, but there remained a challenge to communicate and demonstrate the added value of sustainable consumption and production and its potential contributions to competitiveness, social development, poverty eradication and climate change mitigation.

On 17 November (**decision 2014/254**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretary-General's progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Illegal trade in wildlife

The Environment Assembly had before it a UNEP secretariat note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/19] on the illegal trade in wildlife and its environmental, social and economic consequences for sustainable development. The note summarized the scale of the crisis and the particular challenge of the illegal trade in woodfuel and charcoal. It was estimated that global resources worth between \$48 billion and \$158 billion were lost each year through the illegal trade of wildlife, and it played a significant role in threat finance by providing funding for organized crime and non-State armed groups, including terrorist groups. The illegal trade in wildlife was recognized as a significant threat to the environment and sustainable development, as reflected in a progression of international decisions, and the international community and individual countries had implemented a range of successful initiatives to address the crisis. The most effective responses were those that caused a reduction in consumer demand, but such responses required behavioural change, effected through greater awareness and understanding at the consumer end, including about how wildlife was laundered through legal supply chains. Trends suggested that priority attention should be focused on the illegal trade in charcoal and other forest products and the illegal trade derived from charismatic mammals, such as elephants and rhinoceros. The note concluded that responses to the crisis would need to target both the demand and supply elements of the supply chain, as well as the engagement of national and international stakeholders.

In light of the negative impact of wildlife trafficking on sustainable development, the Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/3)] stressed the importance of addressing the issue in the context of the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960) and requested the UNEP Executive Director to work closely with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Secretary-General's Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, notably on core areas of UNEP expertise, such as environmental aspects

of the rule of law, judicial training and information exchange about judicial decisions and practices. In the ministerial outcome document of its first session, the Assembly [res. 1/1] called on the international community and reaffirmed its commitment to take action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

Programme areas

Climate change

During the year, UNEP assisted governments, businesses and individuals on emissions reduction towards minimizing the pace and scale of climate change, and assisted nations and communities most likely to be affected to become more resilient to changing climatic conditions.

The Environment Assembly had before it a UNEP secretariat note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/12] on progress in developing the global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) since the twenty-seventh (2013) and first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council/Forum [YUN 2013, p. 986]. PROVIA represented an interface between the research community, decision makers and other stakeholders, helping the international community of practice share practical experiences and research findings.

In the ministerial outcome document of its first session, the Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/1)] called on the international community and reaffirmed its commitment to undertake urgent actions to address climate change, in accordance with the objective, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and to continue to work towards the adoption in 2015 of an ambitious outcome in the form of a protocol, other legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC applicable to all parties.

UN system coordination and cooperation

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.3] by the UNEP Executive Director on enhancing the coordinating role of UNEP in the UN system on environmental matters, prepared in follow-up to paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, entitled "The future we want" [YUN 2012, p. 791].

Also before the Assembly was a report [UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.2] by the UNEP Executive Director on progress on the work of the Environment Management Group (EMG) [YUN 1998, p. 981], including its issue-specific and technical groups, pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/5 [YUN 2013, p. 989]. The report presented information on the Group's activities and achievements in enhancing coherence in programming environmental activities, mainstreaming environment and enhancing sustainability in policies,

programmes and management practices; it also set out the Group's strategic approach and provided an overview of the direction of its future work, as approved by the Group at their nineteenth (2013) meeting.

Other documents before the Environment Assembly concerning UN system coordination on the environment were a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/9] by the Executive Director listing the corporate memorandums of understanding concluded between UNEP and other UN system bodies, and a secretariat note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/22] providing additional information on the plan for the preparation of a UN system-wide strategy on the environment.

The Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/11)] requested the Executive Director, in his capacity as EMG Chair, to develop system-wide strategies on the environment; to invite the engagement of the UN Secretary-General and the Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate broad ownership in the United Nations at all levels; and to report to the second (2016) session of the Environment Assembly on the Group's work, including recommendations for measures to maximize the effectiveness of EMG and a description of the integration of the outcome of the post-2015 development agenda into the UN environmental work.

International environmental governance

In response to paragraph 29 of Governing Council decision 27/13 [YUN 2013, p. 991], the Executive Director submitted a May report [UNEP/EA.1/INF/8] on the institutional and administrative relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP served as secretariat or performed secretariat functions. The report was prepared in consultation with the secretariats of 11 multilateral environmental agreements. Prior to preparing the report, the Executive Director established a task team comprised of representatives from the secretariats of the multilateral agreements and the relevant UNEP offices to discuss the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between them. The task team held its first meeting on 3 February.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/12)] took note of the report of the Executive Director and welcomed the step taken to establish a task team. It also requested the Executive Director to submit information on the progress made by the task team to the relevant conferences and meetings held in the lead-up to the second session of the UN Environment Assembly.

JIU report. In later notes [A/69/763 & Add.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report [JIU/REP/2014/4] of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Post-Rio+20 review of environmental governance within the United Nations system", followed by his comments on that report and those of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

Chemicals and waste

Waste management. The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/5 & Add.1, 2] by the Executive Director on chemicals and waste management, which provided information on the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/12 [YUN 2013, p. 990] on the topic. The report summarized the activities carried out by UNEP on lead and cadmium; mercury; implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management [YUN 2006, p. 1246]; waste management; persistent organic pollutants; enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster; and the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes.

The Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/5)], having considered the report of the Executive Director, emphasized that the sound management of chemicals and waste was an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development, and requested the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the implementation of the resolution at its second session.

Financing options. The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/5/Add.1] of the Executive Director that contained draft terms of reference for a special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the future Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The Assembly [res. 1/5] adopted the terms of reference for a special programme, as annexed to the resolution, to be funded by voluntary contributions. It requested the Executive Director to establish and administer the Special Programme trust fund and to provide a secretariat to deliver administrative support to the Programme. It also requested the Executive Board of the Special Programme to review the effectiveness of the operational arrangements for the Programme set out in the terms of reference and report to the UN Environment Assembly at its third (2018) session.

Cooperation and coordination. The Environment Assembly [res. 1/5] welcomed the report [UNEP/EA.1/5/Add.2] of the Executive Director on the outcome of the country-led consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and waste cluster and the outcome document of the process, entitled "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term". It requested that the Executive Director forward the outcome document to the upcoming sessions and conferences of the parties of relevant committees, conventions and working groups.

Public participation and access to information and justice

The Environment Assembly [res. 1/13] took note of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment

and Development, acknowledging the importance given to broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings in environmental matters. It noted in particular the progress made in strengthening dialogue among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean towards the application of Principle 10, namely their cooperation on exploring the feasibility of a regional instrument on rights of access to information, participation and environmental justice, under the coordination of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Assembly requested the Executive Director to further enhance access to information in future related policies.

Access to information policy. The Environment Assembly had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/23] by the secretariat transmitting the draft access-to-information policy, established by the Executive Director in accordance with paragraph 17 of decision 27/2 of the first (2013) universal session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The policy, which would apply to information in the custody of the UNEP secretariat, would be piloted and refined in the next year, with the intention of issuing a final version by the end of June 2015.

Sustainable development and poverty eradication

The Environment Assembly [res. 1/10] took note of Governing Council decision 27/8 [YUN 2013, p. 988], in which the Council acknowledged that there were different approaches, visions, models and tools developed by UN Member States in order to achieve sustainable development, and in that regard took note of the approach of “Living Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth” as a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development that could guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystems. The Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to consider organizing a workshop at its second (2016) session about different approaches, visions, models and tools for achieving sustainable development, and to provide a report in response to paragraph 3 of Governing Council decision 27/8 [YUN 2013, p. 988] on the collection and dissemination of information in support of sustainable development and poverty eradication. It also requested the Executive Director to guide and facilitate, through UNEP-Live (see below), the visibility of different visions, approaches, models and tools for sustainable development, and to take those findings into consideration during the consultation processes for the Global Environment Outlook and UNEP-Live.

State of the environment

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/4] of the Executive Director on the state of

the environment, which summarized the key scientific and policy issues coming from the assessment and early-warning activities of UNEP that needed to be brought to the Assembly’s attention. The report highlighted the scientific findings of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the fifth report in the UNEP Global Environment Outlook series, entitled *GEO-5: Global Environment Outlook: Environment for the Future We Want*, and the *Emissions Gap Report 2013*, among others. The report concluded that the scientific community was being asked to synthesize the latest environmental information in order to respond to a growing number of challenges facing society as a result of a changing Earth system. The knowledge gathered by UNEP, based on data and information on broad geographical and temporal scales, needed to be processed through various scientific disciplines. The goal for policymakers was to use that knowledge to inform people about the risks, opportunities and choices that existed, rather than to advocate particular management solutions.

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/4/Add.1] by the UNEP Executive Director on support structures and processes for keeping the world environment situation under review. Pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/11 [YUN 2013, p. 990], the report summarized recent progress in the development of UNEP-Live—a web-based platform for promoting access to and the use of environmental information. The report presented a proposal for a multi-stage approach for the production of the next report in the Global Environment Outlook series, GEO-6, towards ensuring the delivery of the key findings of GEO-6 in time for endorsement at the second (2016) session of the Environment Assembly. The report also reviewed the status of various other assessment processes, platforms and networks.

Science-policy interface

The Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/2/Add.1] of the UNEP Executive Director on the key actions undertaken to strengthen the science-policy interface to better address the changing nature and implications of human–environment interactions, global megatrends and policies on sustainable development and human well-being. The actions taken included, inter alia, expanding partnerships with centres of excellence and international research programmes to underpin the science in the UNEP programme of work; working closely with Member States, major groups and stakeholders and multilateral environmental agreements to publish data through the UNEP-Live knowledge management system; and collaborating with other institutions to undertake a gap analysis and evaluation of emerging issues.

The Environment Assembly also had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/14] by the UNEP secretariat on proposed procedures for enhancing future assessment

processes and transparency safeguards, based on a review of best practices. The proposed procedures emphasized general principles; stakeholder engagement and selection of participants; policy relevance; legitimacy and scientific credibility; transparency; administrative processes; conflict of interest; inclusion of diverging viewpoints; and government and peer-review processes.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/4)] welcomed the progress made during the design and development of UNEP-Live as a tool to enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the future approach to keeping the world environment situation under review. It also welcomed the briefing on the science-policy interface by the Executive Director to the high-level segment of the first session of the Environment Assembly, and requested the Executive Director to continue providing information from existing and ongoing assessments, and on progress made towards previously agreed global environmental goals to guide future policy debates at the Assembly. The Executive Director was further requested to promote a strong science-policy interface by expanding partnerships with centres of excellence and research programmes; to foster collaboration with multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, relevant UN agencies and programmes and scientific panels for joint efforts to strengthen the science-policy interface; and to work closely with relevant UN bodies on production of the Global Sustainable Development Report; to undertake, within the work and budget programme, the preparation of the sixth Global Environment Outlook report. The Assembly also requested the Executive Director to submit to its second (2016) session a long-term plan for the development and use of UNEP-Live; a gap analysis report on environmental data, information and assessments as well as recommendations on policy instruments for a strengthened science-policy interface; and a report on the present resolution.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.1] of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/4 [YUN 2013, p. 988] on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The report summarized key decisions of the Plenary of the Platform at its second session (Antalya, Turkey, 9–14 December 2013) [UNEP/EA.1/INF/15], including the adoption of its work programme for 2014–2018 and other activities carried out in the first quarter of 2014. Operationalization of the Platform was an opportunity for innovation in the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services because of its recognition of the importance of indigenous and local knowledge, and its emphasis on capacity-building and ensuring

that the best available information was provided to decision makers in accordance with their needs.

Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme

The Environment Assembly had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/13] by the secretariat on the status of the evaluation and redesign of the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme (GEMS/Water). Key stakeholders in the Programme had worked out modalities, outlined a rationale and carried out a mapping of individual partner preferences. The potential for enhancing GEMS/Water benefits and services for global, regional and country-based water quality assessment and policy information, including in providing evidence and knowledge products for the post-2015 agenda and the next Global Environment Outlook (GEO), had been explored. Opportunities had emerged from the launch of UNEP-Live, which would provide freshwater quality assurance and quality-control data and information in support of the GEO process. The report highlighted the vision for GEMS/Water, including its objectives, functions, challenges, transition options and planned reforms.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/9)] underlined the need to further improve the global coverage and consistency of water quality data and requested the UNEP Executive Director to collaborate with member States to identify additional key elements of GEMS/Water, such as regional hubs, capacity development programmes, technology support and new services, and to ensure the necessary resources for enabling the UNEP-based GEMS/Water Global Programme Coordination Unit to operate as the interface between national focal points, GEMStat, the GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre, GEMS/Water regional hubs and relevant global partners. It also requested the Executive Director to initiate discussions on a common data policy with member States, UN agencies and other relevant organizations towards building a consistent database in GEMStat, supporting UNEP-Live and informing sustainable development policies. The Assembly further requested the Executive Director to draft a revised GEMS/Water programme, including a budget, for adoption at its second (2016) session.

Ecosystem-based adaptation

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/8)], conscious of the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change, recognized that ecosystem-based approaches should contribute to climate-resilient sustainable development in synergy with other adaptation-relevant approaches in all sectors. It encouraged all countries to include and improve ecosystem and community-based adaptation in their national policies, including those on climate change adaptation, food security and the sustainable management

of forests. It requested the UNEP Executive Director to continue the collaboration between UNEP and UNDP and with other relevant institutions and organizations to integrate ecosystems as a key element in national adaptation planning processes. It also requested the Executive Director, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, UN agencies, civil society and other stakeholders, to enhance support to developing countries, at their request, for the development and implementation of community-based, and national and regional ecosystem-based adaptation programmes and activities.

International water quality guidelines for ecosystems

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/3] of the UNEP Executive Director on the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/3 [YUN 2013, p. 988] on the development of international water quality guidelines for ecosystems. Achievements included strengthened recognition of the need for such guidelines, as demonstrated by the nominations from over 50 Governments of policy and technical experts to support the process, and the establishment of agreements and partnerships with UN agencies and other organizations such as water associations and universities. The Executive Director reported progress on defining the outline of the guidelines and noted that the draft guidelines would be subjected to regional and international consultation processes in 2015, with the final draft envisaged to be ready for submission to the second (2016) session of the Environment Assembly.

Marine plastic debris and microplastics

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/6)] recognized the problem of plastics, including microplastics, in the marine environment due to their large and increasing use and the inadequate management and disposal of plastic waste, and because plastic debris in the marine environment was fragmenting into secondary microplastics. It emphasized that further urgent action was needed to address the challenges posed by marine plastic debris and microplastics, by addressing such materials at source, by reducing pollution through improved waste management practices and by cleaning up existing debris and litter. The Assembly requested the Executive Director to support countries in the development and implementation of national or regional action plans to reduce marine litter, and, in consultation with other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to undertake a study on marine plastic debris and marine microplastics and to present the study for consideration at its second (2016) session.

Air quality

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/7)] recognized that poor air quality was a growing challenge in the context of sustainable development and

that efforts across sectors to improve air quality were needed. It requested, *inter alia*, the UNEP Executive Director to support Governments through capacity-building activities on air quality, such as workshops and policy development assistance; raise awareness of the public health and environmental risks of air pollution and the benefits of improved air quality, including through public outreach and Global Environment Outlook assessment processes; and to undertake global, regional and subregional assessments by 2016, if possible, focused on identifying gaps in capacity to address air quality issues. The Assembly further requested the Executive Director to present to its second (2016) session a report on information from Governments regarding their cross-sectoral actions to improve air quality and an update on progress made in implementing the present resolution.

Environmental law

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.3] of the UNEP Executive Director on the process for the midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV), and developments in the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/9 [YUN 2013, p. 989]. The report noted that the Montevideo Programme, as a broad strategy for formulating environmental law activities for the decade 2010–2019, was synonymous with the evolution of environmental law and a driver for exemplifying the increased linkages between environmental law and the three pillars of the United Nations—peace and security, human rights and development. The Executive Director hoped the midterm review process would highlight progress or challenges in the implementation of Montevideo Programme IV and serve as a platform for those in environmental law and the international law community to enhance global partnerships and strengthen the institutional architecture for achieving environmental sustainability. Annexed to the report were the programme areas of Montevideo Programme IV.

Implementation of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document

The Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.5] of the UNEP Executive Director on actions taken towards implementation of paragraph 13 of UNEP Governing Council decision 27/2, in which the Council committed to progressively consolidating UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi. Implementation of that decision took place in the context of strengthening and upgrading UNEP, according to subparagraph (g) of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document “The future we want” [YUN 2012, p. 782], and General Assembly resolution 67/213 [YUN 2012, p. 1000]. The report also provided

recommendations for the 2016–2017 programme of work to strengthen the regional presence of UNEP and consolidate its headquarters functions in Nairobi.

The Assembly also had before it a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/16] by the UNEP secretariat with information related to the consolidation of headquarters functions that supplemented and supported the above report of the Executive Director.

Governance, work programme and budget

Programme of work and budget for 2014–2015 and proposed programme for 2016–2017

At its first session, the Environment Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/7/Add.1] of the UNEP Executive Director on the proposed revised biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015, in response to Governing Council decision 27/13 [YUN 2013, p. 991]. The report presented changes in indicator targets against expected accomplishments and in accountability for the delivery of outputs in the programme of work that resulted from changes in the structure of UNEP. Before the Assembly was also a note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/24] by the Executive Director on changes to the programme of work and budget for 2014–2015 and changes to the strategic framework for the biennium, which the Committee on Programme and Coordination decided in 2013.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/14)], having considered the approved medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 and the approved programme of work and budget for 2014–2015, approved the revised programme of work and budget for 2014–2015, which took into account the implications of the level of resources from the regular UN budget to UNEP in the amount of \$34.9 million.

The Environmental Assembly had before it a report [UNEP/EA.1/7] on the proposed updated biennial programme of work and budget for 2016–2017, reflecting the changes made following consultations during the year with the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The programme of work contained units of measure for each indicator, estimates of baselines and targets, a theory of change and outputs that showed what the organization must deliver to achieve its expected accomplishments and fulfil its objectives. It was designed to ensure coherence and continuity with the programme of work for the first half of the medium-term strategy period, 2014–2017, as well as to continue to build on the strengthened regional presence of UNEP. The envisaged budget for the programme of work totalled \$687 million, including a programmed allocation from the regular UN budget of \$49.7 million. The report included narratives on seven subprogrammes: climate change; disasters and conflicts; ecosystem management; environmental governance; chemicals and waste; resource efficiency

and sustainable consumption and production; and environment under review.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/15)], having considered the approved medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 and the proposed programme of work and budget for 2016–2017, approved the programme of work for 2016–2017 and the appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of \$271 million, of which a maximum of \$122 million was allocated to defraying post costs.

The Environment Assembly also had before it reports by the Executive Director on the voluntary indicative scale of contributions for 2014–2015 [UNEP/EA.1/INF/17] and the revision of UNEP financial rules [UNEP/EA.1/6], and a note by the UNEP secretariat on programme performance [UNEP/EA.1/INF/6].

Trust funds

The Executive Director submitted a report on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions [UNEP/EA.1/8] noting that UNEP administered both single-donor and multi-donor trust funds. In the case of the former, each designated donor contribution was managed as a separate trust fund; whereas for multi-donor trust funds, contributions from multiple donors were managed in a combined pool of funds. The primary multi-donor fund for UNEP was the Environment Fund. Donor requests for the establishment of single-donor trust funds had led to the creation of a large number of relatively small trust funds whose transaction costs were relatively high owing to varying donor requirements with regard to monitoring and reporting. UNEP-administered trust funds had grown over time from one in 1972 to 124 in December 2013. During the biennium 2012–2013, contributions to the Environment Fund were \$152 million compared to \$773 million for trust funds, excluding the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The proliferation of single-donor funds marked a change in the approach of UNEP funding, with increasing levels of contributions earmarked for specific initiatives. Multi-donor trust funds enhanced effectiveness by reducing transaction costs and mitigating the high levels of risk inherent in the management of single-donor and earmarked trust funds. The approved programme of work for 2014–2015 aimed to move increasingly from earmarked resources to the Environment Fund, guided by the member States' collective programmatic decisions.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/16)] considered the report of the Executive Director as well as requests that UNEP carry out the functions of secretariats for other bodies related to its work. In support of the UNEP programme of work, the Assembly approved 7 trust funds (5 general, 2 technical) established since the twenty-seventh (2013) session of the UNEP Governing Council, and 16 trust funds (5

general, 11 technical) whose extension was subject to receipt by the UNEP Executive Director of requests from the relevant Governments or contracting parties. In support of regional seas programmes, conventions, protocols and special funds, the Assembly approved 2 trust funds established since the Governing Council's twenty-seventh session, and 23 trust funds subject to the receipt of requests from the relevant Governments or parties.

Board of Auditors report

In June [A/69/5/Add.7], the Board of Auditors transmitted to the General Assembly its report and financial report and audited financial statements of UNEP for the biennium ended 31 December 2013. The report showed total income of \$943.4 million and expenditure of \$751.4 million, an increase in income of 17.8 per cent and a decrease in expenditure by 7.1 per cent compared to the previous biennium. UNEP also administered 14 multilateral environmental agreements, the income (\$214.8 million) and the expenditure (\$177.7 million) of which were included in the consolidated financial statements. The overall excess of income over expenditure was \$192 million. The Trust Fund for the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer had income of \$266.2 million and expenditure of \$298.7 million in the biennium, and a reserve balance of \$322.5 million. The report outlined key findings related to budgetary controls; procurement management; preparedness for implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and follow-up of previous recommendations. The Board made recommendations related to the monitoring of project budget implementation; the strengthening of procurement planning and contract management; and IPSAS implementation.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the report of the Board of Auditors and financial report and audited financial statements of UNEP would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Additional reports

Other documents submitted to the first session of the Environment Assembly were reports by the Executive Director on the results of the sixty-eighth (2013) session of the General Assembly of relevance to the Environment Assembly [UNEP/EA.1/INF/3 & Add.1] and the status of the Environment Fund and other sources of UNEP funding for the biennium 2012–2013 [UNEP/EA.1/INF/5], and notes by the UNEP secretariat on changes in the status of conventions and protocols in the field of the environment [UNEP/EA.1/INF/10], and progress on the Eye on Earth initiative [UNEP/EA.1/INF/11].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/468/Add.7] adopted **resolution 69/223** without vote [agenda item 19 (g)].

Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the mandate contained in its resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997, the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000 and the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010,

Reaffirming also its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Recalling its resolutions 67/213 of 21 December 2012 and 68/215 of 20 December 2013,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and its principles,

Taking into account Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, entitled "The future we want", and noting the follow-up on paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a) to (b), of the outcome document, including through General Assembly resolution 67/213,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the outcome document of the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,

Committed to strengthening international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Committed also to enhancing the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations

coordination bodies and empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment,

Reiterating the need for secure, stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997(XXVII), underlining the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget,

Reaffirming the commitment, as contained in the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014, to, inter alia, ensure the full integration of the environmental dimension, especially throughout the sustainable development agenda, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014, and takes note of the report on the session and the resolutions and decisions contained therein;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Recognizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme will participate, as appropriate, in the elaboration of and the summit on the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Reiterates* that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard calls for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building adopted by the Programme;

5. *Also reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically based and policy-relevant global environmental assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels;

6. *Notes* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide options to secure the participation of developing countries in the Environment Assembly;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, and also recalls its resolution 68/248 of 27 December 2013;

8. *Also recalls* the decision contained in paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288;

9. *Urges* all Member States and other stakeholders in a position to do so to increase voluntary funding to the United Nations Environment Programme, including to the Environment Fund, notes the need for continued efforts

to broaden the donor base and mobilize resources from all sources, including stakeholders, and welcomes the increased support received in this regard;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme".

Other matters

Cooperation with UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/84** of 5 December (see p. 733), requested UNEP to continue to support the work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and the dissemination of its findings to the Assembly, the scientific community and the public. The Assembly encouraged UNEP to maintain the Committee's funding, and encouraged Member States to make voluntary contributions to the UNEP general trust fund established to support the Committee's work.

UNEP Year Book

The *UNEP Year Book 2014: Emerging issues in our global environment* provided information on excess nitrogen in the environment; the emergence of infectious diseases; fish and shellfish farming in marine ecosystems; illegal trade in wildlife; methane from hydrates; the potential of citizen science; air pollution, cited as the leading cause of environmentally related deaths; plastic debris in the ocean; securing soil carbon benefits; and rapid change in the Arctic. A key message of the *Year Book* was that access to timely, reliable environmental information from around the world would be increasingly required to identify emerging issues and develop effective actions and policies in response.

Global Environment Facility

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) united 183 member Governments in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to address environmental issues. The GEF partnership comprised, among others, UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. GEF served as the financial mechanism for the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [YUN 1992, p. 683], the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [ibid., p. 681], the 1994 United

Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) [YUN 1994, p. 944], and the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants [YUN 2001, p. 971].

Environment Assembly. The Environment Assembly had before it a June report [UNEP/EA.1/9] of the Executive Director describing amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, pursuant to their approval in May by the Fifth GEF Assembly. Under the amendments, GEF would operate as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and its responsibilities to the conventions it already served were clarified; the “ozone layer depletion” and “persistent organic pollutants” focal areas were replaced with a “chemicals and waste” focal area; the eligibility criteria for accessing GEF funding were updated; and the name of the GEF Evaluation Office was changed to the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. A note [UNEP/EA.1/INF/21] by the UNEP secretariat provided supplementary information to the report of the Executive Director, including a joint summary of the Chairs of the forty-fifth (2013) meeting of the GEF Council; the Council’s, proposed amendments to the Instrument; the Chairs summary of the Fifth GEF Assembly; and correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of GEF addressed to the UNEP Executive Director.

The Environment Assembly [A/69/25 (res. 1/17)] took note of the report of the Executive Director and adopted the amendments to the Instrument, pursuant to the decision of the Fifth GEF Assembly in May.

Annual Performance Report. The GEF *Annual Performance Report 2014* provided an overview of the performance of GEF activities with regard to project outcomes and sustainability, factors affecting attainment of project results, and the quality of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) arrangements. The report covered 918 projects that represented \$4.07 billion in GEF funding and \$19.13 billion in realized co-financing. That total included 156 recently completed projects in the 2014 annual performance report cohort that accounted for \$803.8 million in GEF funding, and 111 projects completed prior to 2005 that were being reported on for the first time. Inclusion of the latter data allowed the GEF Independent Evaluation Office to report on the results of the GEF project portfolio by replenishment period, which provided insights on performance trends. The report concluded that 79 per cent of projects in the 2014 cohort, which accounted for 81 per cent of the funding, had outcome ratings in the satisfactory range. Sixty-three per cent of projects in the 2014 cohort, which accounted for 62 per cent of the funding, had sustainability of outcome ratings of moderately likely or above, and the quality of implementation and execution ratings were in the

satisfactory range for approximately 80 per cent of all completed projects. There had also been a steady rise in the median ratio of promised co-financing to GEF grant over the replenishment phases, with GEF partners having largely met or exceeded project co-financing expectations, but further conclusions highlighted weaknesses related to M&E project design, intervention strategies and overly ambitious project objectives.

Reports to UNFCCC. In May [FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.3], GEF reported to the fortieth (2014) session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation on progress made in carrying out the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer. The report reviewed relevant UNFCCC guidance; implementation of the Poznan Strategic and Long-Term Programmes on Technology Transfer; and GEF consultation with the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

In its report [FCCC/CP/2014/2 & Add.1] to the twentieth (2014) session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (see p. 1181), GEF described its responses to the guidance provided by the Conference at its nineteenth (2013) session [YUN 2013, p. 995]; the role of GEF support in achieving climate benefits; and GEF initiatives in the fields of climate change, chemicals and waste, and natural resource management.

Report to CBD. In July [UNEP/CBD/COP/12/14/Add.1], the GEF Executive Secretary reported to the twelfth (2014) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (see p. 1185). The report outlined GEF activities on biological diversity between July 2012 and June 2014, including those carried out in response to guidance received from the eleventh (2012) session of the Conference of the Parties [YUN 2012, p. 1006]. GEF approved 167 projects supporting implementation of the CBD and the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, representing 46 per cent of the resources allocated to the biodiversity focal area during the GEF-5 (2010–2014) programming period.

International conventions and mechanisms

In response to resolutions 68/212 [YUN 2013, p. 995], 68/213 [ibid., p. 1001] and 68/214 [ibid., p. 998], the Secretary-General, in a September note [A/69/317], transmitted reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see p. 1181); the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (see p. 1183); and the Convention on Biological Diversity (see p. 1185)—collectively known as the “Rio Conventions”.

Joint Liaison Group. The thirteenth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (New York, 24 September) discussed potential lines of

cooperation within the Group for 2014 and 2015, in the context of joint indicator work. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification suggested the adoption of three biophysical indicators for which data already existed and follow-up would be relatively easy. It was agreed that the Group should focus on issues where collective advances could be made, while bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of the Rio Conventions. The Group agreed to cooperate to promote the adoption of the joint indicators during upcoming meetings of the Rio Conventions.

Convention on climate change

As at 31 December, 195 States and the European Union (EU) were parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which opened for signature in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 681] and entered into force in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 938]. South Sudan acceded during the year.

At year's end, 191 States and the EU were parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention [YUN 1997, p. 1048], which entered into force in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 1146]. There were 29 parties to the 2006 amendment to annex B of the Protocol [YUN 2006, p. 1220], which had not yet entered into force. South Africa deposited its instrument of ratification in 2014.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/212, the Secretary-General, in his September note [A/69/317], transmitted to the Assembly the report of the UNFCCC Executive Secretary on the outcomes of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention [YUN 2013, p. 995] and the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol [ibid.], both of which took place in Warsaw, Poland from 11–23 November 2013. In Warsaw, the Conference made progress towards a new global agreement and major outcomes were the establishment of the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impact under the Cancún Adaptation Framework [YUN 2010, p. 1019]; the adoption of a set of decisions related to finance, including long-term climate finance and the Green Climate Fund; adoption of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus; adoption of the modalities and procedures of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and its Advisory Board; and the adoption of general guidelines in the measurement, reporting and verification of domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country parties. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol considered the status report presented by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary on the instruments of acceptance received by the Depositary in respect of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. It also provided further guid-

ance in respect of article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol, on joint implementation, and in relation to the clean development mechanism and the anticipated revision of the mechanism's modalities and procedures in 2015.

Conference of parties. The twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (Lima, Peru, 1–14 December) [FCCC/CP/2014/10 & Add.1–3] adopted 24 decisions. Among the main outcomes of the Lima Conference were the Lima Call for Climate Action on further advancing the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action towards achieving an ambitious and meaningful global agreement in 2015, which included an annex with elements of a draft negotiating text; progress on the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including agreement on the work plan and the composition of its executive committee; and the Lima work programme on gender, which represented progress since the decision on gender reached by the Parties in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1003].

The decisions adopted by the Conference concerned, among other topics, national adaptation plans; the report of the Adaptation Committee; long-term climate finance; the reports to the Conference of the Standing Committee on Finance, the Green Climate Fund, and the Global Environment Facility; the fifth review of the Financial Mechanism; further guidance to the Least Developed Countries Fund; the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; guidelines on the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention; training programmes for review experts for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and of biennial reports and national communications of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention; the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising; the forum and work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures; and parties included in Annex I to the Convention whose special circumstances were recognized by the Conference.

Meeting of Protocol parties. The tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol [FCCC/KP/CMP/2014/9 & Add.1], held concurrently with the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, adopted eight decisions. The Conference of the Parties considered the status report presented by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary on the instruments of acceptance received by the Depositary in respect of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. The President of the Conference noted that the Doha Amendment required an additional 123 instruments of acceptance to enter into force. Other decisions concerned the Adaptation Fund Board and the Adapta-

tion Fund; the completion date of the expert review process under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol for the first commitment period; guidance related to the clean development mechanism; guidance on the implementation of Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol; synergy related to accreditation under the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol; and the outcome of the work programme on modalities and procedures for possible additional land use, land-use change and forestry activities under the clean development mechanism.

Subsidiary bodies. During the year, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice held its fortieth (Bonn, Germany, 4–15 June) [FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2 & Add.1] and forty-first (Lima, Peru, 1–6 December) [FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5] sessions. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation also held its fortieth (Bonn, 4–15 June) [FCCC/SBI/2014/8 & Add.1] and forty-first (Lima, 1–8 December) [FCCC/SBI/2014/21] sessions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.4], adopted **resolution 69/220** without vote [agenda item 19 (d)].

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012 and 68/212 of 20 December 2013 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling further that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions, and that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcomes of the thirteenth to nineteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the third to ninth sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the

Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (samoa) Pathway,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard emphasizes that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority;

2. *Notes* the determination of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, expressed in its decision 2/CP.18, to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020;

3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Poland in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013, and in particular its invitation, in its decision 1/CP.19, to all parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions, in the context of adopting a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties towards achieving the objective of the Convention, as set out in its article 2, and to communicate them well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (by the first quarter of 2015 by those parties ready to do so) in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions;

4. *Notes* the reiteration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action shall be guided by the principles of the Convention;

5. *Also notes* the request of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action further elaborate elements for a draft negotiating text, taking into consideration its work, including its work on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and transparency of action and support;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013;

7. *Also takes note* of decision 2/CP.19, taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its nineteenth session, and resolves to work together to implement and operationalize the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts;

8. *Notes* the conclusion of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and welcomes its contribution to the existing political momentum, with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of Peru of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in Lima from 1 to 12 December 2014;

10. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind".

Convention to combat desertification

As at 31 December, 194 States and the EU were parties to the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) [YUN 1994, p. 944], which entered into force in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 958]. Canada withdrew from the Convention and South Sudan acceded during the year.

In his September note on the implementation of UN environmental conventions [A/69/317], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Convention secretariat. The report reviewed the major outcomes of the eleventh (2013) session of the Conference of the Parties of relevance to the General Assembly; follow-up to the outcomes of the eleventh (2013) session of the

Conference of the Parties of relevance to General Assembly processes, including the establishment of an intergovernmental working group and a science-policy interface mechanism; UN secretariat leadership dealing with desertification, land degradation and drought issues; desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda; the interim report of the co-chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (see p. 945) submitted to the General Assembly; the discussion by the Open Working Group on possible goals and targets; celebrations of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought; collaboration with GEF; and exchanges regarding the next (2015) meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification

In response to resolution 64/201 [YUN 2009, p. 1025], in which the General Assembly designated the UNCCD secretariat as the focal point for the 2010–2020 United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/311] on the implementation of the Decade, highlighting the initiatives of the secretariat, including efforts to carry out activities collaboratively with Member States, stakeholders and other UN entities. Activities to implement the Decade, with the objective of enhancing awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought issues, included the organization of global and regional launches of the Decade; side events at conferences; publications; web-based outreach; support to the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought; and joint observances and other special initiatives. The report concluded with lessons learned and recommendations for continuing to advance the objectives of the Decade.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.5], adopted **resolution 69/221** without vote [agenda item 19 (e)].

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/213 of 20 December 2013, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled

"The future we want", in which the Conference, *inter alia*, recognized the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability, stressed that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension that continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, also stressed the particular challenges this poses for Africa, the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries, expressed deep concern at the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region, and called for urgent action through short-, medium- and long-term measures at all levels,

Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation and, in view of this, for striving to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development, which should act to catalyse financial resources from a range of public and private sources,

Noting, in this regard, that combating land degradation, desertification and drought, including through sustainable land management, can contribute to easing forced migration flows influenced by a number of factors, including economic, social, security and environmental concerns, which can, in turn, reduce the current and potential fighting over resources in degraded areas,

Concerned by the devastating consequences of extreme weather phenomena in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid regions, characterized by recurrent and long spells of drought, flooding and increasing frequency and severity of dust-storms and sandstorms, and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Emphasizing the need to promote sustainable land management, sustainable forest management and the restoration of degraded lands in order to combat desertification, land degradation and drought,

Noting that avoiding additional land degradation, especially in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, while restoring degraded land, is crucial in order for the rural poor to achieve food security and access to energy and water,

Noting also that desertification, land degradation, drought and climate change are closely related and that, if not addressed, they would pose a serious challenge to sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries,

Expressing concern about the fact that currently land degradation, including desertification, affects nearly 2 billion hectares of land, with many regions experiencing more frequent, prolonged periods of drought or flooding, leading to the loss of fertile topsoil through erosion, and that as land becomes degraded it loses the capacity to support livelihoods, which may influence communities to seek out other arable land, including forests and wetlands,

Noting that degraded land, if recovered, would, *inter alia*, contribute to restoring natural resources, thus potentially improving food security and nutrition in the affected countries, and in the process could, *inter alia*, contribute to the absorption of carbon emissions,

Noting also the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, while respecting their individual mandates,

Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, including their economic, social and environmental dimensions, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, within their respective mandates, in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to establish a science-policy interface to facilitate a two-way science-policy dialogue and ensure delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification, land degradation and drought,

Recognizing the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in 2015,

Recalling its resolution 64/201 of 21 December 2009, in which it designated the secretariat of the Convention as the focal point of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020),

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to take urgent action to reverse desertification, land degradation and drought, as appropriate, with the assistance of the United Nations system, relevant regional and international organizations, multilateral agencies, major groups and other stakeholders;

3. *Reaffirms its resolve*, in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to take coordinated action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to globally monitor land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas;

4. *Encourages* the coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders in enhancing the resilience and harnessing the potential of the affected countries;

5. *Reiterates* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development has reaffirmed women's vital

role and their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development, and in this regard invites donors and international organizations, including the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions, regional banks and major groups, including the private sector, to fully integrate their commitments and their considerations on gender equality and women's empowerment and to ensure the participation of women and effective gender mainstreaming in their decision-making in combating desertification, land degradation and drought;

6. *Notes* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and other stakeholders, including the private sector, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the involvement of those stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation (2008–2018);

7. *Stresses* the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the Convention, and in this respect invites the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, within their respective mandates, to collaborate on their activities whenever they are related to desertification, land degradation and drought;

8. *Reiterates* the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard invites States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

9. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);

10. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Convention and encourages Member States, regional commissions, multilateral agencies and other stakeholders to support the secretariat of the Convention in organizing special activities in observance of the Decade;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Convention on Biological Diversity

As at 31 December, 193 States and the EU were parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 683], which entered into force in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 810]. South Sudan acceded to the Convention during the year.

At year's end, the number of parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was adopted in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 973] and entered into force in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1051], rose to 167 States and the EU. Iraq and the United Arab Emirates acceded during the year.

In his September note [A/69/317] on the implementation of UN environmental conventions, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the secretariat of the Convention, submitted in accordance with resolution 68/214 [YUN 2013, p. 998]. The report recapitulated the preparations for the twelfth (2014) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (see below) and for the seventh (2014) meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (see below). It also discussed progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and reviewed activities conducted in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including for the International Day for Biodiversity, observed on 22 May in over 71 countries under the theme of “Island Biodiversity”, and for the sustainable development goals, with a view to mainstreaming biodiversity in the consideration of the post-2015 development agenda.

Conference of parties. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 6–17 October) [UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29] adopted the Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, which called for further integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity into the post-2015 development agenda. The Conference also adopted 35 decisions, of which the first six together formed the Pyeongchang road map for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Conference noted the conclusions of the fourth (2014) edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-4), which contained a mid-term review of progress on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to identify ways and means to address the key scientific and technical needs related to implementation of the Strategic Plan and to report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on those matters before the thirteenth (2016) meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Subsequent deci-

sions focused on mainstreaming gender considerations; stakeholder engagement; biodiversity and tourism development; article 8(j) (traditional knowledge, innovations and practices); access and benefit-sharing; the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020; invasive alien species; sustainable use of biodiversity; ecosystem conservation and restoration; biodiversity and climate change and disaster risk reduction; biodiversity and human health; marine and coastal biodiversity; synthetic biology; the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2020; administration of the Convention and the budget for its Trust Funds; and the dates and venues of the thirteenth (2016), fourteenth (2018) and fifteenth (2020) meetings of the Conference of the Parties. On improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention, the Conference decided to hold its future ordinary meetings within a two-week period that would also include the meetings of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the meetings of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. It also established the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, which would meet in each intersessional period and serve the Convention as well as its respective Protocols.

Subsidiary body. During the year, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held its eighteenth meeting (Pyeongchang, 6–17 October) [UNEP/CBD/COP/12/3], at which it adopted 14 recommendations for consideration by the twelfth (2014) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (see above).

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Pyeongchang, 29 September–3 October) [UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/16] adopted 13 decisions concerning compliance with the Protocol; the operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House; assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (article 35); contained use of living modified organisms; matters related to the financial mechanism and resources; the report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Protocol and on budgetary matters; handling, transport, packaging and identification (article 18); unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures (article 17); the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress; risk assessment and risk management (articles 15 and 16); socioeconomic considerations; and monitoring and reporting (article 33). The Conference also decided to undertake the

third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol at its eighth (2016) meeting, in combination with the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (see above).

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing

After receiving its fiftieth instrument of ratification on 14 July, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization entered into force, 90 days later, on 12 October. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (Pyeongchang, 13–17 October) [UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/1/10] adopted 13 decisions to advance implementation of the Protocol. The Conference adopted modalities for the operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, which provided a platform where Parties could submit, exchange and update the information required under the Protocol, and requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to implement the Clearing-house and promote its use. Subsequent decisions concerned the rules of procedure for meetings; monitoring and reporting; cooperative procedures and institutional mechanisms to promote compliance with the Protocol and to address cases of non-compliance; model contractual clauses, voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices and/or standards; the financial mechanism; resource mobilization; measures to assist in capacity-building and capacity development; measures to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge; the need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefitsharing mechanism; improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and the Protocols; and the programme budget for the biennium following the Protocol's entry into force.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/68/468/Add.6], adopted **resolution 69/222** without vote [agenda item 19 (f)].

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010, 66/202 of 22 December 2011, 67/212 of 21 December 2012, 68/214 of 20 December 2013 and its previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannes-

burg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals convened by the President of the General Assembly,

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and, inter alia, the commitments concerning biodiversity contained therein,

Reaffirming also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and its principles,

Recalling that the objectives of the Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that, in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared 2011–2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,

Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Taking note of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

at its twelfth meeting entitled “Article 8 (j) and related provisions”,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,

Recognizing the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and reaffirming the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation of biological diversity,

Recognizing also the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development, promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, should contribute to tangible benefits for local people and ensures that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction, recognizing further the economic, social and environmental impacts of poaching and of illicit trafficking in wildlife, where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides, emphasizing in this regard the importance of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, and further stressing the importance of basing the listing of species on agreed criteria,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and acknowledging the role of access to genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing arising from their utilization in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, thereby, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting also that 91 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 56 States and 1 regional economic integration organization that are parties to the Convention have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya Protocol, and noting in this regard that the Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014,

Noting further that the Nagoya Protocol, the objective of which is the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, contributes to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components;

Noting that 50 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 26 States and 1 regional economic integration organization that are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Noting also that 193 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that

167 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, as well as decision X/3, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting, on the review of its implementation, including the establishment of preliminary targets by the Conference of the Parties in its decision XI/4, adopted at its eleventh meeting,

Noting the outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, all held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in 2014,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 12 October 2014;

3. *Takes note* of the holding and outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in 2014;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development, adopted at the high-level segment of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

5. *Encourages* the respective parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, requests the parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to coherently and efficiently implement the obligations and commitments under the Convention and the Protocol, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that impede their full implementation;

6. *Recognizes* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

7. *Urges* the parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, as well as of decision XI/2, entitled "Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties", and also takes note of the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in this regard;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the secretariat of the Convention, parties to the Convention

and the Global Environment Facility, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in conjunction with United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, as well as other entities, in organizing capacity-building workshops to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with a view to enhancing capacity and addressing the need for human, technical and financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting, in particular for developing countries;

9. *Urges* parties to promote the mainstreaming of gender considerations in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional biodiversity strategies and action plans and equivalent instruments in implementing the three objectives of the Convention;

10. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and calls upon parties and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention, including through addressing implementation gaps, in particular with regard to article 15 of the Convention;

12. *Also reaffirms* the importance of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by the parties to the Convention;

13. *Recognizes* that parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have reiterated that resources, financial, human and technical, need to be mobilized from all sources, and that this should be balanced with the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, stresses the need for further consideration of the evaluation of all resources mobilized in terms of the biodiversity outcomes achieved, and in this regard welcomes the decision of the parties to the Convention on an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 from a variety of sources, including national and international resource mobilization, international cooperation and the exploration of new and innovative financial mechanisms, and takes note of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in this regard;

14. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

15. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol, and invites the Executive Secretary and the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to continue supporting capacity-building and development activities to support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol;

16. *Takes note* of the work done by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions, and in this regard invites the secretariat of the Convention, through the Secretary-General, to report on the progress made when reporting on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

17. *Stresses* the importance of continued consideration of the issue of biodiversity, and encourages Member States and all stakeholders to give due consideration to this issue in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

18. *Takes note* of the second plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which aims to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers;

19. *Stresses* the importance of the engagement of the private sector and other stakeholders in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in the achievement of the biodiversity targets, invites them to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities, and in this regard stresses the importance of the ongoing work of the Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity;

20. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Rio conventions) and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of those conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments;

21. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, at its seventieth session, on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and on difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

As at 31 December, 196 States and the EU were parties to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [YUN 1985, p. 804], which entered into force in 1988 [YUN 1988, p. 810].

The number of parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which was

adopted in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 686], included 196 States and the EU. Parties to the 1990 Amendment to the Protocol [YUN 1990, p. 522] numbered 196 States and the EU. Parties to the 1992 Amendment [YUN 1992, p. 684] numbered 196 States and the EU. Parties to the 1997 Amendment [YUN 1997, p. 1049] numbered 196 States and the EU, with Libya and Saudi Arabia becoming parties in 2014. Parties to the 1999 Amendment [YUN 1999, p. 986] numbered 196 States and the EU, with Kazakhstan, Libya, Mauritania and Saudi Arabia becoming parties during the year.

Conference of parties and Meeting of Protocol parties. The combined tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and twenty-sixth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (Paris, 17–21 November) [UNEP/OzL.Conv.10/7-UNEP/OzL.Pro.26/10] adopted 22 decisions concerning, among other topics, the status of ratification of the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol and the London, Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing amendments to the Montreal Protocol; the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention; financial reports and budgets for the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol; essential-use nominations for controlled substances for 2015; the essential-use exemption for chlorofluorocarbon 113 for aerospace applications in the Russian Federation; an essential-use exemption for laboratory and analytical uses for 2015 in China; the global laboratory and analytical-use exemption; critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2015 and 2016; availability of recovered, recycled or reclaimed halons; measures to facilitate the monitoring of trade in hydrochlorofluorocarbons and substituting substances; response to the report by the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel on information on alternatives to ozone-depleting substances; 2015–2017 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund; extension of the fixed-exchange-rate mechanism to the 2015–2017 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund; data and information provided by the parties in accordance with Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol; compliance by specific State parties with their protocol obligations; membership in the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, the Implementation Committee and the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund; and the dates and location of the twenty-seventh (2015) and twenty-eighth (2016) meetings of the Parties.

Subsidiary bodies. During the year, the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held its thirty-fourth meeting (Paris, 14–18 July) [UNEP/OzL.Pro/WG.1/34/6]; and the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol held its fifty-second (Paris, 9–10 July) [UNEP/OzL.Pro/ImpCom/52/4] and fifty-third (Paris, 14–15 November) [UNEP/OzL.Pro/ImpCom/53/4] meetings.

Convention on air pollution

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution [YUN 1979, p. 710], which entered into force in 1983 [YUN 1983, p. 645], remained at 50 States and the EU. Eight protocols to the Convention dealt with the programme for monitoring and evaluation of pollutants in Europe (1984); the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 per cent (1985); the control of emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes (1988); the control of volatile organic compounds or their transboundary fluxes (1991); the further reduction of sulphur emissions (1994); heavy metals (1998); persistent organic pollutants (1998); and the abatement of acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone (1999). Amendments to the protocol on persistent organic pollutants were adopted in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1018].

The thirty-third session of the Executive Body for the Convention (Geneva, 8–11 December) [ECE/EB.AIR/127 & Add.1] adopted eight decisions, including those concerning the improvement of guidance for adjustments under the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them; establishment of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues; leadership of the Task Force of Reactive Nitrogen; and the compliance by specific States parties with their protocol obligations.

Subsidiary body. During the year, the Implementation Committee held its thirty-third (Oslo, Norway, 26–28 May) and thirty-fourth (Geneva, 8–10 September) sessions. It submitted its seventeenth report [ECE/EB.AIR/2014/2], which contained information on the Committee's 2014 activities and recommendations related to the compliance of States parties with their reporting obligations. An additional report [ECE/EB.AIR/2014/3] provided supplementary information to the seventeenth report.

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The fifth joint meeting to enhance cooperation and coordination between the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions (Geneva, 26–27 November) focused on preparing the performance and sustainability report of the regional centres for the consideration of the Conferences of the Parties in 2015, as well as on enhancing the regional delivery of technical assistance for implementation of the chemicals and wastes conventions by capitalizing on existing and emerging opportunities.

Basel Convention

As at 31 December, 180 States and the EU were parties to the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control

of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [YUN 1989, p. 420], which entered into force in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 685]. The 1995 Amendment to the Convention [YUN 1995, p. 1333], not yet in force, had been ratified, accepted or approved by 80 parties, with Benin, Colombia and the Congo becoming parties during the year. The number of parties to the 1999 Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal [YUN 1999, p. 998], not yet in force, remained at 11.

Subsidiary bodies. The Open-ended Working Group on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal held its ninth meeting (Geneva, 16–19 September) [UNEP/CHW/OEWG.9/15]. The Working Group adopted 10 decisions, including those concerning follow-up to the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes; options for the Working Group's operations; technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants or mercury; technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste and used electrical and electronic equipment; national reporting; consultation with the Committee for Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Convention; the provision of further legal clarity; the partnership for Action on Computing Equipment; and the work programme for 2016–2017.

The Implementation and Compliance Committee held its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 22–24 September) [UNEP/CHW/CC.11/16], at which it conducted a review of general issues of compliance and implementation under the Convention. It also considered and adopted 13 decisions on specific submissions aimed at resolving States parties' implementation and compliance difficulties with regard to their national reporting obligations.

Stockholm Convention

As at 31 December, 177 States and the EU were parties to the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) [YUN 2001, p. 971], which entered into force in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1066].

Subsidiary body. During the year, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee held its tenth meeting (Rome, Italy, 27–30 October) [UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10 & Add.1, 2]. It adopted seven decisions concerning pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters; decabromodiphenyl ether; dicofol; the process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to Annex B to the Convention; guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts, perfluoroo-

tane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals; coordination and collaboration with other scientific bodies; and effective participation in the work of the Committee.

Rotterdam Convention

As at 31 December, 153 States and the EU were parties to the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade [YUN 1998, p. 997], which entered into force in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 1063].

Subsidiary body. During the year, the Chemical Review Committee held its tenth meeting (Rome, Italy, 22–24 October) [UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.10/10]. It adopted six decisions on methamidophos, fenthion, polychlorinated naphthalenes, short-chained chlorinated paraffins, tributyltin compounds, and coordination and collaboration with other scientific bodies. The Committee adopted draft decision guidance documents for methamidophos and fenthion that would be forwarded to the Conference of the Parties for consideration. It also recommended that short-chained chlorinated paraffins and tributyltin compounds be listed in Annex III to the Convention as industrial chemicals.

Environmental topics

The atmosphere

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

In 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) held its thirty-eighth (Yokohama, Japan, 25–29 March), thirty-ninth (Berlin, Germany, 7–12 April) and fortieth (Copenhagen, Denmark, 27–31 October) sessions.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Chair invited the Panel to accept the actions of the tenth session of the Working Group II. The Panel accepted the Summary for Policymakers of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report.

At its thirty-ninth session, the Panel approved decisions related to the IPCC trust fund and programme and budget, the admission of observer organizations and the future work of IPCC. The Panel also accepted the Summary for Policymakers of the Working Group III contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report.

At its fortieth session, the Panel approved the budget for 2015 and adopted other budget decisions that were annexed to the session report. The Panel approved the draft Summary for Policymakers of the Synthesis Report of the Fifth Assessment Report, and adopted the draft longer report of the Synthesis Report of the Fifth Assessment Report and admitted three organizations as observers to the IPCC. The Panel also discussed the future work of IPCC, communication

and outreach activities, committee reports, progress reports, and matters related to UNFCCC and other international bodies.

Marine ecosystems

Sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/205 [YUN 2012, p. 1014], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/314] on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea. The report described national- and regional-level activities to address marine pollution; the sustainable management of shared coastal and marine resources; climate change and disaster risk reduction; social and economic development; sustainable oceans governance; and the development of human capacity. The report also covered the activities of the Commission on the Caribbean Sea and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held under the theme of “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”. The report discussed the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a “special area in the context of sustainable development”, and concluded that Member States of the region continued to work collaboratively on behalf of their shared resource--the Caribbean Sea--including by addressing the economic, social and environmental aspects of development.

Annexed to the Secretary-General’s report was the report of the Association of Caribbean States on progress made in the implementation of resolution 67/205, which discussed the institutionalization of and international support for its Commission on the Caribbean Sea; progress with regard to relevant international agreements; programmes to promote fisheries management and marine biodiversity conservation; disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery; and legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/216** without vote [agenda item 19 (b)].

Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados,

the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Taking into account all its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006, 63/214 of 19 December 2008, 65/155 of 20 December 2010 and 67/205 of 21 December 2012,

Taking into account also the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling also the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems, and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

Recognizing also that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

Noting that the Caribbean Sea, when compared with all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the potential increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes, which increase their sustainable development challenges,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law present a challenge for the effective management of resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the safe transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity of and dynamic interaction and competition among socioeconomic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote the integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the significant progress made on regional ocean governance through the formulation of the strategic action programme of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project, endorsed by ministers in 21 countries of the region,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the States members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to relevant international law,

Recalling the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and of the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preserva-

tion and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to international law;

2. *Notes* the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

3. *Welcomes* the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and its governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to enhance their support, including financial, technical and capacity-building assistance, as appropriate, to Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

4. *Also welcomes* the resources provided by some donors to support the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and invites the international community to continue and to enhance its support, as appropriate, to the Commission, including through the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technical support, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of experience in the areas of work of the Commission;

5. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and pollution from the illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

7. *Invites* the Association of Caribbean States to submit to the Secretary-General a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

8. *Calls upon* all States to become parties to the relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

9. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the Special Area designation for the wider Caribbean region under annex V to the

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, which entered into force in May 2011;

10. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

11. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity, to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

12. *Notes with deep concern* that invasive alien species, such as *Pterois miles* and *P. volitans*, known as lionfish, constitute an emerging threat to biodiversity in the wider Caribbean region, and urges the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide assistance and support in addressing this issue in the region;

13. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing those conventions and protocols effectively;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to actively support the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States for the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

15. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and invites Member States and other partners to support early warning systems in the region;

17. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, on the basis of their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

18. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism in the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action

approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

19. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to improve, as a matter of priority, their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such, without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations.

Other matters

Oil slick in Lebanon

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/206 [YUN 2013, p. 1010], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/313] reviewing progress in implementing resolutions 61/194 [YUN 2006, p. 1215], 62/188 [YUN 2007, p. 1053], 63/211 [YUN 2008, p. 1150], 64/195 [YUN 2009, p. 1011], 65/147 [YUN 2010, p. 1015], 66/192 [YUN 2011, p. 991], 67/201 [YUN 2012, p. 1017] and 68/206 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores that resulted from the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of oil storage tanks in Lebanon following the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and the paramilitary group Hizbullah in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 574]. Some 15,000 tons of fuel oil were released into the Mediterranean Sea, contaminating about 150 kilometres of coastline in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. The report discussed actions taken to address the impacts of the spill and to measure and quantify the environmental damage sustained by Lebanon, which amounted to \$856.4 million. The Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, NGOs and the private sector to continue their support for Lebanon, particularly for rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast. He encouraged States and the international donor community to make contributions to the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, hosted by the Lebanon Recovery Fund.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468 & Corr.1], adopted **resolution 69/212** by recorded vote (170-6-3) [agenda item 19].

Oil slick on Lebanese shores

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006, 62/188 of 19 December 2007, 63/211 of 19 December 2008, 64/195 of 21 December 2009, 65/147 of 20 December 2010, 66/192 of 22 December 2011, 67/201 of 21 December 2012 and 68/206 of 20 December 2013 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference, in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Noting with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of El-Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development, as already highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/194, 62/188, 63/211, 64/195, 65/147, 66/192, 67/201 and 68/206,

Noting that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

Recalling that, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 68/206, it reiterated its request to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, and recognizing the conclusion of the Secretary-General that this request of the Assembly has yet to be implemented,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration, and recognizing that further consideration needs to be given to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel,

Acknowledging also the conclusions on measuring and quantifying the environmental damage set out in the report of the Secretary-General,

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination

Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, under its existing mechanism, and expressing concern that to date no contributions have been made to the Trust Fund,

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

2. *Reiterates*, for the ninth consecutive year, its deep concern about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese El-Jiyeh electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health in the country;

4. *Acknowledges* the conclusions in the report of the Secretary-General, in which he stated that studies show that the value of the damage to Lebanon amounted to 856.4 million United States dollars in 2014, and requests the Secretary-General to urge United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations involved in the initial assessment of the relevant environmental damage to undertake, within existing resources, a further study, building on, inter alia, the initial work of the World Bank presented in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, with a view to measuring and quantifying the environmental damage sustained by neighbouring countries;

5. *Reiterates its request* in this regard to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon for the aforementioned damage and to other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that there remains grave concern at the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill;

6. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

7. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Resto-

ration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly and adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at El-Jiyeh electric power plant;

8. *Notes* that in his report the Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue their support for Lebanon in this matter, in particular for the rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast and in the broader recovery efforts, and stated that such international effort should be intensified, since Lebanon is still engaged in the treatment of wastes and the monitoring of recovery, reiterates its invitation to States and the international donor community to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance in order to ensure that the Trust Fund has sufficient and adequate resources;

9. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/212:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, United States.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Papua New Guinea, Tonga.

Harmony with nature

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/216 [YUN 2013, p. 1011], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/322] on harmony with nature. The report addressed the social dimension of sustainable development. It examined how the holistic relationship that indigenous peoples have had with Mother Earth since ancient times had paved the way in the modern world for Earth system science, in which scientists view the Earth as a system that was indivisible, in an endless continuum and in which no single element took precedence over another. The report discussed the concept of “living well” in harmony with nature as a scalable paradigm from the developing world; Earth system science and governance; and Earth-based economics. The Secretary-General concluded that humanity must intensify its efforts to restore a healthy environment for present and future generations, where human activity took place in balance with the Earth’s offerings, and with reciprocity, dignity and respect for nature.

To commemorate International Mother Earth Day [YUN 2009, p. 1037], the General Assembly hosted an interactive dialogue on harmony with nature (New York, 22 April), focusing on the theme “The promotion of a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through Harmony with Nature”.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.8], adopted **resolution 69/224** without vote [agenda item 19 (b)].

Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling also its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009, 65/164 of 20 December 2010, 66/204 of 22 December 2011, 67/214 of 21 December 2012 and 68/216 of 20 December 2013 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling further the 1982 World Charter for Nature,

Noting the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, held on 22 April 2014, to commemorate International Mother Earth Day, on the promotion of the balanced integration of the economic, social

and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through Harmony with Nature,

Recognizing that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, noting that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and expressing the conviction that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature,

Noting that, in promoting a holistic approach to achieve sustainable development in harmony with nature, Earth system science plays a significant role,

Expressing concern about documented environmental degradation, potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on the Earth systems, with the aim of promoting and ensuring an equitable, balanced and sustainable relationship with the Earth,

Taking note of the Peoples’ World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,

Recognizing that a number of countries consider Mother Earth the source of all life and nourishment, and that these countries consider Mother Earth and humankind an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings,

Noting that in recent years there have been many initiatives on sustainable development governance, including policy documents on living well in harmony with nature,

Taking note of the conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,

Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity and the need to overcome this limitation with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

Recognizing also the uneven availability of basic statistical data under the three dimensions of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

Reaffirming that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles,

Recognizing that many ancient civilizations, indigenous peoples and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing also the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts, along with those of Governments and private sector organizations, to devise more sustainable models and methods for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

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

2. *Invites* Member States to consider existing studies and reports on Harmony with Nature, including the follow-up to the discussions at the interactive dialogues of the General Assembly, such as the dialogue held on 22 April 2014 on the promotion of the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through Harmony with Nature;

3. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to hold an inclusive and interactive dialogue, at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day in April 2015, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to advance discussions on Harmony with Nature in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of giving due consideration to the issue of Harmony with Nature in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Recalls* its resolutions requesting that the Secretary-General establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day, and in this regard invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this trust fund once it is established;

6. *Also recalls* the launching of the Harmony with Nature website on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by the secretariat of the Conference and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make use of the existing website maintained by the Division to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature, being undertaken to advance the integration of interdisciplinary scientific work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge and on existing national legislation;

7. *Calls for* holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems;

8. *Invites* States:

(a) To further build up a knowledge network in order to advance a holistic conceptualization to identify different economic approaches that reflect the drivers and values of living in harmony with nature, relying on current scientific information to achieve sustainable development, and to facilitate the support and recognition of the fundamental interconnections between humanity and nature;

(b) To promote harmony with the Earth, as found in indigenous cultures, and learn from them, and to provide support for and promote efforts being made from the national level down to the local community level to reflect the protection of nature;

9. *Encourages* all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three dimensions of sustainable development, and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

10. *Recognizes* the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard welcomes the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission on a work programme to develop broader measures of progress, which, based on a stocktaking exercise of current national, regional and international practices to measure progress, will conduct a technical review of existing efforts in this area, with a view to identifying best practices and to facilitating the sharing of knowledge, especially for the benefit of developing countries;

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

12. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the sub-item entitled "Harmony with Nature" at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the item on harmony with nature would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Sustainable tourism

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/233** of 19 December (see p. 954), recognized that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, created opportunities for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural areas by encouraging tourists as well as indigenous peoples and local communities in host countries to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage. The Assembly encouraged Governments to use sustainable tourism to support environmental protection and the sustainable use of biodiversity and to base tourism on clear evidence of market demand and on a sound economic and environmental foundation. It requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its seventy-first (2016) session, a report on the implementation of the resolution, including recommendations on promoting ecotourism as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development.

Human settlements

UN-Habitat

Governing Council

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/206 [YUN 2001, p. 987], the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

(UN-Habitat), which met biennially, did not meet in 2014. The twenty-fifth session of the Council would take place in 2015.

Election. On 17 July, the General Assembly, by **decision 68/421**, on the proposal of the Secretary-General [A/68/915], re-elected Joan Clos (Spain) as Executive Director of UN-Habitat for a term of office beginning on 18 October 2014 and ending on 31 December 2017.

Subsidiary body. The Committee of Permanent Representatives, the intersessional body of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, met four times in 2014, on 19 March [HSP/CPR/53/L.1], 18 June [HSP/CPR/54/L.1], 27 August [HSP/CPR/55/L.1] and 3 December [HSP/CPR/56/L.1]. It considered, among other matters, the financial status of UN-Habitat, progress on the implementation of the UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan, and preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III).

Board of Auditors report

In June [A/69/5/Add.9 & Corr.1], the Board of Auditors transmitted to the General Assembly its report on the UN-Habitat financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2013. Total income amounted to \$378 million, a decrease of \$52.9 million, or 12.3 per cent, over the previous financial period. Total expenditure amounted to \$348.6 million, a decrease of \$78.2 million, or 18.3 per cent, compared to the previous period. The excess of income over expenditure totalled \$29.4 million, representing an increase of \$25.4 million over the previous biennium. The Board noted that the excess of income over expenditure had been declining steadily since 2006–2007 but rose in 2012–2013. As at the end of the biennium, the level of cash held was \$207 million, representing a 9.3 per cent decrease over the balance of \$228.3 million held at 31 December 2011. UN-Habitat adopted the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) from 1 January 2014 but did not meet the deadline of 31 March 2014 for the preparation of actual IPSAS-compliant opening balances.

The Board recommended, among other measures, that UN-Habitat closely monitor project budget implementation; set up and document a clear monitoring and assurance framework for the use and accountability of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations funds; and prioritize and expedite the process of data cleansing so that IPSAS opening balances would be finalized in advance of the preparation of dry-run financial statements.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the item of the financial reports and audited financial statements, and report of the Board of Auditors of UN-Habitat, would

remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UN-Habitat activities

In 2014, UN-Habitat continued to implement its work programme in line with Governing Council resolutions and the goals of the UN system and the international community. Under the 2014–2019 strategic plan, approved by the Council in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1015], UN-Habitat focused on urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; research and capacity development; and cross-cutting issues of gender, youth, climate change and human rights.

During the year, UN-Habitat adopted a more strategic and integrated approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities of cities and human settlements. The new approach was based on two premises: the empirically verified positive correlation between urbanization and development; and recognition that the major challenges faced by cities and human settlements resulted from the inadequacy of the fundamental systems underlying their functioning, particularly regarding urban legislation, design and financial systems. UN-Habitat's approach linked urbanization and human settlements to sustainable development by focusing on prosperity, livelihoods and employment, especially among youth.

UN-Habitat's Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) grew to 66 partners and 2,115 individual members who worked in a more coordinated manner to implement the GLTN agenda. The UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative expanded its scope and impact into a global programme involving over 40 cities. UN-Habitat spearheaded the launch of two global multi-partnership initiatives at the Secretary-General's 2014 Climate Summit (New York, 23 September) to mobilize and accelerate action on the issue of climate change in cities. In the area of risk reduction and rehabilitation, UN-Habitat and its partners made progress in field operations in post-conflict and post-natural-disaster countries. Activities included the reconstruction of housing, water and sanitation infrastructure, community centres and schools; land conflict mediation; and the creation of livelihood opportunities for internally displaced persons and refugees. Through UN-Habitat's Youth Programme, 277 youth-led groups across 65 countries benefited from small grants for project implementation. Through its Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, UN-Habitat established a network with 160 cities, 200 communities and 35 countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, all implementing city-wide slum upgrading strategies. Regarding implementation of the Umoja Enterprise Resource

Planning system, UN-Habitat completed most of the preparations in readiness for deployment, scheduled for June 2015.

Progress was made towards achievement of five of the six expected accomplishments outlined in UN-Habitat's six-year (2014–2019) strategic plan, but little progress was made on mobilizing core income. With respect to urban legislation, land and governance, there was increased capacity, knowledge and awareness among local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to implement programmes that improved security of tenure for vulnerable groups. On urban planning and design, a notable achievement was the development of the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning, which constituted a global framework for improving policies, plans, designs and implementation processes for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories that fostered sustainable urbanization. There were enhanced capacities among UN-Habitat partner cities to develop urban plans and policies supportive of inclusive economic growth, as demonstrated by the increased number of partner cities that prepared local economic development plans. With the support of UN-Habitat and its partners, there was an increase in the number of local, national and regional authorities taking action towards the implementation of policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services. As a long-term measure, UN-Habitat made progress in terms of increased urban resilience plans, launching recovery and rehabilitation plans and the development of urban frameworks promoting the new urban agenda. Through the Global Urban Observatory, 14 local and national urban observatories implemented UN-Habitat's methodologies and tools for data collection and analysis and supported their Governments in formulating more informed policies during the year. Since the launch of the City Prosperity Index in the *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013* report, 288 cities had requested UN-Habitat's support to implement the index. Mainstreaming of the cross-cutting issues of climate change, gender, youth and human rights had been institutionalized in UN-Habitat and took place at both programme and project levels.

Regional ministerial conferences. The fifth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD 5) (N'Djamena, Chad, 25–28 February) took place under the theme, “Case studies in financing human settlements in Africa: Appropriate legislative frameworks and innovations in implementation”. Matters discussed included the urban agenda for Africa and its linkage with the African Union Agenda 2063; preparations for the seventh session of the World Urban Forum; the post-2015 development agenda; and the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III. The main outcome documents were the N'Djamena

Declaration and Action Plan, which prioritized access to affordable and decent housing; the delivery of infrastructure and basic services for human settlements, including sanitation and waste management; slum prevention and upgrading; urban and territorial planning and effective land tenure; the urban economy; and the link between urban and rural areas.

The fifth session of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD 5) (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 3–5 November) adopted the Seoul Declaration, in which participants decided to deepen their commitment to regional collaboration to make cities and human settlements integrated, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. Participants also committed to developing and implementing innovative national policies and to promoting inclusiveness and equity in urban development and infrastructure expansion. They recognized the importance of Habitat III and resolved to prepare a roadmap to participate in Habitat III and the formulation of the “New Urban Agenda”, and they requested the Chair of APMCHUD to ensure the implementation of the Declaration, in collaboration with other members of the Bureau, the APMCHUD secretariat and UN-Habitat.

Follow-up to the 1996 UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Coordinated implementation of Habitat Agenda

In an April report [E/2014/64] submitted in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/22 [YUN 2013, p. 1016], the Secretary-General described the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in cooperation with other UN system agencies and organizations in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the global, regional and national levels. Activities at the global level included Habitat III preparatory activities; the World Urban Campaign; the preparation and launch of the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2013*; the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals processes; cooperation with international financial institutions; and the International Aid Transparency Initiative. Activities at the regional level focused on regional ministerial meetings on housing and urban development and cooperation with development banks. Thematic activities at the national and subnational levels focused on urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy and municipal finance; urban basic services; risk reduction and rehabilitation; research and capacity development; and gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women.

The report recommended that Member States give appropriate consideration to the role of urbanization in sustainable development in their national

development plans; formulate and implement urban planning policies that enhance economic productivity and equity; apply more systematically urban planning methods, including participatory processes; use planned city extension methodologies to guide the sustainable development of cities experiencing rapid urban growth; and facilitate the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process for Habitat III.

Sustainable urbanization

In an April report [E/2014/67] prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 61/16 [YUN 2006, p. 1589], the Secretary-General discussed effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization. The report informed the thematic discussion of the Economic and Social Council's 2014 integration segment (see below), which focused on the same topic and summarized governance, planning and management instruments for promoting urban sustainability; emerging models for sustainable urbanization; and lessons learned from the implementation of different urban governance models to address sustainability challenges. The Secretary-General concluded that urban governance models, policies and planning tools should recognize and address the widening scope and impact of urban activities across policy areas and spatial boundaries and involve an increasing number of urban stakeholders and actors. He provided policy initiatives to be considered, including a whole-of-government approach; inclusive and participatory mechanisms for decision-making; and strong partnerships.

Economic and Social Council consideration.

The first-ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council (New York, 27–29 May) focused on the theme of sustainable urbanization and provided a multi-stakeholder platform to demonstrate how urbanization could become an instrument for the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The segment identified the potential short-term policy choices, resulting trade-offs and long-term gains inherent to an integrated and balanced sustainable development approach; provided solutions, innovations and partnerships on sustainable urbanization; and identified tools and instruments to facilitate inputs that could be used by the Council to assess the integrated approach. The high-level exchange of experiences, practices and strategies demonstrated the transformative potential of urbanization and led to the identification of recommendations that could shape the post-2015 agenda and Habitat III (see p. 1202).

On 25 July (**decision 2014/248**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report [E/2014/67] of the Secretary-General on effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July [meeting 47], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/30** [draft: E/2014/L.29] without vote [agenda item 16 (d)].

Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling also relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and 68/239 of 27 December 2013, entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”,

Acknowledging the work of UN-Habitat towards attaining the goal of sustainable urban development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as well as other goals and targets relevant to human settlements,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the first ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council on sustainable urbanization, held from 27 to 29 May 2014, and its focus on the role of sustainable urbanization as a transformative force for achieving and advancing sustainable development, and invites the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to make full use of this focus in its work;

3. *Encourages* Governments to give appropriate consideration to the role of urbanization and human settlements in sustainable development in their national development plans in order to ensure coordinated implementation of different sectoral policies within cities and human settlements in general and to formulate and implement national urban development policies;

4. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to further enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and the role of local authorities and to consider the environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically productive roles of cities and human settlements in their consideration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on agenda items related to the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

6. *Decides* to transmit to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-ninth session the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2015 a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

In response to resolution 2014/30 (see above), the Secretary-General, by an August note [A/69/343], transmitted his April report to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-ninth (2014) session.

Implementation of outcome of Habitat II and strengthening of UN-Habitat

An August report [A/69/298] submitted by the Secretary-General in response to General Assembly resolution 68/239 [YUN 2013, p. 1017] described UN-Habitat activities over the previous year in implementing the Habitat Agenda [YUN 1996, p. 994], adopted by the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) [ibid., p. 992], and the strengthening of UN-Habitat. It reviewed progress in preparation for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) at the global, regional and national levels, and in information and publicity, including through the seventh session of the World Urban Forum (see below) and the World Urban Campaign [YUN 2009, p. 1038]. It also described progress in the implementation of three issues highlighted by the General Assembly in resolution 68/239: outcome of the governance review process; financial developments in UN-Habitat; and sustainable urbanization and the post-2015 development agenda. The report further described UN-Habitat's engagement in the first-ever Economic and Social Council integration segment (see p. 1200), which was on the theme of sustainable urbanization, and global and regional activities including publication of the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2013: Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility*, and celebrations related to World Habitat Day 2013, and the inaugural World Cities Day observed on 31 October 2014.

The UN-Habitat Committee of Permanent Representatives, through its Bureau, continued its consideration of the governance review process, including the timing of that process in relation to the envisaged outcome of Habitat III. Regarding financial developments, income projections for the biennium 2014–2015 remained at \$62.9 million and \$283 million for non-earmarked and earmarked income, respectively. As at 30 June, non-earmarked income received and confirmed pledges amounted to \$24.5 million (or 39 per cent of the projection), while \$57.6 million (or 19 per cent of the projection) had been received in earmarked income.

On Habitat III, the report called upon Members States to decide on the venue, final dates, format and organizational aspects of the conference; to decide on the venue and duration of the third and final Habitat III Preparatory Committee meeting; to ensure the participation of local governments and all other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the conference itself; and to expedite the preparation of Habitat III national reports and their submission to the Habitat III secretariat. On urbanization and human settlements policy issues, it called upon Members States to continue giving consideration to sustainable urbanization and human settlements in

the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda; and to continue supporting UN-Habitat through predictable multiyear funding and increased non-earmarked contributions in support of its strategic plan 2014–2019.

World Urban Forum, 2014

The seventh session of the World Urban Forum (Medellín, Colombia, 5–11 April) [HSP/WUF/7/3], held under the theme “Urban equity in development: Cities for life”, examined ways to effectively integrate urban equity into the development agenda with a view to ensuring sustainable transformative change in an increasingly urbanized world. Many events at the Forum discussed the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, with participants supporting the idea of sustainable urban development being more centrally positioned in the post-2015 agenda, together with an urban sustainable development goal. The World Urban Campaign, launched in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 1045], was positioned as an inclusive platform to mobilize stakeholders for Habitat III (see below). There was concern among participants about the unsustainability of the current level of urban sprawl, the diminishing of arable land due to unplanned urbanization. The Forum exhibited broad consensus on the need for good and inclusively designed urban policies driven by equity and discussed urban equity in development law, urban planning and design for social cohesion, basic services: local businesses for equitable cities, innovative financing instruments for local authorities, raising standards for urban resilience and a safe city as a just and equitable city. For the first time, the programme of the Forum integrated assemblies that convened business representatives, youth, women and children, respectively. There were nine special sessions addressing traditional and emerging subjects relevant to the urban agenda, and 1,607 people, including 789 women, participated in 30 training events.

A report [HSP/GC/25/2/Add.2] of the UN-Habitat Executive Director summarized the issues discussed at the seventh session of the Forum, as well as its outcome—the Medellín Declaration, which provided recommendations that emerged from the Forum and around which a substantial consensus was reached. It contained four key areas: equity as a foundation of sustainable urban development; the city as opportunity; new urban agenda; and contributing to the future. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to integrating urban equity into the development agenda, employing all means and resources available to ensure that cities were transformed into inclusive, safe, prosperous and harmonious spaces for all. Although urbanization had ushered in economic growth,

development and prosperity for many people, cities were also spaces of multidimensional poverty, environmental degradation, and vulnerability to disasters and the impacts of climate change. Participants thus agreed that although notable efforts were being made to overcome challenges to sustainable and inclusive development, much work remained to be done. They highlighted the need to promote a new urban agenda that could overcome the lack of an adequate legal framework and planning system and promote a people-centred urbanization model based on “cities for life”. On contributing to the future, the Medellín Declaration discussed the importance of sustainable urbanization in the post-2015 development agenda, contributions to Habitat III, and the World Urban Forum.

Preparations for Habitat III

In a September report [A/CONF.226/PC.1/4], the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) described activities carried out at the national, regional and international levels prior to the first session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee (see below). The report discussed consultations and contributions between 2012 and 2014 in relation to the UN-Habitat Governing Council, the sixth and seventh sessions of the World Urban Forum, regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, the UN system and global partners. The report also provided information on the activities proposed for the period 2014–2016 in four areas: knowledge, engagement, policy and operations.

Preparatory Committee. In October [A/CONF.226/PC.1/6], the Habitat III Preparatory Committee reported on its first session (New York, 17–18 September), at which it established a working group on operational and administrative matters that met twice over the course of session. The Habitat III Secretary-General reported to the session on the activities of the secretariat in preparation for the Conference and presented proposals for the improved participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself. He also reported on an outline of work to be carried out between September 2014 and the holding of the Conference in 2016. The Preparatory Committee held an exchange of views on progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and on the identification of new and emerging challenges on sustainable urban development. It took note of a note [A/CONF.226/PC.1/INF/3] by the Secretary-General of the Conference on the financing of the preparatory process and the Conference, and it recommended that the Preparatory Committee's second session be held from 14–16 April 2015.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/469], adopted **resolution 69/226** without vote [agenda item 20].

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996,

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011, 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and 68/239 of 27 December 2013, which addressed the convening in 2016 of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),

Recalling further relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including Council resolution 2014/30 of 25 July 2014 on human settlements, adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2014,

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, in particular paragraphs 134 to 137 on sustainable cities and human settlements, in which, inter alia, it is recognized that cities are engines of economic growth which, if well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, since urbanization has brought growth and development, including a dramatic reduction in poverty, national economic growth, major progress in human settlements connectivity, which helps to boost productivity and the creation of opportunities, the merging of cities and towns into new regional spatial configurations that are conducive to faster economic and demographic growth, and a higher degree of interdependence between rural and urban areas that has helped to

reduce the vulnerability of rural communities and enhance the prospects of more equitable development, challenges remain, such as urban sprawl, congestion, pollution, the emission of greenhouse gases, emerging urban poverty, segregation, increasing inequalities and other negative externalities, as well as the continuing increase in the number of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

Reiterating its support for the World Urban Forum and recognizing that it is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Colombia and the city of Medellín for hosting the seventh session of the Forum from 5 to 11 April 2014,

Recalling the commitment of Member States and the efforts of other stakeholders to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements,

Emphasizing the importance of the wide participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, in the promotion of sustainable urbanization and settlements,

Recalling its resolution 67/148 of 20 December 2012, in which it called upon the United Nations system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on its first session, and endorses its recommendation that the second session of the Preparatory Committee be held from 14 to 16 April 2015;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the Preparatory Committee in their respective consideration of the work of UN-Habitat and preparations for Habitat III, within their respective mandates;

4. *Continues to encourage* giving due consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Notes* the conclusion of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and welcomes its contribution to existing political momentum with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change;

6. *Reiterates its encouragement* to Member States, UN-Habitat and all relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to implement Governing Council resolution 24/4 of 19 April 2013, and requests the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender

equality and women's empowerment in the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat;

7. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host Habitat III, and decides that the Conference will be held in Quito during the week of 17 October 2016;

8. *Recalls* its decisions in resolution 67/216 on the objective and results of the Conference, while remaining mindful of the need to carry out the Conference and the preparatory process in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner to ensure a successful Conference, and decides that:

(a) The Conference shall be composed of eight plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and six high-level round-table sessions to be held concurrently with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings;

(b) Parallel meetings and other events, including multi-stakeholder segments, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and the round tables, the multi-stakeholder segments will constitute an official part of the Conference, and interpretation for such meetings will be provided on an as-available basis;

(c) Special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to housing and sustainable urban development, will be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders for the benefit of the participants in the Conference;

(d) The third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Indonesia in July 2016 and shall consist of six plenary meetings on the basis of two meetings a day;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for effective coordination between the preparatory process for the Conference and the preparations for the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in order to promote coherence and to minimize duplication of effort;

10. *Encourages* Member States to participate at the highest possible level in the Conference;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to participate in the Preparatory Committee and to continue giving due consideration at all levels to the New Urban Agenda and commit to defining it, together with all relevant stakeholders;

12. *Encourages* Member States and international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions and foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to continue to support the national, regional and global preparations for Habitat III through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the forthcoming Preparatory Committee meetings and in the Conference itself in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 13 (c) of resolution 67/216, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners and other relevant stakeholders in the Preparatory Committee meetings;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations for the Habitat III preparatory process;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the effective participation in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself of local governments and all other stake-

holders, including those in the national habitat committees, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 10 of resolution 68/239, and, *inter alia*, to expedite the preparation of Habitat III national reports;

15. *Invites* Member States to facilitate participatory processes and the wide participation of stakeholders, including local authorities and their associations, when developing, revising and implementing national urban policies, where appropriate, in particular through national urban forums, and as a means of preparing for Habitat III;

16. *Encourages* stakeholders gathering at the World Urban Forum, as well as at the regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings, to provide inputs and to contribute as appropriate to the process leading to the Conference;

17. *Invites* the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to prepare the draft outcome document of the Conference on the basis of inputs from broad regional and thematic consultations among all stakeholders and to circulate it no later than six months prior to the Conference;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to include in their planned regional meetings, such as the regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, as well as those accredited to Habitat II and the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, shall register in order to participate in the Conference;

19. *Decides* that the major groups and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those accredited to Habitat II and the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, shall register in order to participate in the Conference;

20. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference, and whose work is relevant to the subject of the Conference, may participate as observers in the Conference as well as in the preparatory meetings, in accordance with the provisions contained in part VII of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee in plenary meeting, and that, while respecting fully the provisions contained in rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, such a decision should be made by consensus;

21. *Notes with appreciation*, as reported by the Secretary-General in his report submitted pursuant to resolution 68/239, that the discussions among stakeholders gathered at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum provided, *inter alia*, an important contribution to Habitat III and that in those discussions it was recognized that Habitat III was a unique opportunity to develop a new urban agenda that could contribute to harnessing urbanization as a positive force for present and future generations and to advancing the quest for equity and shared prosperity;

22. *Takes note* of the Medellin Declaration, adopted at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, in which Governments, the private sector, international organizations, academia, professionals, civil society and other social actors reaffirmed the importance of cities in sustainable development;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to provide, in the most efficient

and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the Conference, while promoting inter-agency support to the maximum extent possible;

24. *Recalls* the seven priorities and four cross-cutting issues contained in the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014–2019 approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session, which the General Assembly welcomed in its resolution 68/239;

25. *Invites* Member States, the international and bilateral donors and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to continue efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in supporting the implementation of its mandate;

28. *Notes* the governance review process of UN-Habitat, encourages the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat and the Governing Council to continue their consideration of proposals, including recommendations and options for reform, with a view to reaching a consensus at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council on how to proceed with the governance review, and underlines that it shall consider the report of the Governing Council on this and other issues at its seventieth session;

29. *Recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat have changed considerably in their scope and complexity and that the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to developing countries has changed in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in its strategic plan for 2014–2019;

30. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States and Habitat Agenda partners to formulate and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote just, resilient and inclusive cities, considering the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, and with a particular focus on the needs of women and those who are most vulnerable, including children and youth, older persons, persons living with disability, rural to urban migrants, internally displaced persons and indigenous peoples;

31. *Notes with appreciation* the first-ever integration segment of the Economic and Social Council on sustainable urbanization, held from 27 to 29 May 2014, and its focus on the role of sustainable urbanization as a transformative force for achieving and advancing sustainable development through an integrated approach that engages all key stakeholders, including local authorities, in order to produce in-

novative solutions to foster economic, environmental and social sustainability;

32. *Invites* Member States to take into account the interlinkages among the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the formulation of policies, plans and programmes at the local, national and international levels in order to address, as appropriate, the structural problems and challenges facing many cities;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

34. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the item of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Population

In 2014, global population neared 7.3 billion people, an increase of over 1.6 billion since the 1994 adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). It was projected to reach 8.4 billion by 2030, with poor families and low-income countries accounting for much of this growth. Population dynamics continued to shape the development landscape, with high mobility and migration expanding population growth in urban areas by 1.3 million people each week. The social and economic development gains achieved in the twenty-first century were already at risk from inequality and urban poverty. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) responded to 34 humanitarian crises, including the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. As mandated by the General Assembly, UNFPA also conducted a 20-year review of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, which gathered data from 176 countries. The results of the review were summarized in the Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD, which was launched by the Secretary-General in February and was considered at a special session of the General Assembly in September.

During the year, the Commission on Population and Development considered the special theme “Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”.

In a December resolution, the General Assembly called upon UN entities and other relevant organizations to continue addressing the issue of international migration and development with a view to integrating a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in alignment with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Population and development

Follow-up to 1994 Conference on Population and Development

Reports of Secretary-General. In February [A/69/62], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/234 [YUN 2010, p. 1053], the Secretary-General submitted a report on the framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014. In its resolution, the Assembly had called for an operational review of the

implementation of the Programme of Action and its key actions on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development. The framework gathered data from 176 countries, including civil society and academia, that pointed to significant achievements from 1994–2014, and was organized around five pillars of development: dignity and human rights, health, place and mobility, governance and accountability, and sustainability.

Evidence from the operational review supported the consensus of the International Conference that respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of human rights were necessary preconditions for improving the dignity and well-being of women and adolescent girls and for empowering them to exercise their reproductive rights, and that sexual and reproductive health and rights and understanding the implications of population dynamics were foundational to sustainable development. Measures such as safeguarding the rights of young people and investing in their quality education, creating decent employment opportunities and enabling access to sexual and reproductive health had strengthened young people’s individual resilience and created the conditions under which they could achieve their full potential. The path to sustainability, as outlined in the framework, demanded better leadership and greater innovation to address critical needs, including extending human rights and protecting all persons from discrimination and violence; investing in the capabilities and creativity of the world’s young people to assure future growth and innovation; strengthening health systems to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health; building sustainable cities that enriched urban and rural lives alike; and transforming the global economy to one that would sustain the future of the planet.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/234, the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/69/122] on recurrent themes and key elements identified during the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development. The report drew on statements delivered during the forty-seventh session of the Commission (see p. 1207), which was devoted to assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD [YUN 1994, p. 955]. Recurrent themes and key elements identified by States during the interactive debate of the session were related to dignity and human rights; health; place and mobility; governance and accountability; sustainability; and the success of ICPD beyond 2014.

Throughout the discussions, States expressed support for the continued centrality of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, in the period beyond 2014, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the 20-year review, including for the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

Regional review process. Regional meetings that contributed to the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD beyond 2014 included the seventh Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (Manila, Philippines, 21–24 January) and the Sixth International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (Stockholm, Sweden, 23–25 April).

Special session. In response to its resolutions 65/234 and 67/250 [YUN 2013, p. 1020], the General Assembly held a special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (New York, 22 September) [A/S-29/PV.1] to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and renew political support for actions required for achieving its goals and objectives. The special session, which brought together heads of state and government, ministers, and other high-level government officials, was a culmination of the operational review processes launched by resolution 65/234. The session had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD beyond 2014 (see p. 1206) and on recurrent themes and key elements identified during the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development (see below). Member States emphasized the centrality of the ICPD agenda to global development; reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014; and called for integrating population issues in the post-2015 development agenda. There was widespread recognition that the successful implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014 was a precondition for achieving the three pillars of sustainable development. Participants stated that the two reports of the Secretary-General formed the basis for guiding future actions on full implementation of the ICPD beyond 2014; however, they found that gaps identified in the reports required urgent attention, and called on the global community to build further on the findings and conclusions as documented in the two reports including the knowledge about the state of sexual and reproductive health globally. Member States committed to work hand-in-hand to achieve ICPD goals and objectives beyond 2014; called for further strengthening of cooperation with regional and international development agencies, such as UNFPA, and between subregional entities and groups; and encouraged the promotion of North-

South, South-South and Triangular, regional and extraregional cooperation.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Commission on Population and Development

The Commission on Population and Development, at its forty-seventh session (New York, 26 April 2013 and 7–11 April 2014) [E/2014/25], considered as its special theme the assessment of the status of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action [YUN 1994, p. 955] and adopted a resolution [res. 2014/1] on that theme.

The Commission considered the report of its Bureau on its three intersessional meetings [E/CN.9/2014/2 & Add.1] (New York, 12 September 2013, 22 November 2013 and 15 January 2014) and took note [E/2014/25 (dec. 2014/102)] of the report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2013: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs [E/CN.9/2014/5] and a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017 [E/CN.9/2014/CRP.1]. The Commission had before it three reports of the Secretary-General [E/CN.9/2014/3–5] (see below); a Secretariat note on non-governmental organizations considered for accreditation to the Commission's forty-seventh session [E/CN.9/2014/6]; and 20 statements submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council [E/CN.9/2014/NGO/1–20]. The Commission held general debates on national experience in population matters: assessment of the status of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action; and on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2014 (see p. 960). The Commission also postponed [E/2014/25 (dec. 2014/101)] the decision on the special theme for its forty-ninth (2016) session until its forty-eighth session in 2015.

Reports of Secretary-General. In a January report [E/CN.9/2014/3] submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2 [YUN 1996, p. 977], the Secretary-General provided an overview of demographic trends for the world, its major areas, development groups and selected countries, focusing on major changes that had occurred over the preceding 20 years since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action. Topics covered included population size and growth, fertility, marriage and union formation, family planning, mortality, international migration, adolescents and

youth, population ageing and urbanization. The report indicated that the world's population surpassed 7.2 billion in 2014 and was expected to increase by more than 2 billion by 2050. Most of the population growth was projected to occur in the less developed regions. While the populations of Africa and Asia were projected to increase greatly in the decades to follow, a number of countries were expected to experience population decline. Despite significant improvements in life expectancy, many countries were failing to meet the ICPD Programme of Action targets for life expectancy, infant and child mortality and maternal mortality. More than half of the world's population was living in urban areas. The number of young people had grown rapidly and was expected to remain stable over the next 35 years. In contrast, the number and proportion of older persons were expected to continue rising well into the foreseeable future. The report concluded that the state of the world's population was one of unprecedented diversity and change, reflected in new patterns of fertility, mortality, migration, urbanization and ageing. The continuation and consequences of those population trends would present opportunities and challenges for the formulation and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and for the achievement of all internationally agreed development goals.

In January [E/CN.9/2014/4 & Corr.1], in response to General Assembly resolution 65/234 [YUN 2010, p. 1053], the Secretary-General submitted a report on the framework of action for the follow-up to the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014 (see p. 1206). He also issued a report [E/CN.9/2014/5] reviewing progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1032].

Commission action. The Commission adopted and brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council a resolution on the assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD [E/2014/25 (res. 2014/1)], by which it called upon Governments to recognize the important linkages between the priorities of the Programme of Action and sustainable development and to build on the progress made and experiences gained from its implementation over the previous 20 years in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. It urged them to develop, strengthen and implement effective strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development; and to address existing gaps in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Commission also called upon States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants; address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation; and intensify efforts to achieve universal

access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support without stigma and discrimination. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on population and development, and in collaboration with the UN system and relevant organizations to continue assessing and reporting on progress towards the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the key actions for its further implementation.

By **decision 2014/239** of 16 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session and approved the provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session.

International migration and development

By **resolution 69/167** of 18 December (see p. 798), the General Assembly called upon States to promote and protect the human rights of all migrants, especially those of women and children; and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue. It further encouraged giving appropriate consideration to the issue of migration and development in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda through integrating a human rights perspective and mainstreaming a gender perspective; and requested Governments and international organizations to take appropriate measures to give due consideration to the declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development [YUN 2013, p. 1025].

Also on 18 December, by **resolution 69/187** (see p. 802), the Assembly urged all States to intensify cooperation with relevant stakeholders in order to jointly identify alternatives to reduce, mitigate and eliminate the causes and structural factors that led to irregular migration, so as to prevent minors from feeling compelled to migrate from their communities.

Twelfth Meeting on International Migration and Development. In response to Assembly resolution 58/208 [YUN 2003, p. 1087], the UN Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized the Twelfth Coordination Meeting on International Migration (New York, 20–21 February) [ESA/P/WP/237]. The meeting was attended by more than 150 participants, including representatives of Member States, observers, agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system, offices of the UN Secretariat, and the regional commissions as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the field of international migration. It focused on activities to follow up on and implement the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration

and Development [YUN 2013, p. 1025] and the eight-point agenda for action of the Secretary-General presented in his report to that High-level Dialogue [ibid., p. 1024]; and considered how migration could be integrated into the implementation framework of the post-2015 development agenda.

Global Forum on Migration and Development.

The seventh meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (Stockholm, 14–16 May) discussed the implementation of the commitments made at the 2013 High-level Dialogue and the integration of migration into the post-2015 development agenda. The meeting identified themes for future collaboration, including reducing the costs of labour migration, improving the protection of migrant domestic workers, and assisting migrants in countries facing crises.

Report of Secretary-General. In July [A/69/207], in response to resolution 67/219 [YUN 2012, p. 1029], the Secretary-General submitted a report on international migration and development, summarizing the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (New York, 3–4 October 2013), including its preparatory events and deliberations.

In accordance with resolution 67/219, the President of the Assembly organized a panel discussion (New York, 25 June 2013) on the overall theme, which briefed Member States on the latest evidence regarding the linkages between migration and development and on the means of addressing key migration challenges. Panellists observed that the discourse on international migration and development had moved significantly beyond the narrow realm of economic impact to also include social, cultural and environmental aspects; encouraged countries to leverage the benefits of migration for development by recognizing the skills acquired by their citizens while abroad and capitalize on the potential contributions of diaspora groups; and drew attention to the progress made in fostering dialogue and cooperation on migration, including through the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The informal interactive hearings (New York, 15 July 2013), which were attended by over 300 representatives of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, worker organizations, other civil society organizations and private sector representatives, offered an opportunity for civil society to express its views and voice its expectations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue and to interact with Member States. Civil society presented an eight-point five-year agenda focusing on tangible action and called for the adoption of an accountability framework to be followed up through appropriate intergovernmental processes. The High-level Dialogue, which sought to identify concrete measures for strengthening coherence and cooperation at all levels, enhancing the benefits of international migration and its important links to development and reducing its negative impact, included a plenary debate and four round

tables. At the plenary debate, Member States highlighted the importance of protecting the human rights of migrants, especially women, children and other vulnerable groups, during every step of the migration process; the centrality of developing partnerships and strengthening cooperation on migration at all levels; the role of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in promoting informal dialogue and cooperation on migration; and the need to integrate migration into national development strategies as well as the post-2015 development agenda. The round tables reviewed the effects of international migration on sustainable development; identified measures to ensure respect for, and protection of, the human rights of all migrants; discussed partnerships and cooperation on international migration, reviewed mechanisms for integrating migration into development policies and highlighted the need for coherence at all levels; and discussed labour mobility and its impact on development.

The report further outlined the main initiatives of the Global Migration Group to implement the eight-point agenda for action, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report prepared for the High-level Dialogue. The report found that, with respect to the protection of the human rights of all migrants, there had been only a few new ratifications of most international instruments concerned with international migrants and migration, and significant challenges persisted. Although some progress had been made in reducing the costs of labour migration, the average cost of transmitting remittances and recruitment costs for migrant workers remained high. In the field of migrant exploitation, responses to human trafficking and migrant smuggling had intensified. The plight of stranded migrants had received increasing attention, including through an initiative aimed at developing a set of voluntary guidelines for all stakeholders regarding emergency preparedness, institutional capacities, humanitarian assistance, protection responses and post-crisis support. In order to improve public perceptions of migrants, efforts had been undertaken to create greater public awareness of the contributions that migrants made to countries of origin and destination, and to combat discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance towards migrants and their families. The international community had begun to advocate for including migration-related goals and targets in the post-2015 development agenda. With regard to the migration evidence base, an April seminar found that the lack of consistent and complete migration data and the inherent challenges in forecasting migration continued to be an impediment to producing standardized approaches and reliable migration projections. During the year, the Global Migration Group organized briefings and side events to improve coordination with the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

The role of civil society in the follow-up to the High-level Dialogue was to include migration-related targets in the sustainable development goals of the post-2015 development agenda; provide protection and assistance to migrants in situations of crisis and transit; support reform of the migrant labour recruitment industry; and work with Member States to promote effective institutions and good governance in the context of international migration and development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/470/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/229** without vote [agenda item 21 (a)].

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005, 61/208 of 20 December 2006, 63/225 of 19 December 2008, 65/170 of 20 December 2010 and 67/219 of 21 December 2012 on international migration and development, as well as its resolution 68/4 of 3 October 2013, by which it adopted the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, its resolution 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, its resolutions 62/156 of 18 December 2007, 64/166 of 18 December 2009, 66/172 of 19 December 2011 and 68/179 of 18 December 2013 on the protection of migrants and its resolution 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and recalling also chapter X of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and Commission on Population and Development resolutions 2006/2 of 10 May 2006, 2008/1 of 11 April 2008, 2013/1 of 26 April 2013 and 2014/1 of 11 April 2014,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and recalling further the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Recalling further the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, which provided a useful opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and explore the opportunities and the challenges that international migration presents, including the protection of the human rights of migrants and the contribution of migrants to development, as reflected in the summary of its four round tables,

Recalling the regional events organized in 2013 in Bangkok from 29 to 31 May, in Cairo on 4 and 5 June, in Addis

Ababa on 3 and 4 July and in Santiago on 10 and 11 July, during the preparatory process for the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, as well as the preparatory events on international migration and development organized by the President of the General Assembly,

Recalling also its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, the eight fundamental Conventions of that Organization and the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action, which is aligned with the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and noting the contribution of civil society,

Recognizing the contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to addressing the multidimensional nature of international migration and promoting balanced and comprehensive approaches, and noting the seventh meeting of the Forum, held in Stockholm in May 2014, on the theme "Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development",

Acknowledging that the Global Forum on Migration and Development has proved to be a valuable forum for holding frank and open discussions and that it has helped to build trust among participating stakeholders through the exchange of experiences and good practices and by virtue of its voluntary, informal State-led character,

Acknowledging also the important and complex interrelationship between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits and challenges to the global community, and confirming the importance of including the matter in relevant debates and discussions held at the international level, including at the United Nations, in relation to development,

Recognizing that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients, bearing in mind that remittances cannot be considered a substitute for foreign direct investment, official development

assistance, debt relief or other public sources of financing for development,

Reaffirms that there is a need to further address and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries and, as appropriate, to encourage opportunities for development-oriented investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to take such action,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Recognizes* that international migration is a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, and in this regard recognizes that international migration is a cross-cutting phenomenon that should be addressed in a coherent, comprehensive and balanced manner, integrating development with due regard for social, economic and environmental dimensions and respecting human rights;

3. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen synergies between international migration and development at all levels, including the global, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate;

4. *Acknowledges* the complexity of migratory flows and that international migration movements also occur within the same geographical regions, and in this context calls for a better understanding of migration patterns across and within regions, regardless of the level of development;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

6. *Expresses concern* about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

7. *Recognizes* the need for international cooperation to address, in a holistic and comprehensive manner, the challenges of irregular migration to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, with full respect for human rights;

8. *Expresses concern* about the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, who place themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents, and recognizes the obligation of States to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status;

9. *Emphasizes* the need to respect and promote international labour standards, as appropriate, and to respect the rights of migrants in their workplaces, including appropriate measures for the protection of women migrant workers in all sectors, including those involved in domestic work;

10. *Notes* the contribution of applicable international conventions, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, to the international system for the protection of migrants;

11. *Recognizes* that it is necessary to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons, especially in the health, social and engineering sectors, affects the development efforts of developing countries, and emphasizes the need to consider circular migration in this regard;

12. *Also recognizes* the importance of enhancing the capacities of low-skilled migrants in order to increase their access to employment opportunities in countries of destination;

13. *Underlines* the important role that migrants play as contributors in the development of origin, transit and destination countries and the need to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and encourages Member States to consider reducing the costs related to migration, such as the fees paid to recruiters, where applicable, lowering the transfer costs of remittances, enhancing the portability of social security entitlements and other acquired rights and promoting the mutual recognition of the educational and professional qualifications and competencies of migrants;

14. *Takes note* of the references to migration and development contained in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, including target 10.c, which reads: "By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent";

15. *Expresses its concern* about the impact of financial and economic crises and natural disasters on international migration and migrants, and in this regard urges Governments to combat unfair and discriminatory treatment of all migrants, in particular migrant workers and their families;

16. *Recognizes* that women and girls account for almost half of all international migrants at the global level, and also recognizes the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls by, inter alia, incorporating a gender perspective into policies and strengthening national laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against women and girls;

17. *Reiterates its commitment* to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, protecting victims of trafficking, preventing and combating migrant smuggling, as well as the activities of transnational and national organized crime entities, and protecting migrants from exploitation and other abuses, stresses the need to establish or upgrade, as appropriate, national and regional anti-human-trafficking policies and to reinforce cooperation on prevention, the prosecution of traffickers and the protection of victims of trafficking, and encourages Member States to ratify, accede to and implement relevant international instruments on preventing and combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants;

18. *Recognizes* that the implementation at the national level of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, all of which were adopted by the General Assembly in its reso-

lution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, remains a challenge, and therefore stresses that it is important for States parties thereto to continue their efforts in this regard;

19. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate on mobility programmes that facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, including through labour mobility, as well as programmes that allow migrants to integrate fully into society and that facilitate family reunification in accordance with the laws and specific criteria of each Member State;

20. *Recognizes* the need to consider the role that environmental factors may play in migration;

21. *Also recognizes* the need to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration, and in this regard welcomes the efforts undertaken to create greater public awareness of their contributions;

22. *Strongly condemns* the acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urges States to apply and, where needed, reinforce the existing laws when xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants occur, in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit those acts;

23. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of migration in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizes that human mobility is a key factor for sustainable development which should be adequately considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

24. *Recognizes* the importance of coordinated efforts of the international community to assist and support migrants stranded in vulnerable situations and to facilitate, and cooperate on when appropriate, their voluntary return to their country of origin, and calls for practical and action-oriented initiatives aimed at identifying and closing protection gaps;

25. *Underlines* the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recalls that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received;

26. *Requests* the 18 members of the Global Migration Group to continue to take steps to strengthen their cooperation, enhance their engagement with Member States and civil society and engage jointly in work at the country level that is in the service of migrants and their families in societies of origin, transit and destination;

27. *Emphasizes* the need for reliable, accurate, disaggregated, nationally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data and indicators on international migration, including, when possible, on the contributions of migrants to development in both countries of origin and countries of destination in order to facilitate the design of evidence-based policymaking and decision-making in all relevant aspects of sustainable development, and in this regard invites the entities of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions, in accordance with their mandates and as appropriate, to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this matter;

28. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including the International Organization for Migration and other members of the Global Migration Group, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on

International Migration and Development, within their respective mandates, to strengthen their collaboration and cooperation to better and more fully address the issue of international migration and development, in order to adopt a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach, and to consider migration issues in their contributions to the preparatory process that will establish the post-2015 development agenda;

29. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the international community in addressing relevant aspects of international migration and development, through different initiatives, both within the United Nations system and in other processes, particularly the Global Forum on Migration and Development and regional processes, as well as in drawing on the expertise of the International Organization for Migration and other member agencies of the Global Migration Group;

30. *Stresses* the need to deepen the interaction between Governments and civil society in order to find responses to the challenges and the opportunities posed by international migration, to recognize the contribution of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promoting the well-being of migrants and their integration into society, especially at times of conditions of extreme vulnerability, and to strengthen the support of the international community to the efforts of such organizations;

31. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development to continue to facilitate the linkages between the United Nations and the Global Forum on Migration and Development, promote collaboration between the Global Forum process and the Global Migration Group, including the International Organization for Migration, and continue to advocate for the principles reflected in the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;

32. *Decides* to hold the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development by no later than 2019, at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, to review the follow-up to the outcome of the Second High-level Dialogue and to advance the discussion on the multidimensional aspects of international migration, with the date and modalities of the dialogue to be decided upon at its seventy-first session, and also decides to hold such dialogues to continue reviewing the follow-up to previous High-level Dialogues at regular intervals and to determine the periodicity thereof at its seventy-first session, taking into account alignment with all relevant United Nations development review processes;

33. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including the Global Migration Group, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way in the context of the follow-up to the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and with respect for human rights;

34. *Decides* to work towards an effective and inclusive agenda on international migration that integrates

development and respects human rights by improving the performance of existing institutions and frameworks, as well as partnering more effectively with all stakeholders involved in international migration and development at the regional and global levels;

35. *Invites* the regional commissions, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration and in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to examine the regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs to the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution that also looks further into the integration of the migration perspective at the national, regional and international levels, including information on best practices and recommendations to address the difficulties that migrants face and to bolster their contribution to development;

37. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “International migration and development”.

United Nations Population Fund

Activities

Executive Board. The Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) held its first regular session (27–31 January), annual session (23–27 June) and second regular session (2–5 September) [E/2014/35] in New York.

On 27 June [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/15)], the Executive Board took note of the documents contained in the UNFPA Executive Director’s 2013 report [DP/FPA/2014/5 (Part I & Add.1, Part II)] [YUN 2013, pp. 1027–1028]. It requested UNFPA to present to the Board at its second regular session in 2014 an outline of the format and information that would be provided in the annual report 2015, based on the integrated results and resources framework of the strategic plan, including those from the global and regional interventions, which would allow for appropriate tracking of results achieved against expenditures.

Reports of Executive Director. In a report [DP/FPA/2015/5 (Part I)] to the Executive Board, the UNFPA Executive Director reviewed progress towards the 2014 results of the UNFPA strategic plan 2014–2017; outlined the progress achieved in implementing General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859] on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system, as requested by Economic and Social Council

resolution 2013/5 [YUN 2013, p. 837]; and summarized the contribution of the global and regional interventions to the strategic plan results.

In 2014, the focus of UNFPA activities was on adolescents and youth, particularly adolescent girls, including in humanitarian settings, which underscored the importance of maintaining the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda as a global development priority beyond 2014. UNFPA responded to 34 humanitarian crises, including the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and five Level 3 emergencies, in the Central African Republic, Iraq, the Philippines, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Fund achieved the results that it set out to deliver in the first year of the strategic plan 2014–2017. Eighty per cent of the outcome indicators were positive compared to baselines and on track towards the 2015 targets. Target achievement was satisfactory for 89 per cent of the indicator targets; only 3 per cent was the achievement unsatisfactory. The performance of the global and regional interventions, through which global and regional offices contributed to the strategic plan results, was also strong, with satisfactory target achievement for 79 per cent of the output indicator targets. It was not, however, satisfactory for 21 per cent of the targets. In 2014, the Fund spent \$959.7 million of the integrated budget, including \$61.6 million of the global and regional interventions. In line with the integrated budget, the largest expenditure, 52.3 per cent, went to increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights. UNFPA addressed the two leading challenges—weakness in programme planning, monitoring and reporting, and limited implementing partner capacity—through implementing programmes in an inclusive, rights-based and culturally sensitive manner, engaging relevant stakeholders including religious parties and civil society actors; applying harmonized approaches with other UN agencies, development partners and civil society organizations; conducting proper environmental scanning; and applying the human rights-based approach to programming and proper advocacy strategies.

An addendum [DP/FPA/2015/5 (Part I/Add.1)] provided a statistical and financial review for 2014. The total UNFPA revenue was \$1,025.1 million, including \$523.3 million in regular resources. Total revenue increased by five per cent to \$48.4 million, which was attributable to an increase in regular resource and other resource revenue of \$27.7 and \$20.7 million, respectively. Gross regular resource contribution revenue increased by \$17.4 million, or 3.8 per cent, from 2013 to 2014.

JIU recommendations. The Executive Director reported [DP/FPA/2015/5 (Part II)], on UNFPA management responses to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). JIU issued six reports and one note in 2014 that were relevant to UNFPA: analysis of the resource mobilization function in the UN system

[JIU/REP/2014/1]; capital/refurbishment/construction projects across the UN system [JIU/REP/2014/3]; Post-Rio+20 review of environmental governance within the UN system [JIU/REP/2014/4]; analysis of the evaluation function in the UN system [JIU/REP/2014/6]; use of non-staff personnel and related contractual modalities in the UN system organizations [JIU/REP/2014/8]; contract management and administration in the UN system [JIU/REP/2014/9]; and use of retirees and staff retained beyond the mandatory age of separation at UN organizations [JIU/NOTE/2014/1]. Out of 61 recommendations made in 2014, 41 were relevant to UNFPA, of which 34 recommendations were addressed to UNFPA management and 7 to the legislative organs. Recommendations relevant to UNFPA issued by JIU in 2013 had been implemented or were being pursued; however, one recommendation was not accepted by UNFPA.

State of World Population report. The Fund's *State of World Population 2014* report [Sales No. E.14.III.H.1], entitled "The Power of 1.8 Billion", focused on adolescents, youth and the transformation of the future. It framed investments in youth not solely as responding to the needs of young people, but also as an imperative for sustainable development. Investments were needed to build institutional capacity, strengthen human capital, pursue economic models that improved employment prospects, and promote inclusive governance and the enjoyment of human rights.

Development results

Access to integrated SRH services. Overall, steady progress was made in increasing the availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including family planning, maternal health and HIV. The proportion of countries in which 95 per cent of service delivery points had the seven life-saving maternal/reproductive health medicines increased from 32 per cent to 44 per cent; and the estimated proportion of countries in which at least 80 per cent of live births were attended by skilled health personnel increased from 53 per cent to 59 per cent. Exceeding the 2015 target of 21, 43 countries increased their annual SRH budget by at least 5 per cent. Through its global and regional interventions, the Fund advocated for expanded access to integrated SRH services. UNFPA co-chaired the Family Planning 2020 Reference Group; backed **resolution 69/148** (see p. 1270) on intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula; and provided 42 technical inputs for promoting SRH in the ICPD agenda beyond 2014 and the post-2015 development agenda. At country level, UNFPA strengthened capacity for delivering integrated SRH services by providing financial and technical support, tools and guidance to advocate for and strengthen systems. The Fund continued to lead and scale up the global Campaign to End Fistula, which comprised over 90 international

partner agencies and supported over 50 countries to strengthen their national programming and policies. More than 10,175 fistula repair surgeries were conducted in 2014 with UNFPA support.

Development policies for adolescents. Adolescents, especially very young adolescent girls, were increasingly prioritized in development policies and programmes in 2014. The number of countries with laws allowing adolescents to access SRH services increased from 74 to 86, surpassing the 2015 target of 78. The proportion of young women aged 15–24 who had correct knowledge about HIV prevention increased from 22 per cent to 23 per cent. For young men, it remained at 32 per cent. At national level, particularly through the UNFPA-led Action for Adolescent Girls initiative, countries were provided with evidence, technical know-how and capacity in evidence-based programming on adolescents and youth. UNFPA advocated in 42 countries to allow adolescents and youth to have legal access to quality SRH counselling and HIV services, surpassing the target of 36 countries. With regard to comprehensive sexuality education, 24 countries aligned their curricula with international standards, bringing to 63 the number of programme countries with such curricula.

Gender equality and reproductive rights. The number of countries with a gender action plan covering reproductive rights and supported by a national budget allocation increased from 46 to 64; however, the proportion of countries that took action on all the reproductive rights recommendations accepted by the Universal Periodic Review from the previous cycle dropped from 37 per cent in 2012 to 23 per cent. With a view to the development, dissemination and implementation of multisectoral essential services standards on gender-based violence, the first-ever joint programme between UNFPA and UN-Women was rolled out, and over 23,000 women and girls received prevention, protection and care services related to female genital mutilation. Some 2,021 communities supported by UNFPA declared the abandonment of female genital mutilation, exceeding the target of 1,800. UNFPA supported civil society organizations, including faith-based groups, to engage in promoting reproductive rights and women's empowerment; and led the coordination of gender-based violence services in humanitarian crises. In 2014, 54 per cent of countries affected by humanitarian crises had a functioning inter-agency gender-based violence coordination body, compared to 38 per cent in 2012.

Population dynamics. UNFPA made progress in strengthening national policies and international development frameworks through integration of evidence-based analysis. The number of countries that had at least one census whose results were analysed and disseminated according to internationally agreed standards increased from 66 to 104; the number of countries that conducted a national household survey

allowing estimation of key population and reproductive health indicators increased from 69 to 101; and the number of countries that completed evaluations on strategic interventions addressing SRH and adolescents and youth increased from 26 to 66. Additionally, 130 national development plans in UNFPA programme countries addressed population dynamics in setting development targets based on population trends and projections. At the global and regional level, UNFPA developed 35 tools, exceeding the target of 2, to reflect key findings on UNFPA priority issues in the post-2015 development agenda. The Fund provided technical support for 39 countries to conduct, analyse and disseminate census data; the population situation analysis was conducted in 31 countries.

Country and intercountry programmes

UNFPA programme expenditures for country, regional and global activities in 2014 from regular resources totalled \$339.2 million, according to the Executive Director's statistical and financial review [DP/FPA/2015/5 (Part I/Add.1)]. That figure was complemented by \$481.0 million from other resources, bringing 2014 expenditures to a total of \$820.2 million. The 2014 figure from regular resources included \$277.6 million for country programmes and \$61.6 million for global and regional interventions. The figures for country programmes were complemented by \$344.5 million from other sources, bringing the total for country programmes to \$622.1 million.

Eastern and Southern Africa. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa totalled \$183.2 million in 2014. The largest share was spent on increased availability and use of integrated SRH services (69.7 per cent), followed by population dynamics (11.5 per cent) and gender equality and reproductive rights (10.9 per cent).

On 31 January [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/9)], the Executive Board approved the final country programme document for Namibia. The Executive Board [dec. 2014/23], in June, approved the two-year programme extension for Burundi and, on an exceptional basis, the country programme document for Kenya. It further took note of the first one-year programme extension for Uganda; and the draft country programme documents and comments made for Angola and the Comoros. On 5 September [dec. 2014/29], the Executive Board approved the final country programmes of Angola and the Comoros, and approved the two-year programme extension for Botswana.

Western and Central Africa. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Western and Central Africa totalled \$158.1 million in 2014. The largest share was spent on increased availability and use of integrated SRH services (66.2 per cent), followed by population dynamics (15.9 per cent) and increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young ad-

olescent girls, in national development policies and programmes (8.2 per cent).

On 27 June [dec. 2014/23], the Executive Board approved the second programme extension, for one year, for Guinea-Bissau, and took note of the first one-year programme extension for Algeria and the draft country programme document and comments made for Sierra Leone. In September [dec. 2014/29], the Executive Board approved the final country programmes of Sierra Leone and Tunisia.

Arab States. Provisional data for UNFPA expenditures on programmes in Arab states totalled \$83.4 million in 2014. The largest share was spent on increased availability and use of integrated SRH services (55.2 per cent), followed by gender equality and reproductive rights (26.4 per cent) and population dynamics (10.6 per cent).

In June [dec. 2014/23], the Executive Board took note of the first one-year programme extension for Lebanon and the draft country programme document and comments made for Tunisia. On 5 September [dec. 2014/29], the Executive Board approved the final country programme for Afghanistan and the country programme document for the State of Palestine.

Asia and the Pacific. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Asia and the Pacific totalled \$160.2 million in 2014. The largest share was spent on increased availability and use of integrated SRH services (39.2 per cent), followed by population dynamics (39.0 per cent) and gender equality and reproductive rights (12.3 per cent).

On 27 June [dec. 2014/23], the Executive Board took note of the draft country programme documents and comments made for Afghanistan and Timor-Leste. On 5 September [dec. 2014/29], the Executive Board approved the final country programme of Timor-Leste.

Latin America and the Caribbean. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes amounted to \$55.0 million in 2014. The largest share was spent on increased availability and use of integrated SRH services (45.5 per cent), followed by increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes (20.5 per cent) and population dynamics (16.0 per cent).

On 31 January [dec. 2014/9], the Executive Board approved the final country programme document for Mexico. In June [dec. 2014/23], the Executive Board took note of the draft country programme document and comments made for Venezuela. On 5 September, the Executive Board [dec. 2014/29] approved the final country programme for Venezuela and the country programme documents for Ecuador, Guatemala and Paraguay.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA programmes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia totalled \$28.0 million in 2014. The largest share was spent on increased availability and

use of integrated SRH services (41.1 per cent), followed by population dynamics (22.5 per cent) and gender equality and reproductive rights (17.9 per cent).

On 5 September, the Executive Board approved [dec. 2014/29] the country programme document for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Global programme. Provisional expenditures for UNFPA global activities totalled \$152.3 million in 2014. Most of that amount was spent on increased availability and use of integrated SRH services (81.2 per cent), followed by gender equality and reproductive rights (6.2 per cent) and population dynamics (5.1 per cent).

Financial and management questions

Financing

UNFPA total revenue was \$1,025.1 million in 2014, a \$48.4 million (5.0 per cent) increase over the 2013 figure of \$976.7 million. The revenue from regular resources was \$477.4 million and the gross contribution of other resources was \$529.2 million, summing up total gross contributions of \$1,006.6 million. Total expenses were \$995.6 million.

On 5 September [E/2014/35 (dec. 2014/29)], the Executive Board took note of the updated integrated resource plan for 2014–2017.

Audit and oversight

On 30 January [dec. 2014/8], the Executive Board took note of the UNFPA report on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the UN Board of Auditors for 2012 [YUN 2013, p. 1030]. It welcomed the progress made by UNDP and UNFPA in addressing the top audit-related priorities in 2012–2013 and requested them to continue to strengthen internal controls and improve oversight and monitoring of country offices, including the timely implementation of outstanding recommendations of the Board of Auditors, and to continue to ensure compliance with policies and procedures for procurement, inventory tracking and bank reconciliation. The Board further encouraged UNDP and UNFPA to prioritize the finalization of the revised framework for the harmonized approach to cash transfers, in coordination with other members of the United Nations Development Group, and to ensure improved oversight when the revised framework was implemented.

In April [DP/FPA/2014/6], the Director of the UNFPA Division for Oversight Services (DOS) reported on internal audit and oversight activities in 2013. During the year, DOS worked on 24 internal audit engagements; and issued 14 internal audit reports and 10 country office internal audit reports. The annual report of the UNFPA Audit Advisory Committee and the management response thereto were contained in an addendum [DP/FPA/2014/6/Add.1]. A separate comprehensive management response was

made available on the UNFPA website. On 27 June [dec. 2014/21], the Executive Board took note of the reports and the corresponding management response, and encouraged UNFPA to develop and implement effective risk management policies to ensure effective delivery of the strategic plan.

On 27 June [dec. 2014/18], the Executive requested UNFPA to review and update its oversight policy, and to present for consideration and approval by the Executive Board, that revised oversight policy at the Board's first regular session in 2015. It further requested the Executive Director of UNFPA to keep the Board informed on progress made.

Other reports. Other documents issued in 2014 included a report of the UN Board of Auditors on UNFPA financial statements for 2013 [A/69/5/Add.8] and UNFPA follow up to that report of the Board of Auditors [DP/FPA/2015/3].

Evaluation

The UNFPA transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2014–2015 [DP/FPA/2014/2], which was aligned with the revised UNFPA evaluation policy approved by the Executive Board in decision 2013/21 [YUN 2013, p. 1031], and with General Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859], encompassed both corporate evaluations, which included thematic and independent country programme evaluations, and programme-level evaluations. It also presented the resources allocated to evaluation that were incorporated in the UNFPA integrated budget estimates, 2014–2017, which the Executive Board approved in decision 2013/32 [YUN 2013, p. 1030]. The report further proposed topics for consideration in the evaluation plan, 2016–2017, including evaluation of the contribution of regionalization to UNFPA corporate and development results, 2009–2014; and evaluation of the Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security, 2013–2020.

On 30 January [dec. 2014/5], the Executive Board approved the UNFPA transitional biennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2014–2015, and invited UNFPA to hold discussions with the Executive Board on areas to be evaluated in 2016–2017, taking into account the topics as set out in the report.

In response to Executive Board decision 2013/31, in May UNFPA submitted the strategic framework for UNFPA global and regional interventions, 2014–2017 [DP/FPA/2014/8]. It presented the accountability mechanism, governance structure and strategic vision; outlined the linkages with the integrated results framework of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014–2017; and included projected resources by outcome, disaggregated at the global and regional levels. An addendum [DP/FPA/2014/8/Add.1] provided results and resources frameworks for UNFPA global and regional interventions, 2014–2017.

On 27 June [dec. 2014/16], the Executive Board approved the strategic framework and endorsed the results and resources framework. It endorsed the proposal of UNFPA to conduct in 2016 an independent evaluation of the global and regional interventions; encouraged UNFPA to coordinate the evaluation; and requested that UNFPA ensure an appropriate and timely follow-up to relevant findings. It further requested that UNFPA report annually on the global and regional interventions as part of the annual report of the Executive Director, summarizing the contributions of the results and resources of the global and regional interventions to the achievements under the strategic plan, 2014–2017.

In April, the Director of the Evaluation Office [DP/FPA/2014/7] presented the annual report of evaluation, reviewing the evaluation function at UNFPA for the 2012–2013 biennium. The report contained information on human and financial resources dedicated to evaluation at UNFPA; progress made to build evaluation capacity within the organization; key findings and lessons learned from corporate evaluations finalized in 2012–2013; and actions undertaken to facilitate the use of evaluation at UNFPA.

On 27 June [dec. 2014/17], the Executive Board took note of the report on evaluation and requested the UNFPA Evaluation Office to include in the report information on the implementation of the evaluation policy and the biennial budgeted evaluation plan, 2014–2015. It requested UNFPA to report on progress in addressing key issues and challenges in evaluation in the report, and on follow-up to management responses to corporate and programme-level evaluations. The Executive Board further urged UNFPA to ensure that management responses addressed evaluation findings and recommendations in a timely manner, with a view to improving programme performance, effectiveness and efficiency.

Ethics Office

A March report [DP/FPA/2014/4] of the UNFPA Ethics Office reviewed the Office's activities in 2013, described trends in the mandated areas of its work, and assessed actions taken and progress made in addressing the key recommendations that were made to management in the 2012 annual report [YUN 2013, p. 1031].

On 27 June [dec. 2014/22], the Executive Board welcomed the report of the UNFPA Ethics Office and urged UNFPA management to continue its efforts to allocate sufficient resources to the ethics function.

Other financial and administrative issues

In a May report [DP/FPA/2014/9], UNFPA submitted to the Executive Board the proposed revisions to the financial regulations and rules to become effective 1 July 2014. In addition to a robust internal review by UNFPA management, the proposed revisions had been thoroughly reviewed and discussed with the UNFPA

Legal Office and UNFPA Office of Audit and Investigation Services. The Executive Board also had before it the report of the Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the proposed revisions to the UNFPA financial regulations and rules.

On 27 June [dec. 2014/19], the Executive Board endorsed the recommendations contained in the ACABQ report; approved the revisions of the financial regulations subject to the provisions listed in that decision, and took note of the changes to the financial rules and that the revised financial regulations and rules would become effective 1 July 2014.

The UNFPA Executive Director in July [DP/FPA/2014/15] reported on contributions by Member States and others to UNFPA and revenue projections for 2014 and future years. In 2013, UNFPA contribution revenue for regular and co-financing resources was \$957.9 million, a decrease of 0.6 per cent over 2012. The breakdown of that total revenue was \$460.0 million in voluntary contributions to regular resources and \$497.8 million to co-financing resources. Compared with 2012, the increase in contributions for regular resources in 2013 was \$22.5 million, or 5.1 per cent, and for co-financing, there was a decrease in contributions of \$27.8 million, or 5.3 per cent.

On 5 September [dec. 2014/25], the Executive Board took note of the report; requested UNFPA to continue to improve its effectiveness and efficiency, including through the reduction of management costs; and encouraged all Member States to increase their contributions to regular resources. It further requested UNFPA to continue to explore incentives, mechanisms and funding windows to broaden the donor base and to support donors to increase their core contributions; and to present a resource mobilization strategy toward that end at the second regular session of the Executive Board in 2015. It encouraged UNFPA, in the context of the planned review of the new cost-recovery methodology and the related rates in 2016, to propose adjustments that might strengthen incentives for providing more predictable and less restricted/earmarked core and non-core funding; and decided to organize a structured dialogue with Member States to monitor and follow up on the predictability, flexibility and alignment of resources provided for implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2014–2017, including information on funding gaps.

A July report [DP-FPA-OPS/2014/1] of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on joint procurement activities presented key findings and outcomes from common procurement work conducted in 2013 and set out the initiatives under way in 2014.

On 5 September [dec. 2014/27], the Executive Board welcomed the report; requested UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to further improve the monitoring of joint procurement activities; to report on the implementation of the UN model framework for vendor sanctions; and to

enhance the analysis in future reports, including quantified information on efficiency gains, lessons learned, challenges in pursuing a collaborative approach and how they were being addressed.

Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

A July report [DP/2014/24-DP/FPA/2014/16 & Corr.] prepared jointly by UNDP and UNFPA addressed the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Issues of particular relevance to UNDP and UNFPA included the AIDS response in the post-2015 development agenda; a thematic segment on HIV, adolescents and youth; and the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework and 2014–2015 budget of UNAIDS. The report stated that, despite considerable progress, AIDS was far from vanquished, and gains were reversible. Accelerated efforts were needed to achieve Millennium Development Goal 6 of halting and reversing the spread of HIV and reaching the targets of the UN Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS [YUN 2011, p. 1135]. UNDP, UNFPA and partners needed to step up the pace and sharpen the focus of HIV response. Continued dedicated action was required on the strategic vision of UNAIDS, concentrating on high-impact countries, and within countries, on key populations and underserved groups.

On 5 September [dec. 2014/29], the Executive Board took note of the report.

United Nations Population Award

The 2014 United Nations Population Award was presented to Father Aldo Marchesini of Italy in the individual category and the non-governmental organization Jhpiego (originally known as the Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics) of the United States of America in the institutional category.

The Award was established by General Assembly resolution 36/201 [YUN 1981, p. 792], to be presented annually to individuals and institutions, or any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contributions to increasing awareness of population questions and to their solutions. In July [A/69/129], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the report of the UNFPA Executive Director on the Population Award.

Other population activities

UN Population Division

The Secretary-General's report [E/CN.9/2015/6] on programme implementation and progress of work of the United Nations Population Division in 2014

described the Division's activities on the analysis of fertility, population policies and international migration; preparation of world population estimates and projections; analysis of mortality; interrelations between population and development; and the monitoring and dissemination of population information. The report also covered other major activities carried out by the Division, including the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, organization of expert meetings and dissemination of results, mainly through the Internet.

In the area of fertility and family planning, the Population Division issued *World Contraceptive Use 2014*, a comprehensive data set on family planning indicators for 194 countries or areas. The data set filled some of the gaps in empirical data on family planning, including on the prevalence of specific methods and on the unmet need for family planning. A concise analysis of fertility was presented in the *World Fertility Report 2013*, which focused on fertility at the extremes: countries where fertility levels were relatively high (more than 3.2 children per woman) and countries where levels were relatively low (2.0 children per woman or fewer). The report highlighted the different pathways countries had taken that resulted in extreme levels of fertility, how key correlates of fertility had changed over time and the policy approaches of countries with extreme fertility levels.

In the area of population policies, the Population Division launched the United Nations Eleventh Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development, which was to be completed in 2015. It recorded government views and policies on key aspects of population and development; and provided a tool for documenting how such views and policies had changed over time. The Division published a report entitled "Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World", which provided up-to-date information on government policies on abortion and related reproductive health issues for all Member, Observer and non-member States of the United Nations, and discussed changes between 1996 and 2013 in the legal grounds on which induced abortion was permitted in each country. The Division also published a policy brief on that topic using information from the 2013 revision of the World Population Policies Database [YUN 2013, p. 1033]. Among the key findings was that, although a growing number of countries around the world had expanded the legal grounds for abortion, abortion policies in many countries continued to be restrictive.

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/219 [YUN 2012, p. 1029], the Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (see p. 1209). It hosted two retreats of the Global Migration Group related to international migration, migrants and mobility for

the post-2015 development agenda; and continued to maintain and update the global migration database, which included over 4,800 data tables available for over 91 per cent of all countries and areas of the world.

In the field of world population estimates and projections, the Population Division issued *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision*, which showed that 54 per cent of the world's population resided in urban areas in 2014. The most urbanized regions included northern America (82 per cent living in urban areas in 2014), Latin America and the Caribbean (80 per cent) and Europe (73 per cent). In contrast, Africa and Asia remained mostly rural, with 40 and 48 per cent of their respective populations living in urban areas.

Regarding health and mortality, the Population Division produced several studies related to adult mortality, including mortality at older ages; contributed to the work of the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation; continued to collaborate in the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group; conducted research on the use of sibling histories from surveys to derive maternal mortality estimates; and produced a technical paper entitled "The impact of including reports from male respondents on estimates of maternal mortality from demographic and health surveys".

In the field of population and development, the Population Division published a wall chart on population and development in small island developing States, in anticipation of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (see p. 936). In the area of urbanization, the Division produced a new version of the estimates of the *Urban and Rural Population by Age and Sex* for the period 1980–2015 for all countries of the world with a population of 300,000 inhabitants or more in 2014, which was available in CD-ROM and as an interactive database online. The Division continued its work in updating its databases and analyses in the area of population ageing. It released a new database entitled "Population ageing and development 2014", which contained time-series indicators on population ageing and development, including population size and age structure, fertility, health and mortality, socioeconomic indicators and government views and policies related to ageing.

In relation to the interrelations between population and the environment and the international attention to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda, the Population Division released the "Population and development" database, which included 62 variables dealing with population

dynamics, labour force, education, health, economic growth, social development, natural resources and the environment.

Regarding monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information, the Population Division prepared the reports for the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development (see p. 1207), including the biennial report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (*ibid.*); the report of the Secretary-General on the framework of action for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) beyond 2014 (see p. 1206); an index report indicating recurrent themes and key elements identified during the sessions of the Commission, which was transmitted for consideration at the twenty-ninth special session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to ICPD beyond 2014 (see p. 1207).

The Population Division organized the Twelfth Coordination Meeting on International Migration (New York, 21–22 February) (see p. 1208), which focused on the follow-up to and implementation of the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development [YUN 2013, p. 1025], and of the eight-point agenda for action of the Secretary-General [*ibid.*, p. 1024]. The Division also participated in the twenty-fourth session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (see p. 1465) and in the meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators (Geneva, 7–9 October) to assess progress towards Goal 5 on improving maternal health, including target 5.B on reproductive health. The Division updated and expanded its website to provide timely access to population information, including through the newly released Population Policy Database; and promoted content via social media channels.

In the area of technical cooperation, the Population Division, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, provided technical support to the Government of Uruguay at the request of the Office of Planning and Budget. In collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Africa, the Population Division convened a workshop on "Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data for development" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November, which served to enhance the capacity of 40 participants from 13 countries of sub-Saharan Africa to produce national migration data and use the data for policy purposes.

Social policy, cultural development and human resources development

In 2014, the United Nations continued to promote social, cultural and human resources development, and to implement related programmes of action including on the situation of ageing persons, persons with disabilities, youth, the family and literacy.

The Commission for Social Development held its fifty-second regular session in February under the priority theme “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”. The General Assembly considered follow-up to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and to the Assembly’s twenty-fourth (2000) special session.

The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing continued to monitor progress in the implementation and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, focusing on implementation of existing international framework on the human rights of older persons and identification of existing gaps at the international level.

In the area of disability, in December, the General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for urgent action by all stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development strategies with disability-targeted actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support.

The General Assembly, in December, designated 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, highlighting the importance of the acquisition of skills by youth in enhancing their ability to make informed choices in life and work. During the year, the United Nations observed the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

Regarding cultural development, in June, the General Assembly established the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize as a tribute to the achievements and contributions of individuals to the purpose and principles of the United Nations. In August, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations held its sixth Global Forum in Bali, Indonesia and adopted the Bali Declaration, by which Member States reaffirmed the importance of common and shared values as a unifying factor in a world facing multiple challenges to coexistence.

In the field of human resources development, the United Nations University (UNU) established the UNU Centre for Policy Research at the UNU Centre in Tokyo to enhance UNU policy relevance in the fields of peace, security and global development. In

addition, the United Nations System Staff College reached a record number of beneficiaries in 2014, exceeding 16,000.

Social policy

Social development

Follow-up to 1995 World Summit and General Assembly special session

On 18 July [A/69/157], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/135 [YUN 2013, p. 1036], the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly a report on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development [YUN 1995, p. 1113] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly [YUN 2000, p. 1012]. He provided an overview of discussions held by the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-second session (see p. 1226), with a focus on the priority theme “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”.

In the first part of the report, the Secretary-General reviewed policies and strategies for the promotion of people empowerment. He also addressed the special needs of Africa and the least developed countries, as well as progress made in the implementation of programmes related to social groups and social integration, highlighting the situations of young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, families and indigenous peoples. In the second part, he focused on the social dimension of sustainable development and examined policies and strategies that could influence the social conditions and factors that shape processes of change across social, economic and environmental domains.

The Secretary-General’s recommendations to the General Assembly included the need for Governments to invest in social protection and essential social services; improve access to decent work and to information and productive resources; eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices and other barriers to participation; enhance institutional transparency and accountability mechanisms in order to facilitate broad-based civic participation through periodic consultations, public hearings, town hall meetings and social dialogue; strengthen capacities for

gathering, and analysing and making widely available, high-quality, timely and reliable data; enhance policy coherence and coordination across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, with poverty eradication and the promotion of decent work as central objectives; and give priority to employment creation and the expansion of social protection in national policymaking.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/143** without vote [agenda item 26 (a)].

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcome of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009 entitled “Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development”,

Welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the priority theme for the 2015–2016 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development shall be “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”,

Recalling the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council, entitled “Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals”,

Recalling also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2013 of the Economic and Social Council, entitled “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals”,

Recalling further the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2014 session of the Economic and Social Council on the theme “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”,

Noting that the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, with its four strategic objectives, has an important role to play in achieving the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including its objective of social protection, as reaffirmed in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, in which the particular role of the Organization in promoting fair globalization and its responsibility to assist its members in their efforts were acknowledged, as well as in the Global Jobs Pact,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, welcoming the views of the Commission, as discussed at its fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and looking forward to the views of the Commission on the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Developments Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Recognizing also that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of economic and social development,

Expressing deep concern that attainment of the social development objectives is being hindered by the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and the challenges posed by climate change,

Recognizing the complex character of the ongoing food insecurity situation, including food price volatility, as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of the necessary technology, and recognizing also that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies

in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen food insecurity,

Acknowledging the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

Reaffirming the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable and inclusive social development and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that its extent and its manifestations, such as hunger and malnutrition, trafficking in human beings, disease, lack of adequate shelter and illiteracy, are particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Recognizing the importance of the international community in supporting national capacity-building efforts in the area of social development, while recognizing the primary responsibility of national Governments in this regard,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these strategies and policies should constitute fundamental components of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work for all should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

Recognizing the need to enhance access to the benefits of trade, including agricultural trade, for developing countries in order to foster social development,

Recognizing also that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

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

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

5. *Expresses deep concern* that the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as the lack of results so far in the multilateral trade negotiations, have negative implications for social development;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the policy space of national Governments, in particular in the areas of social expenditure and social protection programmes, and calls upon international financial institutions and donors to support developing countries in achieving their social development, in line with their national priorities and strategies by, among other things, providing debt relief;

7. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has not been fully implemented in national and international policymaking and that, although poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and decent work and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

8. *Acknowledges* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), launched after the World Summit for Social Development, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty;

9. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the first Decade has fallen short of expectations, and recalls the proclamation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

11. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should tackle poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations and that equity, inclusivity, the

reduction of inequalities and the empowerment of the poor need to be incorporated into those policies;

12. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

13. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive and people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity and inclusion in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

14. *Also stresses* that stability in global financial systems and corporate social responsibility and accountability, as well as national economic policies that have an impact on other stakeholders, are essential in creating an enabling international environment to promote economic growth and social development;

15. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

16. *Stresses* the importance of economic, social and cultural rights and the importance of the principles of non-discrimination, inclusivity and meaningful participation for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development;

17. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that they are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

18. *Encourages* Governments to promote effective participation of people in civic, social, economic and political activities, as well as in the planning and implementation of social integration policies and strategies, in order to better achieve the goals of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work and social integration;

19. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the promotion of opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the most disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, including respect for fundamental

principles and rights at work, also reaffirms that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development, that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities and that human resources development strategies should be premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link between education, health, training and employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy, and further reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

20. *Stresses* the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets;

21. *Reaffirms* the need to address all forms of violence in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, particularly against women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and discrimination, including xenophobia, recognizes that violence increases challenges to States and societies in the achievement of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, and further recognizes that terrorism, trafficking in arms, organized crime, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, politically motivated killing and genocide present fundamental threats to societies and pose increasing challenges to States and societies in the attainment of conditions conducive to social development and that they also present urgent and compelling reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity;

22. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to mainstream the goal of full and productive employment and decent work for all into their policies, programmes and activities, as well as to support the efforts of Member States aimed at achieving this objective, and invites financial institutions to support efforts in this regard;

23. *Recognizes* that promoting full employment and decent work for all also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men, and girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health systems and applying international labour standards, and urges States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as civil society, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work for all, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education,

skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education, inter alia, in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of women in the different stages of their lives;

24. *Also recognizes* that full and productive employment and decent work for all, which encompass social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work, tripartism and social dialogue, are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore an important objective of international cooperation, and supports the promotion of innovative approaches in the design and implementation of employment policies and programmes for all, including the long-term unemployed;

25. *Encourages* States to design and implement policies and strategies for poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all, including the creation of full and productive employment that is appropriately and adequately remunerated, as well as policies and strategies for social integration that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and address the specific needs of social groups such as young people, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, taking into account the concerns of those groups in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development programmes and policies;

26. *Stresses* the need to allocate adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace, including unequal access to labour market participation and wage inequalities, as well as reconciliation of work and private life for both women and men;

27. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of effectively enforcing labour laws with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

28. *Recognizes* the responsibility of Governments to urgently and significantly scale up efforts to accelerate the transition towards universal access to affordable and quality health-care services;

29. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship;

30. *Recognizes* that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, advances have been made in addressing and promoting social integration, including through the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, the World Programme of Action for Youth, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

31. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be inclusive and distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and

programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

32. *Recognizes* the importance of providing social protection schemes for the formal and informal economy as instruments for achieving equity, inclusion and stability and cohesion of societies, and emphasizes the importance of supporting national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy;

33. *Stresses* that poverty eradication policies should, inter alia, ensure that people living in poverty have access to education, health care, water and sanitation and other public and social services, as well as access to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology, knowledge and information, and also ensure that citizens and local communities participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes in this regard;

34. *Recognizes* that the social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and access to education and employment, through integrated development strategies;

35. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities and address the challenges posed to social development by globalization and market driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

36. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to develop systems of social protection that support labour market participation and address and reduce inequality and social exclusion and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, invites the International Labour Organization to strengthen its social protection strategies and policies on extending social security coverage, urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, including the implementation of social protection floors, which can provide a systemic base upon which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the International Labour Organization recommendation on social protection floors;

37. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner;

38. *Reaffirms* the commitment to promote the rights of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, employment, housing, sanitation, health and social security, and notes the attention paid to those areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

39. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, and underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy;

40. *Acknowledges* the role that the public sector can play as an employer and its importance in developing an environment that enables the effective generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all;

41. *Also acknowledges* the vital role that the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full employment and decent work for all, and encourages the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives, to contribute to decent work for all and job creation for both women and men, and particularly for young people, including through partnerships with Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and academia;

42. *Recognizes* that steps should be taken to anticipate and offset the negative social and economic consequences of globalization, giving priority to agricultural and non-farm sectors, and to maximize its benefits for poor people living and working in rural areas, while paying special attention to the development of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in rural areas, as well as subsistence economies, to secure their safe interaction with larger economies;

43. *Stresses* that more concerted efforts are required to boost smallholder productivity in a sustainable manner, including scaling up public investments in agriculture, attracting responsible private investment in agriculture, improving the quality and quantity of rural extension services and ensuring that smallholder farmers, in particular women, have access to the necessary resources, assets and markets;

44. *Recognizes* the need to pay necessary attention to the social development of people in urban areas, especially the urban poor;

45. *Also recognizes* the need to give priority to investing in and further contributing to sustainable development, including sustainable agricultural development, and to a financial infrastructure that provides access to a variety of sustainable products and services for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship cooperatives and other forms of social enterprises, and the participation and entrepreneurship of women as means to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all;

46. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit, underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

47. *Also reaffirms*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

48. *Stresses* that the international community should enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

49. *Also stresses* that international trade and stable financial systems can be effective tools to create favourable conditions for the development of all countries and that trade barriers and some trading practices continue to have negative effects on employment growth, particularly in developing countries;

50. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition;

51. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

52. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

53. *Urges* Member States and the international community to fulfil all their commitments to meet the demands for social development, including social services and assistance, that have arisen from the global financial and economic crisis, which particularly affects the poorest and most vulnerable;

54. *Encourages* Member States to reflect in their development strategies current trends in global growth, including nascent recoveries in some economies that offer new opportunities for trade, investment and growth;

55. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives taken on a voluntary basis by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization and the Advance Market Commitments for Vaccines, and notes the New York Declaration of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raising funds urgently needed to help to meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure the long-term stability and predictability of foreign aid;

56. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to

the achievement of social development goals, and acknowledges the importance of efforts to promote the exchange of information and knowledge on decent work for all and job creation, including green jobs initiatives and related skills, and to facilitate the integration of relevant data into national economic and employment policies;

57. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, emphasizes the responsibility of transnational corporations to respect all applicable laws and international principles, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, to operate transparently, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner and to refrain from affecting the well-being of peoples, and also emphasizes the need to take further concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption, and to prevent human rights abuses;

58. *Stresses* the importance of promoting corporate social responsibility and accountability, encourages responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the Global Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, invites the private sector to take into account not only the economic and financial implications but also the development, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of its undertakings, and underlines the importance of the International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;

59. *Acknowledges* the inclusion in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals of a goal to end poverty in all its forms everywhere and a goal to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and reiterates the continued importance of giving due consideration to poverty eradication, social integration, full employment and decent work for all in the ongoing discussion on the post-2015 development agenda;

60. *Reaffirms* the importance of rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world by, inter alia, appraising progress made, identifying gaps and challenges in achieving the internationally agreed social development goals and realizing opportunities for social development;

61. *Stresses* the importance of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations development system and the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other international organizations, as well as civil society and private sector organizations, to actively promote and undertake activities during 2015 to support an appropriate celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit;

62. *Decides* to devote one high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, within existing resources, at its

seventieth session, in 2015, to the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit, in order to celebrate the progress made so far and to further strengthen the role of social development beyond 2015, and requests the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States in order to determine the modalities for that meeting;

63. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, the funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

64. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development to give appropriate consideration to the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit by organizing a meeting during the regular programme of work of the substantive session of the Council and a half-day meeting during the fifty-third session of the Commission, in 2015, taking into account the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and the fact that a summit at the level of Heads of State and Government for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held in September 2015;

65. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to emphasize, in its review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned and to remain actively engaged in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

66. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Social development”, the sub-item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly”, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-second regular session (New York, 11–21 February 2014) [E/2014/26-E/CN.5/2014/10], discussed the priority theme “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”, and reviewed UN programmes of action on the situation of social groups and the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) (see p. 1085). It also convened three high-level panel discussions on: the priority theme; the emerging issue of social drivers of sustainable development; and the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family [YUN 1989, p. 612]. The high-level panel on the priority theme highlighted

the importance of empowerment in accelerating the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 49] and ensuring that the post-2015 development agenda would be people-centred. To that end, the panel stressed the need to create synergies between empowerment policies and the social pillar of sustainable development as highlighted in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the need to integrate social, economic and environmental aspects of development. The high-level panel on social drivers of sustainable development emphasized the importance of viewing sustainable development through a social lens as a means to formulating an inclusive post-2015 development framework. In that vein, focusing on social drivers would enable policymakers to understand social factors that drive or sustain development outcomes. Moreover, it stressed that broadening the scope of social policy and initiatives would allow multidimensional challenges such as climate change, water and food security, energy, land use and natural or man-made disasters to be tackled, allowing for more effective, durable, equitable and just solutions to be found. The high-level panel on the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family affirmed the important role of families in development and proposed the inclusion of a family focus in the post-2015 development agenda.

The Commission also highlighted the need for increased participation by youth in decision-making processes, including in the post-2015 agenda. Member States shared ideas on how to tackle the challenge of youth employment, in particular mismatches between young people's qualifications and the skills required for the labour market.

The Commission welcomed the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General and acknowledged the increased focus on youth in the works of the UN system. The Commission recommended that the Social and Economic Council adopt six draft resolutions on the following topics: the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development; social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all; promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the post-2015 development agenda; further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002; and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond. It also recommended for adoption by the Council two draft decisions: the first on the Commission's report on its fifty-second session, and the second on the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-third session. The Council was also notified of the Com-

mission's adoption of a resolution on visual health as a tool for achievement of the empowerment of people.

On 12 June, the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-third plenary meeting took note of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session (**decision 2014/218**).

Other Commission reports. The Commission issued a number of other reports for consideration during its fifty-third session. The reports addressed the social dimensions of NEPAD [E/CN.5/2015/2]; initiatives and activities by Member States and other relevant stakeholders in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family [A/70/61-E/2015/3]; rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world [E/CN.5/2015/3]; further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 [E/CN.5/2015/4]; monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities [E/CN.5/2015/5]; contributions of social development to the transition from the MDGs to the sustainable development goals [E/CN.5/2015/6]; the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development [E/CN.5/2015/7]; and the nomination of members of that Board [E/CN.5/2015/8].

On 12 June, by **decision 2014/217**, the Economic and Social Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-third session of the Commission for Social Development.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/3** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, 2008/19 of 24 July 2008 and 2010/10 of 22 July 2010 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also its resolution 2012/7 of 26 July 2012, in which it decided that the Commission shall keep its methods of work under review, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Review of methods of work of the Commission for Social Development" requested therein,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council", in which the Assembly stipulated that the Council shall invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme,

Recalling the commitment to and emphasizing the need to strengthen the Council, within its mandate under the Charter as a principal organ of the United Nations, in the

integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Noting the acceleration of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the relevance of the work of the Commission in this respect,

1. *Recalls* that the current practice of discussing one core issue over a two-year period has allowed the Commission for Social Development to go into greater depth by also addressing related cross-cutting issues and emerging issues relevant to the theme under discussion;

2. *Decides* that the Commission will report on social aspects related to the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council in order to contribute to its work;

3. *Also decides* to maintain the two-year review and policy cycle for the 2015 and 2016 sessions;

4. *Reaffirms* that the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should continue to be elected for a term of office of two years, in parallel with the review and policy cycle of 2015–2016;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, shall assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and shall advise the Council thereon;

6. *Decides* that the priority theme for the 2015–2016 review and policy cycle shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council and shall be “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”;

7. *Also decides* that the Commission should utilize, as appropriate, its agenda item on emerging issues to promote consideration of relevant issues on the agenda of the Council, in particular the annual main theme of the Council and the integration segment linked thereto, which will bring together the key messages from the Council system on the main theme and develop action-oriented recommendations for follow-up;

8. *Further decides* to consider the biennialization of the resolutions of the Commission with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues between the Council and the General Assembly;

9. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to continue to actively participate in the work of the Commission at an appropriately high level;

10. *Decides* that the Commission shall keep its methods of work, including the functioning of the two-year review and policy cycle, under review also in order to adjust, as appropriate, to the work and cycle of the Council.

Social integration

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/7 [YUN 2012, p. 1045], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.5/2014/3] on the promotion of people empowerment for achieving poverty

eradication, social integration and decent work for all. In the report, the Secretary-General reviewed policies, strategies and programmes that had effectively enabled people empowerment, and stressed the importance of building inclusive institutions and eliminating discrimination. He emphasized the role of empowerment as an engine of social development and its role in breaking the cycle of poverty and exclusion. He further stressed that Governments were best positioned to remove the formal and informal institutional barriers which prevented some individuals and groups from taking action to improve their well-being and expand their choices. In that vein, he added that Governments remained essential to people's empowerment, because only they could establish inclusive and secure legal, political, social, administrative and regulatory environments, and also possessed the mandate and resources necessary for providing services and infrastructure on the scale needed.

The Secretary-General highlighted the importance of empowerment policies that promoted human capital and productive skills; fostering access to information and communications technology; investments in social services and social protection; improving access to decent work and other productive assets; and harnessing the contributions of social movements. He also emphasized the importance of promoting civic engagement and inclusive governance processes that promoted transparency, responsiveness, and accountability on the part of public institutions. He further highlighted that certain social groups faced greater challenges than others in empowering themselves to overcome poverty or find a decent job, stressing that in order to achieve equality and non-discrimination, attention should be given to power differentials—and the barriers to participation of disadvantaged social groups must be identified and addressed.

He concluded by recommending that Governments prioritize people empowerment in the post-2015 global development agenda; allocate adequate funding to ensure universal access to social services, including quality education and health; strengthen access to productive resources by individuals belonging to socially excluded or marginalized groups, including by securing land-tenure rights; promote the use of information and communications technology and bridge the digital divide by further developing necessary infrastructure; foster broad-based participation in policymaking and governance processes and enhance the capacity of public administration entities to be transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all people; take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against all persons, including people living in poverty, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons, young persons and women; and build inclusive monitoring frameworks and social impact assessments into all rel-

evant policies and use existing monitoring frameworks to measure progress in advancing empowerment.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/5** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2012/7 of 26 July 2012, in which the Council decided that the priority theme for the 2013–2014 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development would be “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcome of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing concern about the crippling effects of poverty, inequality and disparity all over the globe,

Recognizing that the empowerment of people is essential to achieving development,

Recognizing also that policies aimed at eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all as well as social integration, and policies intended to foster the empowerment of people, are mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing further that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of social and economic development, and that people should be the key focus of plans, programmes and policies at all levels so that the results of development fairly benefit all people,

Reaffirming that empowerment and participation are important for social development and that sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of all, including children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, with due regard to the need for the full and equal participation of women,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the

way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, in which Governments reaffirmed their resolve to work together through a participatory approach involving the public sector and representatives of civil society associations and organizations of persons with disabilities for disability-inclusive development and the commitment of the international community to the advancement of the rights of all persons with disabilities, which is deeply rooted in the goals of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond,

Reaffirming that the empowerment of all people, in particular women and girls as well as youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, to strengthen their own capacity to make informed decisions in exercising the right and responsibility to take an active part in the affairs of the community in which they live is a main objective of development and its principal resource, and in this regard that empowerment requires the full participation of people in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of decisions, as appropriate, determining the functioning and well-being of our societies,

Recalling the outcome document of the third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and further recalling our understanding that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty, our vow to break the cycle of poverty within the framework of the internationally agreed goals, and the need for measures to improve access to free, compulsory and quality education and health care for all children, as well as to the progressive universalization of social protection,

Recognizing also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, in which Governments reaffirmed the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote the empowerment of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, including by removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors,

Recognizing that providing universal access to social services, including quality education, adequate and affordable water and sanitation and health care and other social care services, promoting employment and decent work for all and providing social protection floors consistent with national priorities and circumstances are important instruments for empowering people, and recognizing also the need to mobilize political commitment to full and equal access to and achievement in education of good quality for all, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and people living in rural areas,

Stressing the importance of increasing efforts by the international community, Member States and all relevant groups of society, including social partners, to reduce inequalities and eliminate social exclusion and discrimination,

Acknowledging that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development and their effective use are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the importance of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and recalling the decision of the General Assembly to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the consideration of an appropriate celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit, in 2015, in the context of coordinated and integrated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Acknowledging the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Reaffirms* that the ultimate goal of social development is to improve and enhance the quality of life of all people and that empowerment and participation are essential for democracy, harmony and social development;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitment made by Member States in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development to ensure substantial public investment and promote private investment in human resource development and in capacity-building, including in health and education and social protection, as well as in empowerment and participation, especially for people living in poverty or suffering from social exclusion;

4. *Stresses* that Member States should prioritize the creation of a "society for all" with respect for the human rights of all individuals and based on equality, mutual responsibility and cooperation, access to essential services, including health care and social care services, and the promotion of the active participation of every member of society, without discrimination, in civic, social, economic, cultural and political activities, as well as participation in decision-making processes;

5. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence, and also emphasizes that the education of women and girls is essential for poverty eradication and for their empowerment;

6. *Stresses* that special efforts should be made to foster the participation of all people, including women, people

living in poverty and those belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, in all aspects of political, economic, social, civic and cultural life, in particular the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as appropriate, of policies that affect them;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequalities on poverty, emphasizes the importance of improving access to quality education, employment, water and sanitation, health care and social protection;

8. *Encourages* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, including social partners, as appropriate, to continue to develop, improve and implement inclusive, effective and sustainable social protection systems and social protection floors based on national priorities for all members of society, including women as well as disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization on 14 June 2012;

9. *Also encourages* Governments to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth as well as older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and members of other disadvantaged groups and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work;

10. *Urges* Member States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as all relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance the employability of all members of society and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining, and long-distance education, including in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of all members of society in the different stages of their lives;

11. *Recognizes* that the creation of full and productive employment and decent work should be a central objective of national policies and that macroeconomic policy should contribute to creating more and better job opportunities and an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship, which is essential to the creation of new jobs;

12. *Also recognizes* that access to employment and decent work for all and social dialogue are essential for people's empowerment and participation, and calls for Member States to respect, promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work, in accordance with the International Labour Organization Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;

13. *Stresses* the relevance of the World Programme of Action for Youth, including its priority areas regarding poverty, employment, participation and education, for the empowerment and development of youth, and in this

regard recognizes the need to improve opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work through increased investment in youth employment, active labour market support and public-private partnerships, as well as through the creation of enabling environments to facilitate the participation of young people in labour markets, in accordance with international rules and commitments;

14. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the welfare of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons and smallholder and subsistence farmers and to improve the livelihoods and empowerment of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, in particular in developing countries;

15. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 in order to, inter alia, help societies to balance the needs of different generations in their policies, promote economic empowerment and avoid age-based discrimination against older persons;

16. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen access to productive resources for disadvantaged and vulnerable persons, including by securing land tenure rights and other rights related to the use of natural resources in accordance with national legislation, priorities and policies and by improving access to a broad range of appropriate financial services;

17. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen the capacity of national financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, and also encourages them to adopt regulatory and supervisory frameworks that facilitate the safe and sound provision of services to such populations, increase access to information and promote financial literacy, particularly for women;

18. *Stresses* the potential of information and communications technology to improve the quality of life of all people in order to enable them to better participate in sustainable development and the global economy, and in this regard calls upon Member States, with the support of the United Nations system, donors, the private sector and civil society, to promote universal, non-discriminatory, equitable, safe and affordable access to information and communications technology, especially in schools and public places, and to remove the barriers to bridging the digital divide;

19. *Invites* Governments to enhance the capacity of the public administration to be transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all people, without discrimination of any kind, and to foster broad-based participation in governance and development processes;

20. *Recognizes* that supportive institutional structures and participatory mechanisms, including consultative democratic institutions and processes, are necessary for the empowerment of people and that special efforts should be made to promote participation in policymaking and governance processes in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life and to enhance the capacity of national institutions to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of all members of society;

21. *Encourages* Member States to take all measures necessary to eliminate discrimination of any kind against all persons, without distinction of any kind, in particular

those living in poverty, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to refrain from adopting any laws, regulations or practices denying or limiting the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including economic, social and cultural as well as civil and political rights, and to ensure that people, in particular those living in poverty and women, have equal access to justice;

22. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, improving access to finance, microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by national efforts on comprehensive social policy systems, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection;

23. *Recognizes* that there is a need for all donors to maintain and deliver on their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets and that the full implementation of those commitments will substantially support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the social development objectives by promoting the empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all;

24. *Invites* Member States to give due consideration to promoting the empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and encourages Member States, in cooperation with civil society, the private sector, academia and social organizations, to make every possible effort to support good governance at the national and international levels and address the needs of the most vulnerable as well as promote their participation in decision-making processes;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, policy recommendations on the empowerment of people, taking into account the discussions held at the fifty-second session of the Commission for Social Development under the priority theme.

UN Research Institute for Social Development

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) continued to conduct research based on its 2010–2014 agenda [YUN 2010, p. 1076], whose main theme was social development in a context of crisis and uncertainty. Research focused on three areas: social policy for inclusive development; gender; and social dimensions of sustainable development. Within that framework, the work of UNRISD ad-

dressed UN system-wide concerns related to the post-2015 sustainable development goals, including poverty reduction, inequality, social protection, the empowerment of women and social drivers of sustainability. In November [E/CN.5/2015/7], the UNRISD Board submitted a report to the Commission for Social Development in which it summarized UNRISD activities during 2013 and 2014.

UNRISD also embarked on a number of new research projects. One of those projects examined the emergence, nature and effectiveness of social policy innovations from the global South, in order to ascertain whether they were better suited to the risks facing developing countries. Another project involved research on the feminization of non-traditional agriculture and its impacts on women by a joint team comprised of UNRISD, the University of Berne (Switzerland) and entities in Bolivia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Rwanda. The ultimate aim was to investigate the gender implications of agriculture commercialization and rise of non-traditional agricultural exports in those four countries.

Other UNRISD projects focused on how countries were moving towards universal social policy, including health and social protection; the mobilization of domestic resources for financing social development; the ways in which gender egalitarian policy change occurred; and the potential and limits of social and solidarity economy as a pathway towards inclusive and sustainable development. UNRISD also worked to strengthen its communications and outreach, results-based management and impact. An evaluation undertaken by UNRISD donors acknowledged significant achievements in those areas, including higher visibility, excellent value for money and the expanding influence of the Institute. As at 30 November 2014, a total of 10 staff members were under contract at UNRISD in Geneva, including the director, four research coordinators, three communications and outreach staff and two administrative and support staff.

Ageing persons

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

In February [E/CN.5/2014/4], pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/29 [YUN 2013, p. 1048], the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council a report on the implementation of the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing [YUN 2002, p. 1194]. In the report, the Secretary-General summarized the evolution of policy analysis and approach to ageing at the UN since the Madrid Plan of Action. He highlighted four thematic clusters that were at the forefront of discussions on ageing: income security; emerging

challenges in the provision of health care; abuse and violence; and age discrimination.

The Secretary-General also discussed impediments to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including lack of financial and human resources in developing countries to fund and implement policies and programmes for older persons; inadequate mainstreaming of ageing into national and global development agendas; and divergent national and regional perceptions of old age issues. On emerging views and approaches, the Secretary-General stated that discussions in the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing had begun to slowly generate a better understanding of the social, economic, cultural and legal barriers to the economic and social integration of older persons and offered insights into how to better implement the Madrid Plan of Action. He recommended greater outreach and capacity-building at all levels in order to better inform deliberations and policy development in the field of ageing.

Commission action. At its February session [E/2014/26-E/CN.5/2014/10], the Commission for Social Development recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council on the further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (see below).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/7** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, the Commission for Social Development decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Recalling its resolution 2013/29 of 25 July 2013 on the second review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/134 of 18 December 2013 and previous Assembly resolutions on ageing, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 24/20 of 27 September 2013 and its previous resolutions on ageing,

Noting that the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action will take place in 2017,

Noting also the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Recognizing that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Bearing in mind that the second review and appraisal highlighted several major challenges faced by older persons in most regions that undermined the social, economic and cultural participation of the aged, namely, income security, access to age-appropriate health-care services, access to labour markets and social protection, protection from abuse and violence, and age discrimination,

Affirming the importance of national capacity-building as a prerequisite for successful implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and an important component in promoting and protecting the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons,

Stressing the need to continue international cooperation, including through technical assistance for countries, aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons, including the development of relevant national strategies, according to national development plans,

Recognizing the importance of integrating ageing into existing processes and work programmes of the United Nations system and its development activities and of including older persons in policy implementation and evaluation on a regular basis,

Recognizing also the essential contribution that older men and women can make to the development of their societies and communities and to the well-being of the family, which can be enhanced by supportive policies, and stressing that older persons must be full participants in national development processes and share in the benefits of development,

Emphasizing the particular risks faced by older persons of neglect, physical and psychological abuse and violence, including in emergency situations,

Recognizing that population ageing is among the contributing factors to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases,

Recognizing also the vulnerability of older women to disability owing, inter alia, to gender differences in life expectancy and disease susceptibility and gender inequalities over the life course, and calling for the elimination of gender- and age-based social and economic inequalities in the provision of health-care services,

1. *Expresses concern* that when ageing has not received adequate attention it has led to older persons being overlooked by and omitted from national development plans, poverty-reduction strategies and national employment priorities;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to mainstream the rights and concerns of older persons into their policy agendas in order to adequately address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make older persons vulnerable to poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters, violence, gender discrimination, social exclusion and marginalization;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to narrow gaps between policy and practice in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and to consider the elaboration of national implementation strategies, which include efforts to enhance national capacity-

building on ageing, inter alia, by building institutional infrastructure, investing in human resources and mobilizing financial resources;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to participate effectively in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action through, inter alia, improving data collection and sharing ideas, information and good practices;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to set time-bound benchmarks for action at the national level based on the shortcomings and priorities identified at the national and regional levels of review and appraisal, in order to enhance implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

6. *Recognizes* that ageism is a widely prevalent and prejudicial attitude that may rest on the assumption that neglect of and discrimination against older persons is acceptable and that ageism is the common source of, the justification for and the driving force behind age discrimination;

7. *Encourages* Member States to promote social integration and the realization of all human rights for older persons and to prevent age discrimination;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt appropriate measures, including, if necessary, legislative measures at the national level to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and to promote their full social, economic, cultural and political participation;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national strategies, inter alia, policy implementation approaches, such as empowerment and participation, gender equality, awareness-raising and capacity development, and such essential policy implementation tools as evidence-based policymaking, mainstreaming, participatory approaches and indicators;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen efforts to develop their national capacity to set priorities and address the national implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal exercise, bearing in mind the specific needs of older persons in natural disasters and emergencies, including through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

11. *Further encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen strategic approaches and policy options in relation to the physical and mental health of older persons in the light of new and emerging disease patterns, notably non-communicable diseases, and increased life expectancy, with particular attention to addressing health needs across a care continuum, including prevention, detection and diagnosis, management and rehabilitation, treatment and palliative care, with the aim of achieving comprehensive health-care coverage for older persons;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to promote the participation of older persons in the decision-making process affecting their lives and ageing with dignity;

13. *Recognizes* the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for sustainable social development, and encourages Member States to reinforce the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and positive values, including by acknowledging the instructive role of grandparents;

14. *Encourages* Member States to provide services and support to older persons, including grandparents, who have assumed responsibility for children who were abandoned or

whose parents are deceased, have migrated or are otherwise unable to care for their dependants;

15. *Also encourages* Member States to support the national and international research community in developing studies on the impact of the Madrid Plan of Action on older persons and national social policies;

16. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other regional and subregional mechanisms, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts and to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate, practical and specific information and analysis on ageing, gender and disability, such as for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation;

17. *Invites* Member States to establish and/or strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations and organizations of older persons in order to improve their national capacity for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring in the area of ageing;

18. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level guided by each country's needs in order to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in this connection encourages Member States to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing in order to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

19. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons, including to build capacity on ageing through stronger partnerships with civil society, such as organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations and community- and faith-based organizations, and with the private sector;

20. *Invites* Member States and all other major national and international stakeholders to continue their cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the United Nations global focal point on ageing, in further implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

21. *Acknowledges* the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents, and calls upon the Secretary-General to strengthen the work of the regional commissions, including their focal points on ageing, to enable them to continue their regional implementation activities;

22. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities that can contribute to advancing the situation of older persons to, within their respective mandates, give greater priority to addressing the needs and concerns of older persons, while maximizing synergies;

23. *Recommends* that the situation of older persons, including the issues of poverty eradication, social integration, non-discrimination and empowerment, be taken into account in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and be given due consideration in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and other relevant stakeholders on:

(a) A possible theme or themes for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, to be held in 2017;

(b) How the review and appraisal process could better contribute to advancing the social integration and broad-based participation of older persons in development;

(c) How the mainstreaming of issues of ageing and older persons into the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council could be achieved;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-third session, in 2015, a report on the modalities of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action.

Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by General Assembly resolution 65/182 [YUN 2010, p. 1194], held its fourth working session (New York, 30 July–1 August) [A/AC.278/2014/2] during which it elected new officers, adopted its provisional agenda and granted accreditation to 13 NGOs from 13 countries. The session included three expert panel discussions entitled “Human rights and the care of older persons”; “Violence and abuse against older persons”; and “Planning for end of life care: legal and financial issues”. The session also featured presentations by the independent expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; the Chair and Rapporteur of the 2014 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council; an interactive dialogue on “How to strengthen the rights of older persons through enhanced implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing; and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning. The Working Group also held a general discussion featuring statements from the representatives of 16 countries, eight NGOs and the European Union.

During the discussion session, a number of delegations observed that the goal of greater protection for older persons would be reached only through a specific international legal instrument encompassing the particular human rights of that population group, as called for in General Assembly resolution 65/182 [YUN 2010, p. 1194]. The Working Group was urged to reflect on how to implement, in its entirety, its General Assembly mandate on formulating the main elements of such a legal instrument. The session formulated specific proposals for recommendation to the General Assembly, focusing on measures to address the gaps in implementation, data and monitoring on the issue of ageing. The proposals, inter alia, included the need for treaty bodies to incorporate in their respective mandates and procedures the issue of human rights of older persons; UN system funds, programmes and specialized agencies to include indicators related to older persons; Member States to include language

content related to the rights of older persons in resolutions and documents of various intergovernmental bodies; and for the rights of older persons and related issues to be highlighted in the post-2015 development agenda.

Implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action

In July [A/69/180], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/134 [YUN 2013, p. 1050], the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing [YUN 2002, p. 1193]. In the report, he focused on efforts to address age-based discrimination and neglect, and abuse and violence. Both these issues had been singled out as critical to the well-being and human rights of older persons within the framework of both the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the working sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. The Secretary-General detailed the discussion of the issue of age-based discrimination at the first four working sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing held during the period 2011–2013. He also summarized the findings of the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action.

The Secretary-General detailed the problem of neglect, abuse and violence against older women, and identified the following as key contributing factors: care settings; fragmented approaches, gender, and cultural and societal contexts; lack of data on older women's experiences of neglect, violence and abuse; underreporting and patterns of reporting; and risk factors. While some Member States had begun to address the lack of nationally uniform response systems, the report stated that a more harmonized approach to the prevention of abuse and protection of older women at the national and local levels was needed, as well as throughout the UN system. In that context, there was a critical need to broaden the prevailing knowledge base and take steps towards drafting global definitions and guidelines.

The Secretary-General also provided an update on major policy developments in the regions, civil society initiatives and publications from 2014 that were aimed at addressing the well-being and human rights of older persons. Regional policy developments included the Council of Europe's February adoption of a non-binding recommendation on the rights of older persons, which was grounded in pre-existing provisions, such as the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the European Social Charter; and the adoption by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development of a draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights concerning the rights of older persons in Africa, which would be

forwarded to the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government for adoption and signature. The Protocol would see States parties include in national law the United Nations Principles on Older Persons which dealt with independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity, and ensure that they would become legally binding as the basis for protecting the rights of older persons.

He also reported that the World Social Protection Report 2014/15, published by the International Labour Organization in June, contained a chapter on social protection for older persons which emphasized that social protection had played an increasing role in ensuring income security in old age in many countries. The findings of the report suggested that without addressing the issue of expanded and adequate old-age income security and related social and health services for older persons, the post-2015 sustainable development goals aimed at reducing or eliminating poverty would remain elusive and there could in fact be a rise in poverty rates among the growing numbers of older persons across the world. In addition, the sixty-seventh World Health Assembly on 24 May adopted resolution WHA67.19, entitled "Strengthening of Palliative Care as a Component of Comprehensive Care throughout the Life Course". The lack of age-disaggregated data had long been considered a primary reason as to why the national development strategies of many developing countries lacked attention to and knowledge of the life circumstances of older persons. Against that background, the Secretary-General reported that the Global Age Watch Index—launched on the International Day of Older Persons in 2013, created by HelpAge International, with the financial support of the United Nations Population Fund, and with the aim of providing policymakers and other stakeholders with policy-oriented research and analysis tools—had been able to compile data for 91 countries to date and planned to monitor progress and expand the Index.

The Secretary-General noted that while Member States had begun to address neglect, violence and abuse against older persons, and in particular older women, a more harmonized and universal approach to abuse prevention and protection of older women was needed. The lack of explicit references to age in anti-discrimination instruments and legislation, be it at the international or national level, was identified as undermining the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons. In that vein, the Secretary-General proposed that the General Assembly consider recommending that Member States develop an explicit reference and policy framework for addressing neglect, violence and abuse against older persons; make violence against older women an integral part of the global campaign on violence against women; and make explicit reference to age in their national anti-discrimination legislation and take effective measures

to prevent forms of multiple discrimination against older persons.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/146** without vote [agenda item 26 (c)].

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 60/135 of 16 December 2005, 61/142 of 19 December 2006, 62/130 of 18 December 2007, 63/151 of 18 December 2008, 64/132 of 18 December 2009, 65/182 of 21 December 2010, 66/127 of 19 December 2011, 67/139 and 67/143 of 20 December 2012 and 68/134 of 18 December 2013,

Recognizing that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Welcoming the important opportunity provided by the ongoing dialogue on the issues of ageing, inter alia, in the context of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda,

Acknowledging the reference to older persons contained in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, as decided by the Assembly in its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014,

Recognizing that, by 2050, more than 20 per cent of the world's population will be 60 years of age or older, and recognizing also that the increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution 58.16 of 25 May 2005 on strengthening active and healthy ageing, which stressed the important role of public health policies and programmes in enabling the rapidly growing number of older persons in both developed and developing countries to remain in good health and maintain their many vital contributions to the well-being of their families, communities and societies,

Recalling also World Health Assembly resolution 65.3 of 25 May 2012 on strengthening non-communicable disease policies to promote active ageing, which recognized that population ageing is among the major factors contributing to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases,

Concerned that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for preventative, curative, palliative and specialized care,

Deeply concerned that the situation of older persons in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis,

Recognizing the essential contribution that the majority of older men and women can continue to make to the functioning of society if adequate guarantees are in place,

Noting that older women outnumber older men, and noting with concern that older women often face multiple forms of discrimination resulting from their gender-based roles in society, compounded by their age or disability or on other grounds, which affect the enjoyment of their human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

2. *Recognizes* that the major challenges faced by older persons undermine their social, economic and cultural participation;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the appointment by the Human Rights Council of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and invites Member States to cooperate with the Independent Expert in carrying out the mandate set out in Human Rights Council resolution 24/20 of 27 September 2013;

4. *Invites* Member States to continue to share their national experiences in developing and implementing policies and programmes aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, including within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly in paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/182;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the Independent Expert and the Working Group working in close coordination, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of each other's mandates and those of other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, relevant United Nations bodies and treaties;

6. *Encourages* all Member States to be mindful of the reports of the Independent Expert, including the comprehensive report to be brought to the attention of the Working Group;

7. *Encourages* Governments to actively address issues that affect older persons and to ensure that the social integration of older persons and the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of development policies at all levels;

8. *Invites* Member States to adopt and implement non-discriminatory policies and to systematically review and amend, where appropriate, existing practices and regulations that discriminate against older persons, in order to promote an enabling environment for older persons;

9. *Encourages* Member States to address the issue of discrimination on the basis of age in relevant national legislation and to take appropriate measures to prevent discrimination against older persons;

10. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, in particular older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication, women's empowerment strategies and national development plans, and to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their national strategies;

11. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts to develop national capacity to address their national

implementation priorities identified during the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, and invites Member States that have not done so to consider a step-by-step approach to developing capacity that includes the setting of national priorities, the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

12. *Also encourages* Member States to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by devising strategies that take into account the entirety of the human life course and foster intergenerational solidarity in order to increase the likelihood of greater success in the years ahead;

13. *Further encourages* Member States to place particular emphasis on choosing national priorities that are realistic, sustainable and feasible and have the greatest likelihood of being achieved in the years ahead and to develop targets and indicators to measure progress in the implementation process;

14. *Invites* Member States to identify key priority areas for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, raising awareness of ageing issues and building national capacity to address ageing;

15. *Recommends* that Member States increase efforts to raise awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action, including by promoting and supporting initiatives to advance a positive public image of older persons and their multiple contributions to their families, communities and societies and by working with the regional commissions and enlisting the help of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in seeking increased attention for ageing issues;

16. *Encourages* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling the follow-up of national plans of action on ageing, and also encourages Governments to strengthen existing networks of national focal points on ageing;

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

18. *Recommends* that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to better assess the situation of older persons and to set adequate monitoring mechanisms for programmes and policies geared towards protecting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons;

19. *Recommends* that States parties to existing international human rights instruments, where appropriate, address the situation of older persons more explicitly in their reports, and encourages treaty body monitoring mechanisms and special procedures mandate holders, in accordance with their mandates, to pay more attention to the situation of older persons in their dialogue with Member States, in their consideration of reports or in their country missions;

20. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the Madrid Plan of Action and to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas,

bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational family interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to prevent age discrimination and provide social integration;

21. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

22. *Encourages* Member States to adopt social policies that promote the development of community services for older persons, taking into account the psychological and physical aspects of ageing and the special needs of older women;

23. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that older persons have access to information about their rights so as to enable them to participate fully and justly in their societies and to claim full enjoyment of all human rights;

24. *Calls upon* Member States to develop their national capacity for monitoring and enforcing the rights of older persons, in consultation with all sectors of society, including organizations of older persons, through, inter alia, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, where applicable;

25. *Also calls upon* Member States to strengthen and incorporate a gender and disability perspective into all policy actions on ageing, as well as to address and eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, sex or disability, and recommends that Member States engage with all sectors of society, in particular with relevant organizations with an interest in the matter, including organizations of older persons, women and persons with disabilities, in changing negative stereotypes about older persons, in particular older women and older persons with disabilities, and promote positive images of older persons;

26. *Acknowledges* that universal health coverage implies that all people, including older persons, have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative basic health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services does not expose older persons to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized;

27. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and to develop health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing national health systems;

28. *Recognizes* the importance of training, education and capacity-building of the health workforce, including for home-based care;

29. *Urges* Member States to strengthen intersectoral policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, for the integrated management of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including health promotion, health care and social welfare services, in order to address the needs of older persons;

30. *Calls upon* Member States to address the issue of the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, as

well as any cases of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons, by designing and implementing more effective prevention strategies and stronger laws and by developing coherent and comprehensive policy frameworks to address these problems and their underlying factors;

31. *Also calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action;

32. *Stresses* that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, while recognizing the importance of such assistance as well as the provision of financial assistance;

33. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of age is incorporated and upheld in health policies and programmes and that the implementation of such policies and programmes is regularly monitored;

34. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt and enforce guidelines that establish standards for the provision of long-term support and assistance to older persons;

35. *Recommends* that Governments involve older persons and their organizations in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that affect them;

36. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable and adequate social and economic support for older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

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

38. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information with regard to a gender perspective on ageing;

39. *Recognizes* the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledges the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, as well as regional initiatives, and by institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna;

40. *Recommends* that Member States reaffirm the role of United Nations focal points on ageing, increase technical cooperation efforts, expand the role of the regional commis-

sions on ageing issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on ageing and enhance cooperation with academia on a research agenda on ageing;

41. *Reiterates* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the results of its review and appraisal cycle, and in this regard encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing so as to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

42. *Requests* the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, national implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, where appropriate;

43. *Requests* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to ensure that the situation of older women is mainstreamed and incorporated across their work;

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

45. *Recognizes* the continuing need to give due consideration to the situation of older persons in the ongoing discussion on the post-2015 development agenda;

46. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Working Group, and recognizes the positive contributions of Member States, as well as relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and invited panellists, during the first five working sessions of the Working Group;

47. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to contribute to the work of the Working Group, in particular by presenting concrete proposals, practical measures, best practices and lessons learned that will contribute to promoting and protecting the rights and dignity of older persons, in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate;

48. *Requests* the Working Group to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a compilation of the above-mentioned proposals and measures;

49. *Invites* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and relevant non-governmental organizations with an interest in the matter, to continue to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Working Group, as appropriate;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary support to the Working Group, within existing resources, for the organization of a sixth working session, in 2015;

51. *Invites* the Independent Expert to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Social development";

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Persons with disabilities

World Programme of Action

In July [A/69/187], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/140 [YUN 2012, p. 1055], the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly a report on progress made in mainstreaming disability in the development agenda, which reviewed the extent to which the proposed post-2015 development framework had addressed the rights, well-being and perspectives of persons with disabilities. It also discussed the role of the United Nations in promoting better coordination for disability-inclusive development, as well as the efforts of Member States and UN system entities to institute measures that addressed disability in development policies and programmes. The report concluded with proposals to address continuing gaps between policy and practice and recommended steps towards a disability-inclusive global development agenda.

The Secretary-General highlighted efforts undertaken by Member States to mainstream disability in development process, among them, the inclusion of disability as a national priority in development plans, programmes and policies; mainstreaming disability in their development cooperation initiatives beyond 2015; legislative and policy measures that supported national implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; obstacles to the implementation of inclusive development strategies and the inclusion of persons with disabilities; increased support to strengthen the role of organizations of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes, including policy development; and strengthening of regional frameworks for disability-inclusive development and the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Lastly, the Secretary-General provided recommendations for better integrating persons with disabilities into development strategies. Those included, *inter alia*, the review by the General Assembly President at the Assembly's seventieth session, of the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities; strengthening and applying the international normative framework on disability for an inclusive society at all levels; improving disability data and statistics to support the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of evidence-based disability policies; enhancing international cooperation and mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis; and rethinking and adapting the UN system to improve responsiveness to the needs of Member States in implementing a disability-inclusive development agenda. He also recommended that the General Assembly consider promoting the realization of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all economic, social, cultural and envi-

ronmental spheres; encourage Member States to take immediate steps to support the goal of mainstreaming disability data into official statistics and to submit the information to the United Nations; encourage all Member States to consider taking measures to build or improve the social protection system; and call for a systematic review to evaluate and monitor progress in the mainstreaming efforts of Member States, the UN system, civil society and other stakeholders.

Equalization of opportunities

In November [E/CN.5/2015/5], pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/6 (see p. 1240), the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission for Social Development a note transmitting the fifth and final report of the Commission's Special Rapporteur on disability Shuaib Chalklen (South Africa). The report described the Special Rapporteur's activities in the period from November 2013 to October 2014, covering topics including the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities [YUN 1993, p. 977]; synergy between the Standard Rules and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [YUN 2006, p. 785]; mainstreaming disability in development; fostering disability-inclusive international development; and promoting awareness-raising and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Standard Rules and other international instruments; and collaborating with civil society.

The Special Rapporteur observed that the political will of Member States to achieve equalization of opportunities was fairly strong, as demonstrated by the rapid ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by States, but noted that existing gaps between commitments and practices on the ground illustrated remaining challenges. Lack of resources and capacity was a persistent barrier in many developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries. In that vein, there was a need to advance international cooperation in the field of disability in order to accelerate the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Standard Rules; international cooperation should also include the exchange of expertise and technical cooperation and support. The Special Rapporteur further stressed the importance of granting organizations of persons with disabilities a greater role in policymaking. He also provided recommendations for Member States to improve the collection and reporting of disability statistics so as to facilitate international comparability and disaggregation of all available data by disability; called for the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to include disability, poverty and development in annual sessions in line

with the Convention; for the Commission for Social Development to consider establishing a standing mechanism to systematically review and monitor progress in realizing agreed disability goals towards and beyond 2015; for the post-2015 development agenda to give due consideration to the conditions of extreme poverty and social exclusion that existed disproportionately among persons with disabilities and include specific targets and indicators to measure progress; and for accessibility to be an integral part of the work of the UN and be promoted progressively in all aspects, including its premises, communication and human resource management, as well as in conference documentation and services.

As at 2 November 2014, there were 159 signatories and 151 ratifications to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and 92 signatories and 85 ratifications to the Optional Protocol.

Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/28 [YUN 2013, p. 1055], the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission for Social Development a report [E/CN.5/2014/6] on progress made in mainstreaming disability into the development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, in which he highlighted the urgency of including disability in the environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainable development. He analysed prevailing trends and challenges to the mainstreaming of disability and proposed steps in four areas: national policies; plans and strategies to advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities; promotion of accessibility for all; disability data and statistics, monitoring and evaluation; and international cooperation and mobilization of resources.

The Secretary-General noted that the more than 1 billion persons living with disabilities worldwide constituted an untapped human resource that could make significant contributions to global sustainable development. Despite strong commitment to disability inclusion in the global development agenda, however, progress had been limited. He recommended that Governments promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in policies and programmes relating to poverty eradication; support the development of internationally comparable disability statistics disaggregated by sex and age, and report such data through appropriate mechanisms of the UN system; address accessibility in all relevant policies; urge Governments and other stakeholders to promote international cooperation, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks of experts and practitioners on specific issues in development; and include the disability perspective in all areas of development cooperation in coordination with development agencies, international organizations

and other stakeholders. He further recommended that disability perspectives be integrated into UN country programming processes such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and that consultative processes towards a post-2015 development framework, as well as future UN development conferences and summits include disability perspectives and the participation of persons with disabilities.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/6** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the post-2015 development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted on 13 December 2006, as a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, and recognizing that it is both a human rights treaty and a development tool,

Recalling earlier operational frameworks, such as the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,

Welcoming the adoption of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond, held on 23 September 2013, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond, recognizing persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development and acknowledging the value of their contributions to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, promoting the use of universal design, as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, and promoting the equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a “society for all” in the twenty-first century,

Noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations to improve accessibility, in particular the opening of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters in New York, which contributes to a disability-inclusive United Nations by facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities in the meetings of the United Nations and their access to the documentation of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda towards 2015 and beyond;

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of his report on monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

3. *Also welcomes* the appointment of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, bearing in mind the need to create synergies with the existing United Nations mechanisms;

4. *Notes* the expiry of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on disability on 31 December 2014, and in this regard decides that the Commission shall consider at its fifty-third session the possibility of another monitoring mechanism, with a view to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in social development;

5. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to promote the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including by supporting the relevant efforts of Member States and other stakeholders, and to further contribute to the development of a disability-inclusive, equitable and sustainable post-2015 development framework;

6. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to ensure that all development policies and programmes, including those regarding poverty eradication, social protection, full and productive employment and decent work, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion as well as accessible community and housing development, take into account the needs, rights and potentials of and benefit all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;

7. *Encourages* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on disability and development by encouraging the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and by considering the ratification of the Optional Protocol thereto, as both human rights and development instruments;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons, are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation on an equal basis with others in the implementation of the international development goals;

9. *Decides* to continue to give due consideration to the issue of disability and development, including within the framework of United Nations operational activities, in accordance with relevant mandates, in order to enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels, including the participation, where appropriate, of United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks and institutions and other relevant stakeholders, while ensuring coordination and avoiding any possible overlapping;

10. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations agencies and bodies, development agencies and international organizations and encourages the private sector to regard accessibility as both a means and a goal of inclusive and sustainable development and therefore an essential investment that benefits all members of society; hence accessibility should be an integral part of programmes and projects relating to the built environment, transportation and information and communications technologies;

11. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

12. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve disability data collection, analysis and monitoring for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation, taking fully into account regional contexts, to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, including the Statistical Commission, through appropriate mechanisms, and to underline the need for internationally comparable data and statistics disaggregated by sex and age, including information on disability;

13. *Underlines* the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the elaboration of the emerging post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

14. *Calls upon* all Governments to continue to cooperate and engage in direct dialogue with the Special Rapporteur and to provide him or her with all the relevant information needed to fulfil his or her mandate effectively;

15. *Expresses concern* at the insufficiency of resources for the Special Rapporteur, and recognizes the importance of providing adequate resources for the implementation of the mandate by the Special Rapporteur;

16. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability;

17. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-third session an annual report on his or her activities in implementing the present resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/142** without vote [agenda item 26 (b)].

Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond

The General Assembly,

Recalling earlier operational frameworks, such as the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, which it adopted on 3 December 1982, and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, which it adopted on 20 December 1993, in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which it adopted on 13 December 2006 and which entered into force on 3 May 2008, a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, recognizing that it is both a human rights and a development instrument, and taking note of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in which it recognized the collective responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level, and in this sense stressing the duty of Member States to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on persons with disabilities and development, including by encouraging the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling further the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and the outcome document of the 2011 high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly on HIV and AIDS, entitled “Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS”, which contain references to the rights, participation, well-being and perspectives of persons with disabilities in development efforts,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world’s population, or 1 billion people, of whom an estimated 80 per cent live in developing countries, and acknowledging the value of their contribution to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons, continue to be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination and are still largely invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals and the internationally agreed development goals, and noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in

mainstreaming disability, in particular the rights of persons with disabilities, as an integral part of the development agenda, major challenges remain,

Underlining the need for urgent action by all stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development strategies and efforts with disability-targeted actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support,

Stressing the need for capacity development efforts aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development, volunteering opportunities and vocational and entrepreneurial training in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence,

Concerned that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in disaster, emergency and conflict situations, as well as by poverty,

Concerned also that the continuing lack of statistics and reliable data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that is inclusive of persons with disabilities,

Stressing the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics, encouraging ongoing efforts to improve data collection in order to disaggregate data with regard to persons with disabilities by gender and age, and underlining the need for internationally comparable data to assess progress on development policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities,

1. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, held on 23 September 2013, at the level of Heads of State and Government, with the overarching theme “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”, and also reaffirms the commitments contained therein;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”, and the recommendations contained therein;

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General entitled “A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”, in which the consideration of the inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue across the successor set of goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda was recommended;

4. *Recalls* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda,

while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and acknowledges that the report of the Open Working Group integrates a disability perspective;

5. *Recognizes* the continued need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of the rights of persons with disabilities in relation to the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have submitted information on progress made towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, including on specific priorities for action, and data and analysis on persons with disabilities, and urges Member States and relevant United Nations entities that have not already done so to submit the requested information;

7. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

8. *Welcomes* Human Rights Council resolution 26/20 of 27 June 2014, in which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, which included making concrete recommendations on how to better promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including how to contribute to the realization of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

9. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, regional integration organizations and financial institutions to make a concerted effort to include persons with disabilities and to integrate the principles of accessibility and inclusion into the monitoring and evaluation of the development goals;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further improve coordination among existing international processes and instruments in order to advance a disability-inclusive global agenda;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the need for their inclusive participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and the transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

12. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

13. *Welcomes* the contributions made to the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities trust fund, and in this regard encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support its objectives, including by providing voluntary contributions;

14. *Requests* the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in particular to developing countries, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing guidelines on disability statistics, to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities;

15. *Welcomes* the opening of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the progressive implementation of relevant standards and guidelines with respect to the accessibility of facilities and services in the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in particular when undertaking renovations, including interim arrangements;

16. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations and mechanisms, including the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and the regional commissions to make all efforts to engage with and ensure accessibility for the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, in development processes and decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels;

17. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt a national disability strategy that can be operationalized, including through measurable and appropriate targets and indicators, and that assigns responsibility to and incorporates the views of a broad range of stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

18. *Requests* the United Nations system, in particular the Statistical Commission, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, within existing resources, to update existing methodologies for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, to obtain internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant data on disability or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development;

19. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to expedite the mainstreaming of data on disability into official statistics;

20. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, during the seventieth session of the Assembly, a panel discussion to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on disability and

development and to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with all relevant United Nations entities:

(a) To submit information to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution and of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, and to make appropriate recommendations to further strengthen implementation;

(b) To compile and analyse national policies, programmes, best practices and available statistics regarding persons with disabilities, reflecting progress made in addressing the relevant internationally agreed development goals and the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to be submitted to the General Assembly in a flagship report during 2018.

Youth

World Programme of Action for Youth

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to resolution 51/1 of the Commission for Social Development, the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council a progress report [E/CN.5/2014/5] on national programmes and policies related to young people, in accordance with his Five-Year Action Agenda [YUN 2012, p. 3]. He described the efforts of Member States and UN entities in implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth, and based the report on responses obtained through a note verbale sent to Member States and a request to the members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. He observed that the challenges facing young people were directly related to the 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth, namely, education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making, globalization, information and communications technology, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and intergenerational issues. Member States and UN entities reported on a variety of initiatives geared towards addressing the priority areas as laid out in the Programme of Action.

The Secretary-General reported that many Member States were working to ensure the full participation of youth in society by establishing new youth structures and programmes to bring the voices of young people to government representatives and strengthening their national strategies and laws. Examples included Switzerland, where a new federal law on children and youth encouraged the political participation of young people, with a particular focus on those from disadvantaged backgrounds; and Lithuania, where the national youth policy 2012–2013 outlined steps

to create favourable conditions for the inclusion of young people in all societal processes. Many Governments also instituted programmes to improve the employability of young people, promote youth entrepreneurship, ensure greater access to information and communications technology, ensure greater awareness of HIV/AIDS, and promote the involvement of young people in maintaining peace and security.

The Secretary-General also reported on the efforts of UN entities in promoting young people. The Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund of UNDP supported 35 projects worldwide with a total value of almost \$8 million during its 2012–2014 cycle, with a focus on ensuring youth participation in governance processes and adequate representation of young people in policymaking. With regard to girls and young women, the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign prioritized youth engagement in violence prevention, while UN-Women worked globally to enhance young women's influence in decision-making processes at the national, regional and global levels. UN entities also provided technical assistance to governments in youth policy design and implementation; supported youth development projects through the United Nations Development Account; provided a range of services to youth refugees, encompassing health, education and skills development; and undertook communication, awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns to place a spotlight on issues related to youth. The Secretary-General further reported that the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) had endorsed the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth as a framework to guide youth programming for the UN system. A majority of activities to implement the commitments and measures contained in the Action Plan would take place at the country level—but also at the regional and global levels.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/145** without vote [agenda item 26 (b)].

World Youth Skills Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007, in which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, its resolution 65/312 of 26 July 2011, by which it adopted the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on youth: dialogue and mutual understanding, including the actions recommended therein on youth, and its resolution 68/130 of 18 December 2013 on policies and programmes involving youth,

Recalling also its resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which it endorsed the recommendation that 12 August be declared International Youth Day, and its resolution

64/134 of 18 December 2009, by which it proclaimed the year commencing on 12 August 2010 the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, stating that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Expressing concern at the high number of unemployed youth, estimated globally at 74.5 million in 2013, the majority of whom live in developing countries,

Noting that Member States have an important role in meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, particularly in developing countries,

Recognizing that fostering the acquisition of skills by youth would enhance their ability to make informed choices with regard to life and work and empower them to gain access to changing labour markets,

1. *Decides* to designate 15 July as World Youth Skills Day;
2. *Invites* all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including youth-led organizations, to commemorate World Youth Skills Day in an appropriate manner, in accordance with national priorities, including through education, campaigns, volunteering and public awareness-raising activities;
3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member and observer States and all organizations of the United Nations system.

Family

Twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014

Report of Secretary-General. In November [A/70/61-E/2015/3], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/136 [YUN 2013, p. 1063], the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on the activities of Member States and other stakeholders in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, related policy developments; and activities related to celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at all levels. The report focused on poverty reduction, work-family balance, intergenerational issues and the prevention of violence within the family.

The Secretary-General stated that despite efforts made by Member States, social protection remained a right unfulfilled for most children and families. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), although specific provisions for child and family benefits existed in 108 countries, they mostly covered

a limited segment of the population. A further 75 countries had no specific policy or programme for child and family benefits. It was highlighted that countries spent on average 0.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) on child and family benefits, with the amount ranging from 0.2 per cent in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, to 2.2 per cent in Western Europe. Social protection schemes such as family and child allowances and cash transfers were not meeting the income security needs of children and families, especially in middle- and low-income countries with large child populations.

The Secretary-General also highlighted the events that took place in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family: a high-level panel discussion held from 11 to 21 February by the Commission for Social Development; a panel discussion by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session; research and expert meetings and awareness-raising events conducted by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; a civil society declaration sponsored by 27 international entities and signed by over 542 civil society representatives from 285 national organizations, as well as by elected officials, academics and individuals; regional expert group meetings and capacity development workshops held in Europe, Africa, North and South America, the Middle East and North Africa; national initiatives in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, South Korea, Portugal and United Kingdom; and research by entities such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Union aimed at improving family policies.

The Secretary-General observed that as family issues were multisectoral in nature and could not be addressed by a single ministry or governmental agency, more attention needed to be paid to integrated and coordinated approaches, including engagement with civil society organizations, the private sector and families themselves. He recommended that Governments advance family-centred policies and programmes as part of a comprehensive approach to development; Member States invest in family-oriented anti-poverty programmes; Governments, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, support data collection and research on family issues and the impact of public policy on families and invest in family-oriented policy and programme design, implementation and evaluation; and for the Commission for Social Development to consider requesting that future reports of the Secretary-General focus thematically on issues affecting families.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission

for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted **resolution 2014/8** without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011, 67/142 of 20 December 2012 and 68/136 of 18 December 2013 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year provide a useful opportunity to draw further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also that the follow-up to the International Year is an integral part of the agenda and of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recognizing further that the family, as the natural and fundamental group unit of society, has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Stressing the importance of creating a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle of shared parental responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child,

Convinced that equality between men and women, women's equal participation in employment and shared parental responsibility are essential elements of policy on the family,

Recognizing that the overall objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes continue to guide national and international efforts to improve family well-being worldwide and address emerging issues that impact the family,

Noting the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Recognizing that the family can contribute to eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,

Noting that single-headed households, child-headed households, intergenerational and intragenerational households are particularly vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion,

Acknowledging that the family plays a key role in social development and as such should be strengthened, with attention to the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of its members,

Noting the active role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation in family-related issues, particularly in the areas of research and information, including the compilation, analysis and dissemination of data,

Emphasizing that it is necessary to increase coordination of the activities of the United Nations system on family-related issues in order to contribute fully to the effective implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes,

Convinced that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking and, as appropriate, policy evaluation, in respect of family policy development and capacity-building,

Recalling that the twentieth anniversary of the International Year will be observed during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recalls its invitation* to all States to view 2014 as a target year by which concrete efforts will be taken to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes;

3. *Encourages* Governments to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes and to integrate a family perspective into national policymaking;

4. *Urges* Member States to give due consideration to advancing family policy development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Invites* Member States and the organizations of the United Nations system as well as other relevant stakeholders to take into account the role of the family as a contributor to sustainable development and the need to strengthen family policy development in their ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, the Millennium Development Goals and future United Nations development goals;

6. *Encourages* Member States to take into consideration the panel discussion held in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the fifty-second session of the Commission for Social Development in order to guide its future deliberations on family issues, with the aim of establishing appropriate follow-up processes to guide national policy development;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to strengthen or, if necessary, establish relevant national agencies or governmental bodies responsible for the implementation and monitoring of family policies and to research the impact of social policies on the family and its members;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to develop appropriate policies to address family poverty, social exclusion, work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity and to share good practices in those areas;

9. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations and regional entities, civil society organizations, the private sector and academic institutions to promote and advance family empowerment through appropriate family-centred policies and programmes;

10. *Encourages* Member States to adopt effective means to reduce family poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty through family-centred benefits and social protection measures, such as old-age pensions, cash transfers, housing assistance, child benefits and tax breaks;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to promote family policies in support of work-family balance and to strengthen flexible provisions for parental leave, extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities, including flexible part-time job opportunities and arrangements, promote gender equality and empowerment of women, including by eliminating workplace discrimination against women and men with family responsibilities, and enhance paternal involvement and shouldering of responsibilities and support a wide range of quality childcare arrangements, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

12. *Further encourages* Member States to invest in intergenerational programmes for helping families in their caregiving responsibilities, including care for family members of all ages, and facilitating intergenerational exchanges and support through, inter alia, the provision of social protection schemes, including pensions, and investment in cross-generational facilities, volunteering programmes aimed at youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, mentoring and job-sharing programmes;

13. *Encourages* Member States to develop and implement policies and national strategies to prevent violence within the family as a whole, including child abuse, elder abuse and domestic violence, and thereby enhance the well-being of all of its members;

14. *Recommends* that United Nations agencies and bodies, including the regional commissions, and invites relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research and academic institutions, to work closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in a coordinated manner on family-related issues;

15. *Encourages* Member States to consider establishing partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector and academic institutions, as appropriate, in support of family-oriented policy and programme design;

16. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to continue research activities and provide assistance to countries, upon their request;

17. *Encourages* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, within existing resources, to continue to cooperate with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes;

18. *Invites* Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies, civil society organizations and academic institutions to continue providing information on their

activities in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes and to share good practices and data on family policy development to be included in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/144** without vote [agenda item 26 (b)].

Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011, 67/142 of 20 December 2012 and 68/136 of 18 December 2013 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year in 2014 provided a useful opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also the efforts made by Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to fulfil the objectives guiding the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling that 2014 marks the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, as observed during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

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

2. *Welcomes* the holding of a plenary meeting during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in December 2014, on the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, in order to discuss the role of family-oriented policies in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues;

4. *Recognizes* the continued importance of giving due consideration to advancing the development of family policy in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic

and Social Council, on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes by Member States and by agencies and bodies of the United Nations system;

7. *Calls upon* Member States, agencies and bodies of the United Nations, civil society organizations and academic institutions to take into account the role the family plays as a contributor to sustainable development, and encourages Member States to continue providing information on their activities, including on good practices, in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, to be included in the report of the Secretary-General;

8. *Decides* to consider the topic “Follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond” at its seventieth session under the sub-item entitled “Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family” of the item entitled “Social development”.

Cultural development

Culture of peace

Culture of Peace and interreligious and intercultural understanding

In October [A/69/413], pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 68/125 [YUN 2013, p. 1066], the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly on the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, which outlined the main activities carried out by the UN system in support of peace and dialogue.

The Secretary-General highlighted the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in particular its programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence and Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures. In that vein, he described the use of education to promote peace and mutual understanding by UNESCO; developing new policies and tools for addressing social inclusion, intercultural dialogue and peaceful coexistence; use of media and information literacy as a catalyst for intercultural dialogue; promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue for mutual understanding and peace; and plans for its International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022).

In pursuance of Assembly resolutions 67/106 [YUN 2012, p. 1064] and 68/125 [YUN 2013, p. 1066], the General Assembly President convened a one-day High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace in September. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, through its Peacebuilding Commission, continued to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts by advancing an

integrated and coherent approach to peacebuilding activities in the six countries on its agenda. United Nations Volunteers worked to define innovative projects in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and partnered with other UN entities in projects aimed at promoting access to justice and civic education, engaging adolescents in peacebuilding activities and promoting youth education on the culture of peace in several African countries emerging from conflict or in a delicate political transition. UN-Women, together with the Peacebuilding Support Office, hosted an event in September that enabled women from across the world to share their peacebuilding stories, which would be compiled in a joint publication entitled “Women: everyday peacebuilders”. The United Nations University promoted intercultural dialogue through its Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility. On 21 September in New York, the United Nations Department of Public Information led celebrations for the International Day of Peace, in which several United Nations Messengers of Peace were involved. In addition, some 500 students from the United States and the Democratic Republic of the Congo participated in a conference with the Secretary-General and Messengers of Peace. The Congolese students participated through a video link facilitated by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO).

The Secretary-General also detailed UN system efforts to promote interreligious dialogue through advocacy and policy engagement activities with faith-based organizations. Such activities brought together peoples of different faiths to enable them to find solutions to common issues, such as those related to maternal health, violence against women and HIV/AIDS. In May, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in its capacity as convener of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Engaging Faith-based Organizations for the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 49], hosted a policy round table for donors, on “Religion and development post-2015”. Discussions were focused on partnerships around the Millennium Development Goals and the policy implications of religion for the post-2015 sustainable development goals. UNFPA continued its of partnership with faith-based organizations through advocacy, capacity-building, knowledge management and strengthened South-South cooperation on population issues, including a multimillion-dollar investment, in partnership with UNICEF, to reduce female genital mutilation in 17 countries and end child marriage. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) intensified its efforts to scale up service provision by faith-based organizations activities in five key areas: leadership and advocacy; support aimed at scaling up service provision by faith-based organizations

and integrating it into national responses; addressing human rights challenges; combating stigma and discrimination; and addressing sensitive issues such as sexuality and gender-based violence in the context of HIV. The approaches of the partnership included convening consultations of religious leaders and technical partners at the national level; addressing gatherings of high-level religious leaders and inviting them to engage in dialogue with UNAIDS staff; writing joint opinion pieces; and leveraging high-level events on critical issues. For example, following a UNAIDS-organized national consultation, religious leaders in Ethiopia issued a call for the inclusion of equitable access to HIV/AIDS treatment for all in the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960). The Secretary-General also detailed the efforts of the UN human rights machinery, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in promoting a culture of peace and dialogue.

High-level Forum

On 9 September, the General Assembly convened a High-level Forum on “Culture of Peace”, which focused on “the role and contributions of women and youth to the culture of peace” and “global citizenship as a pathway to the culture of peace”. Speaking before the Assembly, the Secretary-General called for a new commitment to respect the right to be different and to make the most of diversity as a strength to share among all people.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/139** [draft: A/69/L.34 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 14].

Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”,

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a

Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010, 66/116 of 12 December 2011, 67/106 of 17 December 2012 and 68/125 of 18 December 2013, adopted under its agenda item entitled “Culture of peace”,

Recalling also its resolution 68/127 of 18 December 2013 on a world against violence and violent extremism,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,

Welcoming the observance of 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence, as proclaimed by the United Nations,

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to the culture of peace,

Recognizing also the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing dialogue and negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, which provides an overview of the activities that have been carried out by the main United Nations entities working in the areas of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 68/125 and 68/126 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 21 February as International Mother Language Day, which aims at protecting, promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, in order to foster and enrich a culture of peace, social harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

Recalling also the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 30 April as International Jazz Day, which aims to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension, tolerance and the promotion of a culture of peace,

Welcoming the efforts of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations,

Expressing its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting a culture of peace through a number of practical projects in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media and the private sector,

Welcoming the successful holding on 9 September 2014 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the Assembly, and the high-level participation, wide-ranging partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society, as evidenced at the Forum, and welcoming also with appreciation the observance by the Forum of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recognizing the role of women and young people in advancing the culture of peace and, in particular, the importance of greater involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in activities promoting a culture of peace, including in post-conflict situations,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence, and noting that the objectives of that programme of action are in line with the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly,

Recalling the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Peace in the Minds of Men, and acknowledging the observance in 2014 of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption,

Noting the initiatives of civil society, in collaboration with Governments, to strengthen civilian capacities to enhance the physical safety of vulnerable populations under threat of violence and to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes,

Encouraging the continued and increasing efforts and activities on the part of civil society organizations throughout the world in advancing the culture of peace as envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and calls upon all concerned to renew their attention to this objective;

2. *Notes* the importance of giving due consideration to a culture of peace in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

4. *Invites* the entities of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to integrate, as appropriate, the eight action areas of the Programme of Action into their programmes of activities, focusing on promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the national, regional and international levels;

5. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for strengthening efforts to mobilize all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of a culture of peace, and invites the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website and in the context of the celebration of its seventieth anniversary;

6. *Commends* the practical initiatives and actions by relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender

Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the University for Peace, as well as their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to continue to promote peacebuilding activities and to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level;

8. *Urges* the appropriate authorities to provide age-appropriate education in children's schools that builds a culture of peace, including lessons in mutual understanding, tolerance, active citizenship and human rights;

9. *Encourages* the involvement of media, especially the mass media, in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people;

10. *Commends* civil society, non-governmental organizations and young people for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including through their campaign to raise awareness on a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

11. *Encourages* civil society and non-governmental organizations to further strengthen their efforts to promote a culture of peace, inter alia, by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, in line with the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;

12. *Invites* Member States, all parts of the United Nations system and civil society organizations to accord increasing attention to their observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September each year as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001;

13. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September;

14. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, in consultation with the Member States and taking into account the observations of civil society organizations, to explore mechanisms and strategies, in particular strategies in the sphere of information and communications technology, for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the Programme of Action and its eight areas of action aimed at their implementation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report, within existing resources, on actions taken by Member States, on the basis of information provided by them, and those taken system-wide by all concerned entities of the United Nations to implement the present resolution and on heightened activities by the Organization and its affiliated agencies to implement the Programme of Action and to promote the culture of peace and non-violence;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/140** [draft: A/69/L.41 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 14].

Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolution 68/126 of 18 December 2013 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,

Recalling also that in its resolution 67/104 the General Assembly proclaimed the period 2013–2022 as the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures,

Encouraging, in this regard, activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Recalling its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance of Civilizations, in which it welcomed and expressed continuing support for the efforts made by the Secretary-General and his High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations to promote greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions,

Recalling also its resolution 68/127 of 18 December 2013 on a world against violence and violent extremism,

Recalling further its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998, by which it declared 2001 the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and expressed its firm determination to facilitate and promote dialogue among civilizations,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Recalling its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Bearing in mind that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities contributes towards peace, mutual understanding and friendship among people of different cultures and nations and that these diversities should be made part of intercultural and interreligious dialogue efforts, as appropriate,

Emphasizing the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and recognizing the importance of giving due consideration to culture in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard noting the close links between cultural diversity, dialogue and development,

Noting the various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels for enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, beliefs, cultures and civilizations, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

Welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in promoting intercultural dialogue,

Welcoming also the declaration of the High-level Conference on Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue adopted by the Asia-Europe Meeting, with the theme “Harmony between civilizations as a prerequisite for sustainable development”, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 3 and 4 July 2014,

Welcoming further the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation and the ongoing work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna,

Taking note of the initiative for education for peace through interreligious and intercultural dialogue in Africa, and the offer of the Government of Benin to host an international symposium on the initiative in Cotonou, Benin, during the first half of 2015,

Acknowledging the positive contribution of individuals and of relevant civil society organizations to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and the culture of peace,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to promoting peoples’ understanding of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

Reaffirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels, which aims to challenge prejudices and improve mutual understanding,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and the need for voices of moderation from all religions and beliefs to work together in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of interreligious dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, and calls upon Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and social stability and the full

realization of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to give due consideration to culture in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Also recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;

5. *Further recognizes* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural dialogue and its contribution to interreligious dialogue, as well as its activities related to the culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022), by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which provides a framework to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue and to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, while placing emphasis on the involvement of women and youth in such dialogue;

7. *Encourages* Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to carry out activities in support of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022);

8. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

9. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

10. *Welcomes* the Bali Declaration adopted at the Sixth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, with the theme “Unity in diversity: celebrating diversity for common and shared values”, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 29 and 30 August 2014, encourages relevant stakeholders to continue their efforts to promote mutual understanding among different civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs, and in this regard looks forward to the next meeting of the Global Forum, in Azerbaijan in 2016;

11. *Underlines* the importance of moderation as a value within societies for countering extremism in all its aspects and for further contributing to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, and encourages efforts, as appropriate, to enable voices of moderation to be heard;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsi-

bilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

13. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, including through the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal established following the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila in 2010, as well as the Peace and Dialogue e-Portal of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and encourages relevant stakeholders to utilize the opportunity to disseminate their best practices and experiences on interreligious and intercultural dialogue by contributing to the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal and to the Peace and Dialogue e-Portal;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York in October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions, as well as the ideas suggested during the third High Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures, held in Paris in November 2012;

15. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different cultures, religions, faiths or beliefs to discuss common issues and objectives;

16. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia and volunteer groups, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

17. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including by working with faith leaders and communities and through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

18. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the culture of peace would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize

On 30 May [A/68/L.48], pursuant to resolution 64/13 of 10 November 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1075], the General Assembly considered a draft resolution entitled “United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize”.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 June [meeting 91], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/275** [draft: A/68/L.48] without vote [agenda item 118].

United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/13 of 10 November 2009, by which it designated 18 July as Nelson Mandela International Day, which has been observed by the United Nations every year since 2010,

Commending the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly for his initiative in establishing the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize,

Bearing in mind Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela’s leading role in and support for Africa’s struggle for liberation and Africa’s unity, his outstanding contribution to the creation of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic South Africa and his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world,

Bearing in mind also Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela’s values and his dedication to the service of humanity, as a humanitarian, in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, as well as the uplifting of poor and underdeveloped communities,

Wishing to further honour and pay homage to the extraordinary life and legacy of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela,

1. *Decides* to establish the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, which will be honorary in nature, as a tribute to the outstanding achievements and contributions of individuals to the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly, to establish within six months of the adoption of the present resolution the criteria and procedures for bestowing the Prize, to be adopted by the Assembly not later than 30 November 2014.

Alliance of Civilizations

Report of High Representative. By a letter of 12 September [A/69/382], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the seventh annual report of the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations highlighting the main activities carried out by the Alliance from July 2013 to June 2014. The Alliance numbered 114 Member States and entities, and 25 international organizations.

The High Representative described efforts by the Alliance to consolidate itself as a global multi-stakeholder platform in the area of advocacy and outreach, inter alia, guidance from members of its

Group of Friends; national and regional strategies; engagement with the private sector; and policy coherence with the UN system. He also detailed the Alliance’s initiatives and activities in the four core pillars of action: education, media, migration and media. Among the highlights, during the 2013 edition of the Youth Solidarity Fund project, the Alliance selected 17 youth-led organizations from the Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Over 29,000 young people and adults directly benefited from projects supported through the Youth Solidarity Fund during the period between July 2013 and February 2014.

In accordance with the 2013–2018 strategic review, the Alliance of Civilizations office established a programme management unit to enhance management of various projects and initiatives. The Alliance continued to seek adequate, regular, reliable and predictable sources of replenishment for its Voluntary Trust Fund and improve relationships with the private sector. The High Representative recommended that Member States regularly support the Alliance because private sector funding could only augment, not replace, their support.

Sixth Global Forum. The Sixth Global Forum of the Alliance (Bali, Indonesia, 29–30 August) was held under the theme “Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Diversity for Common and Shared Values”. The Forum was opened by the President of Indonesia and the UN Secretary-General, and attended by 1,300 delegates including 30 Government ministers from 115 countries.

The Forum featured two plenary sessions: “Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Diversity for Common and Shared Values” and “Knowing one another: the urgent need to foster dialogue and Understanding between Eastern and Western Civilizations”. It also featured the following sessions: youth participation in peace building; use of interreligious and intercultural approaches to advance mediation; social inclusion and migration developments for post-2015 agenda; role of culture in the formulation of new sustainable development goals; perception of migration; media conversation across lines; harnessing positive power of social media; harmony through interreligious and cross cultural education; role of women in fostering understanding among cultures; and fostering understanding through sports, art, music and entertainment.

The Forum culminated in the adoption by consensus of the Bali Declaration, by which Member States reaffirmed the importance of common and shared values as a unifying factor in a world facing multiple challengers to coexistence, and encouraged the Alliance of Civilizations to continue addressing, within its mandate, the prevailing global political and social situations.

Communication. By a letter dated 12 December letter [A/69/663], the Islamic Republic of Iran transmitted to the Secretary-General a copy of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the First International Conference on A World against Violence and Violent Extremism (Tehran, 9–10 December).

Sport for development and peace

The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), continued to lead UN system efforts to promote sport as a tool for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 49] and the Post-2015 sustainable development goals; lead and coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to promote the understanding and support amongst UN Member States of sport as a tool to attain the MDGs and the sustainable development goals in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; encourage dialogue, collaboration and partnerships between the United Nations, Member States and other stakeholders around Sport for Development and Peace; and represent the Secretary-General and the UN system at important global sporting events and other important forums.

The Special Adviser noted that progress was made in five priority areas: contributing to the development of Africa (in particular sub-Saharan Africa); encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding in conflict areas; advancing gender equality; fostering the inclusion of persons with disabilities; and promoting youth development and supporting community role models. Notably, the Special Adviser continued efforts to encourage dialogue between conflicting parties such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. He invited and met with officials from the two Koreas at the Imagine PEACE Youth Camp and at the Incheon Asian Games, held in South Korea, engaged in further exchanges with the two sides in order to strengthen diplomatic ties, and stated that his Office would continue playing a facilitation role between the two Koreas using upcoming sport events such as, but not limited to, the 2015 Summer Universiade and the 2015 World Military Games.

The Special Adviser also encouraged the Qatar 2022 (World Cup) Supreme Committee and other Qatari sport stakeholders to advance social progress and respect the human rights of migrant workers in the country, and led a UN System-wide response towards the Ebola crisis in West Africa in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). In July, the inauguration of the Sport of Hope Center, attended by the Secretary-General, the Special Adviser, and International Olympic Committee (IOC) President, took place in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. That

event followed a commitment from the IOC to provide aid to help rebuild Haiti's sporting infrastructure after the earthquake that hit the country in 2010. To mark the first observance of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, which was declared by General Assembly resolution 67/296 [YUN 2013, p. 1073], UNOSDP organized a number of events to recognize and celebrate the growing number of sport-based development initiatives around the world.

Also, as part of the first observance of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, a High-level Panel Discussion on "Celebrating Sport for Development and Peace" was convened on 28 April at UN Headquarters in New York. At the event, a formal agreement was signed between the United Nations and IOC to join hands in achieving common objectives, further highlighting the role of partnerships and cooperation to foster sustainable development through sport.

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/330], pursuant to resolution 67/17 [YUN 2012, p. 1070], the Secretary-General submitted a report on initiatives undertaken by Member States and UN entities to promote sport for development and peace since his last report [YUN 2012, p. 1069], including on the Olympic Truce of the 2014 Sochi Olympic and Paralympic Games; Human Rights Council and sport; inaugural International Day of Sport for Development and Peace; partnerships, initiatives, programmes and policies; and UN system activities related to the 2014 FIFA World Cup. He also provided an update on the activities and functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and its Trust Fund; reviewed the contribution of sport to the achievement of the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 49] and presented an updated Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace [A/67/282].

Solemn Appeal by the President of the General Assembly. On 29 January [A/68/710], the General Assembly President issued a solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce, calling on all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic Truce for the 2014 Sochi Olympic and Paralympic Games, and to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and global levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony based on the spirit of the Truce. Referring to the original tradition of the Olympic Truce practised in ancient times, as described in resolution 68/9 [YUN 2013, p. 1073], the President also called upon all warring parties of armed conflicts around the world to agree to true mutual ceasefires for the duration of the Olympic Truce, thus providing an opportunity to settle disputes peacefully.

On the same day, the General Assembly, at its seventy-third plenary meeting, took note of the solemn appeal made by the General Assembly President

in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce (**decision 68/551**).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 31 October [meeting 36], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/6** [draft: A/69/L.5 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 11].

Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/5 of 3 November 2003, 59/10 of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education, to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 60/9 of 3 November 2005, 61/10 of 3 November 2006, 62/271 of 23 July 2008, 63/135 of 11 December 2008, 65/4 of 18 October 2010 and 67/17 of 28 November 2012,

Recalling also its resolution 67/296 of 23 August 2013, in which it proclaimed 6 April the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

Recalling further its resolution 68/9 of 6 November 2013 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, and all its previous resolutions on this matter,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Sport for development and peace: realizing the potential", which reviews the programmes and initiatives implemented by States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other partners, using sport as a tool for development and peace,

Acknowledging the major role of the United Nations system and its country programmes as well as the role of Member States and their programmes abroad in promoting human development through sport and physical education,

Recognizing the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, noting that sport has the potential, as declared in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, to foster intercultural dialogue, peace and development and to contribute to an atmosphere of harmony, tolerance and understanding, and reaffirming that sport is a tool for education that can promote cooperation, solidarity, social inclusion and cohesion, gender equality and health at the local, national and international levels, as declared in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts, including multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels to maximize the potential of sport for contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities,

Encouraging Member States to give sport due consideration in the context of the post-2015 development agenda,

Acknowledging the importance of sport and physical activity in combating non-communicable diseases, as reflected in the political declaration of the high-level meeting

of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

Recalling the Declaration of Berlin, adopted by more than 120 States members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at the fifth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, held in Berlin from 28 to 30 May 2013, as an essential guideline for strengthening the educational, cultural and social dimensions of sport and physical education and for developing an international sport and physical education policy which fosters peace and understanding between peoples and which safeguards human rights in the world of sport by creating access to sport for all, improving physical education, developing new standards for mega and major sport events and preserving the integrity of sport,

Welcoming the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations in April 2014, in which a call was made to strengthen efforts around sport-based initiatives that encourage social and economic development, as well as to strengthen the many partnerships that United Nations organizations have established with the Committee, and welcoming also the holding of the third International Forum on Sport for Peace and Development, jointly organized by the Committee and the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace,

Affirming the invaluable contribution of the Olympic movement in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, and welcoming the XXXI Olympic Summer Games and the XV Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 5 to 21 August and from 7 to 18 September 2016, respectively, the XXIII Olympic Winter Games and the XII Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 9 to 25 February and from 9 to 18 March 2018, respectively, and the XXXII Olympic Summer Games and the XVI Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Tokyo from 24 July to 9 August and from 25 August to 6 September 2020, respectively,

Recognizing the importance of continental sporting events for promoting education, health, development and peace, and in this regard welcoming the upcoming 2015 Pan-American Games, to be held in Toronto, Canada, the eleventh All-Africa Games, to be held in Brazzaville, the 2018 Asian Games, to be held in Jakarta, and the inaugural 2015 European Games, to be held in Baku,

Acknowledging the Olympic Charter and that any form of discrimination is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic movement,

Acknowledging also the opportunities provided by the XXII Olympic Winter Games and the XI Paralympic Winter Games, held in Sochi, Russian Federation, for education, understanding, peace, harmony and tolerance among and between peoples and civilizations, and the opportunities provided by the second Youth Summer Olympic Games, held in Nanjing, China, to inspire the youth of the world to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values, as reflected in resolution 68/9 relating to the Olympic Truce,

Calling upon future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict-prevention activities and to

ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

Acknowledging the International Inspiration programme, the first legacy initiative ever linked to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which has reached over 25 million children in 20 countries around the world through the power of high-quality and inclusive physical education, sport and play,

Recognizing the role that the International Paralympic Committee plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with an impairment to a global audience and in acting as a primary vehicle to change societal perceptions of disability sport,

Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, outlining a child's right to play and leisure, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children", stressing the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

Recalling also article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, outlining the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, while also stipulating that States parties shall take appropriate measures to this end,

Recognizing the important role played by the International Convention against Doping in Sport in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against doping in sport, which are complementary to those undertaken by the sporting movement under the World Anti-Doping Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency,

Acknowledging the recommendations contained in the report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group entitled "Harnessing the power of sport for development and peace: recommendations to Governments", encouraging Member States to implement and further develop the recommendations, and welcoming in this regard the efforts undertaken by the secretariat of the Working Group, which is provided by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace,

Recognizing the need for indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards to assist Governments to enable the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development policies and programmes,

Recalling resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, by which the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the opportunities it provides for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in and through sport, and welcoming the continued advancement of women in sports and sporting activities, in particular the support for their progressive high performance in sporting events, which provides opportunities for economic development through sports,

Highlighting the importance of continuing to reduce barriers to participation in sport events, particularly for participants from developing countries,

Emphasizing the critical role of productive public-private partnerships for funding sport for development and peace programmes, institutional development and physical and social infrastructures,

Recognizing that major international sport events should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind and that the unifying and conciliative nature of such events should be respected, as recognized by fundamental principle 6 of the Olympic Charter,

1. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, including its peacekeeping missions, special political missions and integrated peacebuilding missions, sport-related organizations, federations and associations, athletes, the media, civil society, academia and the private sector to collaborate with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace to promote greater awareness and action to foster peace and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through sport-based initiatives and promote the integration of sport for development and peace in the development agenda, by working along the following principles adapted from the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session:

(a) Global framework for sport for development and peace: further develop a framework to strengthen a common vision, define priorities and further raise awareness to promote and mainstream policies on sport for development and peace that are easily replicable;

(b) Policy development: promote and support the integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies, including mechanisms for growth and wealth;

(c) Resource mobilization and programming: promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements at all levels, including the engagement of sport organizations, civil society, athletes and the private sector, to create effective programmes with sustainable impact;

(d) Evidence of impact: promote and facilitate common evaluation and monitoring tools, indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards;

2. *Encourages* Member States to provide institutional structures, appropriate quality standards, policies and competencies and promote academic research and expertise in the field to enable ongoing training, capacity-building and education of physical education teachers, coaches and community leaders in sport for development and peace programmes;

3. *Invites* Member States and international sport organizations to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education, by providing national experiences and best practices, as well as financial, technical and logistic resources for the development of sport programmes;

4. *Encourages* the stakeholders referred to in paragraph 1 above to emphasize and advance the use of sport as a vehicle to foster development and strengthen education, including physical education, for children and young persons, prevent disease and promote health, including the prevention of drug abuse, realize gender equality and empower girls and women, foster the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

5. *Encourages* the stakeholders, and in particular the organizers of mass sport events, to use and leverage such

events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives and to strengthen existing and build new partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policies and programmes and increase coherence and synergies, while raising awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels;

6. *Encourages* Member States to adopt best practices and means to promote the practice of sport and physical activities among all members of society, and in this regard welcomes initiatives to adopt dedicated health, youth and sport days, including specialized sport days, at the national and local levels, as a means to promote physical and mental health and cultivate a sport culture in society;

7. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to designate a focal point for sport for development and peace within their governments and provide updates to the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace on institutional, policy and programme-related developments;

8. *Supports* the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement;

9. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, acceding to and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention against Doping in Sport;

10. *Notes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Member States and civil society for the observance of the Olympic Truce, and encourages future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to support the effective implementation of the Truce;

11. *Appreciates* the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, supported by the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, on issues relating to sport for development and peace within the United Nations system and beyond, and their creation and implementation of innovative initiatives such as the Youth Leadership Programme;

12. *Encourages* Member States, in particular those committed to promoting sport as a tool for development and peace, and other stakeholders, such as international sports federations, organizers of global mass sports events, sports clubs and leagues, foundations and the private sector, especially businesses involved in the sports sector, to provide voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace and to enter into innovative partnerships with the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, which is funded exclusively through voluntary contributions, in order to sustain the mandate of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, ensure the continuous activities of the Office, including its provision of secretariat services to the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, and provide project implementation funding for the Office and the United Nations system at large;

13. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, which met for its thematic meeting on harnessing the power of sport to address gender-based violence and its fourth plenary session, on 30 June and 1 July 2014, respectively, and the commencement of the substantive work

of the thematic working group on sport and persons with disabilities, in addition to the working groups on sport and peace, sport and gender, and sport and child and youth development;

14. *Invites* Member States and other relevant stakeholders, as observers, to join and support the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, so as to further strengthen its work on all envisaged themes, including the pending thematic working group on sport and health;

15. *Encourages* Member States to join and participate in the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an informal group of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva serving as a platform to promote dialogue and facilitate and encourage the integration of sport to support the achievement of the United Nations goals and objectives;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on specific initiatives aimed at ensuring more effective implementation of the Olympic Truce and progress made by Member States and the United Nations system, including activities and the functioning of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and the Trust Fund for Sport for Development and Peace, as well as other relevant stakeholders, towards the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace and the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group policy recommendations, and to provide a review of the contribution of sport to the promotion of the post-2015 development agenda and present an updated action plan on sport for development and peace;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled “Sport for development and peace”.

Culture and sustainable development

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/223 [YUN 2013, p. 1076], the Secretary-General transmitted a July [A/69/216] report from the UNESCO Director-General on progress made since July 2013 in implementing that resolution through the activities undertaken by Member States and UN organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It also included options for a consolidated UN approach to the role of culture for poverty eradication and sustainable development through inclusive economic and social development and environmental sustainability.

As mandated by resolution 68/223, a special thematic debate on “Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda” was convened at UN Headquarters in May 2014 by the President of the General Assembly, in partnership with UNESCO. Participants included 18 Government Ministers and high-level representatives of Member States, the G-77 plus China, the European Union, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, the Director-General of UNESCO, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, the President of the

General Conference of UNESCO, and the Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO. The participants highlighted the importance of integrating culture into the post-2015 development agenda. Also, in May, the global campaign “#culture2015goal”, a coalition of more than 600 NGOs working in the field of culture, published a declaration on the need to include explicit targets and indicators for culture in the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

The Director-General highlighted the efforts of Member States and UN system entities in implementing specific measures to enhance the role of culture, covering the areas of promoting cultural diversity through education and the media; enabling women and men to equally access, participate and contribute to cultural life; developing a dynamic cultural and creative sector; supporting the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services; promoting global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity; developing innovative mechanisms of financing for culture; and mobilizing culture as a vehicle for tolerance, understanding, peace and reconciliation. In June, a declaration adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Group recommended that the role of culture be fully taken into account to achieve sustainable development, as development was “a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process”.

The Director-General proposed a set of options for Member States to consider while devising a consolidated UN approach on culture and sustainable development. Those included integrating culture in development strategies and policies at all levels; developing cultural literacy, including an understanding of cultural heritage; safeguarding traditional knowledge and skills; and increasing access to and participation in cultural life of all individuals and communities to improve social cohesion. The Director-General also recommended that Member States fully integrate culture, through cultural heritage and the cultural and creative industries, into the framework of the post-2015 system of goals, targets and indicators.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/470/Add.2], adopted **resolution 69/230** without vote [agenda item 21 (b)].

Culture and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996,

52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998, 55/192 of 20 December 2000, 57/249 of 20 December 2002, 65/166 of 20 December 2010 and 66/208 of 22 December 2011, concerning culture and development, and its resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and 68/223 of 20 December 2013 on culture and sustainable development,

Recalling also its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Recalling further the declaration adopted in Florence, Italy, on 4 October 2014, at the third United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries,

1. *Takes note* of the report on culture and sustainable development prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as transmitted by the Secretary-General, which identifies options for a consolidated United Nations approach on culture and sustainable development;

2. *Recalls* the discussions at and takes note of the Chair’s summary of the special thematic debate of the General Assembly on the role of culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda, held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 May 2014, as mandated by its resolution 68/223, at which high-level participants highlighted the importance of integrating culture into the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Notes* the contribution of culture to sustainable development, as recognized in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to continue to give due consideration to culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Recalls* the decision, in its resolution 68/223, to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, a sub-item entitled “Culture and sustainable development” and to maintain the biennial nature of the sub-item.

Human resources development

United Nations research and training institutes

United Nations University

The Council of the United Nations University (UNU) (Rome, 12–13 May; Tokyo, Japan, 8–9 December) adopted the statute of the UNU Operating Unit on Policy-driven Electronic Governance; reviewed the

progress and status of ongoing and new institutional development initiatives; approved the text of the host country agreement and bilateral agreement; adopted the statute of the consolidated UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability; adopted the UNU strategic plan 2015–2019; considered and approved a revised biennial programme and budget for 2014–2015; and reviewed the progress made towards the establishment of a UNU Institute on Human Resources and Economic Development in Dakar, Senegal.

In 2014, the UNU Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) was established at the UNU Centre in Tokyo as part of a broader effort by the UNU Rector to respond to the Secretary-General's request to enhance UNU policy relevance in the fields of peace and security as well as in global development. The core mission of UNU-CPR was to generate policy research that spoke to major debates in the wider UN community as well as the Secretary-General's priorities. Another highlight was the formation of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) which was formed through the merger of the University's two Japan-based research and training institutes: the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies and the UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace. The proposal to consolidate the two institutes was endorsed by the UNU Council in April 2013, and the new UNU-IAS was formally inaugurated on 1 January 2014.

In 2014, the research work of UNU focused on five interdependent thematic clusters: development governance, global change and sustainable development, peace, security and human rights, population and health and science, technology and society. UNU implemented 178 research projects (60 new, 70 ongoing, 48 completed during the year), of which 114 (64 per cent) were primarily focused on or in developing countries. UNU researchers published 34 books and 81 chapters in edited volumes, 233 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 44 other articles, and 13 special journal issues. UNU also published 304 working and discussion papers, 34 policy briefs, and 51 research/technology briefs, as well as numerous website articles, videos/podcasts, proceedings and conference papers.

During the year, UNU received \$46.9 million in contributions from 22 Governments and some 112 additional sources.

United Nations System Staff College

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/214 [YUN 2005, p. 1527] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/14 [YUN 2013, p. 1084], the Secretary-General transmitted a report to the Economic and Social Council covering the activities of the United Nations System Staff College over the 2013–2014 biennium, focusing on the College's outreach efforts, impact of services, substantive course portfolio and

strategic orientation. He reported that the Staff College made notable progress in terms of increasing the number of UN staff participating in its programmes, the level and diversification of its partnerships, the thematic focus of its courses and the quality of its services. In 2013, the College reached more than 9,000 beneficiaries with its courses, workshops and knowledge products, while in 2014 the overall number of beneficiaries exceeded 16,000. The combined figure represented an increase of 23 per cent over the 2011–2012 biennium, while the 2014 figure represented a historical peak. The year 2014 also saw an important increase over 2013 in terms of the value and number of partnership contracts signed with UN system entities, which amounted to 56 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively.

The Secretary-General also detailed the Staff College's key institutional achievements in terms of strengthening its efficiency, effectiveness, accountability in delivering results, and collaboration and partnerships. Regarding the financial situation of the College, total income in 2014 amounted to \$7.39 million. The College maintained its previous trend of self-generating a major portion of its income. It self-generated 65 per cent of its income in 2013 and 74 per cent in 2014 despite the decreasing resources of United Nations entities following the 2008 global financial crisis and its direct impact on funding available for learning and training activities.

The Secretary-General recommended that Member States and UN system entities provide full support to the Staff College in its efforts to deliver appropriately contemporary and forward-looking range of capacity-building measures for UN staff. In particular, Member States were encouraged to work with the College to ensure shared ownership of the change process and to support the College in consolidating a resource base commensurate with interlinked tasks.

Education for All

Literacy for life

In July [A/69/183], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/132 [YUN 2013, p. 1085], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly a report from the UNESCO Director-General on the implementation of that resolution and the process of elaborating a literacy vision and agenda for the period subsequent to the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) [YUN 2001, p. 1052].

The Director-General reported that there had been steady progress in the global literacy landscape. Global literacy rates for persons aged between 15 and 24 years had increased from 83 per cent in 1990 to 87 per cent in 2000 and 89 per cent in 2012. The absolute number of non-literate adults had fallen from 884 million in 1990 to 787 million in 2000

and 781 million in 2012. Progress proved uneven, however, across regions and countries. Three quarters of the global non-literate adult population lived in South Asia, West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Women still constituted two thirds of the world's non-literate population. Low literacy skills were also a concern in many high-income countries. The European Commission, for example, noted that in Europe, an estimated 20 per cent of adults lacked the literacy skills they needed to function fully in a modern society. Based on the prevailing trends, it was projected that 751 million adults, including 103 million young people aged between 15 and 24 years old, would lack basic literacy skills by 2015, and only 36 countries and territories were likely to achieve or exceed Education of All (goal 4)—achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults. The Director-General stressed that literacy was a global challenge and an unfinished agenda item that had to be urgently addressed.

As part of its drive to continue playing a catalytic role in the global literacy agenda, UNESCO proposed five strategic themes for the period subsequent to the 2003–2012 Literacy Decade: developing the capacities of Member States in the areas of policies, programme delivery and literacy assessments; scaling up literacy actions for girls and women; reinforcing innovative modes of literacy delivery, including through the use of information and communication technologies; expanding the knowledge base and monitoring and evaluation; and advocating for literacy on the global agenda and ensuring synergies between different actions, including through a multi-stakeholder partnership and networks.

The Director-General proposed that the General Assembly consider the following six recommendations: recognize literacy as a foundation for lifelong learning, as well as a building block for achieving basic human rights and sustainable development; encourage Governments to seek innovative solutions to accelerate literacy efforts and create institutional frameworks and systems for literacy and lifelong learning, and translate political commitment into dependable financing, robust programming and improvement-oriented monitoring; call upon countries, development partners, UN system entities and civil society to promote literacy and literate environments; express its support to the five strategic axes proposed for the global literacy agenda; urge countries to consider integrating literacy into the post-2015 global development and education agenda as an education and development imperative; and encourage UNESCO to continue to strengthen its role in coordinating and catalysing global efforts towards scaling up literacy in the period subsequent to the United Nations Literacy Decade.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/480], adopted **resolution 69/141** without vote [agenda item 26 (d)].

Literacy for life: shaping future agendas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade, and its resolutions 59/149 of 20 December 2004, 61/140 of 19 December 2006, 63/154 of 18 December 2008, 65/183 of 21 December 2010 and 68/132 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, would be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys would have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Reaffirming the Education for All goals, in particular goal 3, on ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes, and goal 4, on achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, young person and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they may face in life and represents an essential condition of lifelong learning, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the knowledge societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

Reaffirming the right of indigenous peoples to have non-discriminatory access to all levels and forms of education provided by States, and recognizing the importance of effective measures to promote access for indigenous individuals, in particular children, to education in their own language, whenever possible, as addressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Deeply concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 781 million adults do not have basic literacy skills and 58 million children of primary and 63 million children of secondary school age remain out of school, that an estimated 250 million children of primary school age are failing to acquire basic literacy skills, that millions more young people leave school without a level of literacy adequate for productive and active participation in their societies, that the issue of literacy may not be sufficiently high on national agendas to generate the kind of political and economic support required to address global literacy challenges and that the world is unlikely to meet those challenges if present trends continue,

Recognizing that literacy is a foundation for lifelong learning, a building block for achieving human rights and fundamental freedoms and a driver of sustainable

development and that the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) had a catalytic effect as a global framework for sustained and focused efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments,

Welcoming the convening of the International Conference on Girls' and Women's Literacy and Education: Foundations for Sustainable Development, held in Dhaka and co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in support of the Global Education First Initiative and on the occasion of International Literacy Day, on 8 September 2014, and taking note with appreciation of the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration,

Taking note of the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and acknowledging that it includes a goal on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all with a stand-alone target on literacy,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of human rights, gender equality and the eradication of poverty, as well as to development,

Recognizing the importance of continuing to implement national programmes and measures to eliminate illiteracy worldwide as reflected in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, adopted on 28 April 2000 at the World Education Forum, and in the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard also recognizing the important contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, innovative pedagogical methods in literacy,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, nearly two thirds of the world's non-literate adults are women,

Concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, one third of the children not attending school are children with disabilities and that the literacy rate among adults with disabilities is as low as 3 per cent in some countries,

Deeply concerned about the impact of disrupted educational services in humanitarian emergencies on efforts to promote literacy skills, especially for all children and young people,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas";

2. *Commends* the efforts made by Member States, their development partners, the international donor community, the private sector, civil society and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the lead organization of the United Nations Literacy Decade, the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization, in promoting the right to education, including by making progress on the goals of the Decade;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to implement national programmes and measures for everyone to acquire, use and advance literacy skills in order to eliminate illiteracy worldwide, enhancing further political and financial commitments, in particular for youth and adult literacy and non-formal education, intensifying collective efforts through enhanced education systems and interventions and building a robust knowledge and technical base through improved literacy monitoring, assessment and research;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments to develop reliable measures of literacy and generate data that are comparable across time and disaggregated by age, sex, disability, socio-economic status, geographical location (urban/rural areas) and other relevant factors;

5. *Encourages* Member States, their development partners and the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to sustain and expand the gains achieved during the Decade through improving the integration of literacy into sector-wide and multisectoral education and development strategies, expanding the provision of quality literacy programmes, enhancing education systems to provide quality basic education through schooling, enriching literate environments to allow people to acquire, use and advance literacy skills and promoting literacy for women and girls, as well as for marginalized groups, for their empowerment and inclusion in societies;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its coordinating and catalysing role in the fight against illiteracy, including in the context of the agenda for the period following the United Nations Literacy Decade, through developing Member States' capacities in the areas of policies, programme delivery and literacy assessments, scaling up literacy actions for girls and women, reinforcing innovative models of literacy delivery, including through information and communications technologies, and expanding the knowledge base and monitoring and evaluation, as well as advocating literacy on the global agenda and ensuring synergies between different actions, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks;

7. *Encourages* efforts to provide education for all, especially for boys and girls, in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

8. *Recognizes* the continued need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of literacy in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas".

Women

In 2014, UN efforts to advance the status of women worldwide continued to be guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth (1995) World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the General Assembly's twenty-third (2000) special session (Beijing+5), which reviewed progress in their implementation.

During the year, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) spearheaded political and social mobilization to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in marking the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women in 2015. A record number of 164 reviews by as many Governments undertook national stock-taking of their implementation of those gender equality targets. The year also brought the international community to a crucial confluence of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target date of 2015 and to deliberate on a successor road map for sustainable development.

The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women had as its priority theme "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls". At the session, Member States for the first time assessed progress for women and girls on all eight MDGs and identified factors constraining achievement. As a result, the Commission endorsed a stand-alone gender equality goal in the post-2015 agenda and the integration of gender equality across the agenda.

The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women that the Council adopted in June. In July, the Council adopted a resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the United Nations system. Further, the agreed conclusions on the priority theme adopted by the Commission at its annual session were transmitted as input into the 2014 high-level segment of the Council. The conclusions called for action in five areas: realizing women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights; strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women; maximizing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women; strengthening the evidence-base for gender equality and the empowerment of women; and ensuring women's participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability.

Issues central to women's lives on which the General Assembly adopted resolutions included the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the Assembly's twenty-third special session; the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*; intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula; female genital mutilations; all forms of violence against women and girls; and trafficking in women and girls.

The Security Council held two debates on women and peace and security, with statements made by the Secretary-General, the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and the UN-Women Executive Director. A Council presidential statement in October addressed the particular needs of displaced women, highlighted the impact of violent extremism on women and welcomed the Secretary-General's commissioning of a global study.

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference and Beijing+5

During 2014, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly considered follow-up to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, particularly the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170] and further actions and initiatives to implement both instruments adopted five years later at the twenty-third (2000) special session of the Assembly (Beijing+5) by resolution S/23-2 [YUN 2000, p. 1084]. The Declaration had reaffirmed the commitment of Governments to the goals and objectives of the Fourth World Conference and to the implementation of 12 critical areas of concern outlined in the Platform for Action: women and poverty; education and training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child. The issue of mainstreaming a gender perspective into UN policies and programmes continued to be addressed (see p. 1290).

Reports of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/140 [YUN 2013, p. 1088],

the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/69/182], reviewed the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the Assembly's twenty-third special session. He focused on the extent to which gender perspectives were reflected in selected UN intergovernmental processes and provided quantitative and qualitative analyses on the subject. The report assessed separately the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, noting that as a consensus-building and policymaking body, it continued to lead at the global level on issues of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Commission also had primary responsibility for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, a role which took on additional importance as the target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approached; as Member States elaborated the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals (SDGs); and as stakeholders intensified their activities towards commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, for which the Commission would undertake, in March 2015, a comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The report also described the role played by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in integrating a gender perspective into the post-2015 development agenda, and in defining a set of SDGs, particularly by intensifying the contribution of UN-Women to the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (see p. 945).

The Secretary-General concluded that intergovernmental bodies were making progress in reflecting a gender perspective in their work, but such progress remained uneven. Resolutions of the General Assembly that included a gender perspective showed a solid upward trend, and those with a focus on gender equality increased significantly, but those adopted by the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions registered a downward trend. In some areas, a gender perspective was still too seldom reflected, such as in resolutions dealing with disarmament and related international security questions, political issues and decolonization, administrative and budgetary matters, international legal matters, crime prevention and criminal justice, and narcotic drugs.

Several important intergovernmental processes were under way, including those on the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the development of a new climate agreement, at a time when Member States were also conducting the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Those processes were closely related and would influence global and national policies on a range of issues for years to come. It was therefore critical that such intergovernmental processes addressed gender perspectives so that women as well as men could benefit from

their outcomes, and that inequality and discrimination against women were not perpetuated.

The Secretary-General recommended, among other measures, that the General Assembly reaffirm the relevance of gender mainstreaming as a globally accepted strategy in all issues considered by its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies.

Also pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/140 [YUN 2013, p. 1088], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/346 & Corr.1] on the improvement of the status of women in the UN system. The report, which covered the period from December 2011 to December 2013, discussed progress made and obstacles encountered in efforts to achieve gender balance within the 35 funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the UN system. The representation of women in the Professional and higher categories in the UN system increased marginally during the reporting period from 40.9 to 41.8 per cent, but the inverse relationship between the level and the representation of women continued: P-1 (54.3 per cent), P-2 (57.9 per cent), P-3 (45.3 per cent), P-4 (40.5 per cent), P-5 (34.2 per cent), D-1 (32.4 per cent), D-2 (30.1 per cent) and ungraded (26.7 per cent). Nonetheless, the P-4 to D-2 levels reached historic highs in their representation of women in 2013. Most notable were the increases in the representation of women at the D-1 level with 2 percentage points and at the D-2 level with 3.2 percentage points. The P-3 level registered a negligible decrease and the two lowest Professional levels, P-1 and P-2, maintained parity. With respect to promotions, progress was needed at the senior levels (P-5 to D-2), where the proportion of women promoted remained nearly 15 percentage points away from the achievement of parity, despite gains. The challenge for the UN system, including the Secretariat, was to reverse the inverse relationship between seniority and the representation of women, which pointed to the need to target each level. In that respect, 50 per cent of the entities surveyed by UN-Women on impediments to achieving gender balance cited a "lack of special measures for appointments and promotions" among their top three choices. Recommendations to address such challenges included the need for more intensive sponsorship by senior leaders; more rigorous promulgation and implementation of existing policies, including special measures for women and flexible working arrangements; enhanced monitoring and accountability; and career development for female staff members, accompanied by targeted outreach. The Secretary-General also recommended the harmonization and unification of gender-related policies, as part of the development and implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women [YUN 2012, p. 1082], led by UN-Women. The Action Plan was the first unified gender accountability framework of the UN system and established 15 performance indicators, three of which

pertained to the status of women and their equal representation in the UN system, to be achieved by 2017.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/481], adopted **resolution 69/151** without vote [agenda item 27 (b)].

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 68/140 of 18 December 2013, and recalling also the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Noting that 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to commemorate the occasion,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, including the

agreed conclusions on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls adopted by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session, and of the need to implement them,

Welcoming also the strengthening of the capacity of UN-Women and its experience in achieving its mandate,

Taking note of the activities carried out by the Fund for Gender Equality and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women,

Recognizing that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women’s groups and organizations and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the successful implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, in particular in the lead-up to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Platform for Action,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, which is relevant in all issues considered by its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, including in resolutions dealing with issues beyond social, humanitarian, cultural, economic and financial matters,

Reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Reaffirming further the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and stereotypical roles of boys and girls, men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011, in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV and AIDS,

Welcoming the integration of a gender perspective into the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and in this regard commending UN-Women for its efforts to ensure coherence throughout the United Nations system in its advocacy for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of sustainable development, and in particular in the context of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting with appreciation the attention to gender equality and the empowerment of women reflected in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Mo-

dalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”, and encouraging its appropriate follow-up and implementation,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the need for their participation therein, including at decision-making levels,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declaration adopted on the occasion of the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, welcomes in this regard the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto and to take into consideration the concluding

observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Reiterates* the importance and value of the mandate of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and welcomes the Entity's leadership in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels;

7. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the important and extensive work of UN-Women for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, and calls upon UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and of its efforts to accelerate action across the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks, and encourages the Entity to continue to promote the need to mainstream and strengthen a gender perspective in the work of intergovernmental bodies and processes and the opportunities therein, and to provide technical assistance, at the request of Member States, in strengthening a gender perspective in resolutions and other outcomes;

10. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively and that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

11. *Encourages* all actors, including Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to the full implementation at the national and international levels and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes, and encourages the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission into their work;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and the relevant funds and programmes and the specialized agencies

of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify and accelerate action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, nearly 20 years after their adoption, and of the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any form of violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNITE to End Violence against Women" and the social mobilization and advocacy platform of UN-Women "Say NO—UNITE to End Violence against Women";

14. *Reiterates its call upon* the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, through forums such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council and the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes, including those of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012;

15. *Calls upon* States to ensure that intergovernmental processes, such as the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), consistently address gender perspectives in their preparatory processes and outcomes, and also calls upon States to ensure the reflection of a gender perspective in the discussions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as they elaborate a new climate change agreement, to be adopted in 2015;

16. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

17. *Recalls* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable

development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

18. *Urges* States to build on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as the new post-2015 development agenda is being shaped, also urges States to tackle critical remaining challenges through a transformative and comprehensive approach, and calls for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework;

19. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work, within their mandates, and, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and in this regard encourages UN-Women to continue to use concrete results-based reporting mechanisms and to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

20. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

21. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

22. *Calls upon* the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

23. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through gender-sensitive analysis and the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age and that conclusions and recommendations for further action address the different situations and needs of women and men and girls and boys in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide input to his reports;

24. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

25. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing

Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially those in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from the developing and the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure the implementation of measures, including temporary special measures, to accelerate progress, and managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

27. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, with recommendations for accelerating progress and up-to-date statistics to be provided annually by entities of the United Nations, including on the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, as well as information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

28. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

29. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

30. *Encourages* its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, particularly in the light of the analysis contained in the report of the Secretary-General and of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the

empowerment of women, to make further progress in the integration of a gender perspective into their work;

31. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the United Nations system the findings of his report in order to strengthen follow-up on these findings and accelerate the implementation of the present resolution;

32. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, in which the Council decided that, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women would undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective;

33. *Urges* all States and all other stakeholders, in that context, to undertake comprehensive reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with a view to strengthening and accelerating their full implementation, and to consider appropriate commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

34. *Encourages* States and all stakeholders to strengthen the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all sectors and in all areas of development, including through the national and regional preparations for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

35. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue to support and contribute to the review and appraisal process of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the international, regional, national and local levels, encourages UN-Women to continue its efforts in support of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the central role it is playing in mobilizing States, civil society, the United Nations system, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders at all levels, including through its activities, campaigns and special events for the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action aimed at strengthening political will and commitment, social mobilization, awareness-raising and revitalized public debates, a strengthened evidence base and knowledge generation, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure enhanced and sufficient resources to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of women's full enjoyment of all human rights;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, and to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices and recommendations on further measures to enhance and accelerate implementation.

Critical areas of concern

Women and poverty

Women in development

Reports of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2014/3] that gave an overview of challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls. The report provided recommendations for accelerating progress on the Goals, and for prioritizing gender equality and women's rights and empowerment in the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. The Secretary-General concluded that while there had been successes for women and girls in the case of some MDG targets, overall progress on gender equality and women's rights remained slow and uneven. The MDGs could not be achieved without harnessing the synergies between gender equality and all the Goals through systematic gender mainstreaming. The 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action provided an opportunity to align acceleration on the Goals with action on the full range of existing global norms and agreements on gender equality, thereby responding to gender inequality in all parts of the world. Lessons from the MDGs should inform the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960) and sustainable development goals, and gender equality and women's rights had to remain an explicit global priority. The development framework had to address the structural drivers of inequalities based on gender, age, income, location, race, ethnicity, sexuality and disability. The framework had to be grounded in international human rights obligations and in accordance with existing policy frameworks, with strong monitoring and accountability mechanisms for all development actors. The Secretary-General's recommendations for the Commission included actions on the creation of an enabling environment for gender equality and the rights of women and girls, a comprehensive approach to gender equality, and investment in gender statistics.

The Secretary-General also submitted a report [E/CN.6/2014/4] on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a focus on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls. The report provided an overview of national approaches to the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls. It also presented a set of priorities for accelerating progress on the MDGs for women and girls, particularly in the areas of violence against women and girls, women's economic rights, universal social protection across the life cycle, women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, universally accessible and high-quality services and infrastructure (education, health,

water and sanitation), gender equality and unpaid care work, gender equality and women's rights in sustainability policies, the voice and participation of women and girls at all levels in public and private institutions, an enabling environment for gender equality, and regular and high-quality data to permit the monitoring of gender equality and to inform policies.

The Secretary-General concluded that while some countries recognized the need for a comprehensive approach to gender equality in achieving the MDGs for women and girls, implementation at the national level was largely fragmented and narrowly approached. Gender mainstreaming across the framework remained weak, thus slowing progress on all the Goals. Important policy considerations had to be addressed, namely, the persistence of discriminatory laws, social norms and practices; the inequalities experienced by the most marginalized groups of women and girls; the need to embed gender equality in all policy areas and national development plans; the need for monitoring and accountability mechanisms; the participation of women and girls; and adequate and sustained resources for gender equality. The Secretary-General's recommendations for the Commission included actions on the creation of an enabling environment for gender equality, investment in gender equality, a comprehensive policy approach to gender equality, investment in gender statistics, and monitoring and accountability for gender equality.

Commission action. In March [E/2014/27], the Commission on the Status of Women held parallel high-level round tables on the priority theme of its 2014 session, namely, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", as well as panel discussions on key policy initiatives. Participants had before them a Secretariat note [E/CN.6/2014/5] that contained the round-table discussion guide. On 21 March, the Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1 [YUN 2013, p. 1413], decided to transmit them as input into the 2014 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council.

Communication. On 6 May [E/2014/90], the Philippines, in its capacity as chair of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, transmitted to the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission's agreed conclusions on its priority theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", adopted on 21 March.

World Survey. In response to General Assembly resolution 64/217 [YUN 2009, p. 1120], the Secretary-General, in July, submitted the seventh *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* [A/69/156], a report presented to the Assembly at five-year intervals. The theme of the *Survey* was "Gender equality

and sustainable development” and the survey demonstrated why sustainable development policies and frameworks at the global, regional, national and local levels had to include an explicit commitment to gender equality and the realization of women’s and girls’ human rights and capabilities. Women’s collective action and full and equal participation in all aspects of decision-making related to policy development and monitoring also had to be supported.

States played a central role in delivering on commitments to gender equality, setting standards and regulations for resource use and providing public services and investments for sustainable development. Public investment was necessary for scaling-up key innovations for gender-responsive public goods, such as the provision of water supplies, appropriate sanitation facilities and modern energy services. Alliances between the state, private sector and civil society actors that advanced gender equality and sustainable development also had a vital role to play.

The *Survey* proposed three criteria to assess whether sustainable development was in line with gender equality and women’s human rights: compliance with human rights standards and the realization of women’s capabilities; attention to the unpaid care work of women and girls, especially those in poor and marginalized households and communities; and full and equal participation by women and girls in all aspects of sustainable development. It also noted that Member States should fully implement the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women contained in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women should implement their obligations thereunder. The *Survey* recommended policy actions to move towards an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future, including in the areas of food security; investments that accelerated gender equality; data and statistics; financing; population measures related to sexual and reproductive health and rights; and the green economy and green growth.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/472/Add.3], adopted **resolution 69/236** without vote [agenda item 23 (d)].

World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/104 of 20 December 1995, 52/195 of 18 December 1997, 54/210 of 22 December 1999, 56/188 of 21 December 2001, 58/206 of 23 December 2003, 59/248 of 22 December 2004, 60/210 of 22 December 2005, 62/206 of 19 December 2007, 64/217

of 21 December 2009, 66/216 of 22 December 2011 and 68/227 of 20 December 2013, and all its other resolutions on women in development, and the relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including the Declaration adopted at its forty-ninth session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, which focuses on gender equality and sustainable development, and decides to consider the report at its seventieth session, under the sub-item entitled “Women in development” of the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* for the consideration of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, noting that it should continue to focus on selected emerging development themes that have an impact on the role of women in the economy at the national, regional and international levels.

Women and health

Elimination of obstetric fistula

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/147 [YUN 2012, p. 1087], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/256] on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula, a devastating childbirth injury leaving women incontinent and therefore often stigmatized and isolated within their communities. The report noted a strong association between fistula and stillbirth, as research indicated that most women (from 78 to 95 per cent) who developed obstetric fistula also delivered a stillborn baby. Women with fistula might also experience neurological disorders, orthopaedic injury, bladder infections, painful sores, kidney failure, infertility and social isolation, which severely affected their mental health and made it difficult to secure income or support, thereby deepening their poverty. Precise figures were unavailable, but it was estimated that more than 2 million women and girls were living with obstetric fistula. To prevent its occurrence, it was necessary to address the root causes of maternal mortality and morbidity, which included poverty, gender inequality, barriers to education, especially for girls, and child marriage and adolescent pregnancy. The report identified three well-known, cost-effective interventions to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, including obstetric fistula, which urgently needed to be scaled up to reduce the number of deaths and disabilities: universal access to family planning; a trained health professional with midwifery skills at childbirth; and timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric and neonatal care. Most cases of obstetric fistula could be treated through surgery, after which women could be reintegrated into their communities with appropriate psychosocial care, but research suggested there was a significant unmet need for fistula treatment. Few health-care facilities were able to provide high-quality fistula surgery, owing to a lack of health-care professionals with the

necessary skills, as well as essential equipment and life-saving medical supplies. When the services were available, many women were not aware of them or could not afford or access them because of barriers, such as transportation costs.

The report outlined efforts made by countries and the UN system to end obstetric fistula. It also offered recommendations to intensify those efforts, within a human rights-based approach, to end obstetric fistula in the days remaining for the achievement of MDG 5 and beyond, by improving maternal health, strengthening health systems, reducing health inequities and increasing the levels and predictability of funding.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/481], adopted **resolution 69/148** without vote [agenda item 27 (a)].

Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/138 of 18 December 2007, 63/158 of 18 December 2008, 65/188 of 21 December 2010 and 67/147 of 20 December 2012 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and their reviews, and the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the 2005 World Summit, as well as those made in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those Conventions and the Optional Protocols thereto,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Stressing the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health-care services, early childbearing, child, early and forced marriage, violence against young women and girls and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Recognizing that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that early childbearing increases the risk of complications during pregnancy and delivery and entails a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, specifically timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities, as well as maternal mortality,

Recognizing further that adolescent girls are at particular risk of maternal death and morbidity, including obstetric fistula, and concerned that the leading cause of death among girls aged 15 to 19 in many low- and middle-income countries is complications from pregnancy and childbirth and that women aged 30 and older are at increased risk of developing complications and of dying during childbirth,

Noting that a human rights-based approach to eliminating obstetric fistula is underpinned by the principles of, inter alia, accountability, participation, transparency, empowerment, sustainability, non-discrimination and international cooperation,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against women and girls and the violation of their rights, which often result in less access for girls to education and nutrition, reduced physical and mental health and the enjoyment by girls of fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices,

Deeply concerned also about the situation of women living with or recovering from obstetric fistula, who are often neglected and stigmatized,

Recognizing the need to raise awareness among men and adolescent boys and, in this context, to fully engage men and community leaders as strategic partners and allies in the efforts to address and eliminate obstetric fistula,

Welcoming the contribution by Member States, the international community and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula led by the United Nations Population Fund, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

Deeply concerned that, as the Campaign to End Fistula has completed its tenth anniversary, while some progress has been made, significant challenges remain that require the intensification of efforts at all levels to end obstetric fistula,

Recognizing the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies aimed at significantly reducing the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths and disabilities as a matter of immediate concern by scaling up a priority package of high-impact interventions and integrating efforts in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition,

Welcoming the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Millennium Development Goals, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, gender

equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths,

Welcoming also ongoing partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to address the multifaceted determinants of maternal, newborn and child health in close coordination with Member States based on their needs and priorities, including beyond 2015, and in this regard welcoming further the commitments to accelerate progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Reaffirming the renewed and reinforced commitments made by Member States to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 by 2015 and to continue with these efforts beyond 2015,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014 on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, in which it decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and in this regard noting the importance of continuing efforts to end obstetric fistula,

1. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, lack of or inadequate access to health-care services, early childbearing and child, early and forced marriage as root causes of obstetric fistula, that poverty and inequality remain the main social risk factor and that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and rights of women and girls, and calls upon States, in collaboration with the international community, to take accelerated action to address the situation;

2. *Stresses* the need to address the social issues that contribute to the problem of obstetric fistula, such as poverty, lack of or inadequate education for women and girls, lack of access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, early childbearing, child, early and forced marriage and the low status of women and girls;

3. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services with a view to ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing women's empowerment, knowledge and awareness and ensuring equitable access to high-quality appropriate prenatal and delivery care for the prevention of obstetric fistula and the reduction of health inequities, as well as postnatal care for the detection and early management of fistula cases;

4. *Also calls upon* States to ensure the right to education of good quality for women and girls, on an equal basis with men and boys, and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, and including age-appropriate sex education, as well as voca-

tional education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and poverty eradication;

5. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage, including in rural and remote areas, is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to provide intensified technical and financial support, in particular to high-burden countries, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 by 2015 and the elimination of obstetric fistula in the remaining days of the Millennium Development Goals and beyond 2015;

7. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks in the public and private sectors, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies to support national efforts and institutional capacity-building to end obstetric fistula and to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas, as well as to ensure that needed funding is increased, predictable and sustained;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners, including the World Health Organization, in the global Campaign to End Fistula in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres and, where necessary, national centres, by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

9. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress in order to improve maternal health in the remaining days of the Millennium Development Goals and beyond 2015, by addressing sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care, postnatal care and methods of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health-care systems that provide equal access to affordable, equitable and high-quality integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as also reflected in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", and in the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health;

10. *Urges* the international community to address the shortage of doctors and the inequitable distribution of midwives, nurses and other health-care workers trained in lifesaving obstetric care, and of space and supplies, which limit the capacity of most fistula centres;

11. *Commends* the commemoration by the international community of 23 May as the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula and the decision to continue to use the International Day each year to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula;

12. *Calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and the specialized agencies of the

United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector:

(a) To redouble their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health-care services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by ensuring universal access to skilled attendance at birth and timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care and family planning, as well as appropriate prenatal and postnatal care;

(b) To make greater investments in strengthening health systems, ensuring adequately trained and skilled human resources, especially midwives, obstetricians, gynaecologists and doctors, and providing support for the development and maintenance of infrastructure, as well as investments in referral mechanisms, equipment and supply chains, to improve maternal and newborn health-care services and ensure that women and girls have access to the full continuum of care, with functional quality control and monitoring mechanisms in place for all areas of service delivery;

(c) To support the training of doctors, nurses and other health-care workers in lifesaving obstetric care, especially midwives, who are the front-line workers in the fight to prevent obstetric fistula and maternal and newborn mortality, and include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

(d) To ensure equitable access through national policies, plans and programmes that make maternal and newborn health-care services, particularly family planning, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and obstetric fistula treatment, financially accessible, including in rural and remote areas and among the poorest women and girls, through, where appropriate, the establishment and distribution of health-care facilities and trained medical personnel, collaboration with the transport sector for affordable transport options, the promotion of and support for community-based solutions and the provision of incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural and remote areas of qualified health-care professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

(e) To develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment and socio-economic reintegration and support strategies, policies and plans to eliminate obstetric fistula, to develop further multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated action plans in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to maternal mortality and morbidity and obstetric fistula, including by ensuring access to affordable, accessible, comprehensive, high-quality maternal health-care services and, within countries, to incorporate into all sectors of national budgets policy and programmatic approaches to address inequities and reach poor, vulnerable women and girls;

(f) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, a national task force for obstetric fistula, led by the Ministry of Health, to enhance national coordination and improve partner collaboration to end obstetric fistula;

(g) To strengthen the capacity of health-care systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat

existing cases by increasing national budgets for health, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated to reproductive health, including for obstetric fistula, ensuring access to fistula treatment through increased availability of trained, expert fistula surgeons and permanent, holistic fistula services integrated into strategically selected hospitals, thereby addressing the significant backlog of women and girls awaiting surgical repair of fistula, and encouraging communication among fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fundraising and the application of relevant medical standards, including consideration of the use of the World Health Organization manual entitled "Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development", which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment programmes, as appropriate;

(h) To mobilize funding to provide free or adequately subsidized maternal health-care and obstetric fistula repair and treatment services, including by encouraging networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols to protect women's and children's well-being and survival and to prevent the recurrence of subsequent fistulas by making post-surgery follow-up and the tracking of fistula patients a routine and key component of all fistula programmes, and also to ensure access to elective caesarean sections for fistula survivors who become pregnant again in order to prevent fistula recurrence and to increase the chances of survival of mother and baby in all subsequent pregnancies;

(i) To ensure that all women and girls who have undergone fistula treatment, including the forgotten women and girls with incurable or inoperable fistula, are provided with and have access to comprehensive health-care services, holistic social integration services and careful follow-up, including counselling, education, family planning and socio-economic empowerment, for as long as needed, through, inter alia, skills development and income-generating activities, so that they can overcome abandonment and social exclusion, and to develop linkages with civil society organizations and women's and girls' empowerment programmes so as to help to achieve this goal;

(j) To empower fistula survivors to contribute to community sensitization and mobilization as advocates for fistula elimination, safe motherhood and newborn survival;

(k) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as of those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, social workers, civil society, women's organizations, influential public figures and policymakers;

(l) To enhance the participation of men and adolescent boys in the intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula and to further strengthen their involvement as partners, including in the Campaign to End Fistula;

(m) To strengthen awareness-raising and advocacy, including through the media, to effectively reach families and communities with key messages on fistula prevention and treatment and social reintegration;

(n) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including by developing a community- and facility-based mechanism for the systematic notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths to ministries of health, and their recording in a national register, and by acknowledging obstetric fistula as a nationally notifiable condition, triggering immediate reporting, tracking and follow-up for the purpose of guiding the development and implementation of maternal health programmes;

(o) To strengthen research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation to guide the planning and implementation of maternal health programmes, including for obstetric fistula, by conducting up-to-date needs assessments on emergency obstetric and newborn care and for fistula and routine reviews of maternal deaths and near-miss cases as part of a national maternal death surveillance and response system, integrated within national health information systems;

(p) To improve data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing the needs for surgical treatment and the quality of surgery, rehabilitation and socioeconomic reintegration services, including post-surgery prospects for successful subsequent pregnancies, live births and severe health-related complications, so as to address the challenges of improving maternal health;

(q) To provide essential health-care services, equipment and supplies, skills training and income-generating projects to women and girls so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty;

13. *Acknowledges* that intensification of efforts is urgently needed to end obstetric fistula and, in this context, the importance of giving the issue due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

14. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, through the Campaign to End Fistula, as part of the endeavours to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 by 2015, and to commit themselves to continue efforts to improve maternal health beyond 2015 with the aim of eliminating obstetric fistula globally;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls

Elimination of female genital mutilation

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/146 [YUN 2012, p. 1091], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/211] on ending female genital mutilation (FGM), which provided information on measures taken by Member States and activities within the UN system to address the practice, as well as recommendations for future action. Responses to the Secretary-General's request for information were received from 13 Member States and 6 UN system entities.

The report described FGM as a form of violence against women and girls that could have both immediate and long-term consequences for their physical, sexual and mental health, and even result in death. In

the 29 countries where the practice was concentrated, more than 125 million girls and women alive in 2014 had undergone FGM and a further 30 million girls might be at risk. The practice was most common in the western, eastern and north-eastern regions of Africa, and some countries in Asia and in the Middle East. Owing to increased migration, the practice was on the rise worldwide among communities of migrants from those areas. In many cultures, FGM appeared to be an important physical marker of insider/outsider status and was intertwined with shared values such as sexual restraint and respect for one's elders. Support for FGM was stronger among girls and women in the poorest households, and the data showed a strong association between level of education and support among women for the practice: support declined progressively with increased levels of education and income. In most countries where the practice was concentrated, most girls and women, as well as men, thought it should end. In all countries with available data, girls and women consistently underestimated the proportion of boys and men who wanted it to end. That indicated the importance of more open dialogue between men and women, and between boys and girls, so that social expectations concerning FGM could be challenged and traditional forums and decision-making influenced.

The report noted that the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change completed its first phase in 2013 and had succeeded in accelerating the elimination of FGM with 8 million people in more than 12,000 communities in 15 countries publicly declaring their abandonment of the practice. In its second phase (2014–2017), the Joint Programme would contribute to accelerating the total elimination of FGM within the next generation.

Numerous efforts and initiatives had fostered change in social beliefs and behaviours, but the practice remained a grave concern in the 29 countries where it was concentrated. States had introduced relevant criminal offences and legal and policy reforms through the development of guidelines, but there remained insufficient enforcement of legislation and policies and limited allocation of resources for their implementation. Inadequate monitoring and accountability mechanisms and a lack of comparable data to facilitate trend analysis also hampered progress. The report highlighted the need for holistic strategies that addressed the root causes of those practices, such as gender inequality and provided recommendations for future actions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/481], adopted **resolution 69/150** without vote [agenda item 27 (a)].

Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998, 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 67/146 of 20 December 2012 and 68/146 of 18 December 2013, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007, 52/2 of 7 March 2008 and 54/7 of 12 March 2010 and Human Rights Council resolution 27/22 of 26 September 2014, and all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, together with the Optional Protocols thereto, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and their 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,

Recalling the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also the decision of the African Union, adopted in Malabo on 1 July 2011, to support the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of a resolution banning female genital mutilation,

Recalling further the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session that the Economic and Social Council recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a decision to consider the issue of ending female genital mutilation at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled “Advancement of women”,

Recognizing that female genital mutilations constitute irreparable, irreversible harm that impairs the human rights of women and girls, affecting about 100 million to 140 million women and girls worldwide, and that each year an estimated further 3 million girls are at risk of being subjected to the practice throughout the world,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilations are a harmful practice, constituting a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, increasing their vulnerability to HIV and possibly having adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes, as well as fatal consequences for the mother and the newborn, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including girls and boys, women and men,

Concerned about evidence of an increase in the incidence of female genital mutilations being carried out by medical personnel in all regions in which they are practised,

Recognizing that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of women and girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Recognizing also that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled “UNITE to End Violence against Women” and the database on violence against women have contributed to addressing the elimination of female genital mutilations,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilations, in particular the commitment of 10 United Nations entities, announced in their joint inter-agency statement of 27 February 2008 on eliminating female genital mutilation, as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children’s Fund, to accelerate the elimination of the practice,

Commending the continued efforts and actions undertaken by States, individually and collectively, regional organizations and United Nations agencies for the elimination of female genital mutilation as well as the implementation of its resolution 67/146,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Noting with disappointment, in this regard, the continuing need for the information requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/146, which was not provided, concerning the root causes of and factors contributing to the practice of female genital mutilations, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders,

Deeply concerned that, despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts and the focus on the abandonment of female genital mutilations, the practice continues to persist in all regions of the world, and is often on the rise for migrant women and girls,

Deeply concerned also that a tremendous gap in resources continues to exist and that the shortfall in funding has severely limited the scope and pace of programmes and activities for the elimination of female genital mutilations,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, in which it decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and noting that the report integrates the importance of the elimination of all harmful practices to women and girls, including female genital mutilation,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence

and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as their commitments to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, and of the special session of the Assembly on children;

2. *Calls upon* States to place a stronger focus on the development of comprehensive prevention strategies, including the enhancement of educational campaigns, awareness-raising and formal, non-formal and informal education and training in order to promote the direct engagement of girls and boys, women and men and to ensure that all key actors, Government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, immigration officials, health-care providers, civil society, community and religious leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular all forms of female genital mutilations, that negatively affect women and girls;

3. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful practices, especially female genital mutilations, and to engage local community and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end discriminatory social norms and practices;

4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, and to take all necessary measures, especially through educational campaigns, including enacting and enforcing legislation, to prohibit female genital mutilations and to protect women and girls from this form of violence, and to hold perpetrators to account;

5. *Also urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the elimination of female genital mutilations, and further urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilations and those at risk, including by developing social and psychological support services and care, and to explore other remedies, as appropriate, and take measures to improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to the practice;

6. *Further urges* States, as appropriate, to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilations, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and discrimination

against women and girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

7. *Urges* States to ensure that the protection and provision of support to women and girls subject to, or at risk of, female genital mutilation are an integral part of policies and programmes that address the practice and to provide women and girls with coordinated, specialized, accessible and quality multisectoral prevention and response, including education, as well as legal, psychological, health-care and social services, provided by qualified personnel, consistent with the guidelines of medical ethics;

8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on the elimination of female genital mutilations are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope and that they include projected timelines for goals and incorporate clear targets and indicators for the effective monitoring, impact assessment and coordination of programmes among all relevant stakeholders and promote their participation, including the participation of affected groups, practising communities and non-governmental organizations, in the development, implementation and evaluation of such plans and strategies;

9. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities in order to protect girls from female genital mutilations, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

10. *Calls upon* States to develop information and awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to systematically reach the general public, relevant professionals, families and communities, including through the media, featuring television and radio discussions, on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

11. *Urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, systematic approach that incorporates a social perspective and is based on human rights and gender-equality principles in providing education and training to families, local community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of women and girls in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilations;

12. *Also urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of women and girls;

13. *Calls upon* States to develop policies and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of these legislative frameworks;

14. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are underdocumented, such as female genital mutilations, to develop additional indicators so as to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice and to rein-

force the sharing of good practices relating to the prevention and the abandonment of the practice at the subregional and regional levels;

15. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating female genital mutilations;

16. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilations, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders and relevant professionals, and to ensure that they provide competent, supportive services and care to women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilations and encourage them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe women or girls are at risk;

17. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilations, programmes that engage local community practitioners of female genital mutilations in community-based initiatives for the abandonment of the practice, including, where relevant, the identification by communities of alternative livelihoods for them;

18. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of women and girls at risk of or subjected to female genital mutilations;

19. *Calls upon* the international community to strongly support, including through increased financial support, a second phase of the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, which will run until 2017, as well as national programmes focused on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

20. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilations in a number of countries using a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels, and recalls the goal set out in the United Nations inter-agency statement that female genital mutilations are to be eliminated within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

21. *Encourages* men and boys to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

22. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations system, civil society and all stakeholders to continue to observe 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and to use the day to enhance awareness-raising campaigns and to take concrete actions against female genital mutilations;

23. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and, where appropriate, to collaborate with existing data collection systems, which are crucial for evidence-based

legal and policy development, programme design and implementation and the monitoring of the elimination of female genital mutilation;

24. *Acknowledges* that intensifying efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations is needed and, in this regard, the importance of giving the issue due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against female genital mutilations in their country programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

26. *Renews its request* to the Secretary-General that he submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-first session, an in-depth multidisciplinary report on the root causes of and factors contributing to the practice of female genital mutilations, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Commission on the Status of Women resolution 56/5 [YUN 2012, p. 1093], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2014/12] on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, which provided information on the activities undertaken by 18 Member States and 11 UN entities to implement the resolution.

He reported that persistent gender inequality and human rights violations putting women and girls at greater risk of infection continued to hamper progress in preventing the spread of HIV and increasing access to antiretroviral treatment. In addition to women's and girls' biological susceptibility to HIV, sociocultural, economic and legal challenges compounded their vulnerability to infection. Challenges to the health and well-being of women and girls persisted across countries and hindered efforts to mitigate the epidemic. Such challenges included a lack of accessible and affordable health services, education and employment opportunities; inequitable property and inheritance rights; harmful cultural norms; and child marriage. Member States had made progress in improving the situation of women and girls infected with and affected by HIV, but further and accelerated action was required at the national, regional

and international levels. Significant gaps persisted in action and funding to provide gender-responsive programmes and services that took into consideration the barriers brought on by structural and social realities. More effort was required to eradicate harmful gender norms and discriminatory laws and promote the participation of women and girls in national and international decision-making processes.

The Secretary-General suggested that the Commission encourage Member States to adopt the following strategies: ensure that HIV plans and policies prioritized the needs of women and girls and that targeted programmatic actions were costed, budgeted for and implemented; expand the evidence base, including through the collection and disaggregation of data by sex and age to guide interventions and ensure that the needs of women and girls were addressed; review laws, regulations and programmes that addressed the rights of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and institutionalize legal frameworks to ensure the elimination of discrimination on the basis of HIV status, gender and sexual orientation; invest in actions that tackled the structural drivers of HIV, such as by increasing the access of women and girls to employment and education; increase access to treatment, prevention and care services for women and girls; and implement legislation and commitments that promoted the sexual and reproductive health needs and rights of women and girls.

Commission action. On 21 March, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a resolution [E/2014/27 (res. 58/3)] on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, which called on Governments, the international community, the UN system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS, particularly with respect to women and girls; recommended that a bold vision for addressing the HIV epidemic, including the situation of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the situation of women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS to the Commission at its sixtieth (2016) session.

Eliminating maternal mortality

In response to Commission on the Status of Women resolution 56/3 [YUN 2012, p. 1094], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2014/11] describing UN system actions to strengthen linkages among programmes, initiatives and activities for gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, the protection of their human rights and the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity. Fifteen Member States and 12 UN entities contributed information for the report.

According to the 2013 MDG report, the maternal mortality ratio had declined globally by 47 per cent, from 400 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 210 in 2010, but there remained large disparities in maternal mortality ratios across and within countries. The vast majority of maternal deaths occurred in developing countries; notably, the maternal mortality ratio was 15 times higher in developing countries than in high-income countries. The major causes of maternal deaths were haemorrhage, infection/sepsis, unsafe abortion, pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, and prolonged or obstructed labour. HIV/AIDS and malaria were also significant contributing causes, and in a number of countries, high fertility rates continued to account for high maternal mortality. Many pregnant women in developing countries still did not receive the minimum standard of antenatal care and were not attended to by skilled medical personnel at the time of delivery, and the situation of pregnant women was even more challenging in remote and rural areas.

The Secretary-General concluded that actions by Member States and UN entities had led to greater resource commitments; increased collaboration and accountability for progress; and increased interventions addressing the human rights of women and the root causes of maternal mortality, which included gender inequality, violence against women and girls, poverty, malnutrition, harmful practices, and a lack of accessible and appropriate health-care services, information and education. Limited information and analysis, however, had been provided on the implementation of interventions with a human rights-based approach that addressed those root causes, the effectiveness of such interventions and the allocation of sufficient resources to that end. As maternal mortality and morbidity ratios remained high in many countries and subpopulations around the world, efforts should continue not only to strengthen the response of the health sector but also to ensure that the key principles of gender equality and women's empowerment were integrated into responses at all levels.

Recommendations for Member States included the intensification of actions to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity within a gender equality framework; the elimination of structural barriers to the enjoyment of reproductive health; the use of legal and policy frameworks and programmes to address the root causes of maternal mortality and morbidity; and the adoption and implementation of laws to protect women and girls from violence and harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriages.

Violence against women

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 67/144 [YUN 2012, p. 1095], the Secretary-General submitted an August report

[A/69/222] on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. Based on inputs from 32 Member States and 19 UN entities, the report provided information on measures taken by Member States and activities undertaken within the United Nations system to address violence against women.

Global estimates showed that 35 per cent of women worldwide had experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence; and regional studies showed similar findings. A regional study on male behaviour demonstrated that the perpetration of rape was pervasive, though varied across countries, with no legal consequences for the majority of the perpetrators.

Developments at the global and UN level included the endorsement by the UN Statistical Commission of a set of nine core indicators for surveys on violence against women [YUN 2013, p. 1262], which would allow for better comparison and monitoring of trends over time.

The Secretary-General's campaign "UNITE to End Violence against Women" continued its advocacy at the global, regional and national levels and engaged multiple stakeholders, including high-level officials, including through the Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders. The campaign emphasized the engagement of young people, particularly through the UNITE Global Youth Network, and declared the twenty-fifth of each month as Orange Day, a day for action against violence against women and girls. The initiative "United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict" strengthened its responses to conflict-related sexual violence through intensified advocacy at the global level, the deployment of advisers and technical support in more than 10 countries, and the development of policy and guidance notes on reparations and the provision of services to survivors. Measures were also taken in more than 20 countries to strengthen policy development and coordination among actors.

Actions by States to prevent and address violence against women included the strengthening of legal, policy and institutional frameworks as well as coordination among different stakeholders, with efforts focused on legal reforms as well as gender inequality. Although there was limited information about long-term support for victims and survivors, States had focused on addressing the immediate needs of women in the aftermath of violence through the provision of services. Such services, however, remained insufficient and limited to central locations. The prevention of violence was still an area under development, and largely limited to awareness-raising initiatives.

The Secretary-General presented recommendations for addressing the following challenges: the limited allocation of resources to implement laws, policies and programmes and insufficient monitoring

and evaluation of their impact; the lack of reliable data to monitor progress; the lack of coordination among multiple stakeholders; the underreporting of incidents and high attrition rates; and the discriminatory attitudes of officials handling cases of victims and survivors and insufficient legislation enforcement.

Report of Special Rapporteur. On 1 September, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/144 [YUN 2012, p. 1095], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly the report [A/69/368] of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The report focused on violence against women as a barrier to the realization of women's civil, political, economic, social, cultural and developmental rights and the effective exercise of citizenship rights, and presented recommendations to address such violence (see p. 873).

Trust Fund activities. In response to General Assembly resolution 50/166 [YUN 1995, p. 1188], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women a December report [A/HRC/29/3-E/CN.6/2015/6] of UN-Women on the 2014 activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women.

The Fund awarded \$8.3 million in 25 grants covering 23 countries and territories. Twenty-two civil society organizations, two Governments and the UN country team in Fiji received grants that together were expected to reach over 730,000 primary beneficiaries by the end of 2018. In terms of grant value, 28 per cent of the funds allocated went to programmes in Asia and the Pacific; 26 per cent to Africa; 14 per cent to Europe and Central Asia; 12 per cent to Latin America and the Caribbean; 11 per cent to the Arab States and North Africa; and 9 per cent to cross-regional programmes. Grants amounting to 8 per cent of the total (\$700,000) were awarded to eight small organizations (those requesting less than \$100,000) as part of the Fund's new strategy to increase funding to smaller grass-roots organizations. Six new programmes in the Gambia, Togo, the State of Palestine, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan would address harmful practices; and seven new grantees in Albania, Colombia, Egypt, Guatemala, Serbia, Thailand and Zimbabwe would work to address and prevent violence against women who faced discrimination and exclusion.

By the end of the year, the Fund had a portfolio of 95 active grants covering 75 countries and territories, with a total value of \$56,311,108.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/481], adopted **resolution 69/147** without vote [agenda item 27 (a)].

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008, 64/137 of 18 December 2009, 65/187 of 21 December 2010 and 67/144 of 20 December 2012, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820(2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888(2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889(2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960(2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106(2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122(2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security and all relevant Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, including resolutions 1882(2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068(2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions 17/11 of 17 June 2011, 20/12 of 5 July 2012 and 23/25 of 14 June 2013, as well as Council resolutions 26/5 and 26/15 of 26 June 2014 on the elimination of discrimination against women and on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international human rights instruments, such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and that its elimination is a cross-cutting issue and an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Recalling the rules of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its review conferences and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,

Reaffirming also the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the agreed conclusions on the priority theme “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” adopted at its fifty-seventh session, and welcoming the attention given to the elimination of violence against women and girls in the agreed conclusions of the Commission at its fifty-eighth session on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls,

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development regarding gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference

on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development and in the key actions for the further implementation of its Programme of Action, at the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, adopted on 22 September 2014, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, at the 2005 World Summit and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007, as well as in the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of 3 October 2013,

Recalling that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in its report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and in this regard taking note with appreciation of the reference to gender equality, women’s empowerment and the need to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls contained therein,

Reaffirming the need for the full and effective participation of women in sustainable development policies, programmes and decision-making at all levels, as agreed in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and taking note of the statement adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its fifty-seventh session on the post-2015 development agenda and the elimination of discrimination against women, including its emphasis on accountability,

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, noting in this regard the undertakings of its Chief Prosecutor to strengthen efforts to combat impunity for sexual and gender-based violence, and recalling the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

Recalling also the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, including the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights, bearing in mind the different risks that may be faced by women and men,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations

bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, by the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world and to re-emphasize that violence against women and girls is unacceptable,

Emphasizing that States should continue to adopt and implement legislation and policies in accordance with their obligations under international law, and in particular in accordance with international human rights obligations and with their commitments, which address the issue of violence against women in a comprehensive manner, not only by criminalizing violence against women and girls and providing for punishment of the perpetrators, but also by including protection and preventive measures and access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification, for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls, with provisions for adequate funding for their implementation, while exercising due diligence in addressing violence against women, including in their role as contributors to peace operations led by the United Nations or regional organizations,

Underlining the detrimental impact of sexual violence in armed conflict on women's participation in the resolution of conflict and in the post-conflict transition, reconstruction and peacebuilding processes,

Reaffirming the importance of effective accountability with regard to violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, and of undertaking adequate measures to combat such violence,

Taking note, in this regard, of the Secretary-General's guidance note on reparations for conflict-related sexual violence,

Taking note also of international and regional initiatives to combat sexual violence in armed conflict, including the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, which focused on justice, accountability and support for victims,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to women's full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy and political decision-making,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can

place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic and therefore the sustainable development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, education, access to justice, health and crime prevention,

Acknowledging also that trafficking in persons is one of the forms of transnational organized crime which exposes women to violence and that concerted efforts are needed to combat it, and in this regard stressing that full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, will contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls,

Gravely concerned about the unprecedented number of refugees and displaced persons globally, recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and displaced persons, including their exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse, violence and exploitation, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing, responding to and addressing sexual and gender-based violence,

Recognizing the need to address violence against women and girls resulting from transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons and drug trafficking, and to adopt specific policies to prevent and eradicate violence against women in crime prevention strategies,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women, which have resulted in the strengthening of legislation and the criminal justice system, including the adoption of national action plans, strategies and coordination mechanisms, the implementation of preventive and protective measures, as well as awareness-raising and capacity-building, for example through training for public officials and professionals, including the judiciary, the police and the military, and for educational and criminal justice professionals, the provision of support and services for women facing or subjected to violence and the improvement of data collection and analysis,

Recognizing that domestic violence remains widespread and affects women of all social strata across the world, and the need to eliminate such violence, and in this connection recognizing the work done by relevant parts of the United Nations system, such as UN-Women, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund,

Recognizing also the important role of the family in combating violence against women and girls and the need to support its capacity to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing further the important role of the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, including women human rights defenders and women's and youth

organizations and the media, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing the vulnerability of those who suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as older women, indigenous women, migrant women and women with disabilities, and the particular risk of violence they face, and stressing the urgent need to address violence and discrimination against them,

Gravely concerned that impunity for violations and abuses against women human rights defenders persists owing to such factors as a lack of reporting, documentation, investigation and access to justice, social barriers and constraints with regard to addressing gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and the stigmatization that may result from such violations and abuses,

Alarmed by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism, violence, including sectarian violence, and terrorism in various parts of the world, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction and displace people, including women and girls,

Recognizing that the illicit use of and illicit trade in small arms, light weapons and ammunition aggravate violence, inter alia, against women and girls,

Taking note of the forthcoming entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty on 24 December 2014, which includes provisions for States parties regarding serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children,

1. *Stresses* that “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, and also notes the economic and social harm caused by such violence;

2. *Recognizes* that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women’s ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men;

3. *Also recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace, security and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Further recognizes* that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stresses that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

6. *Strongly condemns* the targeting of civilian populations, including women and girls, in violation of international law, by violent extremists, and calls upon all

States to intensify their efforts to counter violent extremism, including by addressing the conditions conducive to its spread, while ensuring that those efforts comply with their obligations under international law;

7. *Also strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, including business enterprises, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

8. *Stresses* that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and hold to account the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and eliminate impunity and provide for access to appropriate remedies for victims and survivors, and should ensure the protection and empowerment of women and girls, including adequate enforcement by police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions, and the provision of shelters, psychosocial services, counselling, health-care and other types of support services, in order to avoid revictimization, and that to do so contributes to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women subjected to violence;

9. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, as well as the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

10. *Also welcomes* the efforts and contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and encourages States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General’s 2008–2015 campaign “UNITE to End Violence against Women” and the regional components of the campaign, and stresses the need to accelerate the implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women;

12. *Welcomes* the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, while stressing the importance of the need for further funding of the Fund in order to provide support for national, regional and international actions, including those taken by governmental and non-governmental organizations working to prevent and end violence against women and girls;

13. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality, affect-

ing women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on their plight, to give priority attention and increased assistance to relieving the suffering, of women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, including by appropriate authorities contributing police, military or civilian personnel serving in peacekeeping missions, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law, and invites States to consider the various provisions on sexual and gender-based violence set out in relevant international instruments, including, where appropriate, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

14. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes and to address such acts during all stages of the armed conflict, conflict resolution and post-conflict situations, including through transitional justice mechanisms, while ensuring the full and effective participation of women in such processes;

15. *Also stresses* the importance of ensuring that in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in natural disaster situations, the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, are prioritized and effectively addressed, including, as appropriate, through the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, the removal of barriers to women's access to justice, the establishment of complaint and reporting mechanisms and the provision of support to victims and survivors, affordable and accessible health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health care, and reintegration measures, as well as by taking steps to increase women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding missions and processes and post-conflict decision-making;

16. *Further stresses* that, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, States should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women and girls, as well as on their protection, their empowerment and the provision of services, and should therefore implement laws and policies for ending violence against women and girls and monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws and improve, where possible, their impact, accessibility and effectiveness;

17. *Stresses* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing and adequate training and access to information to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress, including in peacekeeping missions and processes and special political missions;

18. *Also stresses* that States should take all possible measures to empower and protect women against all forms of violence, to inform them of their human rights, including

by disseminating information on the assistance available to women and families who have experienced violence and ensuring that timely and appropriate information is available to all women who have been subjected to violence, including at all stages of the justice system, and to inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

19. *Calls upon* States, with the support of United Nations entities, to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as partners and agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women and girls, as well as in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and to develop appropriate policies to promote the responsibility and role of men and boys in eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls;

20. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and actions and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and keeping in view the responsibility of States to exercise due diligence to prevent, protect against and investigate all acts of violence against women, by, for example:

(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and at all relevant levels, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women and girls in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis and prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns, using resources to eliminate gender stereotypes in the media that lead to violence against women and girls;

(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(c) Ending impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing the perpetrators of sexual and gender-based crimes against women and girls under national and international law, and stressing the need for the alleged perpetrators of those crimes to be held accountable by national justice systems or, where applicable, international justice;

(d) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women with a view to ensuring access to justice, improving rates of reporting and addressing the high attrition rate from reporting to conviction, and reinforcing, where necessary, criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women, with a focus on prevention and the protection of women and easy access to redress for victims;

(e) Adopting, as appropriate, reviewing and ensuring the accelerated and effective implementation of laws and comprehensive measures that criminalize violence against women and girls and that provide for multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive preventive and protective measures, such as emergency orders and protection orders, and for the investigation, submission for prosecution and appropriate punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, and support services

that empower victims and survivors, as well as access to appropriate civil remedies and redress;

(f) Addressing and eliminating, as a matter of priority, domestic violence through adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation that prohibits such violence, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against such violence;

(g) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders, in particular men and boys, of the need to combat violence against women and girls occurring in public or private life, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, *inter alia*, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns nationwide and other ways to promote prevention and protection and the transformation of discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, as part of an integrated prevention strategy;

(h) Encouraging the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements, which foster gender-based violence and inequalities;

(i) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women and girls;

(j) Also ensuring the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age to monitor all forms of violence against women and girls, including on the effectiveness of preventive and protective measures, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, including law enforcement agencies, in order to effectively review and implement laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

(k) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators;

(l) Providing adequate financial support and human resources for the implementation of national strategies and action plans to promote the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality, to end violence against women and girls, to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls and to provide for the redress of such violence and financial support and human resources for other related activities;

(m) Investing in the realization of the right to education, *by, inter alia*, eliminating illiteracy, in particular in rural and remote areas, and by closing the gender gap at all levels of education, thereby contributing to the empowerment of women and girls and to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(n) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, from the entry levels of the education system, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, harmful customary practices and all other practices

based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, including through schools, educational programmes, teachers, parents, religious leaders, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights;

(o) Improving the safety and security of girls at and on the way to and from school, including by establishing a safe and violence-free environment, by improving infrastructure such as transportation, by providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities in all relevant places and improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments, and by adopting national policies to prohibit, prevent and address violence against children, especially girls, including sexual harassment and bullying and other forms of violence, through such measures as conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities and establishing and enforcing penalties for violence against girls;

(p) Developing gender-sensitive educational programmes at all levels and, in this regard, taking concrete measures to ensure that women and men, youth, girls and boys are portrayed in positive and non-stereotypical roles;

(q) Promoting preventive measures at an early stage with families and children exposed to or at risk of violence, such as parenting education programmes, in order to reduce the risk of possible perpetration of violence or revictimization in later childhood and adulthood;

(r) Ensuring that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse;

(s) Ensuring also that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to eliminate the occurrence of child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation and to provide information regarding the harm associated with these practices;

(t) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, *by, inter alia*, strengthening their economic autonomy and by ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, *inter alia*, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources and employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

(u) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, contributing, *inter alia*, to the prevention and non-recurrence of such crimes, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women and girls who are subjected to violence;

(v) Taking effective measures, as appropriate, to prevent the requirement for victim consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women and girls to justice, while ensuring that criminal justice processes are gender-sensitive and that ap-

appropriate safeguards and measures to protect women facing or subjected to violence, such as restraining and expulsion orders against the perpetrators, testimonial aids and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society, are in place;

(w) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women's access to justice and ensuring that they all have access to effective legal assistance so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that they have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

(x) Ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including all relevant public officials and civil society, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls;

(y) Ensuring the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

(z) Preventing, combating and eliminating trafficking in women and girls by criminalizing all forms of trafficking in persons, as well as by raising public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, and eliminating the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation and forced labour, and encouraging, where appropriate, the media to play a role with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children;

(aa) Establishing comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses at all levels to provide immediate protection and support, to be made available and accessible also in rural areas, through which shelter and legal, health-care, psychological, counselling and other services are available to all women facing or subjected to violence, as well as their children, and, where integrated centres are not feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies;

(bb) Encouraging the establishment or the strengthening of, or support for, national and local helplines that

provide information, counselling, support and referral services to women facing or subjected to violence;

(cc) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool against recidivism as part of an integrated response to violence against women, and that they consider the safety of women and girls as the highest priority;

(dd) Adopting a life-cycle approach in efforts to end discrimination and violence against women and girls and ensuring that specific issues affecting older women are given greater visibility and attention;

21. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

22. *Stresses* the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to ending impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

23. *Calls upon* the inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2010–2015 strategy for the Trust Fund and to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund;

24. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other bodies, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

25. *Also stresses* the importance of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of

pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

26. *Acknowledges* the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as requested by the Statistical Commission, on the development of guidelines to support the production by Member States of statistics on violence against women and girls;

27. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

28. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its seventieth and seventy-first sessions;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report containing:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 67/144 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

30. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 65/187, 67/144 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

31. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Women and armed conflict

Women, peace and security

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to presidential statement S/PRST/2010/22 [YUN 2010, p. 1161] and Council resolution 2122(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 1109], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [S/2014/693] on women and peace and security. The report was based on contributions from 32 UN system entities, 27 Member States and 8 regional organizations and focused on five broad action areas: prevention; participation; protection; peacebuilding, relief and recovery; and coordination and accountability for results.

Progress had been made in ensuring that peace-keeping missions provided more gender-responsive protective environments; supported the participation of women in UN-led peace processes and mediation efforts; tackled impunity for sexual and gender-based crimes; addressed linkages between irresponsible arms transfers and gender-based violence; and responded to the needs of women and girls in humanitarian and recovery settings. There was also increased awareness of the importance of seizing the political moment offered by post-conflict transitions to repeal discriminatory laws and policies and foster the economic and political empowerment of women. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General remained concerned about the continued incidence of sexual and gender-based violence and targeted attacks and threats against women and girls and those defending their rights. He called upon all parties to armed conflict to respect and uphold international law, and underlined the obligation of States to protect civilians and investigate and prosecute such crimes. He also called upon Member States to continue supporting the capacity of field missions in technical gender expertise towards ensuring the mainstreaming of gender perspectives throughout the work of field missions and the application of gender analysis to inform policy and planning processes. He encouraged Member States, the UN system and civil society to explore means of increasing the funding dedicated to the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, and encouraged Governments and regional organizations to consider using tools such as gender markers to assess and improve performance. He noted that the convergence of major global policy events in 2015 must be maximized, including by ensuring that the 20-year review of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women addressed the women and peace and security agenda.

Security Council consideration. On 28 October [S/PV.7289], the Council considered the Secretary-General's report and a concept note [S/2014/731] submitted by Argentina on "Women and peace and security—displaced women and girls: leaders and survivors". The adoption of the presidential statement 2014/21 (see below) was accompanied by a series of statements, including by UN-Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka; Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet; Special Representative of the Secretary-General of NATO for Women, Peace and Security, Mariëtte Schuurman; and Senior Adviser on Gender Issues of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Miroslava Beham. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka also delivered a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General, in which she called for greater investment in measures to address the problem of discrimination against women and girls, including through broad participation in her upcoming global study on the

implementation of resolution 1325(2000) on women, peace and security [YUN 2000, p. 1113], which would include targeted recommendations to accelerate results.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 28 October [meeting 7289], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/21** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its commitments to the full and effective implementation of resolutions 1325(2000), 1820(2008), 1888(2009), 1889(2009), 1960(2010), 2106(2013) and 2122(2013) and recalls all statements by its President on women and peace and security as reiterating the Council's commitments.

The Council takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security for the purpose of implementation of resolution 1325(2000), and particularly welcomes its focus on implementation, sustaining progress and the need to translate commitments into improved outcomes.

The Council reaffirms that women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality are critical to efforts to maintain international peace and security, and emphasizes that persistent barriers to full implementation of resolution 1325(2000) will only be dismantled through dedicated commitment to women's empowerment, participation and human rights, and through concerted leadership, consistent information flows and action, and support, to ensure women's full and equal participation at all levels of decision-making.

The Council welcomes the efforts of Member States to implement resolution 1325(2000) at the national, regional and local levels, including the development of national action plans and other national, sub-regional and regional-level strategies and implementation frameworks, and encourages Member States to continue to pursue such implementation. The Council further stresses that United Nations entities should continue to support and supplement, as appropriate, efforts of Member States in the implementation of 1325(2000). The Council recognizes the critical contributions of civil society, including women's organizations, to conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding and in this regard the importance of sustained consultation and dialogue between women and national and international decision makers. The Council encourages the involvement of men in promoting gender equality and ending sexual and gender-based violence.

The Council welcomes the additional steps taken to implement Council resolutions 2106(2013) and 2122(2013), and notes the importance of sustained efforts by the United Nations to improve the quality of information and analysis on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in all areas of conflict prevention and resolution, peacemaking and peacebuilding and the gender dimensions of these areas, and to systematically include information and related recommendations on issues of relevance to women and peace and security in their reports and briefings to the Council. The Council reiterates its intention to increase its attention to women and peace and security as a cross-

cutting subject in all relevant thematic areas of work on its agenda, including on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

The Council recognizes that refugee and internally displaced women and girls are at heightened risk of being subject to various forms of human rights violations and abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, and discrimination, which can occur during the various stages of the displacement cycle. The Council reaffirms the primary responsibility of Member States in the protection of their populations, including refugee and internally displaced women and girls. The Council stresses the importance of the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations agencies, *inter alia*, through consultation with women and women-led organizations as appropriate, supporting the development and strengthening of effective mechanisms for preventing and providing protection from violence, including in particular sexual and gender-based violence, to refugee and internally displaced women and girls.

The Council urges Member States to take measures to prevent refugee and internally displaced women and girls from being subject to violence, and to strengthen access to justice for women in such circumstances, including through the prompt investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as reparations for victims as appropriate. The Council stresses that the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern committed against women and girls has been strengthened through the work of the International Criminal Court, *ad hoc* and mixed tribunals, as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals.

The Council reiterates with grave concern that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons fuel armed conflicts and have a disproportionate impact on violence perpetrated against women and girls, and exacerbate sexual and gender-based violence.

The Council urges all parties involved in an armed conflict to allow full and unhindered access by refugee and internally displaced women to humanitarian assistance and protection as well as basic services such as education, health, housing and productive livelihoods, including assets such as land and property, in particular for those refugee and internally displaced women and girls at increased risk of marginalization. The Council recognizes the importance of Member States and United Nations entities seeking to ensure that humanitarian aid and funding includes provision for the full range of medical, legal, psychosocial and livelihood services, and noting the need for access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services, including regarding pregnancies resulting from rape, without discrimination. The Council further recognizes that refugee and internally displaced women and girls are at increased risk of becoming stateless as a result of discriminatory nationality laws, obstacles to registering and the lack of access to identity documents, and urges States to ensure prompt and equitable provision of all necessary identity documents to such women and girls.

The Council urges Member States, the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations agencies to ensure meaningful participation of refugee and internally

displaced women, as well as adolescent girls as appropriate, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes for refugee and internally displaced women and girls at all stages of the displacement cycle. The Council further calls for the systematic collection, analysis and utilization of sex- and age-disaggregated data that is required to assess the specific needs and capacities of women and to meaningfully measure to what extent recovery programmes are benefiting women, men, girls and boys, by all relevant actors.

The Council expresses its deep concern that violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, often results in increased displacement and is frequently targeted at women and girls, leading to serious human rights violations and abuses committed against them, including murder, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, enslavement, their sale and forced marriage, human trafficking, rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence. The Council urges all Member States to protect their population, in particular women and girls, affected by violent extremism which can be conducive to terrorism, while respecting all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law. The Council encourages Member States to engage the participation and leadership of women and women's organizations, including refugee and internally displaced women, in developing strategies to counter violent extremism, and further to address, including by the empowerment of women, the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism.

The Council reiterates its intention to convene a high-level review in 2015 to assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing resolution 1325(2000), renew commitments and address obstacles and constraints that have emerged in the implementation of resolution 1325(2000). The Council encourages those Member States, regional organizations as appropriate, and United Nations entities that have developed frameworks and plans to support the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) to start reviewing existing implementation plans and targets, and to accelerate progress and prepare to formulate new targets, in time for the 2015 high-level review.

The Council welcomes the commissioning by the Secretary-General, in preparation for the high-level review, of a global study on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000), highlighting good practice examples, implementation gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action. The Council encourages Member States, regional and subregional organizations as appropriate, and United Nations entities to contribute to the study. The Council invites the Secretary-General within his next annual report on the implementation of resolution 1325(2000) to submit information on the results of the global study and to make this available to all States Members of the United Nations.

Sexual violence and armed conflict

In response to Security Council resolution 2106(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 1112], and to presidential statement S/PRST/2012/23 [YUN 2012, p. 1101], the Secretary-General submitted a March report

[S/2014/181] on sexual violence in conflict, covering the period from January to December 2013. The report highlighted actions taken and challenges faced by States in conflict and post-conflict situations to protect women, men and children from such sexual violence; the implementation of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements; the deployment of women's protection advisers; the work of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict; the efforts of the UN system; and recommendations to strengthen efforts to combat conflict-related sexual violence. It also provided information—presented according to country and based on cases documented by the UN system—on parties to conflict credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence. A list was annexed to the report. Although UN peacekeeping and political missions were the primary sources of information for the report, consultations also included UN field missions and country teams, Member States, NGOs and the 13 UN entities comprising the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (United Nations Action) [YUN 2007, p. 1168].

Sexual violence in conflict was almost universally underreported because of the risks faced by survivors and witnesses who came forward, and by the humanitarian workers, human rights defenders, journalists and others to whom they spoke. Those risks included severe stigmatization, familial and social shunning and reprisals. In many contexts, the limited availability of services for survivors also hampered data gathering. Sexual violence was found to be closely related to broader issues of insecurity and security sector reform (SSR) and to incomplete and/or flawed disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes. It was therefore essential to address conflict-related sexual violence explicitly in such processes and in the context of peace agreements and ceasefires, which often established the parameters for SSR and DDR efforts. There was often a legacy from sexual violence during conflict, with acute consequences for the security of women and children in peacetime, as demonstrated by the high levels of rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against women and minors in some post-conflict settings. Sexual violence was also reported as a significant factor motivating the flight of displaced persons. During flight and while displaced, civilian populations continued to be vulnerable to sexual violence, and in the context of prolonged and repeated displacement, mechanisms to prevent rape and other forms of sexual violence were often absent or limited.

Elsewhere, the report noted that pregnancy as a result of sexual violence and the plight of children born of rape required further research as a basis for response; as did the concern of sexual violence against men and boys where challenges included deep stigma, the failure of national legislation in many instances to

recognize sexual violence against men and boys as a crime, the inadequacy of services, specifically for male victims, and the lack of access to legal services.

At the same time, there had been unprecedented commitment and momentum at the global level. The Security Council in resolution 2106(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 1112] outlined for the first time a comprehensive approach and framework to prevent conflict-related sexual violence. In April 2013, the Group of Eight countries adopted the historic Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence; and, on the sidelines of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, more than 140 Member States endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The Secretary-General called upon all parties to conflict responsible or credibly suspected of acts of sexual violence to cease such violations and to make specific and time-bound protection commitments that included: clear orders through chains of command and codes of conduct prohibiting sexual violence; timely investigation of alleged violations; immediate identification and release from their ranks of those most vulnerable to sexual violence, especially women and children; designation of a high-level interlocutor responsible for ensuring implementation of commitments; and cooperation with the United Nations to monitor compliance. He also urged the Security Council to reinforce the key elements of the prevention framework outlined under its resolution 2106(2013).

Security Council consideration (April). On 25 April [S/PV.7160], the Council considered the Secretary-General's report (see above) on sexual violence in conflict in the context of women and peace and security (see p. 156).

Women and children taken hostage

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Commission on the Status of Women resolution 56/1 [YUN 2012, p. 1105], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2014/7] on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts. The report was based on responses from Denmark and Togo on the status of implementation of resolution 56/1; and provided information on attention given to issues related to the topic in intergovernmental processes and bodies, including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

There were stronger normative frameworks and mechanisms in place to address and act on issues such as enforced disappearance, missing persons, hostage-taking and the protection of women and children in armed conflict. The ratification and implementation of related international instruments and enhanced efforts to end impunity for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, along with meas-

ures to support victims, witnesses and their families, remained essential to preventing and combating hostage-taking in armed conflicts. The limited input received from Member States, however, might be an indication of increased reporting on issues covered in resolution 56/1 in related intergovernmental processes. The Commission might therefore consider recommending that information on women and children taken hostage and the means to facilitate their release be reported to all other relevant processes and integrated into relevant reports of the Secretary-General rather than being prepared as a separate biennial report.

Commission action. On 20 March, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a resolution [E/2014/27 (res. 58/1)] on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts. The resolution requested the Secretary-General and all international organizations to use their capabilities to facilitate the release of civilian women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned; and it also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixtieth (2016) session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

Women and the economy

In a 30 September letter to the Secretary-General [A/69/396], Japan transmitted a summary of the proposals of the World Assembly for Women (Tokyo, 12–14 September), chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. Participants, including senior UN officials, stressed the importance of promoting women's active role in the economy and discussed global issues and women's initiatives.

Women in power and decision-making

Women and disarmament

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/33 [YUN 2013, p. 467], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/114] which provided views of Member States and relevant entities of the UN system on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Responses were received from 14 Member States, the European Union and five UN entities. An addendum [A/69/114/Add.1] contained replies from Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago.

On 2 December, the General Assembly, in **resolution 69/61** (see p. 614) requested the relevant UN system entities to assist States in promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It also requested the Secretary-General to report on implementation of the resolution at its seventy-first (2016) session.

Empowerment of women in natural disasters

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Commission on the Status of Women resolution 56/2 [YUN 2012, p. 1106], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2014/13] on gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters, covering the period from March 2012 to July 2013.

Major natural disasters in 2012 included Typhoon Bopha in the Philippines, Hurricane Sandy in the Caribbean and the United States, drought in the Sahel, flooding in Nigeria, Pakistan and India and earthquakes in Iran, Guatemala, Mexico and China, which collectively affected 124.5 million people causing 9,655 deaths and 32.4 million displacements. During the same period, gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters was highlighted in important resolutions and outcome documents with themes on sustainable development, resilience, humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction.

Since 2012, the mandatory use of the gender marker—a tool coding, on a 0–2 scale, whether a humanitarian project was designed to ensure that women, girls, men and boys would benefit equally from it or advance gender equality in any other way—in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) consolidated appeals process had been particularly significant in mainstreaming of gender perspectives into humanitarian action. A number of Member States, such as Germany and Sweden, had started considering the gender marker in their voluntary donor funding decisions, while others, such as Japan, Mauritius and Spain, reported the development of legislation, policies and projects that further integrated gender equality into their national humanitarian strategies.

Disasters affected women, girls, boys and men in different ways; gender inequalities increased women's vulnerability and limited their access to the information and resources they needed to reduce the risks posed by disasters. In general, natural disasters killed more women than men, and killed women and at a younger age than men. During natural disasters, the likelihood of rape, sexual exploitation and risky behaviour greatly increased the risk of unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and complications regarding reproductive health. As such, access to reproductive health care and education was crucial for adolescents and adults in crisis-affected settings.

The Secretary-General suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women encourage Member States to give gender-equality appropriate consideration in the development of humanitarian policies, plans and strategies; incorporate gender equality and women's empowerment into international negotiations and consultations; ensure that adequate financial resources were available for the implementation of gender equality commitments

and that those were monitored by a tracking mechanism; ensure gender balance in beneficiary selection for economic relief and recovery and/or livelihoods programming; address the lack of data disaggregated by sex; and further develop gender markers.

Commission action. On 21 March, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a resolution [E/2014/27 (res. 58/2)] on gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters, which urged Governments, UN entities and civil society to integrate a gender perspective in policies, planning and funding for disaster risk reduction, response and recovery; facilitate and increase women's access to information and communications technology and economics for participation and leadership in environmental decisions, including during natural disasters; and ensure the full enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights in every phase of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery. It also requested all relevant UN entities to report systematically on progress towards such mainstreaming under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women [YUN 2012, p. 1116].

Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

Inter-Agency Network

The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, at its thirteenth annual session (New York, 11–13 March) [IANWGE/2014/Report], focused on the intergovernmental priorities for 2014 and 2015 that deserved system-wide attention, as well as on key coordination issues related to the UN system's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Concerning intergovernmental priorities, the Network was briefed on the status of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, including emerging issues and challenges towards the agreed conclusions. The discussion highlighted the importance of accelerating the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 52] and identifying lessons learned from that process to inform the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960).

Concerning the framework itself, the discussion identified both areas of consensus and of contention. The former included the need for the new post-2015 agenda to be transformative, universal and rights-based; the need for stronger institutions, governance and accountability to deliver real change for women and girls; and the recognition that, to address the multiple forms of discrimination, gender equality should be integrated across all new goals and targets. Contentious issues included how the new development agenda would address human rights, in particular, sexual and reproductive health and rights; governance and the rule of law; peace and security; and climate change in

the light of the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change towards a 2015 universal agreement.

Concerning the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in 2015, UN-Women advised that it focus on the accelerated implementation of the Platform identifying areas of progress, challenges and opportunities. Regarding the twenty-year review of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the United Nations Population Fund advised that it conduct a review of the implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action using quality data and analysis of the state of population and development. For the follow-up to inter-sessional activities, summaries of progress reports were shared virtually by the chairs of the relevant task forces and leading agencies on the standing agenda items, which included women and peace and security, violence against women, and Women-Watch, among others.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the UN system

In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/16 [YUN 2013, p. 1117], the Secretary-General, in an April report [E/2014/63], assessed progress made in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women within the UN system since the adoption of that resolution on 24 July 2013. Emphasis was placed on accountability for system-wide work on gender equality and the empowerment of women at both the global and the country levels and on progress made in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Under the Action Plan, almost the entire United Nations system had reported over two consecutive years on a common set of performance indicators, resulting in substantial progress in the performance of the UN system on gender mainstreaming. Sixty-two UN entities reported under the Action Plan for 2013, compared with 55 for 2012. The second year of implementation of the Action Plan had seen progress in 14 of the 15 performance indicators.

For performance management, significant progress was made in the Secretariat, where 100 per cent of its departments, offices and economic commissions met the Action Plan requirements. Funds and programmes also improved their performance in that area, with 64 per cent meeting or exceeding requirements, compared with 50 per cent in 2012. On gender equality and empowerment of women policies, almost half of the reporting entities (29) had such policies in place. Entities exceeded requirements in only a few instances, however, demonstrating that much remained to be done for the UN system to demonstrate excellence in gender mainstreaming.

The Secretary-General suggested that the Economic and Social Council might wish to request the UN system, *inter alia*, to intensify the implementation of the Action Plan in order to meet its targets by 2017; to invest adequate human and financial resources to tackle identified areas of weakness, including in gender policies, capacity development, resource tracking and allocation, equal representation of women and organizational culture; to better align gender equality programming with national priorities across sectors, and encourage States and stakeholders to strengthen gender mainstreaming into all areas of development; and to substantially increase the investment in and focus on outcomes and outputs relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework programmes, including by strengthening the predictability of funding, broadening the donor base and increasing the flexibility of non-core resources.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/2** [draft: E/2014/L.12] without vote [agenda item 10 (c)].

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and recalling its resolutions on the subject matter, including resolutions 2011/6 of 14 July 2011, 2012/24 of 27 July 2012 and 2013/16 of 24 July 2013,

Reaffirming also the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming further the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and constitutes a critical strategy in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, as well as in the full implementation of the

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women and the important roles played by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and taking note of the agreed conclusions and decisions of the Commission related to the promotion and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, entitled “Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”, including in particular section III.D on gender equality and women’s empowerment,

Recalling also the section of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General, and appreciates that it provides a comprehensive and systemic approach to data collection and evidence-based analysis of gender mainstreaming through the United Nations system;

2. *Also welcomes* the recommendations contained in the report, and calls for intensified and continued efforts to mainstream a gender perspective, commensurate with gender equality goals, into all policies and programmes of the United Nations, in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular those of the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Stresses* that the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality constitutes a key forum for achieving more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and for the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas and practical experiences on gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and looks forward to the continued role of the Network in accelerating the implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Also stresses* the need to leverage existing inter-agency networks, including the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the United Nations Evaluation Group and the Representatives of Internal Audit Services of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions, to take increased responsibility for the implementation of relevant action plan performance indicators;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the important and extensive work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289, and recognizes its role in assisting Member States upon their request;

6. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to accelerate the full and effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective, commensurate with gender equality goals, in accordance with previous Economic and Social Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2008/34 of 25 July 2008, and General Assembly resolutions 64/289 and 67/226, including by:

(a) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all its operational mechanisms, inter alia, the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other development frameworks;

(b) Ensuring that managers provide strong leadership and support, within the United Nations system, to advance gender mainstreaming;

(c) Increasing investment in and focus on outputs and outcomes relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(d) Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and reporting so as to allow for system-wide assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming;

(e) Mobilizing and developing sufficient gender expertise for planning, implementation and gender-related resource allocation and tracking;

(f) Mainstreaming gender-responsive planning and budgeting and intensifying the use of gender marker systems, including in the humanitarian programme cycle;

(g) Strengthening capacities and using existing resources, including institutions and infrastructure, to assist in the development and application of unified training modules and tools on gender mainstreaming;

7. *Also requests* the United Nations system to continue and increase support to Member States, with their agreement and consent, in the implementation of national policies for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, inter alia, by providing support and capacity development to national machineries for the advancement of women and girls and related national entities;

8. *Welcomes* the report on the second year of implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and commends the progress made under the leadership of UN-Women in the performance of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming;

9. *Requests* the continued use of reporting under the System-wide Action Plan to inform the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, in order to measure the progress of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming at the corporate level against the baseline defined in 2013;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and senior managers to continue to direct their attention to promoting gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system;

11. *Recognizes* that large gaps remain between policy and practice and that, while building United Nations staff capacities is very important, additional efforts, such as those recommended in the report of the Secretary-General, would enable the entire United Nations system to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming;

12. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective organizational mandates, to continue to work collaboratively to enhance and accelerate gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, including by:

(a) Fully implementing the System-wide Action Plan, including ensuring 100 per cent reporting compliance by all relevant entities, in order to meet its targets;

(b) Investing in adequate human and financial resources to address shortcomings that threaten to impede progress, including in the areas of gender policies, capacity development, education and training resource tracking and allocation, the equal representation of women and organizational culture;

(c) Supporting efforts by the governing bodies of United Nations entities to devote adequate attention to gender mainstreaming in their plans and activities;

(d) Ensuring that the various accountability mechanisms of the United Nations system provide for more coherent, accurate and effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting on gender equality results and common indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(e) Ensuring the tracking of gender-related resource allocation and expenditure, including through the promotion of the use of gender markers that apply similar standards and principles to allow for comparability and aggregation;

(f) Continuing to better align gender equality programming with national priorities across sectors, as requested by the Member State concerned, with the aim of mainstreaming gender perspectives into all legislation, policies and programmes, and supporting national and regional preparations for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

(g) Strengthening the coordination of gender-responsive operational activities among entities of the United Nations system through existing coordination mechanisms at the country level and in partnership, where appropriate, with national stakeholders;

(h) Instituting greater accountability in evaluations conducted by United Nations country teams by including gender perspectives in such evaluations;

(i) Empowering resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators to promote gender mainstreaming and to expand and strengthen the use by country teams of the United Nations Development Group performance indicators on gender equality (gender score-card), including in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as a planning, accountability, monitoring, evaluation and reporting tool for assessing the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming;

(j) Substantially increasing the investment in and focus on outcomes and outputs relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework programmes, including by strengthening the predictability of the funding, broadening the donor base and increasing the flexibility of non-core resources;

(k) Acquiring appropriate technical expertise for gender mainstreaming into programme planning and implementation to ensure that gender dimensions are systematically addressed, and in this regard drawing on the gender equality expertise available in the United Nations system, including at UN-Women and from gender advisers, to assist in the preparation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other relevant programming frameworks;

(l) Collecting, analysing, disseminating and using accurate, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by, inter alia, sex, age and disability, in a regular

and systematic manner, in order to guide country programming, to support the preparation of organization-wide and country-level documents, such as the strategic, programmatic and results-based frameworks and evaluations, and to continue to promote and refine their tools for measuring progress and impact;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2015 a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the promotion of accountability at both the national and the global levels and on progress made in the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan.

Human rights of women

Palestinian women

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/17 [YUN 2013, p. 419], a report of the Secretary-General [E/CN.6/2014/6] reviewed the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women from October 2012 to September 2013 (see p. 560).

On 12 June, the Economic and Social Council took action on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women in **resolution 2014/1** (see p. 562).

Trafficking in women and girls

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/145 [YUN 2012, p. 1110], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/224] on trafficking in women and girls, which provided information on measures taken by 28 Member States and 10 UN entities to combat the practice since his last report [YUN 2012, p. 1109]. United Nations bodies continued to adopt resolutions and recommendations to address human trafficking, including trafficking in women and girls. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/192 [YUN 2013, p. 1249] on improving coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons. At the same session, a high-level meeting was held on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (13–14 May 2013). Other UN bodies also adopted legally binding agreements, resolutions and conclusions relating to trafficking. On 14 June, for example, the annual International Labour Conference adopted a legally binding protocol to the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 29, concerning forced or compulsory labour.

During the reporting period, actions were taken at all levels to prevent and address trafficking in persons, many of which were focused on trafficking in women and children. The majority of States, however, did not distinguish between responses relating to girls and those relating more broadly to children. Adherence to relevant international instruments—such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two supplementing Protocols, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and/

or the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women—increased, and the majority of reporting States carried out legal reforms to varying degrees. While States were making some efforts to ensure that existing and new laws were enforced and that members of the police, prosecutors and the judiciary were adequately trained, prosecution rates continued to be low. Few Member States reported on improving the prevention of trafficking in women and girls in humanitarian situations, conflict environment and other emergencies. Many States continued to find it difficult to identify trafficking victims and few of them reported collaboration with the private sector.

The Secretary-General recommended that all States ensure that the responses to trafficking took into account the needs of women and girls, especially in addressing sexual exploitation and domestic servitude; that laws were developed in accordance with the standards set by the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and associated Protocols and that sentences were in line with those for other serious crimes. Efforts must continue to ensure the gender-sensitive enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation and to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes; and to ensure that national action plans were adequately funded and evaluated. States should take more action to address the factors that made women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, particularly in relation to reducing poverty, unemployment and providing access to education. Furthermore, States should provide residency to victims, as well as long-term support to enable victims to begin new lives.

Reports of Special Rapporteur. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, submitted to the Human Rights Council her thematic report [A/HRC/26/37] on the first decade of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, covering the period from 1 August 2013 to 28 February 2014. Additional reports by the Special Rapporteur covered topics such as partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons, as well as official visits to different countries [A/HRC/26/37/Add.1–11]. In August, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly another report [A/69/269] of the Special Rapporteur which, besides the activities presented in her report to the Human Rights Council, summarized her activities from 1 March to 31 July 2014 (see p. 873).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/481], adopted **resolution 69/149** without vote [agenda item 27 (a)].

Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which consti-

tutes a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with and address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and the Human Rights Council on the issue,

Recognizing the crucial importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which entered into force on 25 December 2003 and which provided, for the first time, an internationally agreed definition of the crime of trafficking in persons aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of victims and the prosecution of the perpetrators,

Welcoming the outcome of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 October 2014, in which the Conference took a further step towards identifying an appropriate mechanism or mechanisms to review the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Reaffirming also the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons in order to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Welcoming in particular the efforts of States, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010,

Taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference, at its 103rd session, on 11 June 2014, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and Recommendation No. 203 on supplementary measures for the effective suppression of forced labour, of the International Labour Organization, which specify that measures to be taken for the prevention of forced or

compulsory labour shall include specific actions against trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour,

Welcoming, in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth Session, the commitment of Governments to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour, and to review and adopt the laws, regulations and penalties necessary to deal with this issue and publicize them to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime,

Welcoming also the observance, on 30 July 2014, of the first World Day against Trafficking in Persons, in the context of the need for raising awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights,

Noting with appreciation the steps taken, including the reports of human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on violence against women, its causes and consequences, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, and by United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and encouraging them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Noting the renewal by the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-sixth session, of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, to investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and empower victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked, including to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Recognizing that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to effectively address the situation of women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, services and other forms of exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach into all anti-trafficking efforts,

Recognizing also the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Recognizing further that poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, gender-based violence, discrimination and marginalization are some of the contributing factors that make persons vulnerable to trafficking,

Recognizing the heightened vulnerability to trafficking of women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations, including in conflict and post-conflict environments, natural disasters and other emergency environments,

Recognizing also the need to reinforce efforts regarding the provision of relevant documents, such as birth registration documents, in order to lower the risk of being trafficked and to help to identify victims of trafficking in persons,

Recognizing further that, despite the progress made, challenges to preventing and combating trafficking in women and girls remain and that further efforts should be made to adopt adequate legislation and programmes to implement such legislation and to continue improving the collection of reliable data disaggregated by sex and age and of statistics that would allow proper analysis of the nature, extent and risk factors of trafficking in women and girls,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts to protect women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Concerned about the use of new information and communications technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of recruiting for the exploitation of the prostitution of others, including for exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children, as well as for forced marriage and forced labour,

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international standards,

Noting with concern that women and girls are also vulnerable to the risk of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, and in this regard taking note of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 23/2 of 16 May 2014, entitled "Preventing and combating trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal" adopted by the Commission at its twenty-third session,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, culture and religion, as well as their origin, and that those forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Noting with concern that some of the demand fostering sexual exploitation, exploitative labour and the illegal removal of organs is met by trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of

information on or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to accurate information and recourse mechanisms in cases of the violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Encouraging the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the issue of trafficking in women and girls at its fifty-ninth session, within the framework of the review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda,

Welcoming the decision by the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in its report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, and taking note with appreciation of the reference to ensuring gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls contained in the proposal of the Open Working Group,

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Taking note of the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms, held in Bangkok in May 2014, and the establishment of an informal network of such mechanisms from all over the world in order to address trafficking in persons in a consistent manner, exchange information and best practices and build on different national experiences,

Reaffirming that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, coordinated and coherent efforts and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, protection, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the human rights and dignity of the victims,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General, which provides information on measures by States and activities within the United Nations system to tackle trafficking in women and girls;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the information submitted by Member States and United Nations entities on measures and activities taken to combat trafficking in women and girls, and urges Member States and United Nations entities that have not done so to submit the

requested information for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

5. *Urges* Member States to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Protocol thereto, the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143), the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization;

6. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the activities outlined therein;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

8. *Also welcomes* the convening of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, in Khartoum, from 13 to 16 October 2014, organized by the African Union in collaboration with the Government of the Sudan, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, in this regard takes note with appreciation of the outcome document of the Conference, known as the Khartoum Declaration, and calls for its implementation, including through technical cooperation and capacity-building by the United Nations and the international community;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law, good gover-

nance, education, health and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

10. *Welcomes* the focus given by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to ending violence against women and to increasing women's access to economic opportunities, as well as its work on building effective partnerships for the empowerment of women, which will contribute to the efforts to combat trafficking in persons;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify their efforts to address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in this regard to put in place or to enhance preventive measures, including legislative and punitive measures to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

12. *Acknowledges* the drafting of the basic principles on the right to an effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons;

13. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen measures aimed at advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls by, inter alia, enhancing their participation and leadership in society, including through education, economic empowerment and promoting an increase in the number of women assuming decision-making roles in both the public and private sectors, and to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to being trafficked;

14. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for exploitation in prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage, forced labour and organ removal, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation, with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, including public officials engaging in or facilitating human trafficking, through, as appropriate, criminal and civil measures;

15. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence and to include the prevention of the trafficking of affected women and girls in all such national, regional and international initiatives;

16. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

17. *Also urges* Governments to ensure that the prevention of and responses to trafficking in persons continue to take into account the specific needs of women and girls and their participation in and contribution to all phases of preventing and responding to trafficking, especially in addressing specific forms of exploitation, such as sexual exploitation;

18. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for girls and boys, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels, including anti-trafficking awareness-raising campaigns targeted at groups that are at increased risk of becoming victims of trafficking, as well as at those who may fuel the demand for the exploitation of trafficked persons and/or their labour;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in fulfilment of their mandates;

20. *Urges* Governments to strengthen measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions, including legislative measures and other relevant policies and programmes;

21. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote their global campaign urging travellers to support the fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and girls;

22. *Urges* Governments to develop age-appropriate educational and training programmes and policies aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

23. *Encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action, to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, data disaggregated by sex and age, specific data collection and other technical capacities and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

24. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with the due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

25. *Urges* Governments, in accordance with their respective legal systems, to take all appropriate measures, including through policies and legislation, to ensure that victims of trafficking are protected from prosecution or

punishment for acts those victims have been compelled to commit as a direct consequence of having been trafficked and that the victims do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted or punished as a direct consequence of their illegal entry or residence;

26. *Invites* Governments to consider establishing or strengthening a national mechanism, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to anti-trafficking policies and measures, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking disaggregated by sex and age;

27. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue cooperating with international, regional and national mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons, in consultation with Governments, relevant treaty bodies, special procedures, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and other sources, including victims of trafficking or their representatives, as appropriate;

28. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, from within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour, to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

29. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including sexual and reproductive health-care services that include affordable treatment, care and support services for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, free of stigma and discrimination, as well as comprehensive information and voluntary counselling, and to take measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

30. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and civil society organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, rights and responsibilities with respect to migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers, to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

31. *Also encourages* Governments to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories or jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises, including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat human trafficking in supply chains,

and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

32. *Invites* the business sector to consider the adoption of ethical codes of conduct to ensure decent work and to prevent any form of exploitative practices that foster trafficking;

33. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

34. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

35. *Invites* Member States to provide training for law enforcement and border control officials, as well as medical personnel, in identifying potential cases of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal;

36. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls, and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities, without fear, and are available, when required, by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

37. *Also invites* Governments to intensify efforts aimed at the speedy disposition of cases of trafficking in persons and, in cooperation with, inter alia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to devise, enforce and strengthen systems and mechanisms for combating trafficking in persons;

38. *Further invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

39. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, relevant recruitment agencies and mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the means used by traffickers, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

40. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex and age and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and

the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

41. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

42. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and to provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officials and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

43. *Encourages* Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel about the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

44. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights to include information and disaggregated statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

45. *Invites* States to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report that compiles information on successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons and provides recommendations on the strengthening of human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons.

The girl child

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/146 [YUN 2013, p. 1120], the Secretary-General in a July note [A/69/165] informed the Assembly that the summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the panel discussion on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage was contained in document A/HRC/27/34 (see p. 876).

On 18 December, the General Assembly, in **resolution 69/156** (see p. 877), requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the Assembly, before the end of its seventieth session, on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide since the issuance of the OHCHR report of 2 April [A/HRC/26/22 & Corr.1].

UN machinery

Convention on elimination of discrimination against women

As at 31 December, 188 States were parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 [YUN 1979, p. 895]. The State of Palestine acceded on 2 April.

As at 31 December, the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was adopted by the Assembly in resolution 54/4 [YUN 1999, p. 1100] and entered into force in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1123], had 105 States parties. Tajikistan ratified the Optional Protocol on 22 July.

CEDAW

In 2014, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), established in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 1149] to monitor compliance with the 1979 Convention, held three regular sessions [A/69/38 & A/70/38].

Fifty-seventh session. At its fifty-seventh session (Geneva, 10–28 February) [A/69/38], CEDAW adopted concluding observations on the reports of Bahrain, Cameroon, Finland, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Qatar and Sierra Leone; considered the follow-up reports from Bangladesh, Italy, Lesotho and Sri Lanka; and considered additional information sent by Myanmar. CEDAW also considered a report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) [CEDAW/C/57/2] and a report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) [CEDAW/C/57/3]. The Committee adopted a statement on the post-2015 development agenda and the elimination of discrimination against women [A/69/38 (dec. 57/I)], as well as a statement on sexual and reproductive health rights [dec. 57/II]; decided to entrust the working group on working methods with the task of reviewing the rules of procedure of the Committee [dec. 57/III]; confirmed the members of the pre-session working group for the fifty-ninth session [dec. 57/IV]; decided to mandate the OHCHR Petitions and Inquiries Section to service the Committee's work under article 8 of the Optional Protocol [dec. 57/V]; designated the Chair and Vice-Chair of the task force on inquir-

ies and decided to expand the task force to include one additional member, in addition to the existing nine [dec. 57/VI]; decided to establish a task force on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations [dec. 57/VII]; and expanded the working group on gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum and statelessness to include one more member, in addition to the existing seven [dec. 57/VIII].

Fifty-eighth session. At its fifty-eighth session (Geneva, 30 June–18 July) [A/70/38], CEDAW prepared concluding observations on the reports of the Central African Republic, Georgia, India, Lithuania, Mauritania, Peru, Swaziland and the Syrian Arab Republic; considered the follow-up reports from Belarus, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea and Singapore; and considered additional information received from the Netherlands and Turkey. CEDAW also considered a note by the secretariat on ways of expediting the Committee's work [CEDAW/C/58/2]; a report of UNESCO [CEDAW/C/58/3] and a report of ILO [CEDAW/C/58/4]. The Committee adopted a statement on the situation of women in Gaza [A/70/38 (dec. 58/I)]; decided to offer, on a pilot basis and under certain conditions, a simplified reporting procedure to those States parties that so wished for the submission of their periodic reports as from 1 January 2015 [dec. 58/II]; adopted its findings and recommendations in relation to inquiry No. 2011/1 and decided to transmit them to the State party concerned—Canada [dec. 58/III]; decided to discuss, at an informal meeting during its fifty-ninth session, the modalities of its consideration of inquiries under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, including adequate time and resources and the issue of confidentiality [dec. 58/IV]; decided to appoint three members as focal points for the cooperation of the Committee with the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [dec. 58/V]; and confirmed five members of the pre-sessional working group for the sixtieth session [dec. 58/VI].

On 25 July, by **decision 2014/249**, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretariat note [E/2014/3] transmitting the results of the fifty-fourth [YUN 2013, p. 1126], fifty-fifth [ibid.] and fifty-sixth [ibid., p. 1127] sessions of the Committee.

Fifty-ninth session. At its fifty-ninth session (Geneva, 20 October–7 November) [A/70/38], CEDAW adopted concluding observations on the reports of Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, China, Ghana, Guinea, Poland, Solomon Islands and Venezuela; and considered the follow-up reports of Brazil, Costa Rica, Kenya, Montenegro and Norway. CEDAW also considered a report of ILO [CEDAW/C/59/2] and a report of UNESCO [CEDAW/C/59/3]. The Committee adopted joint general recommendation No. 31 of CEDAW/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices [A/70/38 (dec. 59/I)], as well as general

recommendation No. 32 on the refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women [dec. 59/II]; decided to systematically apply the guidelines on the independence of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines) [YUN 2012, p. 619] from 1 January 2015 [dec. 59/III]; decided to entrust its pre-sessional working group with the preparation of draft lists of issues prior to reporting under the simplified reporting procedure [dec. 58/II] and to limit the number of questions in those lists to a maximum of 25 [dec. 59/IV]; decided to amend rule 24 of its rules of procedure and have English, French and Spanish as the Committee's official working languages and to have, from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016, Arabic at its fourth official language [dec. 59/V]; decided to establish, on a pilot basis, a Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol, consisting of no more than five Committee members and reflecting equitable geographical representation [dec. 59/VI]; decided to publish on the OHCHR website a full report of an inquiry setting out the Committee's findings, comments and recommendations upon the completion of all proceedings related to the conduct of the inquiry as well as the expiry of the time limit pursuant to article 8, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol [dec. 59/VII]; decided that the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol should meet immediately prior to the regular sessions of the Committee and that the thirty-first session of the Working Group would be held from 10 to 13 February 2015 in Geneva [dec. 59/VIII]; appointed the rapporteur on follow-up and the alternate rapporteur, both for a period of two years, from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 [dec. 59/IX]; confirmed the four members of the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-first session [dec. 59/X]; and entrusted a member with exploring ways for mobilizing extrabudgetary financial resources for the Committee [dec. 59/XI].

Commission on the Status of Women

At its fifty-eighth session (New York, 10–21 March) [E/2014/27], the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15 [YUN 2009, p. 1155], considered as its priority theme “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”. It also considered as its review theme “Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work”. It further considered an emerging issue, “Women's access to productive resources”. As part of its consideration of those themes, the Commission held one high-level round table and five panel discussions.

The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme and recommended to the

Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women. It further brought to the attention of the Council three resolutions it had adopted on the following topics: release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts [E/2014/27 (res. 58/1)]; gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters [res. 58/2]; and women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS [res. 58/3].

The Commission also brought to the Council's attention a decision [dec. 58/101] by which it took note of the following documents: the report of the Executive Director of UN-Women on the normative aspects of the work of that entity [E/CN.6/2014/2]; the reports of the Secretary-General on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls [E/CN.6/2014/3], on the progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in national policies and programmes [E/CN.6/2014/4], on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women [E/CN.6/2014/6], on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts [E/CN.6/2014/7], on actions to strengthen linkages between gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity [E/CN.6/2014/11], on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS [E/CN.6/2014/12], on gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters [E/CN.6/2014/13] and on ways to enhance the impact of the Commission on the Status of Women [E/CN.6/2014/14]; a note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the high-level round table on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls [E/CN.6/2014/5], and notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of UN-Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women [A/HRC/26/17-E/CN.6/2014/8] and on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017: Programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women [E/CN.6/2014/CRP.3].

By **decision 2014/216** of 12 June, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission's report on its fifty-eighth session and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-ninth (2015) session.

Communication. In a 19 December letter [E/CN.6/2015/7] to the Commission Chairperson, the Economic and Social Council President requested the Commission's substantive contributions to the themes for the 2015 session of the Council and informed the Commission of the theme for the 2016 session of the Council. The Council President also informed the Commission of the 2014 session of the Council

and its adopted mandates that were relevant to the Commission.

Other reports. Documents issued during the year, to be addressed during the Commission's 2015 session, included a report of the UN-Women Executive Director [E/CN.6/2015/2]; reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly [E/CN.6/2015/3] and on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women [E/CN.6/2015/5]; and notes by the Secretariat on a discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held under the 2015 overall theme [E/CN.6/2015/4] and on the results of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women [E/CN.6/2015/9].

Future organization and working methods

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18 [YUN 2013, p. 1129], the Secretary-General submitted a report [E/CN.6/2014/14] reviewing the functioning of the Commission's methods of work; and made recommendations for consideration by the Commission with a view to further enhancing the impact of its work.

The Commission's methods of work provided for: the consideration of one priority theme and one review per session; discussion of emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required urgent attention; and participation of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations. The working methods sought to contribute to advancing and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at all levels.

The multi-year thematic approach, which encompassed one priority theme and one review theme per session, had enabled the Commission to undertake a systematic follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and to take up themes and issues that required further consideration in the light of new developments. The approach also strengthened the Commission's capacity to undertake a careful analysis of the selected themes, with sufficient lead time to facilitate substantive preparations. The Secretary-General recommended that the Commission continue to use a multi-year thematic approach to its work.

With regard to the priority theme, the Secretary-General recommended that the Commission hold a general discussion, with a focus on the priority theme, to consolidate its role and its strategic value as the primary global forum for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment; maintain and further enhance the interactive nature of the consideration of

its priority theme, with the participation of high-level representatives as well as experts; and consider possible options for the outcome on its priority theme.

With regard to the format of the review theme, the Secretary-General recommended that the Commission retain the interactive nature of the review, and expand it through national voluntary presentations, the submission of written assessments of progress by Member States, the preparation of analysis and joint panel discussions of the Commission and the Executive Board of UN-Women in order to further enhance follow-up and implementation of its policy guidance. On the matter of the emerging issue theme, the Secretary-General recommended that the Commission retain an item on emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required urgent consideration, to be selected intersessionally by the Commission's bureau in consultation with Member States. On the participation of stakeholders and non-governmental organizations, the Secretary-General recommended that the Commission consider expanding opportunities for non-governmental organizations to contribute through allocating more time to their interventions during the general discussion, greater priority to their interventions during panel discussions and granting a limited number of regionally diverse representatives access to negotiations. On the reform of the Economic and Social Council and implications for the work of the Commission, the Secretary-General recommended that the Commission align its thematic priorities with those of the Council in order to provide effective and targeted inputs from a gender perspective.

Communications on the status of women

At a closed meeting on 19 March [E/2014/27], the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women [E/CN.6/2014/CRP.2] and a note by the Secretariat transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women. The Working Group considered 67 confidential communications received by UN-Women and noted that there were 33 replies from 18 Governments.

The communications most frequently concerned sexual violence against women and girls and forced prostitution; other forms of violence, including domestic violence and female genital mutilation; abuse of power by law enforcement and military forces; serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, some of which targeted vulnerable groups such as indigenous women or women with disabilities; absence of adequate legislation to address and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women; ineffective implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's

human rights; and failure by States to prevent violence and discrimination against women.

While expressing appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Governments that had submitted replies to the communications received, the Working Group noted the gap between the number of communications and the number of replies received. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that some Governments had carried out investigations into the allegations made, explained their positions or taken measures, including improving the enforcement of existing legislation; introducing programmes and services to better protect and assist women; prosecuting perpetrators of violence; making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women; and promoting gender equality and the advancement of women in accordance with relevant international standards.

UN-Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), established by General Assembly resolution 64/289 [YUN 2010, p. 1396], became fully operational in 2011. That resolution consolidated and transferred to the Entity the mandates and functions of four former entities—the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women—engaged in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In 2014, the work of UN-Women continued to be guided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [YUN 1979, p. 889], the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [YUN 1995, p. 1170], Security Council resolution 1325(2000) [YUN 2000, p. 1113] on women and peace and security, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49] and the Millennium Development Goals.

Executive Board

First regular session. At its first regular session of the year (New York, 20 January) [UNW/2014/1], the Executive Board adopted the report on the second regular session of 2013 [UNW/2013/10] [YUN 2013, p. 1132]; approved the proposed provisional agenda and workplan for the annual session of 2014 (see below); and adopted the draft annual workplan for the year. It also adopted one decision [dec. 2014/1] requesting UN-Women to consolidate the report on operational activities and the one on the implementation of the strategic plan into one report to be presented at its annual session in June. The session included brief-

ings on the contribution of UN-Women to increasing women's leadership and participation in peace and security and in humanitarian response, and on a draft humanitarian response strategy.

Annual session. At the annual session (New York, 17–19 June) [UNW/2014/5], the Executive Board adopted decisions on: the report of the Executive Director on progress made on the strategic plan 2011–2013, including operational activities in 2013 [UNW/2014/2]; the report on the evaluation function for 2013 [UNW/2014/3]; and the report on internal audit and investigation activities for 2013 [UNW/2014/4].

The session included a briefing on the joint evaluation of joint programmes—implemented by UN-Women along with other UN entities and Member States—on gender equality in the UN system, which was followed by briefings on management response to such programmes; on the evaluation function of UN-Women [UNW/2014/3] and the corporate evaluation plan 2014–2017; on the “Safe Cities” initiative in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; on the UN-Women internal audit and investigation activities for 2013 [UNW/2014/4], as well as the second annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee in relation to UN-Women [UNW/2014/4/Add.1]; and on the field visit of the Executive Board to Panama and El Salvador, which took place from 23 March to 1 April and was the first visit of its kind to Latin America in over 10 years.

Second regular session. At its second regular session (New York, 15–16 September) [UNW/2014/7], the Executive Board adopted decisions on the election of the Bureau of the Executive Board [UNW/2014/6] and on the structured financing dialogue, as contained in the compilation of decisions adopted by the Board in 2014 [UNW/2014/6]. The session included presentations on the meta-analysis of evaluations managed by UN-Women in 2013 and on the management response to that meta-analysis. Briefings were held on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women; on the implementation of humanitarian work; and on the operational response at the country level.

All six decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its 2014 sessions were subsequently compiled in an October document [UNW/2014/6].

Election of new members. On 23 April, by **decision 2014/201 A**, the Economic and Social Council elected Germany, Turkey, Israel, Italy and Portugal to replace New Zealand, Iceland, Australia, Spain and Liechtenstein respectively, who were resigning their seats in the UN-Women Executive Board effective 1 January 2015. The Council also elected Denmark and Spain to replace Norway and Sweden, who were resigning their seats effective 1 January 2015.

Functional areas

Operational activities

UN-Women strategic plan 2011–2013. In April, the Executive Director submitted to the Executive Board the final report [UNW/2014/2] on progress made in the implementation of the 2011–2013 strategic plan [YUN 2011, p. 1096], including operational activities in 2013. The report contained information on how UN-Women had responded to the recommendations of Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859] on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system.

Milestones in 2013 included the end of a three-year establishment phase and the realization of a new regional architecture for UN-Women in the field [YUN 2012, p. 1123]; further consolidation of the inter-agency coordination role of UN-Women; measurable improvements in organizational efficiency; and tangible impacts on the lives of women and girls in some 90 countries around the world. In 2013, UN-Women delivered approximately \$133 million in country programmes, an implementation rate of 88 per cent of budgeted activities. UN-Women also broke new ground in engaging with humanitarian organizations, from working with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on humanitarian response to interventions on the ground. Important advances were also made in women's leadership and participation in peace and security processes. UN-Women played a key role in the work of the Security Council, as reflected, for example, in Council resolution 2122(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 1109], which reaffirmed gender equality and women's empowerment as “critical to efforts to maintain international peace and security”.

Promoting greater coherence and accountability in the work of the UN system on gender equality and the empowerment of women was central to the Entity's mandate through such efforts as leading the first reporting cycle for the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN-Women also used innovative coordination practices. For example, within the “Delivering as one” approach of the Liberia country team, UN-Women led the development of a single framework on gender. The Entity also contributed to the plan of action of the United Nations Development Group, which contained 55 measures to be undertaken at the Headquarters level for accelerating progress towards United Nations coherence and supporting the second generation of the initiative.

On the ground, UN-Women became a global presence, supporting 24 countries in their incorporation of priorities and budgets on gender equality and women's empowerment into national planning instruments, and 19 countries in their adoption of

strengthened legislation addressing violence against women and girls, with greater numbers of women at the negotiating table in peacebuilding contexts.

In 2013, UN-Women was on track in 26 of the 32 performance indicators in its strategic plan, almost on track with 2 and off track with 4. It delivered direct programmatic support in 96 countries, with a focus on ending violence against women and on economic empowerment. The Entity supported women's participation and leadership in 71 countries; promoted gender-responsive constitutional reforms and legal frameworks in 26 countries; and launched a new constitutional database, the first searchable database that looked at constitutions through a gender lens. It also supported women's economic empowerment in 67 countries; efforts to end violence against women in 85 countries; worked on women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response in 37 countries; and supported 65 countries in strengthening gender equality priorities in their plans and budgets.

In 2013, the Fund for Gender Equality, which directly supported women-led civil society organizations and governmental agencies working on programmes that politically and economically empowered women and girls, achieved major results in China, India and Zimbabwe. The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in its seventeenth cycle, awarded \$8 million in 17 grants, covering 18 countries and territories.

UN-Women funds were provided by both assessed and voluntary contributions. Assessed contributions (regular budget) totalled \$15.2 million for the biennium 2012–2013, with \$8 million being allocated for 2013. In 2013, UN-Women final revenue from voluntary contributions totalled \$156.9 million in regular resources and \$118.5 million in other resources, reflecting a revenue shortfall for the year of \$124.6 million against the original target in the budget and of \$56.9 million against the reforecast.

In geographic terms, the largest share of UN-Women total programme expenditure of \$164.5 million went to country or regional offices in Africa (\$63.7 million), followed by those in Asia and the Pacific (\$45.2 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (\$24.8 million), the Arab States (\$16.1 million), and Europe and Central Asia (\$14.7 million). The UN-Women Policy and Programme Bureau received \$47.8 million and the Directorate, Bureau of Management, Bureau of Strategic Partnerships, and Intergovernmental Support received \$51.7 million.

On 19 June, at its annual session, the Executive Board took note of the report [UNW/2014/6 (dec. 2014/2)] and welcomed the achievements made in the implementation of the first UN-Women strategic plan.

On 14 July, by **decision 2014/228**, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Secretariat note

[E/2014/49] transmitting the reports of the UN-Women Executive Board on its first [UNW/2013/2] and second [UNW/2013/10] and annual session [UNW/2013/5] of 2013, as well as the decisions adopted by the Executive Board at that session [UNW/2013/11].

UN-Women strategic plan 2014–2017. On 16 September, by its decision 2014/6, the Executive Board decided to engage, on an annual basis, in a structured dialogue on financing with Member States to monitor and follow up on the level of funding, in particular of regular resources, as well as predictability, flexibility and alignment of other resources provided for the implementation of strategic plan 2014–2017 [YUN 2013, p. 1133].

Normative support

In response to resolution 64/289 [YUN 2010, p. 1396], the Executive Director of UN-Women [E/CN.6/2015/2] reported to the Commission on the Status of Women on normative aspects of the Entity's work in 2014, with particular attention to the preparations for the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and related activities. UN-Women provided support to the Commission, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Security Council; engaged in other intergovernmental processes, such as the post-2015 development agenda and a set of sustainable development goals; the preparation for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; and the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III); and worked with Governments and civil society to strengthen consensus on gender equality, the empowerment of women and the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls.

During 2014, UN-Women spearheaded the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the related commemorative activities. A record number of national reviews were completed and 164 national reports submitted to the respective regional commissions and to UN-Women. In many countries, UN-Women provided technical assistance to governments and supported national mechanisms for gender equality. Whenever possible, UN-Women linked the Beijing review process to post-2015 consultations. The reviews provided important insights about progress made and remaining gaps in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Further, UN-Women launched the communication campaign entitled "Empowering women, empowering humanity: Picture it!", engaging constituencies on the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action; provided information on the Beijing Platform for Action and its 12 critical areas of concern [YUN 1995, p. 1171] through its trilingual website; and launched

its year-long global Beijing review and appraisal campaign at the Apollo Theater in New York City on 26 June, bringing together 1,200 supporters.

UN-Women provided support to Member States for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (see p. 1299), whose priority theme was “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”. The resulting agreed conclusions on the priority theme constituted the only intergovernmental outcome that assessed the situation of women and girls in regard to each Millennium Development Goal; identified gender equality issues that were insufficiently addressed in the Goals; provided policy recommendations to accelerate the achievement of the Goals for women and girls; and confirmed the strong relationship between development and the human rights of women and girls. The conclusions called for action in five areas: realizing women’s and girls’ full enjoyment of all human rights; strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women; maximizing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women; strengthening the evidence-base for gender equality and the empowerment of women; and ensuring women’s participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability.

In its support to the General Assembly, UN-Women prepared five mandated reports of the Secretary-General on efforts to eliminate violence against women; trafficking in women and girls; efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation (see p. 873); implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly; and improvement in the status of women in the UN system. For the Economic and Social Council, UN-Women prepared the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system.

In July, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals [YUN 2012, p. 809] proposed a set of 17 sustainable development goals, including a goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, which included targets such as ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls; eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls; and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Owing to the UN-Women engagement in the preparations for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Apia, Samoa, 1–4 September), the outcome document of the Conference included a dedicated section recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and the full realization of human rights for women and girls were drivers of economic growth in small island developing States.

Evaluation

Report on evaluation function, 2013. In compliance with the UN-Women evaluation policy and the 2011–2013 strategic plan, the UN-Women Evaluation Office submitted its annual report [UNW/2014/3], presenting key performance indicators put in place to strengthen the internal evaluation function in 2013, as well as the programme of work of the Office for 2014.

The evaluation policy of UN-Women [YUN 2012, p. 1122] became effective in January 2013 and the Evaluation Advisory Committee was established in December of that year. At its first meeting, held in early February 2014, the Committee provided advice on the progress made by the evaluation function in UN-Women, as well as feedback on the strategic plan for evaluation 2014–2017 and the corporate evaluation plan 2014–2017. Also in December 2013, the Evaluation Office established a global evaluation oversight system, which presented key performance indicators for the evaluation function.

The Evaluation Office developed the corporate evaluation plan 2014–2017, which was presented at the 2014 annual session of the Executive Board (see p. 1302) and outlined the corporate evaluations to be managed by the Office during that period, in accordance with the strategic plan 2014–2017. Further, since field offices managed 89 per cent of UN-Women evaluations, the Evaluation Office, the Programme Division of UN-Women and the regional offices were working jointly to ensure that evaluations met internationally agreed evaluation standards. To this end, in December 2013, the Evaluation Office launched the global evaluation reports assessment and analysis system with the aim of improving the quality and use of decentralized evaluations. Additionally, the United Nations Evaluation Group, a voluntary network bringing together units responsible for evaluation in the UN system, developed a new strategy covering the period 2014–2019.

Since its launch in 2012, the number of evaluations available through the gender equality evaluation portal had continued to increase, counting, in 2013, 352 reports from 55 entities (an increase of 20 per cent from 2012). Further, at the International Conference on National Evaluation Capacities (São Paulo, Brazil, 2013), EvalPartners, a partnership advocating for environments that enabled quality and gender-responsive evaluations, declared 2015 the International Year of Evaluation. The Year was intended to contribute to high-level debates at the international and national levels on the role of evaluation in good governance for equitable human development.

The proposed programme of work for 2014 was aligned with the evaluation policy of UN-Women and followed the strategic plan 2014–2017, in which the independent Evaluation Office was requested to develop an annual workplan, specifying the activities

and results to be achieved each year in relation to four key areas: implementation of effective corporate evaluation systems; implementation of effective decentralized evaluation systems; promotion of United Nations coordination on gender-responsive evaluation; and strengthening of national evaluation capacities for gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation systems.

The budget of core resources for the Evaluation Office for 2014 was \$1,730,000, with an additional \$1,300,000 to cover the costs of the regional evaluation specialists. The Office also received cost-sharing funds from Switzerland (\$675,000), Finland (\$350,000) and the United States (\$125,000).

On 19 June [UNW/2014/6 (dec. 2014/3)], the Executive Board took note of the report on the evaluation function for 2013 and of the programme of work for 2014, and requested the Entity to continue to strengthen its evaluation capacity.

Administrative and budgetary matters

Board of Auditors report

In its financial report and audited financial statements [A/69/5/Add.12] on UN-Women for the year ended 31 December 2013, the Board of Auditors reported a total revenue of \$288.5 million and total expenses of \$264.1 million, resulting in a surplus of \$24.4 million. Of the total revenue, voluntary contributions accounted for \$283.4 million and comprised: voluntary regular resources of \$156.9 million (54.4 per cent) of all contributions, which were unearmarked and funded the operational requirements; voluntary other resources of \$118.5 million (41.1 per cent), which were earmarked for specific programmes and projects; and assessed resources from the UN regular budget of \$8 million (2.8 per cent), which funded the normative and intergovernmental work of UN-Women. The increase in voluntary contributions was a result of the resource mobilization strategy established in 2012 and positive donor support. The net current assets balance was \$277.6 million, resulting from current assets of \$312.7 million and current liabilities of \$35.1 million. UN-Women thus had good short-term financial strength, with assets exceeding liabilities.

The Board regarded the implementation by UN-Women of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in 2012 as a major achievement. Key findings of the report were related to the recognition and disclosure of revenue; the limited scope of inventory recognition; management of property, plant and equipment; long outstanding project advances; and understaffing of the procurement unit and improper delegates procurement authority.

The Board recommended that UN-Women improve coordination and information flow between the Strategic Partnership Division and the Finance Section

to ensure that concluded agreements were recognized in correct periods, in line with the revenue accounting policy; review its Programme and Operations Manual to match the requirements of IPSAS 12 and improve its year-end closure instructions; review its current procurement catalogue to avoid, inter alia, misclassifications in the Atlas system; enhance its monitoring of advances to implementing partners to verify, among other things, the correct use of funds; and introduce a mechanism for ensuring that procurements below \$30,000 were reviewed by a committee or an individual with procurement expertise.

Report of Secretary-General. By a September report [A/69/353/Add.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the responses of the executive heads of the funds and programmes, including UN-Women, on measures taken or to be taken to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors.

UN-Women agreed with all the Board's recommendations. With reference to the recommendation of improving the coordination and information flow between the Strategic Partnership Division and the Finance Section, UN-Women reconfirmed that coordination between the two was regular and consistent. There had been monthly meetings held during 2013 and a year-end meeting was held where the Strategic Partnership Division confirmed to the Finance Section that all pledges were included as regular resources prior to preparation of the financial statements. Concerning the recommendation to review its Programme and Operations Manual to match the requirements of IPSAS 12, UN-Women informed the Board that the Manual had been updated in line with the Accounting Policy Manual and IPSAS 12, Inventories.

Concerning the recommendation to review its current procurement catalogue, UN-Women developed and issued new asset verification and impairment guidelines to the business units to enhance the documentation and credibility of the physical verification process. UN-Women also completed the migration of the assets to the newly created business unit codes to ensure accountability of the assets by each business unit rather than by the regional offices. Concerning the recommendation to enhance its monitoring of advances to implementing partners, UN-Women informed the Board that it had put in place mechanisms to follow up outstanding advances. Additional measures taken during 2013 included messages from senior management to offices to aggressively pursue advances older than 12 months. Those efforts resulted in a more than 50 per cent reduction in long-outstanding advances as at 30 September 2013. In response to the Board of Auditor's recommendation to ensure that procurements below \$30,000 were reviewed by a committee, UN-Women was considering initiating a quality-check mechanism for low value procurement between \$5,000 and \$30,000.

Internal audit and investigation activities

In April [UNW/2014/4], the UN-Women Audit Unit and the Investigations Section (both part of the Office of Audit and Investigations of the United Nations Development Programme) submitted a report on the Entity's internal audit and investigation function for 2013. The results of the internal audits indicated that the internal controls, governance and risk management processes audited were generally functioning but needed improvement. No significant investigation matters were identified in

2013. The report of the Audit Advisory Committee of UN-Women and the management response thereto were contained in an addendum to the report [UNW/2014/4/Add.1].

On 19 June [UNW/2014/6 (dec. 2014/4)], the Executive Board took note of the two reports and requested UN-Women to present a separate budget line for internal audit and investigation activities in the integrated budget for the biennium 2016–2017, to be considered by the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2015.

Children

In 2014, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued efforts to refocus its programmes, operations, partnerships, innovation and advocacy towards a vision of every child having a fair chance in life. It drew worldwide attention to the issue of children and equity, particularly the very poorest, girls, children with disabilities, those living in remote areas and those facing ethnic and religious discrimination.

UNICEF responded to 294 humanitarian situations in 98 countries. With an estimated 230 million children living in countries and areas affected by conflicts, UNICEF and its partners worked to reach those in greatest need and gain public support for vulnerable children and families. UNICEF programme assistance expenditure totalled \$4,130.8 million, focusing on seven principal areas: health; HIV and AIDS; water, sanitation and hygiene; nutrition; education; child protection; and social inclusion.

In December, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on protecting children from bullying, recognizing that bullying, including cyberbullying, could have a potential long-term impact on the enjoyment of the human rights of children and negative effects on children affected by or involved in bullying.

Follow-up to 2002 General Assembly special session on children

In August [A/69/258], pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 58/282 [YUN 2004, p. 1175] and 61/272 [YUN 2007, p. 1201], the Secretary-General submitted his twelfth report on the follow-up to the Assembly's twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children [YUN 2002, p. 1168]. He reviewed progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration and Plan of Action from the session's final document, "A world fit for children", adopted in resolution S-27/2 [ibid., p. 1169], and highlighted gaps in achievement and the strategic shifts necessary for attaining unmet goals. Failure to achieve the commitments would undermine efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The Secretary-General also reviewed progress in the four major areas of the Plan of Action: promoting healthy lives; providing quality education; protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence; and combating HIV/AIDS.

In the area of health, the global mortality rate for children fell to an estimated 6.6 million in 2012,

an all-time low. About 40 per cent of the fatalities occurred during the first month of life. Furthermore, the global under-five mortality rate had fallen by almost 50 per cent from the 1990 rate of 90 deaths per 1,000 live births to 48 per 1,000 in 2012. In 2013, the endemic transmission of polio remained only in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, while India was certified a polio-free country in 2014. Since 2000, global measles deaths had decreased by 78 per cent, but the virus continued to be one of the leading causes of death among young children. Regarding malaria, 3.3 million deaths had been averted since 2001 in sub-Saharan Africa, 90 per cent of them in children under the age of five, as a result of UNICEF scaling up its interventions.

Since 2013, several Technical Resource Teams were established to carry out the 10 cross-cutting recommendations put forward by the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children to scale up access to 13 life-saving commodities for women and children. Regarding nutrition, globally, one in four children under the age of five was stunted, with an estimated 92 per cent of the world's 162 million stunted children living in Asia and Africa. UNICEF continued to promote the fortification of wheat flour to reduce iron deficiencies and help prevent birth defects in women of childbearing age, as well as provision of vitamin A supplementation to children aged 6 to 59 months in developing countries. For the first time, in 2013, early childhood development reporting was made possible through the Holistic Early Childhood Development Index, which illustrated that, globally, only 63.6 per cent of children under the age of five were developmentally on track.

In the area of education, over 57 million children of primary-school age remained out of school. More than half of them were in sub-Saharan Africa, where the primary net enrolment rate had increased from 58 per cent in 1990 to 77 per cent in 2011. South and West Africa registered the highest gains in reducing the number of children out of school; however, the region's primary net enrolment rate stood at 89 per cent, leaving 12 million children out of school. Progress in guaranteeing that children stayed in school had also stalled since 2009, with a quarter of all out-of-school children entering school late and becoming more likely to drop out. Dropout rates were highest in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. About half of the children out of school, most of them girls, were living in countries affected by conflict.

Globally, inequities in education persisted, based on gender, poverty, location and deeply rooted social and cultural barriers. Such barriers were often amplified in secondary education, which in many countries was neither free nor compulsory. Pre-primary education had expanded considerably since 2000, yet half the children aged 3 to 6 remained unreached, with progress unevenly distributed between countries. In 2013, UNICEF helped approximately 3.6 million children in countries affected by conflict or natural disasters to access formal and non-formal education opportunities in safe, protected areas, and considered emergency response through advocacy, preparedness planning, risk assessments and back-to-school campaigns at various levels.

On protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence, UNICEF issued in 2013 a revised global framework on child labour, seeking to improve understanding of its underlying causes and help eliminate the practice altogether; launched, with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a comprehensive analysis on female genital mutilation; intensified efforts in several countries with medium and high prevalence rates to put an end to child marriage; and responded to the protection needs of children in more than 50 countries affected by armed conflict and natural disasters.

At the end of 2012, approximately 2.1 million young people aged 10 to 19, of whom 57 per cent were female, were living with HIV. An estimated 260,000 children under 15 years of age became infected with HIV in 2012. Sub-Saharan Africa remained the region most affected by HIV and AIDS, with more than 90 per cent of AIDS-related deaths occurring among adolescents. In 2012, 62 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV received antiretroviral therapy to prevent mother-to-child transmission. For children under 15 years of age, access to antiretroviral therapy increased by 14 per cent between 2011 and 2012.

On 18 December (**decision 69/532**), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly on children (see above).

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

At the request of the General Assembly [A/69/484], the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee considered the item on the promotion and protection of the rights of children. The Committee had before it a report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [A/69/212]; a report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children (see p. 1307); a report of the

Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child [A/69/260]; the annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children [A/69/264]; and notes and letters on issues related to children's rights. At the end of the debate, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly adopt three draft resolutions on child, early and forced marriage; the rights of the child; and on protecting children from bullying (see below).

The General Assembly, by **resolution 68/273** of 20 May (see p. 763), decided to convene, on 20 November, a high-level meeting on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child [YUN 1989, p. 560] (see p. 764). On 18 December, the Assembly, in **resolution 69/157** (*ibid.*), urged States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto and to implement them effectively and fully. In **resolution 69/156** of 18 December (see p. 877), it urged States to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage. In **resolution 69/187** of 18 December (see p. 802), on migrant children and adolescents, the Assembly called on countries of origin, transit and destination to facilitate family reunification as an objective to promote the welfare and the best interest of migrant children, including adolescents, as applicable under national law, due process and the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto. By **resolution 69/194** of 18 December (see p. 1440), the Assembly adopted the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/484], adopted **resolution 69/158** without vote [agenda item 64 (a)].

Protecting children from bullying

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child and the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council that are relevant to the protection of children against bullying,

Recalling also the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, and noting the

adoption of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Declaration of Principles on Tolerance,

Taking note of the United Nations report on violence against children of 2006, the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children entitled “Tackling violence in schools: a global perspective—bridging the gap between standards and practice”, the 2014 thematic report entitled “Releasing children’s potential and minimizing risks: information and communication technologies, the Internet and violence against children” and the 2014 report of the United Nations Children’s Fund on violence against children, entitled “Hidden in plain sight: a statistical analysis of violence against children”, which included references regarding bullying,

Recognizing that bullying, including cyberbullying, can be expressed through violence and aggression and that bullying in any form can have a negative impact on the rights of children and their well-being, and aware of the need to prevent and eliminate bullying among children,

Concerned about the occurrence of bullying in different parts of the world and the fact that children who are victimized by their peers may be at heightened risk for a wide range of emotional problems, as well as potential long-term effects on the individual’s ability to realize his or her own potential,

Acknowledging that in some countries, relevant United Nations agencies and mechanisms have been providing, upon request, technical cooperation and support to enhance national capacities to address and prevent bullying,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in the best interests of the child, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Recognizing also that environments surrounding children can affect their behaviour, and recognizing further the important role that family members, legal guardians, caregivers, teachers and civil society have and that the media should have in the prevention of bullying,

Recognizing further the importance of generating appropriate statistical information on bullying,

Noting the risks associated with the misuse of new information and communication technologies and applications, including increased vulnerability to bullying, while stressing that these can create new ways to enhance education and, inter alia, learn and teach about the rights of the child, and can be useful tools to promote children’s protection,

Recognizing that children in vulnerable situations can be at greater risk of being bullied and that children may face different forms of bullying,

1. *Recognizes* that bullying, including cyberbullying, can have a potential long-term impact on the enjoyment of the human rights of children and negative effects on children affected by or involved in bullying;

2. *Also recognizes* that bullying can be associated with, inter alia, discrimination and stereotypes, and that action must be taken to prevent bullying on any basis;

3. *Encourages* Member States:

(a) To take all appropriate measures to prevent and protect children, including in school, from any form of

violence, including forms of bullying, by promptly responding to such acts, and to provide appropriate support to children affected by and involved in bullying;

(b) To continue to promote and invest in education, including as a long-term and lifelong process by which everyone learns tolerance and respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring such respect in all societies;

(c) To generate statistical information and data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant variables at the national level, and to provide information on disability, with regard to the problem of bullying, as a basis on which to elaborate effective public policies;

(d) To raise public awareness, involving family members, legal guardians, caregivers, youth, schools, communities, community leaders and the media as well as civil society organizations, with the participation of children, regarding the protection of children from bullying;

(e) To share national experiences and best practices for preventing and tackling bullying, including cyberbullying;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, using information provided by Member States and relevant stakeholders, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on protecting children from bullying, with an emphasis on causes and effects, good practices and guidance to prevent and respond to bullying.

United Nations Children’s Fund

In 2014, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) remained committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) [YUN 2000, p. 41] and the goals set out by the General Assembly’s twenty-seventh (2002) special session on Children [YUN 2002, p. 1168] in the document “A world fit for children” [ibid., p. 1169]. The work of UNICEF was also guided by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 44/25 [YUN 1989, p. 560], and its Optional Protocols. In line with the first year of its strategic plan (2014–2017), UNICEF addressed seven outcome areas: health; HIV and AIDS; water, sanitation and hygiene; nutrition; education; child protection; and social inclusion.

The annual UNICEF flagship publication, *The State of the World’s Children 2014 in Numbers* [Sales No. E.14.XX.1] focused on indicators that detailed the circumstances of children worldwide. The indicators continued to support advocacy and action on behalf of the world’s 2.2 billion children, providing Governments with facts on which to make decisions and take actions to improve children’s lives. Data also revealed gaps and inequities, showing that gains and deprivations were unevenly distributed, depending on whether the children’s country was rich or poor, whether they were born girls or boys, into families rich or poor; or whether they lived in affluent areas or impoverished neighbourhoods. Efforts were made

to extend data collection to cover groups of children previously undercounted, overlooked or excluded, including children living in institutions or temporary housing, children in detention, children living and working on the street, children with disabilities, trafficked children, migrant children, internally displaced and refugee children, and children from ethnic minorities in remote areas. To improve the reach, availability and reliability of data on deprivations affecting children and their families, the tools of collection and analysis were constantly modified and new ones were developed. While data showed that progress was made, disparities persisted. UNICEF operations in 2014 were described in the *UNICEF Annual Report 2014* and the annual report of the Executive Director on performance and results for 2014, including a report on implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review [E/ICEF/2015/5].

Executive Board

The Executive Board of UNICEF held its first regular session (4–7 February), its annual session (3–6 June) and its second regular session (9–12 September), all in New York [E/2014/34/Rev.1], during which it adopted 18 decisions.

On 6 June [E/2014/34/Rev.1], the Executive Board took note of the annual report of UNICEF covering 2013, including implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) [E/ICEF/2014/6 & Add.1], and decided to transmit the report to the Economic and Social Council.

By **decision 2014/228** of 14 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the UNICEF Executive Board on its first and second regular sessions and annual session of 2013 [E/2013/34/Rev.1].

On 11 September [dec. 2014/16], the Board adopted the programme of work for its 2015 session.

In response to Economic and Social resolution 2013/5 [YUN 2013, p. 837] and Executive Board decision 2013/15, the Executive Director submitted an annual report [E/ICEF/2015/5] on performance and results for 2014, including on implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. He covered the first year of the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2014–2017), including QCPR of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

The Executive Director outlined results and analyzed progress in each outcome area of the plan: health; HIV and AIDS; water, sanitation and hygiene; nutrition; education; child protection; and social inclusion. It also covered humanitarian action; gender equality and implementation strategies; and the Fund's organizational performance in 2014. While overall progress had been achieved towards reaching the MDGs for children in many countries, those advances were highly uneven. Strong urban-rural gaps

persisted in access to drinking water, as well as the gap between least developed countries and the rest of the world. Piped supplies accounted for 64 per cent of improved water sources globally, compared with just 17 per cent in least developed countries. The disparity in use of antiretroviral treatment in low- and middle-income countries grew every year between 2007 and 2013. The adolescent age group (10 to 19 years) was the one group in which AIDS-related deaths had not decreased between 2005 and 2013. The numbers of stunted children under the age of 5 had declined globally; however, regional disparities persisted, with half of stunted children living in Asia and a third in Africa. While globally most children of primary school age were attending school, about 40 per cent in that age group were not learning basic reading and writing. A substantial gap also persisted in the prevalence of child marriage between the poorest and the richest girls, with the poorest girls being 2.5 times more likely to marry in childhood.

During the year, UNICEF continued to support countries, communities and families in improving the rights of all children, particularly the most disadvantaged. With the humanitarian crises at unprecedented levels worldwide, UNICEF assisted 8.6 million children in acquiring formal and non-formal education, and provided psychosocial support to 3.1 million children. In response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa (see p. 1355), UNICEF mounted its largest-ever supply operation, providing family support and placement services to more than 15,000 children who lost one or both parents to the epidemics and psychosocial support to more than 36,000 children.

Programme policies

Strategic plan (2014–2017)

At its annual session in June, the Executive Board had before it a report on the final results framework of the UNICEF strategic plan (2014–2017) [E/ICEF/2014/8], which provided an update to the addendum of the strategic plan [YUN 2013, p. 1141]. The document refined the summary results and key performance indicators, included baselines and targets for the strategic plan, and presented results and key performance indicators in each of the plan's outcome areas: health; HIV and AIDS; water, sanitation and hygiene; nutrition; education; child protection; and social inclusion. It also covered organization effectiveness and efficiency.

Since the second regular session of the Executive Board in September 2013, an intensive process had been undertaken to develop the baselines and targets. The review helped to reduce the number of indicators by over 20 per cent in 2014, compared to 2013. The results framework reflected, whenever possible, globally agreed targets. The updated status of indicators would be reported globally every year, and

support would be provided to strengthen monitoring systems in countries to generate required information.

On 6 June [dec. 2014/6], the Executive Board, taking note of the final results framework of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2014–2017, requested UNICEF to update the Executive Board at its annual session of 2015 on how country programme results and resources frameworks were aligned with the final results framework, and, as part of the annual report of the Executive Director, to provide an annual update on progress made towards achieving the results identified in the final results framework.

Financial estimates

The Executive Board, at its second regular session in September, had before it the four-year financial framework [E/ICEF/2014/AB/L.5] of the UNICEF strategic plan (2014–2017), in accordance with the Executive Board decisions 2000/3 and 2013/20. Total revenue was forecast to be \$4,034 million in 2014, projected to remain flat in 2015 and to resume gradual growth thereafter. Total expenditures in 2014 were estimated to exceed revenue by \$244 million. UNICEF recommended that the Executive Board approve the framework of the planned financial estimates for 2014–2017 and the preparation of programme expenditure submissions to the Executive Board.

On 11 September [dec. 2014/17], the Executive Board requested UNICEF to continue to explore incentives, mechanisms and funding windows to broaden the donor base in a cost-effective manner and to encourage donors to increase their core contributions as well as to shift to less restricted or earmarked non-core funding, and in that regard to present to the Executive Board a resource mobilization strategic brief towards that end for consideration at its second regular session of 2015; decided to organize, with UNICEF support, on an annual basis during the second regular session of the Executive Board, a structured dialogue with Member States to monitor and to follow up the predictability, flexibility and alignment of resources provided for the implementation of the strategic plan (2014–2017), including information on funding gaps; approved the framework of the planned financial estimates for 2014–2017; and approved the preparation of programme expenditure submissions to the Executive Board of up to \$1,247 million from regular sources in 2015.

Programme matters

At its first regular session, the Executive Board had before it a report on modifications to procedures for consideration and approval of country programme documentation [E/ICEF/2014/P/L.1]. The proposed changes were in line with QCPR of operational activities for development of the United Nations system to simplify and harmonize agency-specific instruments

and processes, and to reinforce alignment of country programmes to the strategic plans of organizations. The changes aimed to further strengthen national ownership, situating cooperation programmes within national development processes.

On 6 February, taking note of the report [dec. 2014/1], the Executive Board requested that the country programme documents continue to be developed on the basis of national plans and priorities under the leadership of national Governments and in consultation with the resident coordinator and other members of the UN country team, as well as with other relevant stakeholders at country level; requested UNICEF, in line the recommendations of QCPR, to further simplify, harmonize and reduce the number of its agency-specific country programming instruments and processes, whenever possible, in particular in “Delivering as one” countries and countries deciding to apply the standard operating procedures; encouraged UNICEF to continue to work with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to further harmonize their country programme documents templates, associated documentation and annexes; and requested UNICEF to ensure that the results and resources frameworks were an integral part of country programme documents and to translate them accordingly.

The UNICEF secretariat informed the Executive Board [E/ICEF/2014/P/L.11] about the Executive Director’s approval of one-year extensions of country programmes for Algeria, Argentina, Lebanon, Libya and Uganda. The secretariat also presented the reasons for the proposed two-year extension of the country programme for Burundi, the extension of the country programme for Guinea-Bissau for the third consecutive one-year, the fourth one-year extension for the Syrian Arab Republic, and a two-month extension, following three one-year extensions, for Madagascar.

On 6 June [dec. 2014/7], at its annual session, the Board took note of the one-year extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director for the country programmes for Algeria, Argentina, Lebanon, Libya and Uganda; and approved a two-year extension for Burundi, a third consecutive one-year extension for Guinea-Bissau, a fourth consecutive one-year extension for Syria, and a two-month extension, following three one-year extensions, for Madagascar.

Also on 6 June [dec. 2014/9], recalling its 2013 decision [YUN 2013, p. 1141], the Board approved the country programme document for Kenya, with the aggregate indicative budget of \$54,640,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$124,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2014–2018.

The UNICEF secretariat informed the Executive Board [E/ICEF/2014/P/L.16] of the Executive Director's approval of one-year extensions of the country programme for Iraq and of the common country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania. It also presented the reasons for the proposed two-year extension of the country programme for Botswana, a two-month extension, following two one-year extensions, for Mali, and a nine-month extension, following one two-year extension for Colombia.

On 11 September [dec. 2014/18], at its second regular session, the Executive Board took note of the one-year extensions of the country programme for Iraq and of the common country programme for Tanzania; and approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Botswana, the two-month extension, following two one-year extensions, for Mali, and the nine-month extension following a two-year extension for Colombia.

On the same date [dec. 2014/15], the Board took note of the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets, for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Guatemala and Paraguay; and approved on a no-objection basis, and in accordance with its decision 2014/1, the country programme documents, including aggregate indicative budgets of those four countries.

Joint programming

The joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UNICEF, UN-Women and the World Food Programme (WFP) (New York, 3 February) [E/2014/34/Rev.1] discussed the performance standard on gender mainstreaming across the strategic plans (2014–2017) of the six agencies with emphasis on country experiences and the UN system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and coherence of the UN action against poverty and vulnerability and towards resilience, with emphasis on “Delivering as one” at country level to ensure coherence of action.

The agencies were encouraged to prioritize several themes in the post-2015 development agenda (see p. 960), including promotion of family-based solutions to global problems; strengthening of efforts to combat sexual violence against women and girls; enhancing the sexual and reproductive health of women; strengthening gender equality laws; and ensuring access to quality education and skills application for women and girls. The six agencies reported that there was room for improvement despite the progress made so far; recommended that gender mainstreaming initiatives consider the specific needs of girls and the protection of the rights of both boys and girls. They also indicated that the new UNICEF Gender Action Plan, still under development, was aligned with the

2014–2017 strategic plan. The agencies further reaffirmed their commitment to the “Delivering as one” plan and to United Nations reform, and stressed the need for enhancing joint evaluation and monitoring.

Gender equality

On 6 February, the Executive Board encouraged UNICEF to continue to consult it and the other relevant stakeholders and partners with a view to finalizing the costed Gender Equality Action Plan (2014–2017), by mid-April 2014, for its presentation to the Executive Board at its 2014 annual session, together with the annual report on the progress of work in gender equality.

In response to Executive Board decision 2013/9 [YUN 2013, p. 1142], UNICEF reported [E/ICEF/2014/10] on progress in its work on gender equality and empowerment of women, and on implementation of its new Gender Action Plan (2014–2017). On 6 June [dec. 2014/8], the Executive Board encouraged UNICEF to implement the Plan in an effective and efficient manner, including by stressing the importance of UN system-wide cooperation and implementation; and requested that UNICEF prepare annual reports on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, as well as strengthen gender reporting in all of its work.

Programmes by region

In 2014 [E/ICEF/2015/5/Add.1], UNICEF direct programme expense by region totalled \$4,130.8 million, of which \$115.7 million went to Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States; \$332.3 million to East Asia and the Pacific; \$1,057.3 million to Eastern and Southern Africa; \$165.3 million to Latin America and Caribbean; \$703.4 million to Middle East and North Africa; \$421.9 million to South Asia; \$1,173.9 million to West and Central Africa; and \$161 million to Headquarters.

Field visits

At its second regular session in September [E/2014/34/Rev.1], the Executive Board had before it the reports of the Executive Board field visits in 2014.

Members of the UNICEF Executive Bureau visited Burkina Faso (26 April–2 May), to gain first-hand knowledge of UNICEF work at the country level and to better understand the challenges facing women and children in Burkina Faso. Child labour in gold mines remained a major problem; female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/c) was still widespread despite being legally banned; and malnutrition continued to be a major concern. The Bureau noted the increased cooperation among UN agencies and encouraged their coordinated efforts under the framework of “Delivering as one” programme.

A UNICEF Executive Board delegation visited the Sudan (26 April–2 May), where the political and security context was complex. Children under

18 years of age constituted half of the estimated population, and a firm and stronger commitment by the Government to put children at the heart of the national development agenda was crucial. The delegation visited Zam Zam camp at El Fasher where 40,000 internally displaced persons, most of whom had been there for more than a decade, lived in deplorable conditions, and malnutrition was also of great concern. The delegation was impressed with the innovative and multifaceted approach and involvement of stakeholders in the FGM/C “Saleema” campaign, but highlighted the need for more support for the campaign at the federal level. The Sudan had made remarkable progress towards achieving universal primary education and Education for All.

After a joint visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP to Panama and El Salvador (23 March–1 April), members of the delegation reported on the productive interaction between the UNICEF regional office and the Panamanian authorities, and the extraordinary support from the Government of El Salvador to the UN system. In El Salvador, where most of the visit took place, the delegation recommended an integrated strategy mechanism incorporating all elements of response, recovery, involvement of community organizations and women into disaster risk management. Panama, despite its classification as a middle-income country, faced major challenges, including economic inequality affecting boys, girls and adolescents, and especially concentrated in rural areas or among indigenous groups, and those of African descent.

Programmes by sector

In 2014, UNICEF direct programme assistance in the seven outcome areas totalled \$4,130.8 million. The largest share of expenditure, \$1,229.0 million, went to health, followed by \$826.2 million to education; \$727.4 million to water, sanitation and hygiene; \$524.4 million to child protection; \$484.4 million to nutrition; \$242.6 million to social inclusion; and \$107.1 million to HIV and AIDS.

Health

In the area of health, UNICEF increasingly focused on the first month of life, based on the finding that approximately 44 per cent of deaths under the age of 5 occurred during the neonatal period. Pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria were responsible for most under-five deaths, most of which were preventable with proven, low-cost interventions. Efforts by UNICEF included development of costed maternal, newborn and child health implementation plans and development of related communication plans. UNICEF continued to assist in polio eradication, including the delivery of 1.7 billion doses of oral vaccines, which contributed to a significant reduction in the number of reported

cases in Somalia, from 194 in 2013 to 5 in 2014, and in Nigeria, from 53 in 2013 to 6 in 2014. In response to the Ebola crisis, UNICEF developed a “community care centre” model and supported the establishment of 65 such centres, whose location in communities reduced by 30 per cent the time between onset of symptoms and diagnosis. UNICEF was most active in supporting those centres in Sierra Leone, where over 6,000 patients underwent community-level triage by the end of 2014.

HIV and AIDS

In 2014, UNICEF focused on achieving an AIDS-free generation, in which children were born free of HIV and remained so for the first two decades of their lives, and children living with HIV had access to treatment and care. Yet, despite a 40 per cent decline in new HIV infections among children in the previous four years, the target of 90 per cent reduction between 2009 and 2015 remained out of reach, with an estimated 190,000 children under the age of 14 dying of AIDS-related causes in 2013. UNICEF-backed programmes supported equitable use of HIV prevention and treatment interventions for children, pregnant women and adolescents in 22 Global Plan priority countries, and provided greater geographical coverage of services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission in Chad. UNICEF also began implementing innovative community-based social norm programmes in Somalia and South Sudan. In June 2014, UNICEF and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS announced the All In initiative to end adolescent AIDS, which established targets to reduce AIDS-related deaths among adolescents by 65 per cent and new HIV infections among adolescents by 75 per cent by 2020.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

In response to the Ebola crisis, UNICEF supported a large-scale hand-washing promotional campaign, construction and management of water and sanitation systems in treatment centres, and distribution of hygiene kits and disinfectant. Lack of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services disproportionately hindered the lives of women and girls. In response, gender assessments were commissioned in Kiribati, Rwanda and the Sudan in 2014, and UNICEF encouraged the participation, especially the leadership, of women in managing community WASH committees. In 2014, UNICEF also convened a high-level meeting on Sanitation and Water for All (see p. 1350), that brought together ministers of finance and ministers responsible for water and sanitation, as well as representatives of donors and development banks who made commitments to eliminate inequities and improve sustainability. Additionally, UNICEF facilitated South-South cooperation initiatives that supported the sharing of experiences and best prac-

tices on hygiene packages for schools, hand-washing and technical developments.

Nutrition

UNICEF assisted 91 countries in developing or revising their national nutrition policies or plans for equitable use of nutritional support and improved nutrition practices, up from 83 countries in 2013. As part of an inter-agency response, UNICEF worked with WFP to expand its field presence and establish rapid response teams, particularly in South Sudan and the Horn of Africa. The two agencies reached over 600,000 people with nutrition services in locations affected by the Ebola epidemic. Through creation of the Iodine Global Network, UNICEF played a leading role in harmonizing efforts to address iodine deficiency disorders, and was a lead partner in various initiatives to improve nutrition.

Education

In 2014, UNICEF country-level support for education enrolment drives and cash transfer schemes brought 360,000 girls into schools in five northern states in Nigeria. UNICEF mounted a robust response to serve the millions of children who were losing access to school because of emergencies, including five million children kept out of classrooms by the Ebola outbreak (see p. 1355) in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Access to formal and non-formal basic education was provided to 3.1 million children in Iraq and Syria, and 2.4 million children affected by Ebola in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone; education by radio was used to reach the children after the outbreak forced schools to close. UNICEF assisted 38 countries in incorporating risk assessment into their education sector plan or policy, and helped establish community-based mechanisms to prevent and respond to gender-based violence as well as provide teacher training on gender-sensitivity in conflict-affected areas in Somalia and Uganda. A UNICEF-supported replenishment event for the Global Partnership for Education programme mobilized \$26 billion in domestic resources from developing-country partners and \$2.1 billion from other donors.

Child protection

An estimated 230 million children lived in countries and areas affected by armed conflict. UNICEF reached approximately 5.6 million children through initiatives to prevent armed violence, and an additional 14.6 million children through birth registration initiatives. UNICEF also supported 137 countries to strengthen child protection services, up from 74 in the previous year. At least 70 UNICEF country offices supported government and civil society efforts to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation. Eighty countries applied child-friendly

procedures or approaches for dealing with children in contact with the law. UNICEF and partners took action in 35 countries affected by conflict or natural disasters to prevent and respond to various forms of gender-based violence, especially sexual violence, including through training and awareness programmes for more than 420,000 girls, women, boys and men. Among key results achieved with UNICEF support in 2014, the National Army of Chad was “delisted” from the annexes of the report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict; an action plan was signed with Yemen; age assessment protocols were developed in Afghanistan; and children were released from armed forces and groups in Myanmar.

Social inclusion

In 2014, UNICEF assisted 23 countries in collecting data through its household survey program, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, which allowed disaggregation of data by geographic location, wealth quintile, ethno-linguistic group and other factors. Since children were particularly vulnerable to stigma and discrimination, UNICEF efforts to promote the social inclusion of children with disabilities expanded to Armenia, Mozambique, the Republic of Moldova and Tanzania, and aided Serbia to conduct a household survey on the needs of Roma families. UNICEF also supported 115 countries in integrating issues of climate, disaster and conflict into national development plans. In Burundi, conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding competencies were incorporated into school programmes; in Zimbabwe, the Government developed a child-sensitive national climate change response strategy; and Morocco integrated climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into municipal agendas.

Humanitarian action

During the year, UNICEF responded to 294 humanitarian situations in 98 countries. In South Sudan, UNICEF contributed by providing direct response where there was insufficient partner presence through the inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism. It also contributed by vaccinating about 238,000 children under the age of 5 against measles in displacement camps in the Central African Republic (CAR); providing access to education for 2.8 million children in Syria; providing psychosocial support to more than 600,000 children in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey; supplying life-saving items to 74,000 displaced people in Iraq; providing safe drinking water to 60,000 people in Ukraine; and providing psychosocial support for 230,000 children in Gaza. An emergency simulation exercise conducted with WFP and aimed at training emergency response teams strengthened the capacity of UNICEF to respond to large-scale emergencies.

Organizational matters

Evaluation system

At the first regular session of the Executive Board in February, the UNICEF Evaluation Office presented a plan for global thematic evaluations (2014–2017) [E/ICEF/2014/3] containing its guiding principles and objectives for such evaluations, and a prioritized list of topics, along with details of the resource framework, approach to implementation, key risks and reporting arrangements. The purpose of the plan was to provide a coherent framework within which useful evaluation evidence could be systematically generated on the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of work carried out under the UNICEF strategic plan (2014–2017), and evidence provided on impact and sustainability. The key evaluation principles guiding the evaluations were utility, credibility and independence. Progress in the implementation of the plan would be reported in the annual report of the Evaluation Office and the annual report on the evaluation function presented to the Executive Board each year.

In response to the revised UNICEF evaluation policy and relevant Executive Board decisions [YUN 2013, p. 1145], UNICEF submitted an annual report [E/ICEF/2014/12] on its evaluation function and major evaluations. The report provided information on global developments in evaluation and the current UNICEF evaluation function, concentrating on activities at regional level, and concluded that there was continued improvement in the UNICEF evaluation function, including its role in supporting harmonization within the United Nations and the wider agenda around national evaluation capacity development. The key challenge for UNICEF in the next four years would be to further improve its evaluation performance and that of its partners in meeting future challenges.

On 6 June [E/2014/34.Rev.1 (dec. 2014/10)], the Executive Board of UNICEF took note of the annual report on the evaluation function in UNICEF, and requested UNICEF to report in 2015 on steps taken to implement the revised evaluation policy and on implementation of the plan for global thematic evaluation (2014–2017); and to present to the Executive Board on an annual basis a comprehensive review of evaluation coverage, including, coverage by region, theme and programme expenditure level. The Executive Board further requested UNICEF to inform the Executive Board of the implementation of the plan for global thematic evaluations, as part of the annual report on evaluation.

Ethics Office

In March [E/ICEF/2014/11], pursuant to Executive Board decision 2010/18 [YUN, 2010, p. 1190], the UNICEF Ethics Office submitted its fifth annual report covering its activities in 2013. The report provided information on the Office's mandated areas of

work: standard setting and policy support; training, education and outreach; advice and guidance; the Financial Disclosure Programme; protection of staff against retaliation; and participation in the United Nations Ethics Committee and Ethics Network for Multilateral Organizations. During 2013, the Office focused on increasing staff awareness of ethics, understanding and acting to avoid or mitigate conflicts of interests and fostering a "speak up" culture in UNICEF. The main means towards achieving those goals were: administering the Financial Disclosure Programme; developing training materials for use at country level; and bringing an ethics lens to standard setting and policy support and sharing experience within the United Nations system. The Ethics Office received 271 requests for its services in 2013, up from 221 in 2012. Of the 271 requests, 121 concerned services provided under the advisory and guidance functions of the Office. Requests related to training (51), the Financial Disclosure Programme (24), advice on alleged wrongdoing (21) and inputs to standard and policy setting (23) were also common. Meanwhile, the number of requests for ethics advice decreased from 146 in 2012 to 121 in 2014. Such requests mainly concerned conflicts of interests in the broad sense: outside activities, gifts, family relations and post-employment. The number of staff participating in the Financial Disclosure Programme decreased from 2,694 in 2012 to 2,498 in 2013. The decrease was the result of a more stringent scrutiny process regarding the type of staff selected to participate in the programme.

On 6 June [dec. 2014/12], after taking note of the annual report, the Board requested the Ethics Office to improve protection for whistle-blowers by developing and implementing an effective policy on protection against retaliation that specified a statute of limitations of a minimum of six months for reporting retaliation; and was in line with the management indicator on that issue included in the UNICEF strategic plan (2014–2017); and also requested the Ethics Office to continue to submit annual reports to the Executive Board at future annual sessions containing recommendations to management that would strengthen the organizational culture of integrity and compliance.

JIU reports

In June, the Executive Board had before it a report [E/ICEF/2014/9] summarizing the response of UNICEF to recommendations contained in seven reports and two notes of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) issued from September 2012 through December 2013. According to the report, UNICEF had continued to work with JIU on various reviews conducted under its auspices, as well as on the follow-up to recommendations issued by JIU. That interaction had increased the relevance of the reports, improved implementation of recommendations and enhanced transparency.

The Executive Board took note of the report at its annual session in June.

Management for results

In June [E/ICEF/2014/AB/L.4], the Executive Board considered a proposal to create a fourth position of Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director in the context of strengthened management for results across the organization. The proposal recommended that the new Deputy Executive Director focus his attention on management for field results, overseeing the performance of UNICEF regional offices, and, through regional directors, the performance of country offices in achieving pragmatic results and sound financial management.

Taking note of the proposal on 6 June [dec. 2014/13], the Executive Board approved the establishment of the position of Deputy Executive Director for field results at the level of Assistant Secretary-General; requested UNICEF to update the Executive Board ahead of the 2015 annual session on structural and governance changes within UNICEF, including clarifying reporting lines, responsibilities and new accountabilities, and other effectiveness and efficiency initiatives; and also requested UNICEF Executive Director, in his 2015 annual report, to update the Executive Board on effectiveness and efficiency initiatives.

Finances

In 2014, UNICEF revenue totalled \$5,169 million. Income was derived mainly from Governments, which contributed \$3,181 million, and from the private sector and NGOs, which contributed \$1,397 million. The balance came from inter-organizational arrangements, with contributions of \$497 million, and other sources, with contributions of \$94 million.

UNICEF expenditure amounted to \$4,868 million. Expenditure on development, including programme and development effectiveness totalled \$4,438 million. The balance included expenditure on management (\$309 million); other costs, including private fundraising and partnerships (\$102 million); special purpose expenditures, including capital investment (\$11 million); and UN development coordination (\$8 million).

Budget appropriation

At its annual session, the Executive Board had before it nine country and area programmes of cooperation documents for approval. On 6 June [E/2014/34/Rev.1 (dec. 2014/14)], the Board approved the aggregate indicative budgets for those programmes, amounting to the following totals of regular and other resources, respectively, by region: East Asia and the Pacific: \$5,650,000 and \$55,000,000; Eastern and Southern Africa: \$92,262,500 and

\$215,730,000; Latin America and the Caribbean: \$4,270,000 and \$10,000,000; Middle East and North Africa: \$13,340,000 and \$23,423,000; South Asia: \$210,000,000 and \$455,500,000; and West and Central Africa: \$35,780,000 and \$205,585,000.

Resource mobilization

In 2014, UNICEF continued to collaborate with the public and private sectors to mobilize other resources. A total of 135 Governments contributed to UNICEF resources. Total income from public sector donors—Governments, intergovernmental organizations and inter-organizational arrangements—amounted to \$3,679 million. Private sector contributions, mainly comprising resources from UNICEF National Committees, individual donors, NGOs and foundations, amounted to \$1,397 million. Income for humanitarian assistance totalled \$1,579 million. The increase of 19 per cent over the 2013 level of \$1,332 million, was attributed primarily to funding for humanitarian emergencies in the CAR, Iraq, the Philippines, South Sudan and Syria, and the Ebola crisis.

Humanitarian needs grew exponentially during 2014; the funding requirement increased from \$2.1 billion in January to \$3.1 billion by the end of 2014.

Private Fundraising and Partnerships

In February, the Executive Board had before it a report on the 2014 Private Fundraising and Partnerships (PFP) workplan and proposed budget [E/ICEF/2014/AB/L.1], which stated that PFP in 2014 would generate a projected \$1,010.6 million in net revenue, of which \$480.6 million would be for regular resources and \$530 million for other resources. Planned expenses for 2014 would amount to \$128.4 million.

On 6 February, [dec. 2014/4], the Executive Board approved budgeted expenses of \$109 million, and authorized an expenditure range of \$107 million to \$112 million, depending on final revenue from fundraising. The Board authorized UNICEF to re-deploy resources among the various budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved, and, when necessary, to spend an additional amount between Board sessions, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations. The Board also approved allocation of investments funds, with \$49 million for 2014, and an interim one-month allocation for January 2015 of \$13.14 million, to be absorbed in the annual PFP budget for 2015.

In September, the Executive Board considered a report [E/ICEF/2014/AB/L.6] on UNICEF private fundraising. According to the report, net revenue for the UNICEF PFP in 2013 amounted to \$1.13 billion. That was \$198 million (21 per cent) more than the planned target of \$932 million and \$227 million (25 per cent) more than the \$903 million generated in 2012. The 2013 net income included private

fundraising (\$437 million), sales of UNICEF cards and products (\$16 million), and fundraising for other resources (\$677 million).

Audits

In an annual report [E/ICEF/2014/AB/L.2] to the Executive Board, the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) provided information on its internal audit activities in 2013. OIAI issued 55 internal audit and advisory engagement reports in 2013, consisting of 39 new audits and advisory engagement reports and finalization of 15 audits and 1 advisory engagement that were ongoing at the end of 2012. The 51 audits completed in 2013 included 42 country-office audits, 1 regional audit, 6 headquarters audits and 2 inter-agency audits. The 51 OIAI internal audit reports contained a total of 517 recommendations, of which 129 were rated as high priority and 388 as medium priority. In 2013, issues related to the risk area of organizational strategy and neutrality were primarily addressed at the country level under the category of governance and accountability. At the end of 2013, there were five outstanding recommendations older than 18 months, one related to country offices and four to headquarters, regional offices and thematic areas. OIAI also managed 148 investigations in 2013, including 21 cases carried over from 2012 and 128 allegations received in 2013. The overall caseload intake more than doubled from 62 cases in 2012 to 127 cases in 2013.

In June, the Executive Board had before it the UNICEF management response to the annual report of OIAI for 2013 [E/ICEF/2014/AB/L.3], which contained management actions and plans to address overall findings; recommendations of country-office audits; recommendations regarding headquarters, regional offices, joint audits, and advisory services; findings from investigations; and concluding observations in the 1023 annual report of the UNICEF Audit Advisory Committee.

The Executive Board, on 6 June [dec. 2014/11], took note of the annual report of OIAI for 2013 and the UNICEF management response to that annual report; expressed its continued support for the strengthening and resourcing of UNICEF internal audit and investigations function; and welcomed continued UNICEF commitment to greater accountability and implementation of recommendations arising from its internal audits.

Financial report and audited financial statements

Taking note of the UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for 2012 and the Board of Auditors' report [A/68/5/Add.2]; the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [A/68/381]; and the report of the Secretary-General [A/68/350], the Executive Board, on 6 February [dec. 2014/3], requested UNICEF to continue strengthening its core business practices and internal controls, as well as monitoring and oversight of implementing partners; encouraged UNICEF to continue strengthening the monitoring and oversight of the implementation of its cooperation agreements with National Committees for UNICEF; and also encouraged UNICEF to prioritize the finalization of the revised framework for the harmonized approach to cash transfers, in coordination with other members of the UN Development Group, and to ensure improved oversight when the revised framework was implemented.

In June [A/69/5/Add.3], the Board of Auditors transmitted to the General Assembly the UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 2013 and the report of the Board of Auditors. During that period, UNICEF continued to improve its governance, risk management and programme and operations management at its headquarters and field offices. There was, however, room for improvement in the areas of cash transfers to implementing partners, cost management and programme management. Of the 26 recommendations made for 2012, 19 (73 per cent) had been fully implemented and 7 were under implementation. Total revenue in 2013 amounted to \$4.85 billion, an increase of \$908 million compared with 2012. The main sources of revenue continued to be voluntary contributions from Governments, private organizations and individuals (97 per cent); the remaining revenue (3 per cent) was generated from the sale of greetings cards and products (\$70 million), interest (\$29 million), procurement services for partners (\$46 million) and miscellaneous services (\$13 million). Total expenses increased by \$467 million, from \$3.62 billion in 2012 to \$4.08 billion in 2013. Approximately 33 per cent of expenses in 2013 (\$1.33 billion) were in the form of cash assistance to implementing partners. At the end of 2013, UNICEF total assets amounted to \$7.76 billion, \$4.04 billion (52 per cent) of which comprised cash and term deposits as well as investments. The total budget utilized in 2013 was \$4.23 billion.

Refugees and displaced persons

The year 2014 saw nearly 60 million individuals displaced worldwide as a result of conflict and persecution. The total number of persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) increased to 14.4 million. More than half came from three countries: Afghanistan, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic. Only 126,800 refugees returned home in 2014—the lowest level since 1983.

With new conflicts emerging in Africa and ongoing crises there worsening, the UNHCR emergency response capacity was severely tested during the year. Level 3 emergencies, requiring system-wide mobilization, were declared in the Central African Republic (CAR), South Sudan and Iraq. Meanwhile, further displacement in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Darfur in the Sudan, as well as the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa exacerbated the humanitarian situation. In the CAR, UNHCR focused on meeting basic needs, mainly shelter and non-food items, and facilitated the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in their areas of origin. In search of durable solutions, a pilot project to support the spontaneous repatriation of 10,000 Somali refugees from Kenya was launched in December, under a tripartite agreement between Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR. The voluntary repatriation of Angolans also resumed in 2014, bringing the Angolan refugee chapter near conclusion after 50 years of displacement.

In the Americas, UNHCR facilitated the Cartagena+30 process, which led to the adoption of the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action to strengthen protection and find solutions for the region's refugees, displaced and stateless people in the decade to come. In the Asia and the Pacific region, the Office carried out refugee status determination in countries without national eligibility procedures. In the Middle East and North Africa region, during the year, Syrians became the largest refugee population under the Office's mandate, with an estimated 3.7 million. Following the declaration of the level 3 emergency in Iraq in August, UNHCR launched an expanded operation to bring in relief supplies by air, land and sea—the largest single aid distribution organized by the Office in more than a decade, targeting half a million IDPs. In Europe, the number of people of concern to UNHCR rose significantly in 2014, particularly in Turkey with more than 1.7 million Syrian refugees, and in the Russian Federation, which received more than 235,000 ap-

plications for refugee status mainly from Ukraine. Two of the UNHCR priorities in Europe were to ensure access to territory and asylum procedures; and prevent loss of life at sea. The seventh High Commissioner's annual Dialogue on Protection Challenges in December was dedicated to the issue of protection at sea.

The scale and protracted nature of displacement forced the international community to rethink traditional approaches to humanitarian assistance. In particular, measures to facilitate the self-reliance of displaced persons while they were in exile represented an important shift away from "care and maintenance" models. The UNHCR "Global strategy for livelihoods" (2014–2018) was rolled out in 15 country operations and included innovative ways of connecting refugees with employment opportunities. In 2014, the Office collaborated with over 900 partners, including 720 non-governmental organizations. The World Food Programme remained one of its most important operational partners.

During the year, UNHCR signed a revised memorandum of understanding with the Office of Internal Oversight Services to strengthen arrangements for internal audit services; and a cross-functional working group was established to assess the strength of the Office's fraud prevention system.

In December, the General Assembly increased the membership of the UNHCR Executive Committee from 94 to 98 States. Also in December, the Assembly adopted a resolution on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, by which it condemned all acts that posed a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, and urged the international community to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Programme policy

Executive Committee

At its sixty-fifth session (Geneva, 29 September–3 October) [A/69/12/Add.1], the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held a

high-level segment on “Enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa”, at the end of which the Executive Committee adopted a statement. On administrative, financial and programme matters, the Executive Committee approved total revised requirements for 2014 amounting to \$6,236,218,896, as well as the programmes and budgets for regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters amounting to \$6,234,449,630 for 2015. The Executive Committee decided to convene three formal meetings of its Standing Committee in 2015: in March, June and September. The Executive Committee also approved applications by Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Nepal and Panama, for observer participation in meetings of its Standing Committee in 2014–2015. It further adopted the provisional agenda for its sixty-sixth session (2015).

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, in his opening statement at the sixty-fifth session of the Executive Committee, said that, with more than 3 million refugees, 12.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and around 700,000 stateless persons, Africa represented the biggest challenge for UNHCR in terms of capacity and financial requirements. The surge in new conflicts during the previous 12 months had had devastating effects in terms of internal and cross-border displacement.

In the Central African Republic (CAR), for example, almost 500,000 persons remained internally displaced and more than 400,000 persons were refugees in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Congo. In northern Nigeria, continued insecurity had displaced almost 650,000 persons internally, and around 61,000 persons had sought refuge in Cameroon, the Niger and Chad. There were still almost 140,000 Malian refugees in Mauritania, the Niger and Burkina Faso. The number of internally displaced in Mali had dropped by half in 2014, and some refugees had returned spontaneously, despite the persistent insecurity. The conflict in Libya had displaced around 147,000 persons within the country, and the worsening security situation had led many to board boats to Europe.

The spate of recent emergencies threatened to dilute the focus on protracted displacement, particularly in Somalia and the DRC, and on refugee populations (Eritreans, Darfuri, Saharans and Ivorians). The combination of old and new conflicts and new emergencies placed an enormous stress on the capacities of all the actors involved and jeopardized the food security of refugees and IDPs.

At the end of the high-level segment, the Executive Committee adopted a statement on enhancing inter-

national cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa.

The general debate of the session focused on more systematic support to host countries and local communities, the need for a renewed focus on prevention and strong international resolve to bring about an end to conflict, the need to foster refugee resilience and livelihoods, and the importance of redoubling efforts towards durable solutions while ensuring that no one was left behind. In his opening statement to the debate [A/AC.96/SR.678], the High Commissioner said that the response to five system-wide level 3 emergencies in Syria, the Philippines, the CAR, South Sudan and Iraq over the previous year had placed an unprecedented strain on the UNHCR resources. More than 670 emergency deployments of UNHCR and partner staff had been made since 2013, and 400 international emergency fast-track posts had been advertised to ensure continuity beyond the immediate emergency response.

UNHCR continued to rely on the support of the host countries and donors to protect refugees and provide humanitarian assistance. Nine out of ten refugees lived in developing countries—up from 70 per cent 10 years earlier. It was crucial, therefore, for host States in the developing world to benefit from increased international solidarity and burden-sharing. Voluntary contributions to UNHCR had reached a record \$2.9 billion in 2013. Numerous measures had been taken to address the issues of statelessness, protection at sea, protection of women and children. Internal displacement, which stood at over 33 million persons worldwide, however, required greater international attention.

Finding durable solutions to the surge in displacement rates remained the most challenging aspect of the agency’s mandate. UNHCR had established 19 operations worldwide with non-earmarked funding as part of the Transitional Solutions Initiative and had increased its budget for the Global Strategy for Livelihoods by more than 40 per cent over the previous three years. To expand the available resource base, UNHCR intended also to make structural improvements to the existing humanitarian funding system and establish partnerships with emerging donors and the private sector. Funding difficulties notwithstanding, the fundamental challenge to humanitarian response remained conflict prevention and resolution.

The annual report [A/69/12] of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly covered the first half of the year 2014 [YUN 2013, p. 1154]. The second half was covered in a later report [A/70/12] (see p. 1323).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee

[A/69/482], adopted **resolution 69/152** without vote [agenda item 61].

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-fifth session and the decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing deep concern that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner,

Commending the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner and of its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

Underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-fifth session;

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process;

4. *Appreciates* the convening of the high-level segment on enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa of the sixty-fifth plenary session of the Executive Committee, welcomes the statement adopted on 30 September 2014 by the States members of the Executive Committee, commends African States for their hospitality and refugee-friendly policies in hosting large numbers of refugees over a long period of time despite their limited resources, calls upon the African States and the international community to pursue efforts as identified in the statement, and calls upon all States to act in international solidarity, burden-sharing and partnership with African States to support international protection of refugees and facilitate durable solutions;

5. *Also appreciates* the follow-up to the high-level segment of the sixty-fourth plenary session of the Executive Committee, renews its call upon all States to provide the necessary support with a view to sharing the burden of the host countries, and underscores the critical importance of development support for host communities;

6. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto as the

foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 148 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

7. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden-sharing;

8. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness since the intergovernmental ministerial event marking the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as well as pledges to remove reservations to them, also welcomes the recent increase in the number of accessions to the two Conventions, and notes that 84 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 63 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

9. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and in this regard welcomes the call by the High Commissioner for action to end statelessness within a decade;

10. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

11. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue responding adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the measures taken by the Office to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to pursue its efforts to further strengthen its emergency capacity and thereby ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

13. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the leading entity of the cluster for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

14. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution 68/102 of 13 December 2013 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

15. *Welcomes* the recent efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure a more inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the articulation of the refugee coordination model;

16. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the "Delivering as one" initiative;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken and efficiencies gained in the process of structural and management change to reinforce the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to focus on continuous improvement in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of beneficiaries, including identifying unmet needs, and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

18. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

19. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

20. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

21. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to ensure respect for the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

22. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

23. *Notes with concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in some situations, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary;

24. *Expresses concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms;

25. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

26. *Expresses deep concern* about the long-term impact of cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and in this regard calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

27. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

28. *Notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children;

29. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking

durable solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

30. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

31. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements;

32. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely and voluntary return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

33. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to adopt a solution-oriented approach that supports the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

34. *Calls upon* States to create opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and other forms of humanitarian admission, recognizes the need to further increase the number of resettlement places and the number of countries with regular resettlement programmes and to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees;

35. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

36. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with dis-

abilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

37. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

38. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

39. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

40. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those host countries, donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees through building the resilience of refugees and their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

41. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to continue and enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

42. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to

respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

43. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Enlargement of Executive Committee

On 16 July, the Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2014/242**, took note of the requests of Armenia [E/2014/79], Chad [E/2014/48], Georgia [E/2014/62] and Uruguay [E/2014/47] to become members of the Executive Committee, and recommended that the General Assembly decide on enlarging the membership of the Committee from 94 to 98 States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/482], adopted **resolution 69/153** without vote [agenda item 61].

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 2014/242 of 16 July 2014 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the note verbale dated 10 December 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the letter dated 18 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the note verbale dated 3 March 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the letter dated 15 May 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 94 States to 98 States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at a coordination and management meeting in 2015.

Standing Committee

In 2014, the Standing Committee, established by the Executive Committee in October 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 1234] to carry on the Executive Committee's work between its annual sessions, held its fifty-ninth (4–6 March) [A/AC.96/1133], sixtieth (1–3 July) [A/AC.96/1140] and sixty-first (23–24 September) [A/AC.96/1141] meetings in Geneva. It considered issues relating to the UNHCR programme budgets and funding; international protection; regional activities and global programmes; programme/protection policy; coordina-

tion; management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources; and governance. The Committee also held informal consultative meetings on issues requiring in-depth discussion: the proposed themes for the Executive Committee's conclusion on international protection; the follow-up to the high-level segment on solidarity and burden-sharing with countries hosting Syrian refugees; and the revised programme budget for 2014–2015. The Committee adopted decisions on budgets and funding for 2013 and 2014. The Committee's work was summarized in a September Secretariat report [A/AC.96/1142].

Refugee protection and assistance

In his annual report covering 2014 [A/70/12], the High Commissioner noted that by the end of 2014, nearly 60 million individuals worldwide were in situations of forced displacement as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations. This was the highest number recorded, with 13.9 million people newly displaced in 2014 alone. Of the 14.4 million refugees under the UNHCR mandate, more than half came from Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria. While the numbers of displaced persons continued to rise, solutions remained elusive. Only 126,800 refugees were able to return home in 2014, the lowest level since 1983, and some 6.4 million refugees under the UNHCR mandate had been in exile for five years or longer. The scale of global forced displacement and the response required outpaced anything seen since the Second World War, with needs far exceeding resources. Further, the denial of protection and the shrinking asylum space in some countries had been discouraging, particularly in the face of the overwhelming numbers of refugees in others, including Ethiopia, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey, each of which hosted over 600,000 refugees.

In addition to the crises in the CAR, Iraq, South Sudan and Syria, which generated significant refugee outflows necessitating a UNHCR response in surrounding countries, the Office declared emergencies also for Burundi, Nigeria and the Mediterranean Sea. Risks to humanitarian workers remained considerable, and more than 100 were killed in violent incidents during the year. Twenty-three humanitarian workers lost their lives in Syria alone. The UNHCR staff and partners nonetheless continued to “stay and deliver” in many situations where security was deteriorating, like Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

The scale and protracted nature of displacement forced the international community to rethink traditional approaches to humanitarian assistance. In particular, measures to facilitate the self-reliance of displaced persons while they were in exile represented an important shift away from “care and maintenance” models. The UNHCR “Global strategy for livelihoods” (2014–2018) was rolled out in 15 country operations

and included innovative ways of connecting refugees with employment opportunities, such as the online platform “UNHCR Exchange”, because experience showed that supporting refugee livelihoods in exile better prepared them for future durable solutions.

Similarly, the “Policy on alternatives to camps”, launched in July, focused on creating opportunities for refugees to live lawfully and independently in their host communities and drew on the UNHCR “Policy on refugee protection and solutions in urban areas” [YUN 2009, p. 1197], community-based protection practices and broader efforts to include refugees in national structures. The Office also partnered with governments to include refugees in national public services and development plans, for example in Ghana and Rwanda. The expanded and systematic use of cash-based interventions was another example of innovation to support the autonomy of refugees while in exile. The Office continued to implement a number of other strategies, such as the “Global strategy on settlement and shelter” (2014–2018), to enhance services for persons of concern in the sectors of public health, education, settlement and shelter, and fuel and energy.

UNHCR also highlighted the need for a change in approach to humanitarian funding, despite an unprecedented increase. There was an urging imperative to make better use of development programmes and funding in conjunction with humanitarian responses, as well as to ensure the involvement of development actors at all stages of displacement.

Many States made progress in developing and strengthening national asylum systems. At the end of the year, approximately 40 States were in the process of drafting or revising national laws relevant to refugee protection, and a total of 19 laws had been adopted, including in Albania and Rwanda. The temporary protection regime for Syrians adopted by Turkey in October was a significant milestone. Many European Union (EU) member States made progress in transposing the recast asylum directives under the Common European Asylum System into national law. During the year, UNHCR launched its “Global strategy—beyond detention” (2014–2019), which focused on expanding the availability of alternatives to detention for asylum seekers and refugees and ending the detention of children. The Office welcomed a number of positive developments in this area, including an Inter-American Court on Human Rights advisory opinion, which highlighted that detention of children as part of immigration procedures should be the exception rather than the rule.

The High Commissioner concluded that in a year that continued to break records in terms of the scale and scope of forced displacement worldwide, there were nonetheless positive developments in preventing and resolving statelessness and opportunities for some internally displaced persons to return home.

Populations of concern

Populations of concern to UNHCR included different categories: refugees and persons in a refugee-like situation; asylum seekers; IDPs and persons in an IDP-like situation; returned refugees and IDPs; persons under UNHCR stateless mandate; and other persons of concern. As at 2014, the “other persons of concern” referred to individuals who did not fall directly into any of the groups usually assisted by UNHCR but to whom the Office extended its protection and/or assistance services, based on humanitarian or other special grounds. Until 2003, this category also included stateless persons. Until 2007, people in refugee-like and IDP-like situations were also included in this category.

According to the High Commissioner’s annual report [A/70/12], by the end of 2014, the total population of concern to UNHCR stood at an unprecedented 54.9 million persons, including over 13 million refugees; 1.7 million asylum seekers; 32.2 million IDPs; 3.4 million people under UNHCR statelessness mandate; and over 1 million of other persons of concern.

Protection issues

A July note [A/AC.96/1134] of the High Commissioner on international protection highlighted protection responses in emergency and ongoing crisis situations, as well as the challenges presented by mixed migration and movements by sea. The note also reported on broader aspects of refugee and IDP protection, comprehensive solutions and statelessness.

Mixed flows

Throughout the year, securing access to territory and protection, especially in the context of mixed migratory movements, remained a global challenge. The principle of *non-refoulement* (non-expulsion)—the cornerstone of international protection and a norm of customary international law—was not always respected. The routine detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons, alongside economic migrants and often in sub-standard conditions, posed another major threat to their security and rights. In 2014, UNHCR received a record 245,700 applications for refugee status under its mandate. The Office continued to support States in the implementation of the “10-point plan of action on refugee protection and mixed migration”, and to encourage regional cooperation with respect to mixed movements, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). During the year, Caribbean States and Territories agreed to set up a Regional Consultative Mechanism to support the progressive establishment of asylum systems and other procedures to identify and assist persons travelling as part of mixed movements. In response to serious concerns about

kidnapping and trafficking of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the East and Horn of Africa, regional governments adopted a declaration and plan of action in October at a conference in Khartoum organized by the African Union, the Sudan, UNHCR and IOM to share best practices, promote greater cooperation across borders and the development of national strategies to address smuggling and trafficking.

Refugee at sea

An estimated 350,000 refugees and migrants were reported to have taken to the seas in 2014, with some 4,300 people losing their lives. In the Mediterranean Sea alone, 219,000 persons arrived irregularly in the EU during the year. There were also significant mixed movements by sea in South-East Asia and in the Gulf of Aden (some 91,600 arrivals in Yemen in 2014). While movements by sea remained “mixed”, for the first time in several decades, the majority were persons fleeing conflict and persecution. The High Commissioner’s annual Dialogue on Protection Challenges in December was dedicated to the issue of protection at sea (see below). UNHCR continued to provide practical support to States confronting these movements. Cooperation between international and regional organizations to enhance protection at sea was also strengthened. An updated guide on rescue at sea and the principles and practices as applied to refugees and migrants was published by UNHCR, the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). UNHCR also established the Regional Maritime Movements Monitoring Unit at its Regional Office in Bangkok in 2014, with the objective of improving knowledge of mixed movements by sea in South-East Asia and informing timely operational responses.

Dialogue on protection challenges. The seventh High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges (Geneva, 10–11 December) focused on the theme of “Protection at Sea”. The Dialogue informed implementation of the two-year Global Initiative on Protection at Sea, which aimed to support State action to limit loss of life at sea as well as exploitation, abuse and violence. The initiative also sought to ensure that responses to mixed migration by sea were sensitive to the international protection needs of specific individuals and groups.

The Dialogue brought together delegations from 88 countries, 52 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and 13 international governmental organizations, as well as academics and experts. In total, approximately 450 people participated, making it the largest Dialogue to date. During the two-day meeting, the heads of UNHCR, IMO, IOM, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime issued a joint statement calling upon States to tackle the root causes

of maritime migration, which included lack of access to safe and regular migration channels.

Refugee children and women

In its July meeting [A/AC.96/1140], the Standing Committee considered a document [EC/65/SC/CRP.13] on child protection. In 2014, 51 per cent of all refugees under the UNHCR mandate were children under the age of 18, the highest percentage in more than a decade. Some 34,300 asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied and separated children in 82 countries, mostly from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia and Syria. This was the highest number on record since the Office started collecting such data in 2006.

Most of the 16 priority countries under the UNHCR “Framework for the protection of children” reported an increase in access by children of concern to the Office to national child protection and social services. The Office also supported 16 youth-initiated and led projects as part of its Youth Initiative Fund. The Office’s “Education strategy” (2012–2016) was expanded to 25 priority countries, with multi-year strategies developed and implemented with ministries of education and local education partners. The “Educate a Child” partnership enabled an additional 266,000 out-of-school refugee children to enrol in primary school in 12 countries. In October, States from the Middle East and North Africa adopted the “Sharjah Principles” at a regional conference in the United Arab Emirates; the Principles called for all refugee children in the region to have their births registered to help prevent statelessness.

Several initiatives involving UNHCR were undertaken to strengthen sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response. In June, the British Foreign Secretary and UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie co-hosted a high-level summit on ending sexual violence in conflict. With participation from 129 countries, the summit agreed on practical steps to tackle impunity. Further, UNHCR helped develop an international protocol on the documentation and investigation of sexual violence in conflict, which was launched at the summit. The Office welcomed the 2014 International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, and took steps to facilitate survivors’ access to legal representation and interpreters, as well as to strengthen the capacity of lawyers and judges to adjudicate SGBV cases. In Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, UNHCR supported government efforts to establish and administer mobile courts. In line with the UN strategic results framework on women, peace and security, a 46 per cent participation rate amongst women in leadership and management structures was reported across 65 operations in 2014. UNHCR worked with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against

Women with respect to its general recommendation on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness.

Resettlement

In July [A/AC.96/1140], the Standing Committee had before it a progress report on resettlement [EC/65/SC/CRP.11], highlighting increased resettlement submissions and departures in 2013 as compared with 2012 (25 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively). Noting that 27 States had regular resettlement programmes, the Deputy Director of the Division of International Protection expressed appreciation to those States that had expanded their quotas, as well as to those that had established humanitarian admission programmes for Syrians refugees. Yet a tremendous gap remained: nearly 1 million refugees globally were in need of resettlement, while only 80,000 regular resettlement places were available. Calling on States to be flexible in their resettlement criteria, she underscored the importance of resettlement partners closely engaging with host countries. UNHCR, for its part, was strengthening oversight to ensure integrity in its processing.

Age, gender and diversity

In July [A/AC.96/1140], the Standing Committee considered a document [EC/65/SC/CRP.14] on the 2011 implementation of the age, gender and diversity (AGD) policy, which, by formalizing the AGD approach [YUN 2004, p. 1203], sought to ensure that all persons of concern could enjoy their rights on an equal footing. The launch of the policy was followed by the development of a five-year plan (2011–2016), whose strategic results were: participatory assessments, to facilitate structured dialogue between UNHCR and persons of concern; staff capacity, to ensure that staff and partners had the skills and knowledge necessary to deliver on UNHCR commitments; and organizational accountability, to ensure that strong internal leadership and accountability for AGD were embedded in the organizational structure.

The 2013 AGD Accountability Report had been included into the UNHCR planning and reporting platform, Focus, which provided deeper insight on the broad range of age-, gender- and diversity-related problems faced by persons of concern and on the actions the Office was taking to address them. In 2014, UNHCR continued to improve the AGD Accountability Report in Focus in order to make gender-disaggregated data available; and to revise the participatory assessment tool based on feedback.

Refugee and HIV/AIDS

UNHCR aimed to ensure that persons of concern could access life-saving and essential health care; nutrition; reproductive health services; and HIV prevention, protection and treatment services in

emergency and non-emergency settings. In 2014, considerable progress had been made toward ensuring that persons of concern had access to those services. The UNHCR Global Strategy for Public Health 2014–2018, which included HIV and reproductive health, stressed the importance of mainstreaming refugee health care into national health systems. The top priority for the Office was to address the essential health needs of newly-arrived refugees in emergencies. The Office's HIV programme was anchored in principles of protection and human rights. Over the five previous years, the proportion of countries in which refugees received access to antiretroviral treatment at the same level as nationals had increased from 79 to 97 per cent. In 2013, the proportion of operations reporting the inclusion of refugees in national HIV strategic plans stood at 87 per cent. Progress toward legislation protecting the rights of HIV-positive refugees and asylum seekers, including protection from mandatory HIV testing, however, required more attention. Further, 95 per cent of the UNHCR operations ensured refugees' access to "prevention of mother-to-child transmission" programmes on par with nationals.

Protracted situations and durable solutions

According to the High Commissioner's annual report [A/70/12], in 2014, some 6.4 million refugees under the UNHCR mandate remained in protracted exile. The lack of sustainable solutions was in part due to the continuing violence in many parts of the world. The Office strengthened internal institutional arrangements to create better momentum for solutions. For example, the Office set aside \$20 million for the "Seeds for Solutions" initiative, which provided 20 country operations with technical expertise and increased resources for solutions-related activities. "Seeds for Solutions" funds supported the repatriation of some 12,000 former Angolan refugees from the DRC. The UNHCR Solutions Steering Group assisted operations to develop multi-year and multi-partner protection and solutions strategies; and the 2016–2017 biennium planning instructions directed all field operations to incorporate protection and solutions strategies in yearly and biennial country operation plans. At the global level, UNHCR was one of the co-chairs of the Solutions Alliance, which was established in April to encourage innovative solutions for the displaced by bringing together humanitarian and development actors.

The Office also continued to enhance partnerships with development actors to support efforts to achieve solutions. Cooperation with the World Bank resulted in the preparation of three regional forced displacement studies (Sahel, Great Lakes, and Horn of Africa) and the establishment of financial facilities for the Great Lakes region (\$100 million) and the Horn

of Africa (\$150 million). A pilot project to support voluntary repatriation from Kenya to Somalia was launched in December, under a tripartite agreement between the Governments of Kenya and Somalia, and UNHCR.

Regarding voluntary return, far fewer refugees were able to return home in 2014 as compared to previous years, due to ongoing violence in several major countries of origin. Over the course of the year, 126,800 refugees returned to their countries of origin, including to the DRC (25,200), Mali (21,000) and Afghanistan (17,800). A tripartite agreement was concluded in May by UNHCR and the Governments of Mali and the Niger. The organized repatriation of 38,000 Ivorian refugees from Liberia was suspended in July as a precaution due to the Ebola virus, while the voluntary repatriation of Angolans resumed in 2014, bringing the Angolan refugee chapter near conclusion after 50 years of displacement. In 2014, some 5,800 Rwandans voluntarily returned home, bringing the total number of returns between 2001 and 2014 to 199,600. UNHCR and partners also supported efforts in Afghanistan, the DRC, Georgia, Mauritania and South Sudan to address housing, land and property disputes for returnees, including through legal counselling programmes.

On resettlement, during the year, UNHCR offices in 90 countries presented more than 103,800 cases to States for resettlement consideration. The main beneficiaries were refugees from Syria (21,100), the DRC (18,800), Myanmar (15,200), Iraq (11,800) and Somalia (9,400). Over 73,000 refugees departed for resettlement in 2014 with UNHCR assistance. Women and girls at risk represented more than 12 per cent of total submissions, surpassing for a fourth consecutive year the 10 per cent target set by UNHCR. In 2014, the Office also initiated a comprehensive review of its existing policies to address fraud in the context of resettlement.

Internal displacement

At the end of the year, the number of persons displaced internally within their countries by armed conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations was estimated at 38.2 million—the highest number since global statistics started to be collected in 1989. Notable increases in internal displacement occurred in the DRC, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Other countries that experienced new conflict-induced internal displacement in 2014 included Afghanistan, the CAR, Colombia, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan and South Sudan. December 2014 marked the second anniversary of the entry into force of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) [YUN 2009, p. 1207]. Among the countries that adopted national legislation to address

internal displacement or took steps in developing relevant national laws were Ukraine, the DRC, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

UNHCR continued to engage in situations of internal displacement primarily through an inter-agency framework. The Office led 22 of 27 protection clusters worldwide and 11 of the 24 country-level shelter clusters. The Office also worked closely with national human rights institutions to enhance protection for IDPs, including in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Philippines and Uganda. Multi-year, multi-partner strategies for solutions for IDPs progressed in Colombia, Mali, Serbia, Somalia and Sri Lanka. Among those countries where UNHCR was operational, some 1.8 million IDPs returned home during 2014; about one quarter of them with the UNHCR assistance.

Statelessness

In 2014, UNHCR reported a figure of 3.5 million stateless persons. In November, the Office launched the #IBelong global campaign to end statelessness within 10 years, along with the “Global action plan to end statelessness: 2014–2024”. During the year, some 37,100 persons who were formerly stateless acquired nationality in 23 countries. Côte d’Ivoire continued its efforts to resolve one of the largest statelessness situations in the world, including through an innovative 2013 amendment to its nationality law that allowed long-term residents to acquire nationality through a simple declaration. UNHCR worked with the Government of Kyrgyzstan to assist over 6,000 stateless persons to apply for Kyrgyz nationality since May. Efforts to identify persons who were stateless or at risk of statelessness also continued in Indonesia and the Philippines. To reduce the risk of statelessness, UNHCR continued to support host governments to ensure timely registration of births by competent authorities in the context of refugee emergencies. Jordan launched mobile birth registration for all camp-based refugees and issued 2,400 birth certificates to Syrian refugee children in 2014, compared to fewer than 300 in 2013. During the year, over 40,000 families were counselled on birth registration procedures in Lebanon.

International instruments

In 2014, the number of parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees [YUN 1951, p. 520] remained at 145, and the number of parties to its 1967 Protocol [YUN 1967, p. 477] remained at 146.

The number of parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons [YUN 1954, p. 416] rose to 86 with the accession of the Gambia, Mozambique, the Niger, Paraguay and Peru. The number of parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness [YUN 1961, p. 533] increased to 63 with

the accession of Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, the Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Mozambique and Peru.

Regional activities

Africa

According to UNHCR *Global Report 2014*, with new conflicts emerging in Africa and ongoing crises worsening, the UNHCR emergency response capacity was severely tested during the year. Level 3 emergencies—major, sudden-onset humanitarian crises, triggered by natural disaster or conflict, which required system-wide mobilization—were declared in the CAR and South Sudan, with massive displacement inside the countries and across borders. The High Commissioner designated two senior Regional Refugee Coordinators to manage the humanitarian response to the crises, and additional resources and staff were rapidly deployed to the affected countries. The Regional Refugee Coordinators led the humanitarian community in formulating Regional Refugee Response Plans for both crises.

Meanwhile, further displacement in long-standing areas of conflict, such as the eastern DRC, Somalia and Darfur in the Sudan, exacerbated the situation in already overburdened host countries. In a year of multiple, large-scale crises on the continent, the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa presented additional challenges (see p. 1355). Refugees in the three main countries affected by the virus—Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone—were also at risk. UNHCR ensured that refugees were included in national prevention and response plans. Measures were also undertaken to prevent infection in the camps, including awareness-raising and the establishment of early detection mechanisms, and support was provided to the local response mechanisms in each country.

The CAR and South Sudan emergencies dominated much of the UNHCR attention during the year. In the CAR, the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces in September brought about hope for the re-establishment of security in the country. Ongoing fighting and human rights abuses targeting civilians, however, continued to cause massive displacement, and violence spilled across borders into the host countries of Cameroon, Chad, the Congo and the DRC. Many of the Central Africans arriving in neighbouring countries were severely malnourished, having walked for weeks to reach safety. By mid-year, UNHCR and its partner aid agencies were able to strengthen assistance to meet the needs of the refugees and enhance reception services for new arrivals.

Because of the unrest in South Sudan, the number of refugees that fled to Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda reached 614,000, of whom 488,000 fled in the course of 2014. In some countries, humanitarian assistance was hampered by severe

rains, strained logistical capacity and lack of access, with camps experiencing food shortages and overcrowding. Several refugee settlements in flood-prone areas were moved to higher land. Despite ongoing peace negotiations, fighting in South Sudan continued to displace civilians. By the end of the year, there were more than 1.6 million South Sudanese displaced within the country, tens of thousands of whom continued to seek temporary protection in or around UN peacekeeping sites.

The situation in north-eastern Nigeria also deteriorated in 2014, with attacks on civilians more frequent and violent. Cross-border attacks from Nigeria into Cameroon, Chad and the Niger also caused internal displacement in these countries. By the end of the year, some 1.1 million Nigerians were internally displaced, and more than 54,000 were refugees in the three host countries. Appeals for emergency requirements were launched in September to address the needs of the refugees and IDPs. The appeals, however, were only 45 per cent funded at the end of the year, while the needs continued to grow.

In the DRC, conflict continued to affect the east of the country, internally displacing around 2.7 million people. Approximately 450,000 Congolese were refugees in neighbouring countries. In Mali, the security situation remained fragile. Despite some spontaneous returns, it was not yet conducive for organized voluntary return. Some 143,000 Malian refugees remained in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and the Niger at year end. In South Africa, xenophobia and violence against foreigners, affecting many refugees and asylum seekers, were a major concern and resulted in loss of lives, property damage and displacement. UNHCR, working along with the Government and civil society, bolstered efforts to address the situation, including by establishing a 24-hour assistance hotline and organizing mass information campaigns to promote tolerance.

While the situation in Somalia remained volatile, the High Commissioner's Global Initiative for Somali Refugees galvanized support for solutions. At a ministerial-level meeting held in Ethiopia on 20 August, representatives of concerned countries, the United Nations and regional partners signed the Addis Ababa Commitment towards Somali Refugees, which agreed on the need to ensure asylum space, while supporting host countries and working towards creating the conditions for voluntary repatriation to Somalia. The Commitment also emphasized other solutions, including local integration, resettlement and alternative stay arrangements. By the end of the year, some 2,000 Somalis had voluntarily repatriated to areas of relative stability. A pilot project to support the spontaneous repatriation of 10,000 Somali refugees from Kenya by 30 June 2015 was launched in December, under the auspices of a tripartite agreement between the Government of Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR.

In 2014, the voluntary repatriation of Angolans resumed, bringing the Angolan refugee chapter near conclusion after 50 years of displacement. Approximately 14,300 former Angolan refugees repatriated with the UNHCR assistance, mainly from the DRC, and from Zambia and the Congo. In Zambia, UNHCR continued to support a government programme to locally integrate former Angolan refugees. The voluntary repatriation of Rwandans also gradually moved forward. In 2014, around 5,300 Rwandans returned home. The biometric registration of Rwandans in eastern DRC commenced, with a view to eventually facilitating repatriation and local integration. In Tanzania, the naturalization process for more than 162,000 former Burundian refugees resumed in 2014, after having been on hold since 2011. By the end of the year, more than 40,000 former Burundian refugees, now Tanzanians, received naturalization certificates, which accorded them the same rights as nationals. UNHCR was supporting the Government with all aspects of the naturalization process, while working with the authorities and development partners on the longer-term socioeconomic aspects of their integration. At the end of 2014, approximately 35,000 refugees returned to Mali from exile in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and the Niger. A tripartite agreement was concluded between the Governments of Burkina Faso and Mali, and UNHCR to facilitate voluntary repatriation.

In 2014, UNHCR submitted the cases of some 34,800 refugees for resettlement from Africa, and more than 19,000 refugees departed to their resettlement countries. This was a 19 per cent increase compared to the number of submissions made in 2013 and a 52 per cent increase compared to 2012. Advances were also made in addressing statelessness, with several African countries acceding to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions. Côte d'Ivoire took steps to identify and address the status of an estimated 700,000 people at risk of becoming stateless. At the end of the year, 22 of the 54 African Union member States were parties to the 1954 Convention and 15 were parties to the 1961 Convention.

At the end of the year, the UNHCR budget for the Africa region stood at \$2.6 billion, which included four supplementary budgets for the emergency situations in the CAR, the Ebola response, Nigeria and South Sudan. The total funding received in 2014 for Africa was \$995 million, leaving a gap of over \$1.6 billion. Expenditure stood at \$1.1 billion in 2014, which represented an increase of \$153 million over 2013 (when the budget was \$1.97 billion). Regarding its financial commitments by subregion, in 2014, UNHCR spent \$710.8 million in East Africa and the Horn of Africa, where there were some 7.7 million people of concern. In Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, \$236.2 million were spent on 6 million people of concern, while in West Africa \$135.8 million were spent on some 2.5 million peo-

ple of concern. In Southern Africa, UNHCR expended \$42.5 million where there were approximately 741,746 people of concern.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/143 [YUN 2013, p. 1160], the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/69/339] on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa provided by UNHCR and other UN entities including the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. The report updated information contained in the Secretary-General 2013 report on the topic [YUN 2013, p. 1159], covered the period from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2014, and provided overviews by subregions.

During the reporting period, both new and escalating emergencies, triggered by extreme violence and human rights abuses, occurred in the Central African Republic, eastern DRC, northern Nigeria and South Sudan. Meanwhile, protracted displacement continued into the second and third decades for some Somalis, Rwandans, Burundians, Liberians, Eritreans and Congolese in exile.

Despite strong support from donors, crucial gaps remained in the funding of refugee operations, particularly for more protracted situations, which suffered from chronic underfunding. In 2013 alone, UNHCR issued three supplementary funding appeals for the DRC, the CAR and Chad emergencies to the total amount of \$271.7 million. The UNHCR 2014 comprehensive needs assessment budget for Africa was nearly \$1.9 billion, as a result of the CAR and South Sudan emergencies.

East Africa, including the Horn of Africa, remained the subregion with the largest refugee population on the continent, although the absolute number of refugees and asylum seekers declined modestly, from nearly 2 million at the end of 2012 to 1.7 million at the end of 2013. East Africa was home to the largest percentage of refugee children, at 60 per cent of the total refugee population. In Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, the violence in the CAR triggered subregional movements, as the country had long hosted hundreds of thousands of migrants from Cameroon, Chad and elsewhere.

West Africa was home to more than 366,000 refugees and asylum seekers, and the number of internally displaced persons was also on the rise. Security had deteriorated everywhere but particularly in northern Mali and Nigeria, limiting humanitarian access and the delivery of protection and assistance. Nearly one third of the refugees in the subregion was living in protracted displacement. The population of refugees and asylum seekers in southern Africa remained nearly constant in 2013, with 135,542 refugees and 278,633 asylum seekers at year-end. In

South Africa, episodes of xenophobic violence continued. For many other southern African countries with small refugee populations, the overall protection atmosphere remained largely unchanged.

Concerning individuals with specific needs, the Secretary-General reported that a regional framework for the protection of South Sudanese and Sudanese refugee children, comprising 65 per cent of refugees from these countries, was developed by UNHCR and NGOs and was guiding operational actors in a coordinated response. Initiatives to enhance the protection of refugee women included the provision of safe physical spaces. The use of mobile services facilitated the provision of psychosocial assistance to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Given the complex challenges of trafficking and related abuses reported in the subregion, the Government of the Sudan, UNHCR and IOM developed a strategy to deal with smuggling and trafficking in the Horn of Africa and East Africa.

On the humanitarian front, WFP provided food to 2.4 million refugees in 23 countries in Africa in 2013. By the end of 2013, 97 per cent of refugees in Africa had access to anti-retroviral treatment on a par with the nationals of their country of asylum. Eighteen countries had completed or drafted refugee education strategies, including child protection and sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response elements, in consultation with host governments, UNICEF and partners. The UN agencies were supporting strategies to improve the self-reliance of refugees, particularly to enable them to live within hosting communities, to work and to contribute to local economies. In South Sudan, the International Labour Organization focused on capacity-building through the introduction of basic market-relevant business skills, and the provision of start-up kits for 1,500 women and young people.

The Secretary-General concluded that despite progress made in finding durable solutions, with many refugees returning home or integrating locally, new and ongoing emergencies in Africa had caused massive internal displacement and resulted in an increase in the number of new refugees for the fourth consecutive year. Forced displacement had exposed people to many protection risks, including forced recruitment, sexual and gender-based violence, armed attacks, abductions and trafficking. He called on all States to respect fully the principle of non-refoulement, maintain open borders, combat xenophobia, ensure the humanitarian and civilian character of displacement sites, and end impunity for all forms of violence. He urged States and non-State actors to ensure rapid, unimpeded access of humanitarian relief to persons in need; ensure the security of humanitarian workers; sign, ratify and enforce the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel; and respect international human rights and humanitarian law in preventing the forced displacement of civilian populations within State borders. States were also

encouraged to sign and ratify international instruments including the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, and the two conventions on statelessness. He further called on Governments, together with development and humanitarian actors, to work closely in developing durable solutions strategies for refugees and internally displaced persons, including by incorporating them into national plans, ensuring access to employment and taking all preventative measures to end displacement.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/482], adopted **resolution 69/154** without vote [agenda item 61].

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969 and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, together with the 1967 Protocol Thereto, as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

Welcoming the entry into force on 6 December 2012 and the ongoing process of ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which mark a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative frameworks for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and displaced persons, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse, violence and exploitation, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing, responding to and addressing sexual and gender-based violence,

Gravely concerned about the rising number of refugees and displaced persons in various parts of the continent,

Acknowledging the efforts of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in improving the situation of refugees, and expressing grave concern about the deteriorating living conditions in many refugee camps in Africa,

Recognizing that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV and AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

Recalling the Joint Declaration adopted at the joint summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the East African Community on the Horn of Africa crisis, held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 September 2011, which, inter alia, expressed concern about the mass exodus of refugees into neighbouring countries, as well as the increased number of internally displaced persons due

to the ongoing humanitarian crises of drought and famine in the Horn of Africa,

Recalling also the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in 2006, and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact which are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

Acknowledging with appreciation the generosity, hospitality and spirit of solidarity of African countries that continue to host the influx of refugees due to the humanitarian crises and protracted refugee situations, and in this regard expressing particular appreciation for the commitment and efforts of neighbouring countries in the recent humanitarian crises on the continent, and further acknowledging with appreciation the coordination of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations as well as the continuing efforts of donors, the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, regional organizations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners, with regard to, inter alia, integration, voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement, in addressing the plight of refugees during the emergency,

Recognizing that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection of and assistance to refugees on their territory and the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and burden- and responsibility-sharing,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem, in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

Welcoming the ongoing implementation of pledges made by States at the intergovernmental ministerial event held in 2011 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. *Calls upon* African Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa to consider doing so as early as possible in order to ensure its wider implementation;

3. *Notes* the need for African Member States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall flows of refugees;

4. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

5. *Welcomes* decisions EX.CL/Dec.686(XX) and EX.CL/Dec.709(XXI) adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its twentieth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 27 January 2012, and at its twenty-first ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 13 July 2012, on the humanitarian situation in Africa, insofar as they relate to persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the High Commissioner, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum, including by providing support to vulnerable local host communities, and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the African Union, the Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons of its Permanent Representatives Committee, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

8. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in identifying, through a participatory approach, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee communities, in particular the non-discriminatory treatment and protection of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly;

9. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration into new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

10. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary return, reintegration and resettlement;

11. *Welcomes* the adoption of the conclusion on civil registration by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its sixty-fourth session, held in Geneva from 30 September to 4 October 2013, and recognizes the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

12. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fifty-second session, notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the re-

sponsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

13. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern with regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

15. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

16. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

17. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the

High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

18. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all measures necessary to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

19. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, and encourages African States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying and enforcing the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;

20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other entities concerned to continue and, where appropriate, to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers;

21. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

22. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

23. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

24. *Appeals to* the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement, where appropriate and feasible;

25. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons, where appropriate;

26. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

27. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including the improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and the realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

28. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, notes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to prevent internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, notes the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

29. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Council and the General Assembly;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees

and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled “Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions”.

The Americas

In 2014, the region commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees. UNHCR facilitated the Cartagena +30 process, which culminated in a ministerial event in Brasília, Brazil, in December, where States adopted the landmark Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action to strengthen protection and find solutions for the region’s refugees, displaced and stateless people in the decade to come. Brazil received the second largest number of asylum applications, surpassed only by the United States.

The year also saw unprecedented movements of people from the Northern triangle of Central America—El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—many fleeing violence, persecution and transnational organized crime. More than 130,000 individuals fled to Mexico and North America in search of protection. At least 68,000 unaccompanied children were apprehended crossing the southern border of the United States. UNHCR responded to the forced displacement crisis by launching a regional initiative to bolster border monitoring and expand protection networks in Guatemala, Honduras and southern Mexico. The Office sought alternatives to detention, as well as ways to improve the reception conditions and shelter for children with protection concerns in Guatemala and Mexico.

During the year, the Office concluded partnership agreements with regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States and the Central American Integration System, to strengthen the region’s legal and institutional frameworks and promote high standards of regional refugee protection. Within Southern Common Market, the presidents of the respective National Eligibility Commissions helped advance common asylum policies and develop improved protection standards.

In Colombia, the operational focus was on enabling the transition from immediate assistance to longer-term solutions for displaced populations through the Transition Solutions Initiative, a joint project between UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Initiative had potential to further assist victims of forced displacement in regaining their rights as citizens. In Costa Rica, Colombian refugees were integrated locally or appeared to be less dependent on aid. With the support of UNHCR partner Asociación de Consultores y Asesores Internacionales in San José, the Office implemented the “graduation

approach”, which sought to “graduate” people out of poverty in rural or urban areas through a sequenced combination of livelihoods provisioning, capacity-building and microfinance.

Protection at sea posed a challenge for Caribbean States and Territories, which struggled to patrol their extensive maritime boundaries and provide protection safeguards for asylum seekers and others with protection needs in mixed flows. The Caribbean, however, committed to enhancing protection standards by establishing a regional consultative mechanism, which aimed to support the progressive establishment of asylum systems and procedures that identified and assisted different groups at risk; guarantee access to refugee status determination procedures; and provide alternatives to detention for asylum seekers and children. Trinidad and Tobago set an example by adopting, in 2014, a new refugee policy, including a three-year phased strategy to assume full responsibility for refugee status determination and protection. The number of asylum seekers doubled to nearly 500 in the Caribbean, a sub-region that struggled to provide an effective response across such a large geographical area. Another concern for the Caribbean was statelessness, with hundreds of thousands in the Dominican Republic who had been denied their nationality following a constitutional court ruling in 2013. Despite Dominican authorities’ efforts to restore nationality for some, an effective solution for all had not yet been found.

In 2014, Panama issued permanent residence documents to approximately 400 Colombians, who had previously benefitted from temporary protection status in the Darién province of the country for the past 15 years. To help respond to the influx of new arrivals to the United States—mainly unaccompanied children from Central America—UNHCR supported improved access to asylum procedures and legal representation. The Office further advocated for alternatives to detention and alternative refugee status determination mechanisms. In March, a report entitled *Children on the Run*, which reflected the findings of research undertaken at the southern border of the United States, was launched. The report concluded that most unaccompanied children apprehended were found to be in need of international protection. In Venezuela, a work plan enabled authorities to register many asylum seekers, allowing them to access asylum procedures and benefit from a rising recognition rate of nearly 20 per cent. More than 56,000 refugees were resettled in Canada and the United States. Solidarity resettlement countries, such as Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, offered to resettle nearly 120 refugees. In 2014, approximately 10 per cent of all resettled Syrians were living in the Americas, mainly in Brazil, Canada, Uruguay and the United States.

The region’s 2014 budget approved by the Executive Committee in 2013 amounted to \$110.4 million. As the budget did not increase significantly

in the course of the year, a reprioritization exercise was conducted to address displacement in Central America; strengthen programmes for child protection in Mexico and protection monitoring in Honduras; and promote durable solutions in Colombia, Costa Rica and Ecuador. Total expenditure in 2014 stood at \$61.1 million for a population of concern of 7.3 million. Lack of funding prevented a stronger protection response to the needs of people in mixed migratory movements in the Caribbean.

Asia and the Pacific

By the end of 2014, some 8.7 million people of concern to UNHCR were living in the Asia and the Pacific region, including 3.6 million refugees, 2.7 million IDPs and more than 1.5 million stateless people. Most countries and territories in the region continued to uphold their traditions of hospitality towards refugees and displaced people, although only 20 out of 45 States had acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

The majority of refugees in the region were from Afghanistan and Myanmar. There were nearly 2.6 million Afghan refugees across the world, but the vast majority were in the neighbouring Iran and Pakistan. In addition, there were an estimated 2 million unregistered Afghans in these two countries. The voluntary return of Afghan had decreased significantly in the previous few years and had reached a historical low in 2014. Inside Myanmar, approximately 370,000 people remained displaced in Rakhine and Kachin States, and in the south-east of the country. Moreover, an estimated 810,000 people were without citizenship in Rakhine State. There were also approximately 265,000 refugees of different ethnicities, originating from Myanmar, who were displaced in neighbouring countries.

Around 75 per cent of refugees—2.7 million people—in the Asia and Pacific region were living in urban or semi-urban areas. Displaced people in urban situations were generally more vulnerable than camp populations and had a different set of protection needs, which were often not adequately addressed. For example, because they were not confined to a camp, many lacked documentation and were at risk of arrest, detention and deportation. Lack of documentation prevented them from legally accessing the labour market, and therefore they were more likely to become victims of labour exploitation. Women and adolescent girls were particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Because of inadequate protection, unequal access to education and livelihoods, and the lack of solutions, increasing numbers of people were undertaking dangerous journeys by sea, making irregular migration a key issue facing the Asia and the Pacific region. In 2014, some 63,000 people undertook irregular maritime journeys, the majority departing

from the Bay of Bengal bound for Malaysia and Thailand. Hundreds of others followed routes through the Indian Ocean from South Asia and Indonesia to Australia, and across the Strait of Malacca from Malaysia to Indonesia. UNHCR received reports of 750 people who allegedly died at sea in South-East Asia in 2014, due to starvation, dehydration or ill treatment on board vessels. Those who arrived were malnourished and traumatized as a result of mistreatment at the hands of smugglers.

After 40 years, the UNHCR office in Viet Nam closed at the end of June and the coverage of its activities was assumed by the Regional Office in Bangkok as of 1 July. UNHCR carried out refugee status determination in countries without national eligibility procedures and continued to work on addressing the root causes of irregular movements, improving protection standards and seeking adequate solutions through closer multilateral cooperation in the region. In Bangkok, the Office established a Maritime Monitoring Unit tasked with compiling and reporting periodical statistics related to the irregular maritime departures. The Office and the Government of Indonesia co-chaired a workshop to assess the implementation of the 2013 Jakarta Declaration on Addressing Irregular Movement of Persons [YUN 2013, p. 1164]. In Central Asia, UNHCR promoted protection-sensitive border management in line with the 2013 Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration (Almaty Process). Almaty Process member States expressed concern over inadequate emergency preparedness, and agreed to establish national mechanisms for the identification and referral of people in need of international protection.

Under the joint Pakistan-UNHCR Refugee-Affected and Hosting Areas programme, over 1,000 projects were carried out throughout Pakistan in education, health, environment, social protection, water and sanitation, livelihood, and infrastructure sectors in 2014. The main objective of the programme was to promote tolerance towards Afghan refugees in hosting communities in Pakistan. In Myanmar, UNHCR prepared for the return of IDPs and refugees to the country's south-east. In the Philippines, the Strategic Response Plan for Typhoon Haiyan ended in August, following the Government's decision to phase out the humanitarian response coordination structures in favour of State-led recovery systems.

In June, the International Conference on Migration and Statelessness in Ashgabat, hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan and co-organized by IOM and UNHCR, addressed regional challenges and identified best practices for reducing and preventing statelessness, and improving migration management. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan had taken practical steps towards resolving statelessness in their respective countries. Through funding provided by the "Seeds for Solutions" initiative, those countries

registered and documented people of undetermined nationality, provided access to legal counselling, strengthened the capacity of local and national authorities, engaged in outreach and information campaigns, and undertook legislative reform.

In 2014, UNHCR spent \$269.4 million on some 8.7 million people of concern in Asia and the Pacific.

Middle East and North Africa

In 2014, the worsening humanitarian situation in and around Syria was compounded by an escalation of violence in Iraq. Syrians had become the largest refugee population under the UNHCR mandate, with an estimated 3.7 million in the Middle East and North Africa region at the end of the year. UNHCR coordinated the implementation of and reporting on the 2014 Syria Regional Response Plan, under which more than 150 participating organizations responded to the needs of Syrian refugees and members of host communities in the five main refugee host countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey). UNHCR, along with UNDP, also led the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2015–2016, a regional strategy in support of the same countries issued at the end of the year.

Inside Syria, 12.2 million people needed humanitarian assistance at the end of 2014, including 7.6 million IDPs. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2165(2014) (see p. 583), UNHCR strengthened its coordination and operational response capacity in Jordan and Turkey to assist those most in need in Syria. On 28 October, the Conference on the Syrian Refugee Situation: Supporting Stability in the Region was organized in Berlin with the support of the United Nations. Conference participants adopted the Berlin Communiqué on solidarity with refugees and their hosts [A/69/630], which pointed out the necessity of a political solution to the Syrian conflict as the most important prerequisite for lasting peace and the return of the refugees to their homes.

At the end of 2014, there were more than 200,000 Iraqi refugees being hosted in the region, more than half of whom were newly registered during the year due to the increasing violence in Iraq. Following the declaration of a system-wide level 3 emergency in Iraq in August, UNHCR launched an expanded operation to bring relief supplies by air, land and sea—the largest single aid distribution organized by UNHCR in more than a decade, targeting half a million IDPs.

In Yemen, the political impasse deteriorated into renewed conflict, leading to new displacement in 2014. UNHCR continued to provide life-saving assistance and critical protection to both IDPs and refugees wherever possible. At the end of the year, there were more than 330,000 IDPs and approximately 248,000 refugees in the country. Yemen also continued to be a destination and transit country for people travelling as part of irregular mixed movements.

The security situation in Libya remained volatile. Nearly 37,000 refugees and asylum seekers were registered with UNHCR, the majority from Syria and the rest from more than 30 other countries. Libya also remained a major transit country for migrants and asylum seekers wanting to travel across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.

The Middle East and North Africa continued to be a region of origin, destination and transit for refugees and migrants. Trafficking and smuggling, as well as loss of life at sea, remained of serious concern. North Africa was particularly affected by irregular mixed movements, including of people in transit to Europe. UNHCR worked on developing standard operating procedures for protection and assistance following disembarkation after rescue at sea operations, and on strengthening institutional protection mechanisms.

UNHCR continued to call on the international community to remain engaged in the Western Sahara refugee situation: Sahrawi refugees living in camps near Tindouf, Algeria, had been displaced for 40 years and were increasingly vulnerable.

Partnerships continued to be crucial in the region and the UNHCR partnership with countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf resulted in substantial support for the Syria situation and other humanitarian responses. Collaboration with the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation also expanded significantly in 2014.

Several countries in North Africa continued to work towards establishing national asylum legislation, including Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. UNHCR also significantly strengthened its capacity to ensure the efficient registration of refugees upon arrival in the countries of asylum. In 2014, almost 745,000 people were registered in the Middle East and North Africa. UNHCR and partners assisted national authorities in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence (sgbv) by promoting gender equality, supporting national protection systems and community-based interventions, improving data collection and analysis, and strengthening advocacy. In countries hosting Syrian refugees, more than 66,300 survivors of sgbv received specialist support in 2014.

In 2014, in coordination with host Governments, more than 174,000 Syrian refugee children and some 17,600 Iraqi refugee children received support from UNHCR to enrol in primary education. Particular attention was also given to health services, with 270 health facilities offering specialized and emergency care for Syrian refugee families being constructed or maintained across the region. With more than 2 million new Iraqi IDPs in 2014, the delivery of basic humanitarian assistance and services was a considerable challenge. UNHCR efforts were focused within the protection, shelter/non-food items, and camp coordination and camp management clusters. Ten IDP camps

were built in different parts of Iraq, including seven in the Kurdistan Region. UNHCR distributed over 64,000 kits of core relief items and 19,100 emergency shelters to internally displaced Iraqi families.

In 2014, UNHCR spent \$1.2 billion on 15.6 million people of concern.

Europe

In 2014, the number of people of concern to UNHCR in Europe rose significantly. By the end of the year, Turkey had registered more than 1.7 million Syrian refugees and had received around 87,800 non-Syrian asylum seekers. The Russian Federation received more than 235,000 applications for refugee status and temporary asylum, primarily from Ukraine. The 28 member States of the EU together recorded more than 570,800 asylum claims, a 44 per cent increase from 2013 (396,700). Five countries received almost 70 per cent of all applications—Germany (173,100), Sweden (75,100), Italy (63,100), France (59,000) and Hungary (41,400). The largest number of asylum applications (120,600) came from Syrian nationals, who accounted for 22 per cent of all new applications in the EU. Other top countries of origin included Serbia and Kosovo (54,600), Afghanistan (38,100) and Eritrea (36,300). A positive development in 2014 was the increasing number of Syrians who were granted refugee status when compared with the number granted subsidiary protection, reversing the previous trend, with 19 countries having regular resettlement programmes.

During the year, in addition to hosting 1.7 million Syrian refugees, Turkey also saw the arrival of tens of thousands of Iraqi refugees fleeing increasing violence in Iraq. UNHCR continued to provide policy and technical support to the Government of Turkey through advocacy, coordination and capacity-building efforts in areas such as registration, access to territory, documentation, legal counselling and management of urban refugee caseloads.

In 2014 in Ukraine, the number of people internally displaced reached 823,000 and significant numbers of Ukrainians crossed an international border in search of safety.

During the year, the movement of refugees and migrants across the Mediterranean Sea towards Europe continued to take a high toll on human lives: some 3,500 people died or were reported missing in the Mediterranean in 2014, compared to 600 in 2013. The number of people arriving by sea almost quadrupled, from 60,000 in 2013 to more than 218,000 in 2014, half of whom were from Eritrea and Syria. Most of the 170,100 people who disembarked in Italy were rescued by the Italian Navy operation “Mare Nostrum”. Through the Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative, UNHCR proposed guidance for joint European action based on the principles of solidarity,

responsibility-sharing and protection for those fleeing persecution and violence, while stressing the need for a joint European search-and-rescue effort, and for the provision of credible legal alternatives to dangerous irregular movements.

The Office remained concerned about reports of asylum seekers being forced back or prevented from accessing territory and procedures in some European countries, and called for these practices to cease immediately. It also called on States of disembarkation to improve the systematic identification of people with international protection needs rescued at sea, as well as reception conditions. The Office encouraged the comprehensive use of the 2003 Dublin Regulation (on ensuring quick access to asylum procedures) to facilitate the transfer of some asylum seekers to other EU countries, including for the purpose of family unity. Following a temporary halt of transfers to Bulgaria under the Dublin Regulation in early 2014, Bulgaria acted to redress certain systemic deficiencies in its reception conditions and asylum procedures, and by April, transfers to Bulgaria resumed.

In spite of increased awareness of the problem of statelessness, more than 600,000 people throughout Europe continued to live without a nationality due to combination of legal, administrative and/or practical factors. In 2014, UNHCR priorities in Europe were to ensure access to territory and asylum procedures; improve the quality of asylum systems, including for people with specific needs; prevent loss of life at sea; secure durable solutions, including by preventing and resolving situations of statelessness; and strengthen the Office's external relations and resource mobilization support. As part of those endeavours, the Office published a report entitled *Syrian Refugees in Europe: What Europe Can Do to Ensure Protection and Solidarity*, urging European countries to do more to help Syrian refugees who were in growing numbers seeking safety in Europe.

The Office worked closely with the EU border agency Frontex, both bilaterally and as the Chair of the Frontex Consultative Forum. This included supporting the Vega Children initiative to enhance the detection and protection of child victims of smuggling and trafficking at EU airports. UNHCR also continued to advocate for alternatives to detention in law and practice, particularly in countries that routinely detained asylum seekers, and welcomed the participation of Hungary, Lithuania, Malta and the United Kingdom as focus countries for the implementation of its *Beyond Detention* strategy.

UNHCR also provided assistance to Governments in seeking durable solutions for people displaced from Kosovo. In Serbia, it supported the development of a durable solutions strategy for some 90,000 vulnerable displaced people. It also continued to promote the voluntary return and reintegration of minority

groups of displaced people willing to return from Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In Georgia, UNHCR advocated for improved access to livelihoods and Government-run housing solutions for some 90,000 IDPs in need. In Azerbaijan, it advocated a rights-based approach to government housing and assistance projects for IDPs.

In Ukraine, the Office worked with the Government, local authorities and NGOs to identify and respond to IDPs' immediate and long-term needs in the areas of protection monitoring, shelter and non-food item distribution; the inter-agency cluster approach was activated in December. At the end of the year, UNHCR also adopted the Strategy to Protect and Assist Persons Affected by the Conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

During the year, UNHCR spent \$209.3 million for the region—\$129.6 million in Eastern Europe, \$26.5 million in South-Eastern Europe, and \$53.2 million in Northern, Western, Central and Southern Europe—on a total population of 6.5 million persons.

Policy development and cooperation

Partnerships and coordination

According to the High Commissioner's annual report [A/70/12], the Office collaborated with nearly 910 partners; 720 were NGOs, and almost 75 per cent of those were national or local NGOs. NGOs also received approximately 75 per cent of the \$1.32 billion in funds disbursed by UNHCR to partners during the year. The World Food Programme remained one of the UNHCR most important operational partners, including in the increasing use of cash- and voucher-based assistance. The Office expanded its partnership with UNICEF, issuing revised guidance for country-level collaboration and establishing joint programmes on community-based health care, immunization and child protection in emergencies. Close coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization led to the adoption of a resolution requiring all newly issued travel documents for refugees and stateless persons to be machine-readable. UNHCR continued to invest significantly in partnerships with development actors, including the World Bank and UNDP, to enhance the complementarity of humanitarian and development actions from the start of displacement. Along with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office also issued the "Joint note on mixed situations: coordination in practice" in 2014 to clarify roles and responsibilities in mixed internal displacement and refugee situations. The Office continued to roll out the Refugee Coordination Model, which standardized UNHCR best practices from the field, while regional refugee coordinators led the responses for all the largest refugee emergencies, including the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Syria.

Evaluation activities

At its sixty-fifth session, the Executive Committee had before it a report [A/AC.96/1139] of the High Commissioner that reviewed the activities of the Policy Development and Evaluation Service (PDES) from mid-2013 to mid-2014 related to protection, emergency response and durable solutions. In the area of protection, PDES completed a comprehensive review of the UNHCR role in assisting States with the assumption of responsibility for refugee status determination. In the context of emergency response, the Office commissioned independent evaluations of its utilization of the Central Emergency Response Fund, as well as its response to the Syrian refugee emergency in Jordan and Lebanon. Work on solutions included a review of the UNHCR engagement with assisted voluntary return programmes and of the strategic use of resettlement. The Office also commissioned and published reviews of the UNHCR policy and practice on voluntary repatriation and integration of resettled refugees in labour markets. Other issues reviewed included livelihoods programming and the UNHCR mental health and psychosocial support for persons of concern and for staff.

Inspections

At its sixty-fifth session, the Executive Committee had before it a report [A/AC.96/1138] of the High Commissioner activities of the Inspector General's Office from mid-2013 to mid-2014. During that period, the Office conducted four standard inspections of the UNHCR operations in Egypt, Italy and Pakistan and the Regional Support Hub in Kenya using multifunctional inspection teams. During the same period, the cycles for five inspections conducted in 2011 and 2012 were closed. As at 30 June 2014, the rate of compliance with the recommendations stood at 84 per cent.

In his annual report [A/70/12], the High Commissioner indicated that, starting with the 2014 projects, the Office had changed to a risk-based approach to auditing projects implemented by partners using UNHCR funds, and, in November, issued simplified procedures for procurement undertaken by implementing partners in order to align them with the UNHCR own procurement policies and procedures. In December, UNHCR and the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) signed a revised memorandum of understanding to strengthen arrangements for internal audit services. A cross-functional working group was established to assess the strength of the organization's fraud prevention. The Independent Audit and Oversight Committee continued to assist the High Commissioner and the Executive Committee in exercising their oversight responsibilities, focusing on issues including internal audit, inspection, evaluation, fraud prevention, personal accountability and enterprise

risk management. An NGO Investigation Specialist Roster, administered on behalf of the Office and its NGO partners by the Danish Refugee Council, was also launched in December to strengthen accountability and performance quality among the UNHCR NGO partners by carrying out investigations, at short notice, for NGO partners that lacked their own investigative capacity.

OIOS activities. In July, OIOS submitted to the Executive Committee a report [A/AC.96/1137] on its internal audit of UNHCR for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 in the areas of staffing and budget resources; cooperation and coordination; and disclosure of audit reports.

CPC consideration. At its twentieth meeting [A/69/16], on 13 June, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017. The Committee also had before it a conference room paper on the topic [E/AC.51/2014/CRP.1]. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve programme 21, subject to a number of modifications indicated in the report.

Financial questions

The annual budget of UNHCR for 2014 amounted to \$6.6 billion, comprising an initial budget of \$5.3 billion approved by the Executive Committee in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1168] and almost \$1.3 billion for eight supplementary budgets subsequently created to address unforeseen emergency needs. Contributions from donors in 2014 reached a record \$3.3 billion, with 53.4 per cent of voluntary contributions provided by its top three donors and 82.2 per cent by top 10 donors. UNHCR received \$208.2 million from private donors, surpassing \$200 million for the first time and constituting a three-fold increase as compared to 2009. The IKEA Foundation remained the largest private-sector partner, contributing \$29 million in 2014. Expenditures during the year totalled \$3.35 billion, with \$1.1 billion spent in Africa; \$1.2 billion in North Africa and the Middle East; \$269 million in Asia and the Pacific; \$209 million in Europe and \$61 million in the Americas.

As at 2014, the biennial programme budget of the Office presented the consolidated budgetary requirements based on a global needs assessment of persons of concern to the Office. Subsequent to the approval of the budget by the Executive Committee, a global appeal was launched for fundraising purposes. The High Commissioner authorized the allocation of funds for the implementation of programmes and projects based on the availability of funds. During the implementation period, the High Commissioner might revise the budget with supplementary budgets that were normally funded through additional

appeals. In the first year of the biennium, the High Commissioner submitted to the Executive Committee the revised biennial budget, which updated the requirement for the first year and revised the requirements for the second year.

Biennial programme budget 2014–2015. In a September report [A/AC.96/1136 & Corr.1, Add.1], the High Commissioner revised the estimates of the biennial programme budget for 2014–2015 and requested the Executive Committee to approve the revised requirements. As at 30 June 2014, the budget for 2014 amounted to \$6,236.2 million, representing an increase of \$928.4 million, or 17.5 per cent, against the original 2014 budget approved in October 2013 of \$5,307.8 million. According to UNHCR, this increase was mainly due to the establishment of five supplementary budgets for South Sudan (\$415.9 million), the Syria situation (\$289.3 million), the CAR situation (\$150.8 million), the Iraq situation (\$59.9 million) and the mainstreaming of the emergency/non-food item project in the Sudan (\$12.5 million). In a September report [A/AC.96/1136/Add.1], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) provided its comments and recommendations on the UNHCR revised biennial programme budget for 2014–2015.

In October, the Executive Committee approved total revised requirements for 2014 amounting to \$6,236,218,896, and approved the programmes and budgets for regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters amounting to \$6,234,449,630 for 2015.

Accounts (2013). The audited financial statements of voluntary funds administered by UNHCR for the year ending 31 December 2013 [A/69/5/Add.6] showed a total expenditure of \$2.7 billion and a total income of \$3.2 billion, with a net surplus of \$460 million.

Key findings of the Board of Auditors covered issues relating to financial matters, internal audit arrangements, the Syrian situation, health services, implementing partners and counter-fraud measures. The Board noted that multiple refugee crises in 2013 reached levels unseen in the previous decade. In Jordan, the Board found that UNHCR had handled the Syrian situation well, but that more flexible employment practices might have enabled it to respond more quickly. There were good examples of local flexibility and innovative practices, for example, the local procurement of biometric registration systems and enhanced use of cash payments to reach urban beneficiaries. Such approaches, however, created new risks and required different and tailored controls. The provision of health services by UNHCR met a good standard, although scope existed to use available health data to improve strategic planning and target resources on local health priorities as well as to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of interventions. UNHCR had used International Public Sector

Accounting Standards-based financial information to improve financial management in some areas, such as inventory management, but there remained scope to further review asset holdings. Counter-fraud measures also required a substantial degree of further development. The Board recommended, *inter alia*, that UNHCR establish appropriate target levels for inventory holdings and other assets; review and further refine its methodology for allocating costs across programme and management categories; evaluate the performance of the biometric registration procedures implemented in Jordan, with a view to providing a standard global system for the biometric identification and registration of refugees; explore whether greater use could be made of partner agreements extending beyond 12 months; adopt more widely a flexible approach to emergency staffing, including the contracting of staff from other organizations; and require country offices to explicitly refer to the main burdens of disease when bidding for health programme resources, to achieve a clearer balance between local needs and global strategic priorities.

In July [A/AC.96/1135 & Corr.1], the High Commissioner submitted a note to the Executive Committee on accounts for the year 2013, as contained in the report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly (see above). In a September note [A/AC.96/1135/Add.1], the High Commissioner reported on measures taken in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for 2013.

Management and administrative matters

At the September session of the Standing Committee [A/AC.96/1141], the Director of the Division of Human Resources Management presented the report on human resources issues, including staff security [EC/65/SC/CRP.20]. She remarked on the challenges of human resources management for an organization that must respond across the globe to rapidly evolving emergencies, as well as support ongoing protracted crises, and whose staff were fully mobile, working in remote and often dangerous locations, frequently separated from their families. She elaborated on some of the tensions the Office must reconcile in supporting the people who served the forcibly displaced and ensuring that they had the personal and professional capacities needed to deliver on the UNHCR mandate.

UNHCR worked in 124 countries with some 458 offices worldwide. As at 1 August, the organization had 9,036 staff, of whom 8,000 were working in the field. In the period from 1 August 2013 through 31 July 2014, UNHCR advertised approximately 1,031 positions and processed 1,278 requests for temporary assistance. To enhance workforce diversity and capacity, the Talent Outreach and Acquisition Section was established in Budapest, Hungary, in January 2014 with the ob-

jective of strengthening the Office's outreach strategy and recruitment processes. This change had already been initiated in mid-2013, with the launch of the Entry Level Humanitarian Programme. Also in January, the sixth annual meeting of the Staff Management Consultative Council (SMCC) discussed staff support and welfare, and reviewed progress on prior SMCC recommendations and formulated 16 priority recommendations to the High Commissioner. In the first half of the year, individual support provided by the

Staff Welfare Section to staff included 2,662 therapeutic actions in 88 operations worldwide, with the majority of requests made by individuals serving in duty stations with difficult conditions of life and work. The largest category of individual interventions related to working conditions, including work-related stress that interfered with a sense of well-being. New draft policies on UNHCR-provided accommodation in the field and on environmental and occupational health and safety were under consideration.

Health, food and nutrition

In 2014, the United Nations continued to promote health, food security and nutrition worldwide. In response to the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa, which on 8 August the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a public health emergency of international concern, the Secretary-General appointed the United Nations System Senior Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease as well as the Deputy Ebola Coordinator and Operation Crisis Manager and announced the formation of the Global Ebola Response Coalition to ensure integrated support to affected countries, while helping prevent the spread of the disease to other countries. The Security Council then convened in September an emergency session on the public health crisis. By resolution 2177(2014), the Council declared the Ebola outbreak a threat to international peace and security and called on Member States and UN entities to respond urgently. In turn, by resolution 69/1, the General Assembly addressed measures to contain and combat the Ebola outbreak. The international response to contain the outbreak, treat the infected, ensure essential services and preserve stability was coordinated by the newly established United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola.

In the area of HIV/AIDS, data from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) indicated that there had been a decline in new infections globally from 3.4 million in 2001 to 2.1 million in 2013, a decrease of 38 per cent. AIDS-related deaths had decreased by 35 per cent over the past eight years (from a peak of 2.3 million in 2005 to 1.5 million in 2013). In spite of those gains, HIV/AIDS remained a serious challenge. In some regions, new infections continued to rise and AIDS-related deaths continued unabated. UNAIDS urged the international community to prioritize HIV/AIDS in the post-2015 development agenda and aim at ambitious targets.

According to WHO, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) were the leading cause of death and disability worldwide, and progress in combating them remained uneven between developed and developing countries. Eighty per cent of NCD fatalities occurred in developing countries, largely due to inadequate technical capacity and financial resources within those countries.

In April, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank convened the third high-level

meeting of the Sanitation and Water for All global partnership, at which 55 countries, donors and banks made more than 370 new specific commitments towards ensuring adequate water and sanitation for all. As malaria remained a serious global health challenge, WHO rolled out a new global malaria strategy that set new targets in alignment with the post-2015 development agenda. As at the end of 2014, 179 States and the European Union had become parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, of which 80 per cent had adopted or strengthened tobacco control legislation after ratifying the Convention.

Complex emergencies caused by conflicts and large-scale population displacement continued to have serious implications for food security. The World Food Programme (WFP) concurrently responded to six Level 2 and six Level 3 emergencies, including severe and complex emergencies in the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan and Syria. In total, WFP provided food assistance for 80 million people in 82 countries, most of them women and children. The Programme received its highest-ever level of voluntary contributions, totalling \$5.38 billion, 79 per cent of which was directed to emergencies.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), during the period 2012–14, 805 million people worldwide were chronically undernourished—209 million fewer than in the period 1990–1992. The Millennium Development Goals hunger target of halving the proportion of undernourished people in developing countries by 2015 was within reach; however, the developing world was not on track to achieve the World Food Summit target of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. Thirty-three countries—26 in Africa and 7 in Asia—remained in need of food assistance owing to conflict, crop failures, high domestic food prices or a combination of those factors.

The Second International Conference on Nutrition, organized by FAO and WHO, resulted in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition committing world leaders to establish national policies for eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and transforming food systems so as to make nutritious diets available to all.

The year 2014 was the International Year of Family Farming, which focused global attention on the significant role of family and smallholder farming in ensuring food security and poverty alleviation.

Health

AIDS prevention and control

Implementation of Declaration of Commitment and Political Declaration

Report of Secretary-General. In April, the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/68/825] to the General Assembly on progress made towards achieving the 2015 targets outlined in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS [YUN 2011, p. 1135]. He noted that new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths globally were declining. The estimated number of new HIV infections globally dropped from 3.4 million in 2001 to 2.3 million in 2012—a decline of 33 per cent—while the annual number of AIDS-related deaths dropped from 2.3 million in 2005 to 1.6 million in 2012—a decline of 30 per cent. The number of children newly infected with HIV in 2012 was 260,000—a 52 per cent drop compared to 2001 and a 35 per cent drop over the preceding three years. In an encouraging sign of the sustainability of the AIDS response, many Governments, including those in low- and middle-income countries, were taking steps to increase domestic public sector financing for HIV-related activities.

Those positive global trends notwithstanding, not all regions and population groups reported progress. New HIV infections continued to increase in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, while the pace of AIDS-related deaths in those regions continued unabated. As at December 2012, an estimated 35.3 million people worldwide were living with HIV. Of the 35.3 million cases, 25.1 million, or 71 per cent, were in sub-Saharan Africa, as were 70 per cent of the cases of new HIV global infections and 75 per cent of AIDS-related global deaths. Women comprised 50 per cent of people living with HIV worldwide, and an estimated 58 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. Outside sub-Saharan Africa, the largest concentration of people living with HIV was in the Asia-Pacific region with 4.8 million people, of whom 36 per cent were women.

Progress in the HIV response effort continued to be held back by the limited availability of antiretroviral drugs in many regions, as well as by HIV-related stigma, discrimination, and punitive laws and practices. As at December 2012, lifesaving antiretroviral treatment had reached only about one in three eligible people worldwide. Access to HIV treatment remained extremely low in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and was also notably lower in West and Central Africa compared to Eastern and Southern Africa. Children were roughly half as likely as adults to obtain antiretroviral therapy, while HIV-related mortality rates among adolescents increased by 50 per cent since 2005. Surveys conducted in 35 countries through

the People Living with HIV Stigma Index indicated that discriminatory behaviour towards people living with HIV remained relatively common. Punitive legal frameworks also continued to undermine effective action to address the HIV-related needs of key populations. In 2013, 63 countries maintained HIV-specific provisions that allowed for the prosecution of HIV non-disclosure, exposure and/or transmission. Most countries retained laws that criminalized some aspect of sex work, and in some regions, introduced new punitive laws that further criminalized and/or limited the freedom of association and expression of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender populations.

The Secretary-General recommended that Governments, civil society, international donors, the UN system and other key partners implement a series of joint actions to enhance the AIDS response effort. He highlighted the need to expedite progress towards the 2015 targets; ensure equitable and non-discriminatory access to HIV services for all persons; end punitive laws and law enforcement that acted as barriers to health and HIV services and replace them with protective ones; develop new, ambitious targets to end the AIDS epidemic; and integrate the HIV response as a development priority in the post-2015 agenda (see p. 960).

On 30 June (**decision 68/555**), the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained therein as input for consideration in the discussions on formulating the post-2015 development agenda. It decided to convene a high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2016, preferably in the second half of the year, and to undertake the necessary consultations to determine the modalities and organizational arrangements for such a meeting during its seventieth session, but no later than December 2015. On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the item entitled “Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)—the main advocate for global action on HIV/AIDS—had eleven co-sponsors in 2014: the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.

Programme Coordinating Board

The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), at its thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth meetings (Geneva, 1–3 July and 9–11 December) [UNAIDS/PCB (33)/13.23; UNAIDS/PCB (34)/14.16.rev.1], considered the report of its Executive Director; the report of the chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations; and the performance and financial reports for 2012–2013.

At the thirty-fourth meeting, the Executive Director summarized the latest UNAIDS data as featured in the *Global report: UNAIDS report on the global aids epidemic 2013*. The data indicated that worldwide there had been a 33 per cent decrease in new HIV infections since 2001, a 30 per cent decrease in AIDS-related mortality since 2005, and a 52 per cent decline in new HIV infections among children since 2001. More than 9.7 million people were accessing HIV treatment at the end of 2012. Significant challenges remained, however: only one out of every three children had access to HIV treatment; just 24 per cent of people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa had an undetectable viral load; 50 young women worldwide were infected with HIV every hour; and new infections were on the rise in several regions and countries. The Board further considered, *inter alia*, an update on the AIDS response in the post-2015 development agenda [UNAIDS/PCB (34)/14.4] and the issue of HIV, adolescents and youth [UNAIDS/PCB (34)/14.5]. At that same meeting, the Board confirmed Australia as Chair and elected Zimbabwe as Vice Chair for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2014. The Board also requested UNAIDS to intensify its coordinated technical support to Governments, civil society and key populations, and to report to the thirty-fifth PCB meeting on concrete actions taken to reduce stigma and discrimination in all its forms, consistent with the United Nations High Level Political Declarations of 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 1411] and 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 1135], as well as the UNAIDS 2011–2015 Strategy: Getting to Zero [YUN 2010, p. 1222].

At the thirty-fifth meeting, the Executive Director reported that notable gains had been made towards the vision of zero HIV/AIDS discrimination and other goals, but that key challenges remained. He highlighted the urgent need to transform HIV/AIDS data collection and analysis processes, and to address the social, political and economic drivers of HIV. Having taken note of the report of the Executive Director, the Board further considered, *inter alia*, an update on the AIDS response in the post-2015 development agenda [UNAIDS/PCB (35)/14.20] and the issues of universal access [UNAIDS/PCB (35)/14.22]; paediatric HIV treatment, care and support [UNAIDS/PCB (35)/14.23]; and actions to reduce stigma and discrimination [UNAIDS/PCB (35)/14.24 rev.1]. The Board requested UNAIDS to develop the next phase AIDS strategy beginning in 2018, and to hold, before the end of 2014, a financing dialogue to ensure predictable and sustained funding. The Board also took

note of the Report of the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations and its emphasis on responding to HIV among people who injected drugs in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and other regions, as well as on the Committee's partnerships with civil society.

In July, UNDP and UNFPA submitted a joint report [DP/2014/24-DP/FPA/2014/16 & Corr.1] (see p. 1218) that addressed the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the thirty-second and thirty-third PCB meetings that had been held in June and December 2013.

Gap report

In July, UNAIDS released the *Gap report* containing the latest HIV/AIDS data and serving as a follow-up to the 2013 UNAIDS *Global report*. According to the *Gap report*, there were 2.1 million new HIV infections worldwide in 2013—a decline of 38 per cent from the 2001 figure of 3.4 million. In the preceding three years alone, new HIV infections had dropped by 13 per cent. The number of children newly infected with HIV in 2013 stood at 240,000—a 58 per cent decrease from the 2002 peak of 580,000 children. Access to antiretroviral medicines for pregnant women living with HIV had averted more than 900,000 new HIV infections among children since 2009. Globally, there had been a decline in HIV/AIDS related deaths: in 2013, there were 1.5 million deaths—a decrease of 35 per cent from the 2005 peak—and in the preceding three years alone, AIDS-related deaths had fallen by 19 per cent. UNAIDS estimated that \$19.1 billion was invested in the AIDS response in low- and middle-income countries in 2013, an increase of about \$250 million over the amounts invested in 2012. The increase was largely driven by domestic investments by countries themselves after international HIV/AIDS assistance had flattened in the preceding years.

The *Gap report* highlighted several opportunities to address challenges and potentially turn the tide of the AIDS epidemic. New HIV infections continued to rise in some regions; fifteen countries accounted for more than 75 per cent of the 2.1 million new HIV infections that occurred in 2013. Many of those countries were in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where 0.6 per cent of adults were living with HIV; the Middle East and North Africa, where new infections had increased by 31 per cent since 2001; and Western Europe and North America, where new infections had increased by 6 per cent over that same period. Twenty-two million people, or three in five people living with HIV, were still not accessing antiretroviral therapy.

In order to achieve the 2015 global AIDS targets, UNAIDS recommended identifying and addressing HIV/AIDS medicine stock-outs in real time; tracking HIV treatment policy implementation; and projecting future trends to identify countries that were not on track. The report also outlined eight action points for ending the AIDS epidemic, including protecting human

rights; investing in communities; focusing on local epidemics and populations; decentralizing delivery of HIV services; expanding the choices for HIV prevention and treatment; integrating HIV programmes with other health and development programmes; and innovating and investing in science for a cure and a vaccine.

Non-communicable diseases

Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Inter-Agency Task Force. On 7 April, in response to General Assembly resolution 66/2 [YUN 2011, p. 1146] and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/12 [YUN 2013, p. 1174], the Secretary-General submitted to the Council a report [E/2014/55] by the WHO Director General on progress achieved since July 2013 by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), as proposed in an earlier report of the Director General [ibid.]. Annexed thereto was the report of the first meeting (Geneva, 2–3 October 2013) of the Task Force to develop draft terms of reference for consideration by Member States at a formal meeting convened by WHO (Geneva, 13–14 November 2013), including a division of tasks and responsibilities for UN funds, programmes and agencies and other international organizations.

At its second meeting on 29 and 30 January 2014, the Task Force designed a joint work plan for the 2014–2015 period to ensure policy coherence and accountability among UN organizations in their implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan for NCDs 2013–2020 [YUN 2013, p. 1174]. The Director General recommended that the Council continue to encourage Member States to implement the Global Action Plan; and that the Council adopt the Inter-Agency Task Force Terms of Reference, taking into account the recommendations of the 134th WHO Executive Board session and the sixty-seventh World Health Assembly (see p. 1366).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 13 May [meeting 85], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/271** [draft: A/68/L.45] without vote [agenda item 118].

Scope and modalities of the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

The General Assembly,

Recalling the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and in particular paragraph 65, by which it decided to hold a comprehensive review and assessment in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

Recognizing the continued negative impact of non-communicable diseases, including the socioeconomic and

development challenges faced by all countries, in particular low- and middle-income countries, and the need for continued concerted action and a coordinated response, including monitoring of the progress at the national, regional and global levels,

Mindful of the need to maintain strong national, regional and international political commitment towards the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

1. *Decides* to convene a high-level meeting to undertake the comprehensive review and assessment on 10 and 11 July 2014, consisting of an opening plenary meeting on 10 July from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., followed by plenary meetings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and two consecutive round tables on 11 July from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by a closing plenary meeting from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.;

2. *Also decides* that the comprehensive review and assessment shall take stock of the progress made in implementing the commitments in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, identify and address gaps and reaffirm the political commitment in response to the challenge of non-communicable diseases;

3. *Further decides* that the speakers at the opening plenary meeting will be the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the World Health Organization, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and a representative of civil society who will be chosen by the President of the Assembly from among non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and in consultation with Member States;

4. *Decides* that the overall theme of the review will be “Taking stock of progress in implementing the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and scaling up multi-stakeholder and national multisectoral responses to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda”;

5. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the round tables will be as follows:

- (a) The specific themes of the round tables will be:
 - (i) Round table 1: “Strengthening national and regional capacities, including health systems, and effective multisectoral and whole-of-government responses for the prevention and control, including monitoring, of non-communicable diseases”;
 - (ii) Round table 2: “Fostering and strengthening national, regional and international partnerships and cooperation in support of efforts to address non-communicable diseases”;
- (b) Each round table will be co-chaired at the ministerial or high official level, with the co-chairs to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly;
- (c) Participation in each round table will include Member States, observers and representatives of entities of the United Nations system, civil society and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the private sector;

(d) In order to promote interactive and substantive discussions, there will be no pre-established list of speakers for the round tables;

6. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that may participate in the high-level meeting, including the round tables;

7. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the round tables, taking into account the principle of transparency and the principle of equitable geographic representation, and to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and bring the list to the attention of the Assembly;

8. *Decides* that the closing plenary meeting will comprise the presentation of summaries of the round tables and the adoption of a concise, focused, action-oriented outcome document, requests the President of the General Assembly to produce a draft text and to convene informal consultations as appropriate in order to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States, and also requests the President of the Assembly to appoint, as soon as possible, two co-facilitators for the consultation process;

9. *Notes* the ongoing regional multi-stakeholder consultations of the World Health Organization, regional commissions and other relevant agencies and their contributions to the preparations for the high-level meeting as well as to the meeting itself;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, no later than June 2014, in consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia, an informal interactive hearing with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to provide input to the comprehensive review and assessment;

11. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the review, including the list of speakers for the plenary meetings to be held on 10 July 2014, the identification of the civil society representative to speak at the opening plenary meeting, and the assignment of participants to the round tables, taking into account the level of representation as well as equitable geographical representation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 13 June [meeting 24], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/10** [draft: E/2014/L.13] without vote [agenda item 10 (f)].

United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2013/12 of 22 July 2013 on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 68/271 of 13 May 2014 on the scope and modalities of the

comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases to be held on 10 and 11 July 2014,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the Task Force,

Acknowledging that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases, principally cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, which are linked to four main risk factors, namely, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, an unhealthy diet and lack of physical activity, as well as the global burden of mental health issues constitute major challenges for the economic and social development of many Member States and may lead to increasing inequalities within and between countries and populations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the World Health Organization formal meeting of Member States to complete the work on the terms of reference for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, and the recommendation of the World Health Assembly to submit the proposed terms of reference to the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Endorses* the terms of reference for the Task Force, including a division of tasks and responsibilities for United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and other international organizations, as contained in the appendix to the above-mentioned report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its 2015 session on the implementation of its resolution 2013/12, and in this regard decides that, under the agenda item entitled “Coordination, programme and other questions”, the title of the sub-item “Tobacco or health” shall be revised to read “Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases”.

High-level meeting. In accordance with resolution 68/271 (see p. 1343), the General Assembly held a high-level meeting (New York, 10–11 July) to discuss progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs since the Millennium Summit [YUN 2000, p. 47]. The opening plenary included statements by the General Assembly President, the Secretary-General, the WHO Director General and the UNDP Administrator.

The Assembly President stated that developing countries had the political will to prevent and control NCDs, but were unsuccessful in doing so because they lacked the technical and financial resources needed to address the significant health and socioeconomic impact of NCDs. Development assistance dedicated to health amounted to approximately \$31 billion, of which only \$377 million was being directed towards NCDs. Integrating NCDs into bilateral and international development cooperation, as well as into national development agendas and prevention strategies, was critical for achieving better utilization of the billions of dollars in health development assistance. The Under-Secretary-General and Chef de Cabinet for the Executive Office of the Secretary-General delivered a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General,

who identified NCDs as a major and growing challenge to development. During the preceding three years, Governments had instituted more institutional, legal, financial and service arrangements to prevent and control NCDs. The Secretary-General hoped that the high-level meeting would help frame the concrete actions that countries had to take between 2014 and the third high-level meeting on NCDs in 2018.

The Director General of WHO highlighted the steps taken by Governments worldwide to combat NCDs. Of the 172 countries that reported data in 2014, 95 per cent had a unit or department in the Ministry of Health responsible for NCDs, and about half had instituted an integrated NCD operational plan with a dedicated budget. The proportion of countries conducting NCD risk factor surveys jumped from 30 per cent in 2011 to 63 per cent in 2013. The progress was highly uneven, however, as evidenced by a lack of capacity in the developing world, where 85 per cent of premature deaths from NCDs were occurring. NCDs had also overtaken infectious diseases as the world's leading cause of morbidity and mortality. The public health mindset needed a shift in focus from cure to prevention, and a transition to coordinated, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder action.

The UNDP Administrator stated that low- and middle-income countries were bearing the brunt of NCDs. For those countries, the economic cost of the four main NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes) was predicted to exceed \$7 trillion between 2011 and 2025, roughly equivalent to \$500 billion per year, or 4 per cent of the gross domestic product of low and middle-income countries as measured in 2010. UNDP welcomed ongoing discussions on proposed targets to reduce NCD-related mortality and strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control—the world's first international treaty on a health issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 July [meeting 100], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/300** [draft: A/68/L.53] without vote [agenda item 118].

Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

The General Assembly

Adopts the following outcome document:

Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

We, Ministers and representatives of States and Governments and heads of delegations, assembled at the United Nations on 10 and 11 July 2014 to take stock of the pro-

gress made in implementing the commitments set out in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/2 of 19 September 2011,

Intensifying our efforts towards a world free of the avoidable burden of non-communicable diseases

1. Reaffirm the political declaration, which has catalysed action and retains great potential for engendering sustainable improved health and human development outcomes;

2. Reaffirm our commitment to address the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases, which constitute one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century, undermine social and economic development throughout the world, threaten the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and may lead to increasing inequalities within and between countries and populations;

3. Reiterate that the most prevalent non-communicable diseases, namely, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, are primarily linked to four common risk factors, namely, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity;

4. Reiterate our concern regarding the rising levels of obesity in different regions, particularly among children and youth;

5. Recognize that mental and neurological conditions are an important cause of morbidity and contribute to the global non-communicable disease burden, in respect of which there is a need to provide equitable access to effective programmes and health-care interventions, as described in the comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2020 of the World Health Organization;

6. Recall the Moscow Declaration, adopted at the first Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control, held in April 2011, as well as all the regional initiatives undertaken on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including the declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community entitled “Uniting to stop the epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases”, adopted in September 2007, the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa, adopted in August 2008, the statement of the Commonwealth Heads of Government on action to combat non-communicable diseases, adopted in November 2009, the declaration of commitment of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, adopted in June 2009, the Parma Declaration on Environment and Health, adopted by the member States in the European region of the World Health Organization in March 2010, the Dubai Declaration on Diabetes and Chronic Non-communicable Diseases in the Middle East and Northern Africa Region, adopted in December 2010, the European Charter on Counteracting Obesity, adopted in November 2006, the Aruba Call for Action on Obesity of June 2011, and the Honiara Communiqué on addressing non-communicable disease challenges in the Pacific region, adopted in July 2011;

Taking stock: progress achieved since 2011

7. Welcome the development by the World Health Organization, in accordance with paragraph 61 of the political declaration, of the comprehensive global monitoring

framework, including the set of 9 voluntary global targets for achievement by 2025 and a set of 25 indicators to be applied across regional and country settings in order to monitor trends and assess progress made in the implementation of national strategies and plans on non-communicable diseases, and the adoption of the framework by the World Health Assembly;

8. Also welcome the endorsement by the World Health Assembly of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013–2020 and its adoption of the nine indicators to inform reporting on progress made in implementing the Global Action Plan;

9. Welcome the establishment of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the endorsement of its terms of reference by the Economic and Social Council on 13 June 2014;

10. Welcome the request that the Director General of the World Health Organization prepare, for consideration during the sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, in consultation with Member States, United Nations organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and within existing resources, a framework for country action, for adaptation to different contexts, taking into account the Helsinki Statement on Health in All Policies, adopted at the Eighth Global Conference on Health Promotion, aimed at supporting national efforts to improve health, ensure health protection, health equity and health system functioning, including through action across sectors on determinants of health and risk factors of non-communicable diseases, based on best available knowledge and evidence;

11. Also welcome the endorsement by the World Health Assembly of the terms of reference for the comprehensive global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

12. Recognize the remarkable progress achieved at the national level, since September 2011, including an increase in the number of countries which have an operational national non-communicable disease policy with a budget for implementation, from 32 per cent of countries in 2010 to 50 per cent of countries in 2013;

13. Recognize that progress in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases has been insufficient and highly uneven, due in part to their complexity and challenging nature, and that continued and increased efforts are essential for achieving a world free of the avoidable burden of non-communicable diseases;

14. Acknowledge that, despite some improvements, commitments to promote, establish or support and strengthen, by 2013, multisectoral national policies and plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and to increase and prioritize budgetary allocations for addressing non-communicable diseases, were often not translated into action, owing to a number of factors, including the lack of national capacity;

15. Acknowledge that many countries, in particular developing countries, are struggling to move from commitment to action and, in this regard, reiterate our call upon Member States to consider implementing, as appropriate, within national contexts, policies and evidence-based, affordable, cost-effective, population-wide and multisectoral interventions, including a reduction of modifiable risk factors of non-communicable diseases as described in ap-

pendix 3 to the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013–2020;

16. Recognize that affordable interventions to reduce environmental and occupational health risks are available and that prioritization and implementation of such interventions in accordance with national conditions can contribute to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases;

17. Reiterate our call upon Member States to consider implementing, as appropriate, according to national circumstances, policy options and cost-effective, affordable, multisectoral interventions for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in order to achieve the nine voluntary global targets for non-communicable diseases by 2025;

Reaffirming our leadership: commitments and actions

18. Reaffirm our commitment to advance the implementation of multisectoral, cost-effective, population-wide interventions in order to reduce the impact of the four common behavioural risk factors for non-communicable diseases, through the implementation of relevant international agreements, strategies, national policies, legislation and development priorities, including educational, regulatory and fiscal measures, without prejudice to the right of sovereign nations to determine and establish their taxation policies and other policies, where appropriate, by involving all relevant sectors, civil society and communities, as appropriate;

19. Recognize that the implementation of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013–2020, the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol, the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, and the World Health Organization Set of Recommendations on the Marketing of Foods and Non-alcoholic Beverages to Children, as appropriate, will accelerate efforts to reduce non-communicable diseases, and reiterate our call upon Member States to mobilize political will and financial resources for that purpose;

20. Reiterate our commitment to accelerate the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control by States parties, and encourage countries to consider becoming parties to the Convention;

21. Call upon Member States to take steps, including, where appropriate, effective legislation, cross-sectoral structures, processes, methods and resources that enable societal policies which take into account and address the impacts on health determinants, health protection, health equity and health system functioning, and which measure and track economic, social and environmental determinants and disparities in health;

22. Call upon Member States to develop, as appropriate, institutional capacity with adequate knowledge and skills for assessing the impact on health of policy initiatives in all sectors, identifying solutions and negotiating policies across sectors to achieve improved outcomes from the perspective of health, health equity and health system functioning;

23. Recognize the importance of universal health coverage in national health systems, and call upon Member States to strengthen health systems, including health-care

infrastructure, human resources for health, and health and social protection systems, particularly in developing countries, in order to respond effectively and equitably to the health-care needs of people with non-communicable diseases throughout the life cycle;

24. Continue to scale up, where appropriate, a package of proven, cost-effective interventions, including those identified in appendix 3 to the Global Action Plan;

25. Reiterate the importance of increased access to cost-effective cancer screening programmes as determined by national situations, as well as the importance of promoting increased access to cost-effective vaccinations to prevent infections associated with cancer, as part of national immunization schedules;

26. Acknowledge that limited progress has been made in implementing paragraph 44 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 66/2, and although an increased number of private sector entities have started to produce and promote food products consistent with a healthy diet, such products are not always broadly affordable, accessible and available in all communities within countries;

27. Continue to encourage policies that support the production and manufacture of and facilitate access to foods that contribute to a healthy diet and provide greater opportunities for the utilization of healthy local agricultural products and foods, thereby contributing to efforts to cope with the challenges and take advantage of opportunities presented by globalization and to achieve food security and adequate nutrition;

28. Reaffirm the primary role and responsibility of Governments in responding to the challenge of non-communicable diseases, including through engaging non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other sectors of society to generate effective responses for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases at the global, national and local levels;

29. Recall that effective non-communicable disease prevention and control requires leadership and multisectoral approaches to health at the governmental level, including, as appropriate, health-in-all-policies and whole-of-government approaches across sectors beyond health, while protecting public health policies for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases from undue influence by any form of real, perceived or potential conflict of interest;

Moving forward: national commitments

30. Commit to addressing non-communicable diseases as a matter of priority in national development plans, as appropriate within national contexts and the international development agenda, and to take the following measures with the engagement of all relevant sectors, including civil society and communities, as appropriate:

(a) Enhance governance:

(i) By 2015, consider setting national targets for 2025 and process indicators based on national situations, taking into account the nine voluntary global targets for non-communicable diseases, building on guidance provided by the World Health Organization, to focus on efforts to address the impacts of non-communicable diseases and to assess the progress made in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and their risk factors and determinants;

(ii) By 2015, consider developing or strengthening national multisectoral policies and plans to achieve the national targets by 2025, taking into account the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013–2020;

(iii) Continue to develop, strengthen and implement, as appropriate, multisectoral public policies and action plans to promote health education and health literacy, with a particular focus on populations with low health awareness and/or literacy;

(iv) Raise awareness about the national public health burden caused by non-communicable diseases and the relationship between non-communicable diseases, poverty and social and economic development;

(v) Integrate measures to address non-communicable diseases into health planning and national development plans and policies, including the design process and implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(vi) Consider establishing, as appropriate to the respective national context, a national multisectoral mechanism, such as a high-level commission, agency or task force for engagement, policy coherence and mutual accountability of different spheres of policymaking that have a bearing on non-communicable diseases, in order to implement health-in-all-policies and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, and to monitor and act on the determinants of non-communicable diseases, including social and environmental determinants;

(vii) Enhance the capacity, mechanisms and mandates, as appropriate, of relevant authorities in facilitating and ensuring action across governmental sectors;

(viii) Strengthen the capacity of ministries of health to exercise a strategic leadership and coordination role in policy development that engages all stakeholders across government, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, ensuring that issues relating to non-communicable diseases receive an appropriate, coordinated, comprehensive and integrated response;

(ix) Align international cooperation on non-communicable diseases with national plans concerning non-communicable diseases in order to strengthen aid effectiveness and the development impact of external resources in support of non-communicable diseases;

(x) Develop and implement national policies and plans, as relevant, with financial and human resources allocated particularly to addressing non-communicable diseases, in which social determinants are included;

(b) By 2016, as appropriate, reduce risk factors for non-communicable diseases and underlying social determinants through the implementation of interventions and policy options to create health-promoting environments, building on guidance set out in appendix 3 to the Global Action Plan;

(c) By 2016, as appropriate, strengthen and orient health systems to address the prevention and control

of non-communicable diseases and the underlying social determinants through people-centred primary health care and universal health coverage throughout the life cycle, building on guidance set out in appendix 3 to the Global Action Plan;

(d) Consider the possible linkages between non-communicable diseases and some communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, call for the integration, as appropriate, of responses to HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases, and in this regard call for attention to be given to people living with HIV/AIDS, especially in countries with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, in accordance with national priorities;

(e) Continue to promote the inclusion of prevention and control of non-communicable diseases within programmes for sexual and reproductive health and maternal and child health, especially at the primary health-care level, as well as communicable disease programmes, such as those addressing tuberculosis, as appropriate;

(f) Consider the synergies between major non-communicable diseases and other conditions as described in appendix 1 to the Global Action Plan in order to develop a comprehensive response for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases that also recognizes the conditions in which people live and work;

(g) Monitor the trends and determinants of non-communicable diseases and evaluate progress in their prevention and control:

- (i) Assess progress towards attaining the voluntary global targets and report on the results using the indicators established in the comprehensive global monitoring framework, according to the agreed timelines, and use results from monitoring of the 25 indicators and 9 voluntary targets and other sources of data to inform and guide policy and programming, aiming to maximize the impact of interventions and investments on non-communicable disease outcomes;
- (ii) Contribute information on trends in non-communicable diseases to the World Health Organization, according to the agreed timelines on progress made in the implementation of national action plans and on the effectiveness of national policies and strategies, coordinating country reporting with global analyses;
- (iii) Develop or strengthen, as appropriate, surveillance systems to track social disparities in non-communicable diseases and their risk factors as a first step to addressing inequalities, and pursue and promote gender-based approaches for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases on the basis of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, in an effort to address the critical differences in the risks of morbidity and mortality from non-communicable diseases for women and men;

(h) Continue to strengthen international cooperation in support of national, regional and global plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health promotion, legislation, regulation, strengthening of health systems, training of health-care personnel and the development of appropriate health-care infrastructure and diagnostics and by promoting the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable transfer

of technology on mutually agreed terms for the production of affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, while recognizing the leading role of the World Health Organization as the primary specialized agency for health in that regard;

31. Continue to strengthen international cooperation through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases to promote at the national, regional and international levels an enabling environment to facilitate healthy lifestyles and choices, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

32. Continue to explore the provision of adequate, predictable and sustained resources, through domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, including traditional and voluntary innovative financing mechanisms;

Moving forward: international commitments

33. Invite the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to consider developing a purpose code for non-communicable diseases in order to improve the tracking of official development assistance in support of national efforts for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

34. Reiterate our commitment to actively promote national and international investments and strengthen national capacity for quality research and development, in all aspects relating to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, in a sustainable and cost-effective manner, while noting the importance of continuing to incentivize innovation in public health, inter alia, as appropriate, through a sound and balanced intellectual property rights system, which is important, inter alia, for the development of new medicines, as recognized in the Doha Declaration on the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and Public Health;

35. Reaffirm the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration, and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement, which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and in particular to promote access to medicines for all and encourage the provision of assistance to developing countries in this regard;

36. Give due consideration to addressing non-communicable diseases in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account, in particular, their serious socioeconomic consequences and determinants and their links to poverty;

37. Call upon the World Health Organization, in consultation with Member States, in the context of the comprehensive global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, while ensuring appropriate protection from vested inter-

ests, to develop, before the end of 2015, an approach that can be used to register and publish contributions of the private sector, philanthropic entities and civil society to the achievement of the nine voluntary targets for non-communicable diseases;

Towards the world we want: follow-up

38. Request the Secretary-General, in collaboration with Member States, the World Health Organization and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit to the General Assembly, by the end of 2017, for consideration by Member States, a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present outcome document and of the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, in preparation for a comprehensive review, in 2018, of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Global status report. Following on its first global report on the prevention and control of NCDs [YUN 2010, p. 1223], WHO, in its second global report in 2014, provided the latest estimates on NCD mortality, available as at 2012. As the leading cause of death globally, NCDs were responsible for 38 million (68 per cent) of the world's 56 million deaths. More than 40 per cent of them (16 million) were premature deaths of people under the age of 70 years. Almost three quarters of all NCD deaths (28 million), and the majority of premature deaths (82 per cent), occurred in low- and middle-income countries. The report also noted the status of such voluntary global NCD targets [YUN 2013, p. 1174] as concerned reducing the harmful use of alcohol; insufficient physical activity; reducing salt/sodium intake; reducing tobacco use and hypertension; halting the rise of obesity and diabetes; and improving coverage of treatment for prevention of heart attacks and strokes and access to basic technologies and medicines.

Tobacco

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1251] and entered into force in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 1328]. It facilitated an internationally coordinated response to combating the tobacco epidemic, and set out specific steps for Governments to take. At the end of 2014, 179 States and the European Union were parties to the Convention.

Global progress report. The 2014 FCTC global progress report provided an overview of the status of implementation of the Convention, based on information submitted by the Parties in the 2014 reporting cycle. Overall, 80 per cent of the Parties strengthened their existing or adopted new tobacco

control legislation after ratifying the Convention, and over two thirds reported recent development, adoption and implementation of national tobacco control programmes, a significant increase over the previous reporting period. The average implementation rate for substantive Articles of the Convention stood at almost 60 per cent, compared with just over 50 per cent in 2010. The proportion of countries levying tobacco excise taxes increased to 92 per cent, up from 67 per cent in 2010 and 85 per cent in 2012. Overall, more than two thirds of Parties increased tobacco tax rates since 2012.

Progress was uneven when it came to the implementation rate for other Articles. For example, the average implementation rate for the Article 5 provisions (General obligations) was 65 per cent, while the average implementation rate for Article 22 (International cooperation) was 37 per cent, and for Article 19 (Liability) only 14 per cent. One third of the Parties were yet to put in place legislative measures in line with the requirements of the Convention; many Parties were also yet to designate a national tobacco control focal point and increase full-time capacity in tobacco control. Strengthening of national capacity and legislation for tobacco control, as well as strengthening of the national coordination mechanism and international cooperation were necessary steps that would have an overarching impact on the Convention's implementation.

Water and sanitation

The United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank convened the third high-level meeting (Washington, D.C., 11 April) of Sanitation and Water for All (swA), a global partnership of Governments, donors, civil society organizations, the private sector, community-based organizations, research and learning institutions, and several UN agencies working together to achieve universal access to clean water and adequate sanitation, in line with the water and sanitation targets of the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 49]. The meeting was attended by 21 ministers of finance and 35 ministers responsible for water and sanitation, as well as several ministers of health. Other attendees included donors and development banks along with senior representatives of civil society and the United Nations. At the meeting, 55 swA partner countries, donors and banks made some 370 new commitments for increasing and improving the use of financial resources, reducing inequality in access, building the capacity of institutions charged with delivering water and sanitation services, and coordinating resources more effectively.

On 19 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/215** on the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005–2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources (see p. 1166).

Malaria

Roll Back Malaria initiative

On 25 April, the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a report [A/68/854] of the WHO Director General submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 67/299 [YUN 2013, p. 1178] on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria, particularly in Africa, by 2015. Using data received from malaria-endemic countries and a range of organizations, the Director General reviewed progress made in the implementation of resolution 67/299; detailed the adoption and scaling-up of interventions recommended by the WHO for malaria-endemic countries; assessed progress towards the 2015 global malaria targets, including Millennium Development Goal 6; and provided recommendations for ensuring that progress was accelerated up to and beyond 2015.

Malaria continued to pose a serious challenge to global health. In 2012, there were an estimated 207 million cases worldwide. Of those, 627,000 involved fatalities affecting mostly children under the age of five in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria remained concentrated in 17 countries where some 80 per cent of the fatalities occurred. The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria accounted for approximately 40 per cent of malaria mortality worldwide. The South East Asia region—the second most-affected part of the world—India bore the highest malaria burden, followed by Indonesia and Myanmar.

There had been some notable progress in the fight against malaria. Between 2000 and 2012, a substantial scale-up of malaria interventions led to a 42 per cent decline in malaria mortality rates globally, saving an estimated 3.3 million lives. About 90 per cent or three million of those saved were children under five in Africa. The mortality rate among children under the age of five declined by 54 per cent in Africa and 25 per cent globally. In November 2014, 18 heads of State at the East Asia Summit made a commitment to eliminating the disease from the Asia-Pacific region by 2030. Between 2008 and 2012, Argentina, Egypt, Georgia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uzbekistan reduced their local malaria transmission to zero cases, while Armenia, Morocco and Turkmenistan were certified free of malaria. In the WHO European region, local transmission was confined to three countries in 2012: Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Turkey; the region was otherwise generally on track to reduce local malaria transmission cases to zero by 2015.

Between 2004 and 2013, international financial disbursements for fighting malaria had expanded tenfold, however, available funding was still substantially less than the \$5.1 billion required to achieve universal coverage of malaria interventions. The Director

General urged Member States to step up malaria control and elimination efforts; address the priority actions highlighted in resolution 67/299; and develop both traditional and innovative financing tools to alleviate suffering in the 17 highest-burden countries. In 2013, WHO began developing a new global malaria strategy to provide countries with evidence-based technical guidance for the 2016–2025 period and set new targets in alignment with the post-2015 development agenda.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 September [meeting 108], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/308** [draft: A/68/L.60 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 13].

Consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the period 2001–2010 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa, and that combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases is included in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also the malaria-related goals and commitments in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling further its resolution 67/299 of 16 September 2013 and all previous resolutions concerning the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions 60.18 of 23 May 2007 and 64.17 of 24 May 2011, urging a broad range of national and international actions to scale up malaria control programmes, and resolution 61.18 of 24 May 2008 on monitoring the achievement of health-related Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also the commitment made by African leaders to end the epidemic of malaria by ensuring universal and equitable access to quality health care and by improving health systems and health financing, contained in the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council relating to the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular resolution 1998/36 of 30 July 1998,

Taking note of all declarations and decisions on health issues, in particular those related to malaria, adopted by the Organization of African Unity and the African Union, including the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, containing the pledge to allocate at least 15 per cent of national budgets to the health sector, the Abuja call for accelerated action towards universal access to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria services in Africa, issued by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the special summit of the African Union on HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 2 to 4 May 2006, the decision of the Assembly of the African Union at its fifteenth ordinary session, held in Kam-

pala from 25 to 27 July 2010, to extend the Abuja call to 2015 to coincide with the Millennium Development Goals, and the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013,

Recognizing the leadership provided by the African Leaders Malaria Alliance and the continued commitment to help to achieve the 2015 targets, and encouraging the members of the Alliance to continue to provide political leadership at the highest level in the fight against malaria in Africa,

Welcoming the creation of the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance, recognizing the leadership and commitment of the Alliance to achieve the 2015 targets, and encouraging the members of the Alliance to continue to provide political leadership at the highest level in the fight against malaria in the Asia-Pacific region,

Taking note of the World Health Organization framework for action for an emergency response to artemisinin resistance in the Greater Mekong subregion of South-East Asia, launched in April 2013,

Welcoming the selection by the Secretary-General of malaria as one of the top priorities of his second mandate and his commitment to develop new partnerships and improve existing ones and to scale up high-impact interventions aimed at significantly reducing the number of deaths from malaria,

Recognizing the linkages among efforts being made to reach the targets set at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Abuja on 24 and 25 April 2000, as necessary and important for the attainment of the "Roll Back Malaria" goal and the targets of the Millennium Development Goals by 2010 and 2015, respectively, and welcoming in this regard the commitment of Member States to respond to the specific needs of Africa,

Recognizing also that malaria-related ill health and deaths throughout the world can be substantially reduced with political commitment and commensurate resources if the public is educated and sensitized about malaria and appropriate health services are made available, particularly in countries where the disease is endemic,

Recognizing further that malaria control interventions have a positive impact on overall child and maternal mortality rates and could help African countries and other malaria-endemic countries to reach Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 of reducing child mortality and improving maternal health, respectively, by 2015,

Acknowledging the progress made in parts of Africa in reversing the high burden of malaria through political engagement and sustainable national malaria control programmes, as well as the progress being made towards achieving by 2015 the goals concerning malaria control set by the World Health Assembly and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership,

Recognizing that, despite the fact that increased global and national investments in malaria control have yielded significant results in decreasing the burden of malaria in many countries and that some countries are moving towards the elimination of malaria, many countries continue to have unacceptably high burdens of malaria and in order to reach internationally agreed development goals, including the health-related Millennium Development Goals, must rap-

idly increase malaria prevention and control efforts, which rely heavily on medicines and insecticides whose utility is continuously threatened by the development of resistance in humans to antimalarial agents, as well as resistance of mosquitoes to insecticides,

Aware that recent successes in prevention and control are fragile and can be maintained only with sufficient and sustained national and international investment to fund global malaria control efforts fully,

Recognizing the serious challenges relating to substandard, falsified and counterfeit drugs, as well as poor malaria diagnostics,

Expressing concern about the continued morbidity, mortality and debility attributed to malaria, and recalling that more efforts are needed if the Abuja malaria targets and the malaria and Millennium Development Goal targets for 2015 are to be reached on time,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening health systems to effectively sustain malaria control and elimination,

Commending the efforts of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank and other partners to fight malaria over the years,

Taking note with appreciation of the Global Malaria Action Plan developed by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership,

1. *Welcomes* the report prepared by the World Health Organization, and calls for support for the implementation of the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Calls for* increased support for the implementation of international commitments and goals pertaining to the fight to eliminate malaria as stipulated in the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Encourages* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, international institutions, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to continue to observe World Malaria Day on 25 April in order to raise public awareness of and knowledge about the prevention, control and treatment of malaria as well as the importance of meeting the Millennium Development Goals, and stresses the importance of engaging local communities in this regard;

4. *Encourages* the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Malaria to continue raising issues relating to malaria in collaboration with other United Nations organizations already working on those issues in the context of the international political and development agendas and to work with national and global leaders to intensify efforts to secure the political commitment, partnerships and funds to drastically reduce malaria deaths by 2015 through increased access to prevention, diagnosis and treatment, especially in Africa;

5. *Welcomes* the increased funding, while recognizing the need for additional funding, for malaria interventions and for research and development of preventive, diagnostic and control tools from the international community, through funding from multilateral and bilateral sources and from the private sector, as well as by making predictable financing available through appropriate and effective aid modalities and in-country health financing mechanisms aligned with national priorities, which are key to strength-

ening health systems, including malaria surveillance, and promoting universal and equitable access to high-quality malaria prevention, diagnostic and treatment services, and noting in this regard that a high level of external assistance per person at risk for malaria is associated with a decrease in the incidence of the disease;

6. *Urges* the international community, United Nations agencies and private organizations and foundations to support the implementation of the Global Malaria Action Plan, including through support for programmes and activities at the country level in order to achieve internationally agreed targets on malaria;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support the secretariat of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and partner organizations, including the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund, as vital complementary sources of support for the efforts of malaria-endemic countries to combat the disease;

8. *Urges* the international community to work in a spirit of cooperation towards effective, increased, harmonized, predictable and sustained bilateral and multilateral assistance and research to combat malaria, including support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in order to assist States, in particular malaria-endemic countries, to implement sound national plans, in particular health plans and sanitation plans, including malaria control and elimination strategies which may include evidence-based, cost-effective and context-appropriate environmental management solutions, and integrated management of childhood illnesses, in a sustained and equitable way that, inter alia, contributes to strengthening health system development approaches at the district level;

9. *Appeals* to the malaria partners to resolve the financial, supply chain and delivery bottlenecks that are responsible for stock-outs of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, rapid diagnostic tests and artemisinin-based combination therapies at the national level, whenever they occur, including through the strengthening of malaria programme management at the country level;

10. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of additional and predictable resources for development by voluntary innovative financing initiatives taken by groups of Member States, and in this regard notes the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, the International Finance Facility for Immunization, the advance market commitments for vaccines, the GAVI Alliance and the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria pilot, and expresses support for the work of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development and its special task force on innovative financing for health;

11. *Urges* malaria-endemic countries to work towards financial sustainability, to increase, to the extent possible, national resources allocated to malaria control and to create favourable conditions for working with the private sector in order to improve access to good-quality malaria services;

12. *Urges* Member States to assess and respond to the needs for integrated human resources at all levels of the health system in order to achieve the targets of the Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria in Africa and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, to take action, as appropriate, to effectively govern the recruitment, training and

retention of skilled health personnel, and to give particular focus to the availability of skilled personnel at all levels to meet technical and operational needs as increased funding for malaria control programmes becomes available;

13. *Urges* the international community, inter alia, to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to enable it to meet its financial needs and, through country-led initiatives with adequate international support, to intensify access to affordable, safe and effective antimalarial treatments, including artemisinin-based combination therapies, intermittent preventive therapies for pregnant women, children under 5 and infants, adequate diagnostic facilities, long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets, including, where appropriate, through the free distribution of such nets and, where appropriate, to insecticides for indoor residual spraying for malaria control, taking into account relevant international rules, including the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants standards and guidelines;

14. *Requests* relevant international organizations, in particular the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to assist the efforts of national Governments to provide universal access to malaria control interventions to address all at-risk populations, in particular young children and pregnant women, in malaria-endemic countries, particularly in Africa, as rapidly as possible, with due regard to ensuring the proper use of those interventions, including long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, and sustainability through full community participation and implementation through the health system;

15. *Calls upon* Member States, in particular malaria-endemic countries, with the support of the international community, to establish and/or strengthen national policies, operational plans and research, with a view to scaling up efforts to achieve internationally agreed malaria targets for 2015, in accordance with the technical recommendations of the World Health Organization;

16. *Commends* those African countries that have implemented the recommendations of the Abuja Summit in 2000 to reduce or waive taxes and tariffs for nets and other products needed for malaria control, and encourages other countries to do the same;

17. *Calls upon* United Nations agencies and their partners to continue to provide the technical support necessary to build and enhance the capacity of Member States to implement the Global Malaria Action Plan and meet the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and looks forward to the timely completion of the second edition of the Global Malaria Action Plan;

18. *Expresses deep concern* about emerging drug and insecticide resistance in several regions of the world, calls upon Member States, with support from the World Health Organization and other partners, to implement the Global Plan for Artemisinin Resistance Containment and the Global Plan for Insecticide Resistance Management in Malaria Vectors and to strengthen and implement surveillance systems for monitoring and assessing changing patterns of drug and insecticide resistance, calls upon the World Health Organization to support Member States in the development of their national insecticide resistance management strategies and to coordinate support at the international level for countries to ensure that drug efficacy and insecticide resistance testing is fully operational in order to enhance the use of artemisinin-based combination thera-

pies and insecticides, and stresses that the data gathered should be utilized for further research and development of safe and effective therapies and vector control tools;

19. *Urges* all Member States to prohibit the marketing and use of oral artemisinin-based monotherapies and to replace them with oral artemisinin-based combination therapies, as recommended by the World Health Organization, and to develop the financial, legislative and regulatory mechanisms necessary to introduce artemisinin combination therapies at affordable prices in both public and private facilities;

20. *Recognizes* the importance of the development of safe and cost-effective vaccines and new medicines to prevent and treat malaria and the need for further and accelerated research, including into safe, effective and high-quality therapies, using rigorous standards, including by providing support to the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, through effective global partnerships, such as the various malaria vaccine initiatives and the Medicines for Malaria Venture, where necessary stimulated by new incentives to secure their development, and through effective and timely support for the pre-qualification of new antimalarials and their combinations;

21. *Calls upon* the international community, including through existing partnerships, to increase investment in and efforts towards research to optimize current tools, develop and validate new, safe and affordable malaria-related medicines, products and technologies, such as vaccines, rapid diagnostic tests, insecticides and their delivery modes, to prevent and treat malaria, especially for at-risk children and pregnant women, and testing opportunities for integration in order to enhance effectiveness and delay the onset of resistance;

22. *Calls upon* malaria-endemic countries to assure favourable conditions for research institutions, including the allocation of adequate resources and the development of national policies and legal frameworks, where appropriate, with a view to, inter alia, informing policy formulation and strategic interventions on malaria;

23. *Reaffirms* the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendment to article 31 of the Agreement, which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and in particular to promote access to medicines for all and to encourage the provision of assistance to developing countries in this regard, and calls for the broad and timely acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the Agreement, as proposed by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

24. *Recognizes* the importance, in the struggle against malaria, of the World Health Organization Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, adopted by the World Health Assembly on 24 May 2008;

25. *Calls upon* malaria-endemic countries, development partners and the international community to support

the timely replacement of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization on the service lives of such nets, in order to prevent the risk of malaria resurgence and a reversal of the gains made to date;

26. *Calls upon* the international community to support ways to expand access to affordable, effective and safe products and treatments, such as vector control measures, including indoor residual spraying, long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, including through the free distribution of such nets, adequate diagnostic facilities, intermittent preventive therapies for pregnant women, children under 5 and infants, and artemisinin-based combination therapy for populations at risk of falciparum malaria infection in endemic countries, particularly in Africa, including through additional funds and innovative mechanisms, inter alia, for the financing and scaling up of artemisinin production and procurement, as appropriate, to meet the increased need;

27. *Recognizes* the impact of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, and welcomes the increased level of public-private partnerships for malaria control and prevention, including the financial and in-kind contributions of private sector partners and companies operating in Africa, as well as the increased engagement of non-governmental service providers;

28. *Encourages* the producers of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to continue to accelerate technology transfer to developing countries, and invites the World Bank and regional development funds to consider supporting malaria-endemic countries in establishing factories to scale up production of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets;

29. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community, especially malaria-endemic countries, in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations of the World Health Organization and the requirements of the Stockholm Convention related to the use of DDT, to become fully knowledgeable about the technical policies and strategies of the World Health Organization and the provisions of the Stockholm Convention, including for indoor residual spraying, long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and case management, intermittent preventive therapies for pregnant women, children under 5 and infants and monitoring of in vivo resistance studies to artemisinin-based combination therapies, as well as to increase capacity for the safe, effective and judicious use of indoor residual spraying and other forms of vector control, including quality control measures, in accordance with international rules, standards and guidelines;

30. *Requests* the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and donor agencies to provide support to those countries that choose to use DDT for indoor residual spraying so as to ensure that it is implemented in accordance with international rules, standards and guidelines, and to provide all possible support to malaria-endemic countries to manage the intervention effectively and prevent the contamination, in particular, of agricultural products with DDT and other insecticides used for indoor residual spraying;

31. *Encourages* the World Health Organization and its member States, with the support of the parties to the Stockholm Convention, to continue to explore possible alternatives to DDT as a vector control agent;

32. *Recognizes* the importance of a multisectoral strategy to advance global control efforts, invites malaria-

endemic countries to consider adopting and implementing the Multisectoral Action Framework for Malaria developed by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the United Nations Development Programme, and encourages regional and intersectoral collaboration, both public and private, at all levels, especially in education, health, agriculture, economic development and the environment, to advance malaria control objectives;

33. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen malaria surveillance and data quality in all endemic regions to enable Member States to direct financial resources to the populations most in need and to respond effectively to disease outbreaks;

34. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to strengthen mechanisms for country-based coordination of technical assistance to achieve alignment of the best approaches to implement World Health Organization technical guidance and to mobilize support for the sharing and analysis of best practices to address urgent programmatic challenges, to improve monitoring and evaluation and to conduct regular financial planning and gap analysis;

35. *Encourages* sharing, across regions, of knowledge, experience and lessons learned with regard to the control and elimination of malaria, particularly between the Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America regions;

36. *Calls upon* the international community to support the strengthening of health systems, national pharmaceutical policies and national drug regulatory authorities, to monitor and fight against the trade in counterfeit and sub-standard antimalarial medicines and prevent their distribution and use, and to support coordinated efforts, inter alia, by providing technical assistance to improve surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems and their alignment with national plans and systems so as to better track and report changes in coverage, the need for scaling up recommended interventions and the subsequent reductions in the burden of malaria;

37. *Urges* Member States, the international community and all relevant actors, including the private sector, to promote the coordinated implementation and enhance the quality of malaria-related activities, including through the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, in accordance with national policies and operational plans that are consistent with the technical recommendations of the World Health Organization and recent efforts and initiatives, including, where appropriate, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, adopted at the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Accra from 2 to 4 September 2008;

38. *Recognizes* the need for political commitment and financial support beyond 2015 to sustain and expand the achievements in the struggle against malaria and to meet the international malaria targets through prevention and malaria control efforts to end the epidemic, while acknowledging the remarkable progress in combating malaria to date;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization and in consultation with Member States, to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and specifically on progress towards achieving the 2015 targets of the Abuja Declaration and those of the Global Malaria Action Plan and Millennium Development Goal 6, including iden-

tification of best practices and successes and specific challenges limiting the achievement of the targets and, taking these into account, to provide recommendations to ensure that the targets are reached by 2015.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that agenda item “2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Ebola outbreak in West Africa

In a May report [S/2014/342] to the Security Council on the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (see p. 258), the Secretary-General said that an outbreak of the Ebola virus had been confirmed on 22 March in the Guinée Forestière area near Guinea’s border with Liberia and, subsequently, in Conakry. Following an alert from the World Health Organization (WHO) urging heightened surveillance for illnesses consistent with viral haemorrhagic fever, the countries neighbouring Guinea instituted measures along the land borders to protect those at risk and prevent the virus from spreading. Suspected cases of infection had been ruled out in Mali, while in Guinea and Liberia, 143 and 11 related fatalities were recorded, respectively, as at 1 May. No cases of Ebola virus infection had been reported in Côte d’Ivoire.

In an August report [S/2014/598] to the Security Council on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) (see p. 261), the Secretary-General stated that by 30 July, a total of 383 cases of Ebola virus disease had been reported in Liberia, resulting in 216 deaths, including of health-care workers. The Government of Liberia, supported by the United Nations, had initiated an awareness-raising campaign, including messages in local languages on UNMIL Radio, and revised its national response plan with support from WHO. Tradition, denial and community resistance, however, proved difficult to surmount. WHO and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) had received \$617,000 from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund on 14 July.

Subsequently, in an August letter [S/2014/644] to the Security Council President recommending a technical rollover of the mandate of UNMIL (see p. 262) due to the ensuing exceptional circumstances in Liberia, the Secretary-General reported that the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa had escalated so drastically in just a matter of weeks that, on 8 August, WHO had declared it a public health emergency of international concern. To facilitate a coordinated international response, on 12 August, he had appointed Dr. David Nabarro (United Kingdom) to serve as the United Nations System Senior Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease. Dr. Nabarro had been in Liberia from 21 to 23 August as part of a regional visit to assess the situation and make rec-

ommendations for the response going forward. Ebola was having a devastating impact on Liberia, with the Ministry of Health recording, as at 24 August, a cumulative total of 1,378 cases, resulting in 743 deaths. While the Ebola outbreak began primarily as a medical emergency, it had become more complex, with significant political, security and humanitarian implications. Its long-term effects on the people and the economy of Liberia were likely to be considerable. Earlier, on 6 August, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had declared a 90-day state of emergency, noting that the scale and scope of the epidemic exceeded the response capacity of national institutions, requiring extraordinary measures in order to save lives, including the suspension of certain constitutionally guaranteed rights and privileges, for example, by restricting movement and freedom of assembly. The Legislature had endorsed that decision.

Additional measures announced by the President included a moratorium on official travel for government officials and the deployment of the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Liberia National Police to enforce the isolation of the areas of the country most affected by Ebola. Meanwhile, the Government had also established mechanisms to coordinate the national and international response, and allocated emergency funding. On the recommendation of the National Elections Commission, the judiciary was considering the constitutionality of postponing the senatorial elections scheduled for October. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Government to contain the Ebola virus, it continued to spread, fuelled by fear, denial, tradition and lack of public trust in national institutions. Compounding the medical emergency was the surging cost of food, water and other basic goods, particularly in cordoned-off areas.

Meanwhile, the country was becoming increasingly isolated as a result of the decision of some airline companies to cease servicing countries affected by Ebola, which had implications for the humanitarian response. On 20 August, further measures announced by the President to contain the disease, including a nationwide curfew, went into effect. The escalating crisis was having such a profound impact that it would be necessary for all of the international partners of Liberia, including the United Nations, to fully mobilize all resources behind the fight against the epidemic.

Global Ebola Response Coalition. On 1 September, the Secretary-General announced the formation of the Global Ebola Response Coalition, which included the Governments of affected countries and neighbouring countries, African regional and subregional bodies, development partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and businesses, along with UN system entities. The coordination mechanism was intended to ensure integrated support to affected countries, while helping prevent the spread of the Ebola virus disease to other countries.

Appointment. On 8 September, the Secretary-General appointed Anthony Banbury (United States) as Deputy Ebola Coordinator and Operation Crisis Manager. Mr. Banbury, who along with the UN System Senior Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease would work closely with WHO in managing the overall response to the Ebola crisis, would coordinate the operational work of the UN system, Member States, NGOs and other stakeholders under a single platform, working closely with the various response actors in the region.

Establishment of United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response

Communication. In a 15 September letter [S/2014/669] to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General transmitted a joint letter dated 29 August from Alpha Condé, President of Guinea; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia; and Ernest Bai Koroma, President of Sierra Leone, that detailed the impact of the Ebola virus disease in their countries and its implications for West Africa and beyond. Presidents Condé, Johnson Sirleaf and Koroma requested a UN resolution on a comprehensive response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak that would include a coordinated international response to end the outbreak; strategic guidance from WHO for overall response and the restoration of basic health service; a coordinated international response to support the societies and economies of affected countries during the outbreak; maintaining trade and transportation links with reasonable precautions; and an international public education campaign.

(For more information on the political and security situation in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, see PART ONE, Chapter II.)

Security Council action. On 15 September, by **resolution 2176(2014)** (see p. 262), the Security Council expressed appreciation for the appointments of the UN System Senior Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease and the Deputy Ebola Coordinator and Operation Crisis Manager operating from the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, in order to assist Governments in the region to address the Ebola outbreak, and urged the international community to respond swiftly to the shortage of qualified medical professionals and appropriate equipment and preventive measures necessary to address the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Letter of Secretary-General. In identical letters of 17 September [A/69/389-S/2014/679] to the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Secretary-General asserted that the Ebola virus disease crisis was no longer just a public health crisis, but had become multidimensional, with significant political, social, economic, humanitarian, logistical and security dimensions. WHO had reported nearly

5,000 cases, resulting in over 2,500 deaths. Owing to difficulties in monitoring and reporting, the total number of cases and deaths was likely to be much higher. International experts assessed that Ebola was spreading at an exponential rate, with the number of cases doubling approximately every three weeks. The Governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone were determined to respond effectively, but, as expressed in their letter of 29 August (see p. 1356), requested assistance and support.

In view of the rapid spread of the Ebola virus disease, the Secretary-General stated that he had decided to establish a UN mission to harness the capabilities and competencies of all the relevant UN actors under a unified operational structure. The singular strategic objective and purpose of the mission would be to work with others to stop the Ebola outbreak. The strategic priorities of the mission would be to stop the spread of the disease; treat the infected; ensure essential services; preserve stability; and prevent the spread to countries currently unaffected. The mission, through its presence in the affected States, would provide needed field-level support to the Governments and peoples of West Africa. At the operational level, the intended United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) would be headed by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General—appointed following consultation with the WHO Director General—who would report directly to the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General requested the support of the Security Council, the General Assembly and all Member States to address the crisis. A detailed report outlining required resources would be submitted for the approval and consideration of the Assembly and a trust fund to mobilize voluntary contributions would be established to address any gaps in the activities of UN system partners.

Security Council consideration. On 18 September [S/PV.7268], the Security Council held an emergency session to discuss the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa. The emergency session was the third in the Council's history to examine the security implications of a public health issue. The session featured a statement from the Secretary-General and briefings from Dr. David Nabarro; Dr. Margaret Chan; and Mr. Jackson Niamah, a team leader at a Médecins Sans Frontières treatment centre in Monrovia, Liberia.

The Secretary-General said that the unprecedented scope of the Ebola outbreak required a level of international action unprecedented for an emergency. He articulated his intention to establish UNMEER with its five priorities: stopping the Ebola outbreak, treating the infected, ensuring essential services, preserving stability and preventing further outbreaks. UNMEER would draw on the capacities of many partners and

work closely with regional organizations. There was, however, a need to scale up the response effort in order to fulfil critical needs totalling almost \$1 billion.

Dr. Nabarro stated that the Ebola response was lagging because the outbreak was advancing at an exponential pace. There was a need for international assistance to go beyond health and fill gaps in areas such as food and supplies, whose delivery had been interrupted in the affected countries. Dr. Chan called on Member States and other partners to support the WHO Ebola Response Roadmap, in which the most urgent needs were outlined along with 12 critical actions. Mr. Niamah called for greater capacity-building support for the Ebola response effort and, in particular, for more specialized care centres, beds and expert personnel, training for medical staff, helicopters, and basic sanitation needs such as soap and buckets.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 September [meeting 7268], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2177(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/673] was submitted by 134 Member States.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 2176(2014), adopted on 15 September 2014, concerning the situation in Liberia and its statement to the press of 9 July 2014,

Recalling also its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Expressing grave concern about the outbreak of the Ebola virus in, and its impact on, West Africa, in particular Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, as well as Nigeria and beyond,

Recognizing that the peacebuilding and development gains of the most affected countries concerned could be reversed in the light of the Ebola outbreak, and underlining that the outbreak is undermining the stability of the most affected countries concerned and, unless contained, may lead to further instances of civil unrest, social tensions and a deterioration of the political and security climate,

Determining that the unprecedented extent of the Ebola outbreak in Africa constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

Expressing concern about the particular impact of the Ebola outbreak on women,

Welcoming the convening of the Mano River Union Extraordinary Summit, held in Guinea on 1 August 2014, and the commitments expressed by the Heads of State of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to combat the Ebola outbreak in the region, including by strengthening treatment services and measures to prevent the outbreak spreading across borders,

Taking note of the measures taken by the Member States of the region, especially Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, as well as Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, in response to the Ebola outbreak, and recognizing that the outbreak may exceed the capacity of the Governments concerned to respond,

Taking note also of the letter dated 29 August 2014 from the Presidents of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea to the

Secretary-General, requesting a comprehensive response to the Ebola outbreak, including a coordinated international response to end the outbreak and to support the societies and economies affected by restrictions on trade and transportation during the outbreak,

Recognizing the measures taken by the Member States of the region, in particular Côte d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Mali and Senegal, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the most affected countries,

Emphasizing the key role of Member States, including through the Global Health Security Agenda where applicable, to provide adequate public health services to detect, prevent, respond to and mitigate outbreaks of major infectious diseases through sustainable, well-functioning and responsive public health mechanisms,

Recalling the International Health Regulations (2005), which are contributing to global public health security by providing a framework for the coordination of the management of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern, and aim to improve the capacity of all countries to detect, assess, notify and respond to public health threats, and underscoring the importance of States members of the World Health Organization abiding by these commitments,

Underscoring that the control of outbreaks of major infectious diseases requires urgent action and greater national, regional and international collaboration, and in this regard stressing the crucial and immediate need for a coordinated international response to the Ebola outbreak,

Commending Member States, bilateral partners and multilateral organizations for the crucial assistance, including financial commitments and in-kind donations, provided to and identified for the affected people and Governments of the region to support the scaling-up of emergency efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and interrupt transmission of the virus, including by providing flexible funds to relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations involved in the response to enable them and national Governments to purchase supplies and enhance emergency operations in the affected countries, as well as by collaborating with public and private sector partners to accelerate development of therapies, vaccines and diagnostics to treat patients and limit or prevent further infection or transmission of the Ebola virus disease,

Expressing deep appreciation to the first-line responders to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, including national and international health and humanitarian relief workers contributed by the Member States of diverse regions and non-governmental organizations such as Médecins sans frontières and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and also expressing appreciation to the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service for transporting humanitarian personnel and medical supplies and equipment, especially to remote locations in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, during the outbreak,

Welcoming the efforts of the African Union, in coordination with bilateral partners and multilateral organizations, to craft a united, comprehensive and collective African response to the outbreak, including through the deployment of health-care workers to the region, and also the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States to support steps to contain the spread of the Ebola virus, including through the support of the defence forces of its member States,

Expressing concern about the impact, including on food security, of general travel and trade restrictions in the region, and taking note of the call by the African Union upon its member States to lift travel restrictions to enable the free movement of people and trade to the affected countries,

Emphasizing the role of all relevant United Nations system entities, in particular the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, in supporting the national, regional and international efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak, and recognizing in this regard the central role of the World Health Organization, which designated the Ebola outbreak a public health emergency of international concern,

Stressing the need for coordinated efforts of all relevant United Nations system entities to address the Ebola outbreak in line with their respective mandates and to assist, wherever possible, national, regional and international efforts in this regard,

Taking note of the World Health Organization Ebola response road map of 28 August 2014 which aims to stop transmission of the Ebola virus disease worldwide, while managing the consequences of any further international spread, and taking note also of the 12 mission-critical actions, including infection control, community mobilization and recovery, to resolve the Ebola outbreak,

Taking note also of the World Health Organization protocols to prevent the transmission of the Ebola virus disease between individuals, organizations and populations, underlining that the Ebola outbreak can be contained, including through the implementation of established safety and health protocols and other preventive measures that have proven effective, and commending the efforts of the United Nations Mission in Liberia to communicate, including through UNMIL Radio, such protocols and preventive measures to the Liberian public,

Reiterating its appreciation for the appointments by the Secretary-General of Dr. David Nabarro as the United Nations System Senior Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease and of Mr. Anthony Banbury as the Deputy Ebola Coordinator and Operation Crisis Manager operating from the crisis response mechanism of the United Nations, which was activated on 8 September 2014 and which aims to consolidate the operational work of the United Nations system, Member States, non-governmental organizations and other partners focused on providing assistance to the affected countries in response to the Ebola outbreak, as well as to ensure United Nations system assistance to developing, leading and implementing an effective response to the broader dimensions of the outbreak that include food security and access to basic health services,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to convene a high-level meeting on the margins of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly to urge an exceptional and vigorous response to the Ebola outbreak,

1. *Encourages* the Governments of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea to accelerate the establishment of national mechanisms to provide for the rapid diagnosis and isolation of suspected cases of infection, treatment measures, effective medical services for responders, credible and transparent public education campaigns, and strengthened preventive and preparedness measures to detect, mitigate and respond to Ebola exposure, as well as to coordinate the rapid delivery and utilization of international assistance, including health workers and humanitarian relief supplies,

as well as to coordinate their efforts to address the transnational dimension of the Ebola outbreak, including the management of their shared borders, and with the support of bilateral partners, multilateral organizations and the private sector;

2. *Also encourages* the Governments of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea to continue efforts to resolve and mitigate the wider political, security, socioeconomic and humanitarian dimensions of the Ebola outbreak, as well as to provide sustainable, well-functioning and responsive public health mechanisms, emphasizes that responses to the Ebola outbreak should address the specific needs of women, and stresses the importance of their full and effective engagement in the development of such responses;

3. *Expresses concern* about the detrimental effect of the isolation of the affected countries as a result of trade and travel restrictions imposed on and to the affected countries;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, including of the region, to lift general travel and border restrictions, imposed as a result of the Ebola outbreak, and that contribute to the further isolation of the affected countries and undermine their efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak, and also calls upon airlines and shipping companies to maintain trade and transport links with the affected countries and the wider region;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, especially of the region, to facilitate the delivery of assistance, including qualified, specialized and trained personnel and supplies, in response to the Ebola outbreak to the affected countries, and in this regard expresses deep appreciation to the Government of Ghana for allowing the resumption of the air shuttle of the United Nations Mission in Liberia from Monrovia to Accra, which will transport international health workers and other responders to areas affected by the Ebola outbreak in Liberia;

6. *Calls upon* Member States, especially of the region, and all relevant actors providing assistance in response to the Ebola outbreak to enhance efforts to communicate to the public, as well as to implement, the established safety and health protocols and preventive measures to mitigate against misinformation and undue alarm about the transmission and extent of the outbreak among and between individuals and communities, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to develop a strategic communication platform using existing United Nations system resources and facilities in the affected countries, as necessary and available, including to assist Governments and other relevant partners;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to provide urgent resources and assistance, including deployable medical capabilities such as field hospitals with qualified and sufficient expertise, staff and supplies, laboratory services, logistical, transport and construction support capabilities, airlift and other aviation support and aeromedical services and dedicated clinical services in Ebola treatment units and isolation units, to support the affected countries in intensifying preventive and response activities and strengthening national capacities in response to the Ebola outbreak and to allot adequate capacity to prevent future outbreaks;

8. *Urges* Member States, as well as bilateral partners and multilateral organizations, including the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the European Union, to mobilize and provide immediately technical expertise and additional medical

capacity, including for rapid diagnosis and training of health workers at the national and international levels, to the affected countries and those providing assistance to the affected countries, and to continue to exchange expertise, lessons learned and best practices, as well as to maximize synergies to respond effectively and immediately to the Ebola outbreak, to provide essential resources, supplies and coordinated assistance to the affected countries and implementing partners, and calls upon all relevant actors to cooperate closely with the Secretary-General on response assistance efforts;

9. *Urges* Member States to implement relevant temporary recommendations issued under the International Health Regulations (2005) regarding the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and lead the organization, coordination and implementation of national preparedness and response activities, including, where and when relevant, in collaboration with international development and humanitarian partners;

10. *Commends* the continued contribution and commitment of international health and humanitarian relief workers to respond urgently to the Ebola outbreak, and calls upon all relevant actors to put in place the necessary repatriation and financial arrangements, including medical evacuation capacities and treatment and transport provisions, to facilitate their immediate and unhindered deployment to the affected countries;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to help to ensure that all relevant United Nations system entities, including the World Health Organization and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, in accordance with their respective mandates, accelerate their response to the Ebola outbreak, including by supporting the development and implementation of preparedness and operational plans and liaison and collaboration with Governments of the region and those providing assistance;

12. *Encourages* the World Health Organization to continue to strengthen its technical leadership and operational support to Governments and partners, monitor Ebola transmission, assist in identifying existing response needs and partners to meet those needs to facilitate the availability of essential data and hasten the development and implementation of therapies and vaccines according to best clinical and ethical practices, and also encourages Member States to provide all necessary support in this regard, including the sharing of data in accordance with applicable law;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

General Assembly consideration. On 19 September, at its third plenary meeting [A/69/PV.3], the General Assembly addressed the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa. The President of the Assembly said that the outbreak was no longer merely a subregional or regional calamity, but rather an international crisis. Women, as primary caregivers, community leaders and front-line health workers, were particularly at risk. Introducing the draft resolution on the establishment of UNMEER, which aimed to bring the UN system competencies into a single, unified structure for a rapid response to the outbreak and provide coherent support to national, regional

and international efforts, the President implored the Assembly to add its voice to that of the Security Council in calling on the international community to take immediate steps to support the countries affected by the deadly virus. While a high price had already been paid, the cost of inaction could reach unimaginable proportions.

The Secretary-General stated that the crisis had significant economic, social, humanitarian, political and security dimensions. While WHO had reported that of the nearly 5,000 people infected by the Ebola virus, about 2,500 had died so far, the actual number of casualties was probably higher, due to shortfalls in reporting and monitoring. Cases were doubling every three weeks. The Secretary-General said that WHO had developed a response roadmap and was working with Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to identify the best possible epidemiological ways to address the outbreak, including through Ebola treatment centres and community care centres. He outlined the five priorities of UNMEER: to stop the outbreak; treat the infected; provide essential services; preserve stability; and prevent outbreaks in non-affected countries. The Mission would also support national efforts, reinforce government leadership and emphasize community outreach and training. Its headquarters would be located in Accra, Ghana, and that country's international airport would be used for a vital air bridge.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 September [meeting 3], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/1** [draft: A/69/L.2, as orally revised] without vote [agenda item 124].

Measures to contain and combat the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa

The General Assembly,

Expressing grave concern at the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa and its unprecedented nature and scope,

Expressing grave concern also at the rapid deterioration of the situation, in particular in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and the threat that this poses to their post-conflict recovery,

Expressing deep concern about the potential reversal of the gains made by the affected countries in peacebuilding, political stability and the reconstruction of socioeconomic infrastructure in recent years,

Underscoring the urgent need to contain this public health crisis owing to its possible grave humanitarian, economic and social consequences,

Underlining its strong commitment to responding to this emergency in a timely, effective and coordinated manner,

Recognizing the central role being played by the World Health Organization in leading worldwide support for the courageous responses of countries whose people are affected by, and at risk of, Ebola,

Welcoming all national, regional and international efforts aimed at ending the crisis, and reaffirming the important role of regional and subregional organizations

in this regard, in particular, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States,

Expressing appreciation for the appointment by the Secretary-General of a United Nations System Senior Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease and a Deputy Ebola Coordinator and Emergency Crisis Manager, in order to assist Governments in the region to address the Ebola outbreak,

Noting the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2176(2014) of 15 September 2014 and resolution 2177(2014) of 18 September 2014,

1. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take such measures as may be necessary for the prompt execution of his intention and to submit a detailed report thereon for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States, relevant United Nations bodies and the United Nations system to provide their full support to the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response.

Appointments. On 23 September, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Dr. David Nabarro (United Kingdom) as his Special Envoy on Ebola and Anthony Banbury as his Special Representative and Head of UNMEER. The appointments were made following close consultations with the WHO Director General. The Special Envoy on Ebola would provide strategic and policy direction for a greatly enhanced international response and galvanize essential support for affected communities and countries. The Special Representative and Head of UNMEER would provide the operational framework and unity of purpose to ensure the rapid, effective and coherent action necessary to stop the Ebola outbreak, to treat the infected, to ensure essential services, to preserve stability and to prevent the spread to countries currently unaffected.

Further developments

Report of Secretary-General. On 24 September [A/69/404], in response to resolution 69/1 (see above), the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly on UNMEER and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola. The report, which contained estimated preliminary resource requirements for UNMEER and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola, outlined five strategic priorities, six guiding principles and resourcing assumptions for UNMEER. The strategic priorities included stopping the spread of disease; treating the infected; ensuring essential services; preserving stability; and preventing the spread of the disease to unaffected countries. The six guiding principles included reinforcing government leadership; delivering a rapid impact on the ground; coordinating and collaborating with actors outside the United Nations; tailoring responses to the needs of different countries; reaffirming WHO leadership on all health issues; and identifying benchmarks for transition post-emergency and ensuring that all actions strengthen systems.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General would head the Mission and be tasked with building and maintaining a regional operational platform that ensured the rapid delivery of international assistance. The Mission's headquarters, to be established in Accra, Ghana, would have four pillars, including a medical response; operational coordination and planning; essential services response; and an in-country crisis response team in the three affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The Secretary-General, pending submission of a detailed revised programme budget, requested that the General Assembly approve estimated preliminary requirements for UNMEER and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola amounting to \$49,943,600 (net of staff assessment) for the period from 19 September to 31 December 2014. He also proposed that the Assembly authorize him to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$49,943,600, pending submission of a detailed revised programme budget during the latter part of the main part of the sixty-ninth (2014) session.

High-level meeting. On 25 September, the Secretary-General convened a high-level meeting on the response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak. Speaking via teleconference were Presidents of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Secretary-General noted that the crisis had highlighted the need to strengthen early identification systems and action and suggested that a stand-by "white coats" corps of medical professionals be formed. While there had been a concerted response from the international communities and organizations, increased contributions were still required. International financial institutions and national Governments announced further pledges at the meeting.

ACABQ report. In a 30 September report [A/69/408], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) conveyed its having been informed that due to the urgency of establishing initial capability on the ground in the countries concerned following the establishment of UNMEER on 19 September, as well as the ongoing planning process, the Secretariat had been unable to conduct a thorough analysis and provide full details to support the request for resources for the Mission and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola for the period of 19 September to 31 December. Inasmuch as UNMEER was the first emergency health mission established by the Organization, the Committee emphasized the need for close coordination and cooperation among all partners in order to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Mission in light of the involvement of multiple senior officials in leadership roles.

ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide in his detailed budget submission comprehensive information

on the UN system's response and the specific functions and tasks of UNMEER and partners. The Secretary-General should detail the Mission's operational targets, benchmarks, indicators of achievement and expected time frames. In addition, there needed to be a rigorous assessment of the envisaged structure and staffing, with the grade levels of the proposed positions closely aligned with their respective functions and responsibilities. The Secretary-General should provide detailed justifications for non-post categories of expenditure, taking into account the total resources made available through the multi-partner trust fund, Member States and other partners, along with any in-kind contributions; and he should make every effort to seek contributions to that multi-partner trust fund.

The Committee recommended that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$49,943,600 for the Mission for the period from 19 September to 31 December. It emphasized that recommendation was without prejudice to any recommendation it might make to the General Assembly when it considered the detailed budget submission for the Mission or any decision that the Assembly might take with regard to the Mission's organizational structure, staffing and operational requirements.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 October [meeting 22], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/69/422], adopted **resolution 69/3** without vote [agenda item 132].

United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
3. *Recalls* paragraph 24 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and emphasizes that the adoption of the present resolution is without prejudice to any subsequent review of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response by the General Assembly and any decision it may take with regard to the budgetary arrangements, organizational structure, staffing and operational requirements of the Mission, when it considers the detailed budget submission by the Secretary-General.

High-level meeting. On 23 October, WHO convened a high-level meeting on Ebola Vaccines Access and Financing. More than 90 participants, including scientists, representatives of drug regulatory

authorities, NGOs, funding agencies and foundations, the GAVI alliance for childhood immunization and development banks, took part in examining the complex policy issues surrounding access to experimental Ebola vaccines and discussing ways to ensure the fair distribution and financing of such vaccines.

Letter of Secretary-General. In a 12 November letter [A/69/573] to the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General reviewed the activities from 19 September to 31 October that had been carried out by the Special Envoy on Ebola and UNMEER in pursuance of Assembly resolution 69/1 (see p. 1360). The letter reviewed the background of the Ebola virus disease outbreak and the development of the global response; the current situation; the Mission's activities and progress; and outstanding issues that needed to be addressed in order to move forward.

As the first-ever UN emergency health mission, UNMEER combined the technical expertise of WHO with the operational capabilities of other UN agencies, funds and programmes to lead international efforts that supported, reinforced and responded to the national plans of the affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The outbreak called for a massive, proportionate and well-organized global response that could support those Governments, guided by six principles of commitment: to the affected countries' ownership, sovereignty in decision-making and final authority; to reflecting the interests of people affected by the outbreak, by working in ways consistent with their social structures and national interests; to a differentiated but disciplined approach, aligned to a set of objectives ensuring consistency across geographies and situations to the extent feasible; to a dynamically adaptive approach, tailoring resource deployment to supply at any given time and to the scale of the outbreak in specific locations, and recognizing gaps as they existed or might exist; to working on essential systems beyond Ebola and not only to stopping the outbreak, but also to minimizing the impact on health care structures, food security and social and economic situations at local and national levels; and to building for the long term by strengthening health infrastructure in affected countries in the medium term. Furthermore, the Government of Ghana was hosting UNMEER headquarters in Accra to coordinate deliveries of aid to the affected countries.

As at 31 October, a total of 13,567 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of Ebola had been reported in six affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Spain, United States) and two previously affected countries (Nigeria, Senegal). A total of 4,951 deaths had been reported. The outbreak impacted access to basic health care, food, livelihood and education, with vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children and elderly persons disproportionately affected. The fragile economies of Guinea,

Liberia and Sierra Leone had also experienced rising prices, lower household incomes and greater poverty.

The World Bank estimated that the short-term growth rate of gross domestic product in 2014 had decreased from 4.5 per cent to 2.4 per cent in Guinea; from 5.9 per cent to 2.5 per cent in Liberia; and from 11.3 per cent to 8 per cent in Sierra Leone.

On 10 October, the Global Ebola Response Coalition (see p. 1356) adopted a response framework with near-term objectives over the following 30, 60 and 90 days. In the first 30 days, starting 1 October, the Mission was to establish its presence in the four countries and deploy personnel, aircraft, vehicles, communications and logistical capabilities. At the 60-day mark, the goal was to achieve 70 per cent isolation and 70 per cent safe burials, which would require a high-capacity scale-up of Ebola treatment units and community care centres. The 90-day mark aimed to achieve 100 per cent case isolation and 100 per cent safe burials, along with declining infection rates.

After establishing the Mission, the United Nations had deployed advance teams to Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to prepare for operations and engage with key partners in the region. The Mission also held an operational planning conference (Accra, Ghana, 15–18 October) with UN actors and international partners to produce an operational framework. The Mission's line of action in support of containment included case finding, laboratories and contact tracing; case management; safe dignified burials; and community engagement and social mobilization.

The World Food Programme provided dedicated services for the Ebola response; all staging areas and main hubs in Accra and in the three affected countries were operational. Regional operational staging areas were also established in Accra, Dakar, and Las Palmas, Spain. Eight forward logistics bases across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone had become operational. Work was also underway to establish 16 additional satellite hubs in the field to facilitate access to both community care and district health centres.

Air operations with dedicated staff and assets were deployed to Guinea, Sierra Leone, Accra and Dakar. Six helicopters and four fixed-wing aircraft were positioned in the region. An air coordination cell at the Copenhagen office of UNICEF was established. Since 19 September, 3,001 tons of ambulances, medical and operational support supplies, water, sanitation and health supplies on 47 UN-coordinated flights were flown into the region. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service had been providing dedicated common air transport service since August and a humanitarian air corridor opened in Dakar to the affected countries on 25 September. In addition, several Governments provided air and maritime support, including Germany with two C-160 cargo planes

operating supply runs from Accra to the three affected countries, Luxembourg with airlift capacity for vital supplies and Denmark committing to maritime sealift support.

By 31 October, gap analyses and planning showed the total revised financial requirement for critical lines of action and enabling functions amounted to \$1.5 billion—an increase from the initially foreseen \$988 million—for the support of the activities of the UN system and international partners. The increase reflected the changes and scaling up of responses to stop and treat the virus and deliver on community mobilization. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs noted that \$799 million had been received, committed or pledged to date; and efforts were aimed at ensuring funds received were translated quickly into demonstrable impact within villages, towns and cities. Overall costs related to immediate needs and beyond were estimated to be in the region of \$4 billion, depending on the international and national communities mobilizing and deploying the necessary resources as well as how quickly the crisis could be brought under control.

Despite the deployments and pledges, an additional 14 foreign medical teams were urgently needed. An entire information management system was also needed to develop an effective data management mechanism, including mobile data collection. While efforts were focused on achieving the 60-day goal (see p. 1362), the critical needs of abandoned orphans and people affected by diseases other than Ebola (particularly malaria) also had to be addressed; and the United Nations and NGOs needed staff and resources to do so.

Work was being done to increase the preparedness of all countries, with special attention to those in Africa, particularly 15 States that bordered countries with widespread and intense transmission, or that had strong trade and travel ties with such countries. Those States were prioritized for technical assistance on preparedness from WHO teams and partners. Teams had already been deployed to Côte d'Ivoire and Mali and were working with health authorities there. Urging Member States not to resort to travel restrictions or close their borders, as such was already obstructing response efforts, the Secretary-General maintained that the Ebola virus disease could only be stopped at its source by deploying the essential human resources to contain the outbreak. It was encouraging that, within 30 days, UNMEER had been deployed to four countries, mobilized significant human resource and logistical assets, set up operational capabilities in record time and developed a detailed operational plan in collaboration with the Governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and relevant UN partners and NGOs. Remaining gaps and medical and social challenges, however, needed to be addressed in order to begin containing the disease.

Security Council consideration. On 21 November, the Security Council held a meeting [S/PV.7318] on peace and security in Africa, focusing on the engagement of the Council on the Ebola virus disease outbreak, which it had declared to be a threat to international peace and security (see p. 1357). Addressing the Council, Dr. Nabarro, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola, said that where the response strategy was being implemented fully, transmission was decreasing, although results were uneven in different countries. Anthony Banbury, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMEER, told the meeting that while the financial needs were increasing, government revenues of the affected countries were decreasing.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 November [meeting 7318], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2014/24** on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reiterates its grave concern about the unprecedented extent of the Ebola outbreak in Africa, which constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and the impact of the Ebola virus on West Africa, in particular Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The Council expresses its appreciation for the crucial contributions and commitments made by the Member States of the region to continue to lead the ground-level response against the Ebola outbreak, as well as to address the wider political, security, socioeconomic and humanitarian impact, including on food security, of the Ebola outbreak on communities and the need to plan for the longer-term recovery in the region, including with the support of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Council underscores the continued need for robust contact tracing, social mobilization and community-level engagement efforts, especially outside of major urban areas in the most affected countries.

The Council stresses the importance for the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response to continue to strengthen coordination with the Governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and all national, regional and international actors, including bilateral partners and multilateral organizations, including the Mano River Union, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union, the World Bank Group and the United Nations system, in order to more readily identify gaps in the response effort and to utilize all Ebola response assistance more fully and efficiently, particularly at the local level. In this regard, the Council requests that the Secretary-General accelerate efforts to scale up the presence and activities of the Mission at the district and prefecture level outside of the capital cities.

The Council expresses its concern about the recent reported Ebola infections in Mali. The Council recognizes the important steps taken by the Government of Mali, including by appointing an Ebola incident coordinator to lead a whole-of-government response. The Council affirms the importance of preparedness

by all Member States to detect, prevent, respond to, isolate and mitigate suspected cases of Ebola within and across borders and of bolstering the preparedness of all countries in the region. The Council recalls the International Health Regulations (2005), which aim to improve the capacity of all countries to detect, assess, notify and respond to all public health threats.

The Council welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Mission to provide overall leadership and direction to the operational work of the United Nations system, as mandated by the General Assembly. The Council underscores the need for relevant United Nations system entities, including the United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions in West Africa, in close collaboration with the Mission and within their existing mandates and capacities, to provide immediate assistance to the Governments of the most affected countries.

The Council lauds the critical, heroic and selfless efforts of the first-line responders to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, including national health and humanitarian relief workers, educators and burial team members, as well as international health and humanitarian relief workers contributed by the Member States of diverse regions and non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations. The Council expresses its condolences to the families of the victims of the Ebola outbreak, including national and international first-line responders. The Council urges all Member States, non-governmental, intergovernmental and regional organizations to continue to respond to the outstanding need for medical personnel, as well as related critical gap areas such as personnel with expertise in sanitation and hygiene.

The Council underscores the critical importance of putting in place essential arrangements, including medical evacuation capacities and treatment and transport provisions, to facilitate the immediate, unhindered and sustainable deployment of health and humanitarian relief workers to the affected countries. The Council welcomes the steps announced by Member States and regional organizations to provide medical evacuation capacities for health and humanitarian relief workers, as well as other treatment options in situ.

The Council notes the considerable efforts of the international community to scale up its coordinated response to the Ebola outbreak and the important progress on the ground as a result of these contributions. In this regard, the Council commends those Member States, which, in concert with other actors on the ground, have opened Ebola treatment units and provided other crucial support in the affected countries. The Council urges all Member States, bilateral partners and multilateral organizations to expedite the provision of resources and financial assistance, as well as mobile laboratories; field hospitals to provide non-Ebola related medical care; dedicated and trained clinical personnel and services in Ebola treatment units and isolation units; therapies, vaccines and diagnostics to treat patients and limit or prevent further Ebola infection or transmission; and personal protective equipment for first-line responders. The Council calls upon Member States, especially in the region, to facilitate immediately the delivery of such assistance to the most affected countries.

The Council emphasizes that the dynamic needs on the ground in the most affected countries require that the response of the international community response remain flexible, in order to adapt to changing requirements and rapidly respond to new outbreaks.

The Council strongly urges Member States, as well as airlines and shipping companies, while applying appropriate public health protocols, to maintain trade and transport links with the most affected countries to enable the timely utilization of all efforts aimed at containing the Ebola outbreak within and across borders of the region. While recognizing the important role that appropriate screening measures can play in stopping the spread of the outbreak, the Council expresses its continued concern about the detrimental effect of the isolation of the affected countries as a result of trade and travel restrictions imposed on and to the affected countries, as well as acts of discrimination against the nationals of Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone, including Ebola survivors and their families or those infected with the disease.

Appointment. In identical letters of 9 December [A/69/662-S/2014/877], the Secretary-General informed the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council of his intention to appoint Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed (Mauritania) as his Special Representative for UNMEER succeeding Anthony Banbury (United States).

Year-end developments. In a later letter [A/69/720] to the General Assembly President, the Secretary-General gave an overview of developments from 1 November 2014 to 1 January 2015 on progress made in the Ebola virus disease response pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/1 (see p. 1360) since his letter of 12 November 2014 (see p. 1362). He covered the status of the Ebola outbreak; progress of the operational framework to stop the outbreak, including progress towards meeting key targets and challenges to achieving key response targets; an update on the operational activities carried out by the UN system through UNMEER and its partners, as well as his visit to the region (18–20 December); and activities of the Special Envoy on Ebola and the Global Ebola Response Coalition.

The Secretary-General reviewed efforts on moving forward, including stopping the outbreak and treating the infected; providing essential services and preserving stability; non-Ebola health care; protection; education; food security; water, sanitation and hygiene; economic impact, livelihoods and early recovery planning; and preventing outbreaks in non-affected countries.

As at 31 December, 20,206 deaths confirmed, probable and suspected cases of Ebola were reported in five affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom) and four previously affected countries (Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, United States). While the three most-affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) showed significant progress in slowing down the spread of the disease, within each

country, statistics illustrated significant differences. The number of new cases reported was fluctuating in Guinea and decreasing in Liberia, while the western part of Sierra Leone was experiencing the highest incidence of transmission. Although the weekly numbers remained similar, the disease was now more widely dispersed, creating challenges for the response.

Because of cross-border outbreaks in Mali, its Government requested that UNMEER establish an office in Bamako that became operational on 26 November. While the first case of Ebola had not resulted in a chain of transmission, a second case had resulted in six additional cases. Of the eight cases recorded in Mali, six resulted in death, including that of two health-care workers. Completing the 21-day surveillance period that began on 15 December, no further cases had been recorded, demonstrating the success of the Government's efforts to strengthen preparedness in Mali.

Within the reporting period, of the 678 health-care workers who had become infected, 380 had died. Data collection and epidemiological data were still impacted by the inaccessibility of remote areas, unreliable reporting and underreporting by resistant communities. UNMEER was working with international partners and NGOs to address data collection and develop a unified, technology-based reporting system. The operational framework established at a multi-stakeholder conference convened by UNMEER in October resulted in significant progress. The collective efforts of national Governments, affected communities, and the UN system and its partners had resulted in reducing the spread of Ebola through establishing treatment centres and burial teams, and training thousands of contract tracers and social mobilizers in affected countries, which helped communities change their behaviour and traditional practices to prevent transmission.

With 221 trained burial teams, over 90 per cent of individuals reported to have died from Ebola received a safe and dignified burial. In some regions, portions of the population were still carrying out clandestine, unsafe burials, including the washing of the body before the safe burial team was called. Improved geographical coverage and greater mobility of safe burial teams were needed. By the 60-day mark, 70 per cent of people with Ebola in Guinea and Liberia had been isolated and treated. Ebola treatment units and community care centres were reinforced by community-based initiatives.

In Sierra Leone, at the 60-day mark, the target of isolating and treating 70 per cent of people infected with the virus was not reached in four districts, in part due to the shortage of adequate treatment facilities. The Government and UNMEER initiated the "Western Area surge" plan which intensified efforts to curb the disease in that region. The Mission mobilized operational partners to meet critical gaps, such

as beds and convalescent centres, and help transport additional laboratories from within the region, airlift blood samples and deploy laboratory data specialists.

All three affected countries had the net capacity to reach the 90-day objective of isolating 100 per cent of all Ebola patients and ensuring safe and dignified burials in 100 per cent of Ebola-related deaths. Because capacity was not uniform across the districts and regions of each country, discrepancies were addressed by increasing laboratories, opening treatment units, increasing bed capacity and continuing safe burials. More than 100,000 teachers, religious leaders, traditional chiefs and community watch committee members received Ebola training in the three countries. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, the percentage of districts where safe burial was promoted by religious and community leaders had reached 100 per cent. Still needed were trained and experienced international medical responders with the requisite language skills to support national personnel. To respond to the increasing geographical dispersion of the outbreak, a large number of basic and more flexible deployable treatment and surveillance capabilities at the district level were needed as well.

As at 31 December, the Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund had pledges and deposits totalling \$141 million, with \$105.5 million disbursed to address critical unfunded gaps in the three most affected countries. Amounts committed still fell short of the required \$1.5 billion. The Special Envoy's report on "resources-for-results" provided a thorough overview of the needs of affected countries. Country-tailored reports were made available to the Governments of the three most affected countries and provided specific figures of available resources allocated by the major UN entities, as well as funds disbursed.

To contain the Ebola virus disease outbreak, the response needed to be further tailored to the location and spread pattern of the disease. The initial emphasis on containing the spread by finding and isolating infected individuals was now shifting to eliminating transmission wherever it appeared. The response also needed to shift from a country-level approach to a district-level approach. Governments, partners and the UN system were focusing on tailored responses in the 33 districts of Guinea, 15 districts in Liberia and 14 districts in Sierra Leone. The district-by-district approach would be complemented by a rapid response capacity that could be deployed in cases of sudden flare-ups that were beyond the district-level capacity.

To address the impact on essential services, the Mission and resident coordinators of the affected countries were working to ensure a response guided by national priorities. A revision of the overview of needs and requirements for the Ebola response would be published in January 2015. To strengthen the operational link between the Mission and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes involved in the res-

toration of essential services, UNMEER established a liaison office in Dakar. An estimated 86 per cent of Ebola treatment units and community care centres in the affected countries had functional water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. To help reduce further spread of the disease, UNICEF provided more than 160,000 households with safe water, sanitation and hygiene kits and support.

According to a study by the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic Commission for Africa, prices increased on vegetable oil, rice and potatoes by 20 to 30 per cent in some rural areas of Liberia and the price of rice had increased by at least 30 per cent in Sierra Leone. Foreign investors suspended activities and cross-border trade collapsed due to border closures. Household incomes suffered across all three countries, along with an increase in job loss. In response, social safety net cash transfer programmes were being provided for people who had lost their livelihoods, including in Liberia to bush meat traders affected by the preventive ban on bush meat. In Sierra Leone, 5,000 vulnerable households and 1,250 youth were being targeted through cash-for-work and skill-building for alternative livelihood programmes. In addition, a high-level meeting convened by WHO (Geneva, 11–12 December) on strengthening health systems and resilience in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone aimed to lay the foundation for stronger health systems and identified main constraints and challenges in rebuilding and developing more resilient health systems, among other goals.

The Ebola outbreak was still a public health emergency of international concern and the UN system would continue scaling up its efforts. More than \$1.16 billion had been received, committed or pledged by donors to fund the revised overview of needs and requirements for the outbreak. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund had received \$141 million in commitments, pledges and deposits. Nonetheless, the amounts committed still fell short of the required \$1.5 billion. Skilled international personnel were needed to establish and sustain district-level Ebola treatment units, as well as epidemiologists and infection prevention and control experts. Although tremendous progress had been achieved the risk of retransmission and the possibility of another outbreak was present as long as there were active cases.

Financing of UNMEER

Report of Secretary-General. A 17 November report [A/69/590 & Corr.1] of the Secretary-General on the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola and UNMEER contained proposals for revised estimates of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015. Three mechanisms were identified as funding sources: direct funding from the regular assessed budget for the Office of the Special Envoy and UNMEER for lead-

ership, coordination and facilitation of the overall response to the outbreak; direct voluntary funding provided to agencies, funds and programmes implementing the global strategic response plan in the affected countries; and the Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the allocation of funds to meet priority needs, encourage early donor contributions and allow a rapid response to unforeseen requirements. Additional resources needed were estimated to be in the amount of \$189,593,900 (net of staff assessment) for 376 positions in the Office of the Special Envoy and UNMEER, and 20 positions in 2014 and 9 positions in 2015 at Headquarters for backstopping and operational costs.

Emergency operational response activities were estimated at \$1.5 billion, to be funded through voluntary contributions received by the agencies, funds and programmes, including the Trust Fund. The total estimated resource requirements for the immediate response by the UN system were some \$1.7 billion. From the emergency response phase to the development and recovery phase, the wider UN system intervention in the affected countries was estimated at \$4.2 billion.

ACABQ report. In its 16 December report [A/69/660], ACABQ noted that it had not received the requested update on the status of expenditures as at 30 November 2014 and asked that such information be provided to the General Assembly. The Committee was concerned that the Secretary-General's report lacked clarity and/or detail in many elements and recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a more detailed budget proposal at the second part of the resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session. ACABQ recommended that the Assembly establish a separate and distinct special account for income and expenditures related to the Office of the Special Envoy and UNMEER, and authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of \$104,582,400, inclusive of the amount of \$49,943,600 authorized in resolution 69/3 (see p. 1361) for the Office of the Special Envoy and UNMEER for the period from 19 September 2014 to 30 June 2015, pending the submission of the more detailed budget. The Committee emphasized that the recommendations were made without prejudice to any recommendation it might make to the Assembly when considering the detailed budget submission or any decision by the Assembly regarding the Mission's organizational structure, staffing and operational requirements.

Global public health

The sixty-seventh session of the World Health Assembly (Geneva, 19–24 May) [WHA67/2013/REC/1] discussed public health issues such as tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, psoriasis, exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, traditional medicine, access

to essential medicines, antimicrobial resistance and the World Health Organization (WHO) global disability action plan 2014–2021. It adopted a series of resolutions and decisions on those and other topics. The WHO Secretariat also submitted a report on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The report included the final progress report in implementing the 2008–2013 action plan for the global strategy for the prevention and control of NCDs; progress in developing the terms of reference for the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of NCDs as well as those for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (see p. 1344); progress in developing a limited set of action plan indicators for the 2013–2020 WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs; and the role of WHO in the preparation, implementation and follow-up to the UN General Assembly comprehensive review and assessment in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs (*ibid.*).

Global health and foreign policy

On 26 September, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/98 [YUN 2013, p. 1182], the Secretary-General transmitted a report [A/69/405] by the WHO Director General focusing on global health partnerships that were helping to advance collectively agreed health priorities for obtaining better health outcomes and ensuring universal health coverage.

The Director General emphasized that forging new global partnerships was one of the major transformative shifts necessary to drive the post-2015 agenda. Global public health partnerships could support Member States' efforts in attaining better health outcomes; accelerating the transition towards universal health coverage; fostering North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, including the transfer of technologies; preparing for and responding to emergencies and disasters, including minimizing their impact on public health. The Director General recommended that the future efforts of multi-stakeholder partnerships address critical needs that were connected to the six WHO leadership priorities agreed upon by all WHO member States: advancing universal health coverage; health-related Millennium Development Goals; addressing the challenge of NCDs; implementing the provisions of the International Health Regulations (2005) [YUN 2005, p. 1331]; increasing access to essential, high-quality and affordable medical products; and addressing the social, economic and environmental determinants of health. She also urged greater efforts to align the work of health partnerships with national health policies, strategies and plans, while ensuring country ownership and recognizing that a "one-size-fits-all" approach was not appropriate.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 69], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/132** [draft: A/69/L.35 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 124].

Global health and foreign policy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 63/33 of 26 November 2008, 64/108 of 10 December 2009, 65/95 of 9 December 2010, 66/115 of 12 December 2011, 67/81 of 12 December 2012 and 68/98 of 11 December 2013, and reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits which have contributed to the advancement of the global health agenda as noted in these resolutions,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international humanitarian law, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Constitution of the World Health Organization,

Reaffirming the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one's family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions,

Underscoring the responsibility of Member States to build resilient national health systems and strengthen national capacities through attention to, inter alia, service delivery, health systems financing, including appropriate budgetary allocations, the health workforce, health information systems, the procurement and distribution of medicines, vaccines and technologies, sexual and reproductive health-care services and political will in leadership and governance, and recognizing the value and importance of universal health coverage in providing access to quality health services, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the members of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population,

Recognizing that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development and that, despite progress made, challenges in global health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, still remain and demand persistent attention,

Noting the role of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative in promoting synergy between foreign policy and global health and that health inequities within and between countries cannot only be addressed within the health sector by technical measures, or only at the national level, but also require global engagement for health, which is rooted in global solidarity and shared responsibility,

Reaffirming the commitment to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, welcoming progress made in the areas of the Goals that concern health, which are key to achieving all the Goals, and stressing the need to further support initiatives aimed at accelerating progress for their achievement,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the

report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Underscoring the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support the efforts of Member States to achieve health goals, implement universal access to health services and address health challenges while taking into account different national realities and capacities and respecting national policies and priorities,

Noting the important role that well-coordinated, multi-stakeholder partnerships with a broad range of actors, including national Governments, local authorities, international institutions, business, civil society organizations, foundations, philanthropists and social impact investors, scientists and academics and individuals, can play in development, supporting public health priorities that contribute to better health outcomes,

Reaffirming the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement, as proposed by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005, which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and in particular to promote access to medicines for all, and to encourage the provision of assistance to developing countries in this regard, and calling for broad and timely acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement,

Recognizing that the protection of intellectual property can be important in the development of new medicines,

Recognizing also that attacks upon medical and health personnel result in long-lasting impacts, including the loss of life and human suffering, weaken the ability of health systems to deliver essential life-saving services and produce setbacks for health development, and recalling in that regard General Assembly resolution 68/101 of 13 December 2013 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, as well as World Health Assembly resolution 65.20 of 26 May 2012,

Noting that attacking, threatening or otherwise preventing medical and health personnel from fulfilling their medical duties undermines their physical safety and the integrity of their professional codes of ethics, and that this impedes the attainment of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, as well as being a barrier to universal access to health services,

Reaffirming that Member States are responsible for ensuring the protection of the health, safety and welfare of their people and the resilience and self-reliance of the health system and access to health services, which is critical for minimizing health hazards and vulnerabilities and delivering effective prevention, response and recovery in emergencies and disasters,

Expressing deep concern over the current outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, which demonstrates the urgency of having strong health systems capable of implementing the International Health Regulations, pandemic preparedness and universal health coverage that promotes universal access to health services, which would assist in the prevention and detection of possible outbreaks, as well as of having motivated, well-trained and appropriately equipped health workers, and emphasizing the need for Member States and other relevant institutions to extend urgently all possible means of support to the affected countries to end the Ebola outbreak, while noting the importance of evidence-based responses to prevent fear, stigma and discrimination,

Taking note of multisectoral efforts, including the Global Health Security Agenda, to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect and respond to infectious diseases, in particular by promoting sustainable and resilient national health systems, surveillance systems and response protocols,

Stressing that the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the development of resilient health systems and advancement of the attainment of universal health coverage are enhanced by the respect of Member States, non-State actors and private individuals for the integrity and safety of medical and health personnel in carrying out their duties and of their means of transport and installations,

Acknowledging the need to prevent and address the exposure of health workers to hazardous working environments and violent incidents and the consequent trauma suffered by them in various forms, through, for example, improved specific training in public health administration and services, patient management and other health-worker support mechanisms, so as to ensure the safety, productivity and efficiency of the workforce and improved access to health-care services,

Stressing that medical and health personnel have a duty to provide competent medical service in full professional and moral independence, with compassion and respect for human dignity, and always to bear in mind human life and to act in the patient's best interest under their respective professional codes of ethics,

Reaffirming the rules and principles of international humanitarian law, including the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and 2005, as applicable, as well as international customary law concerned with the protection of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, hospitals and other medical facilities,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of humanitarian emergencies, armed conflicts and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Deploring acts of violence or threats of violence against medical and health personnel worldwide in armed conflict and emergency situations, and stressing that such acts are detrimental to the development of sustainable health systems and the integrity of the professional codes of ethics of medical and health personnel,

Noting that locally recruited humanitarian personnel and health-care personnel are particularly vulnerable to

attacks and account for the majority of casualties among humanitarian and health-care workers,

Recognizing that one of the most serious threats to medical and health personnel is posed by armed conflicts, acknowledging the risk to such personnel in situations that do not constitute armed conflict, and noting that it is the responsibility of national Governments to carry out appropriate preventive and remedial measures,

Reaffirming the role of the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work in accordance with its Constitution, and acknowledging the key role of the Organization and other relevant international organizations in providing support to Member States, as appropriate and upon request, in the development and implementation of preventive measures to promote the safety of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations and respect for their respective professional codes of ethics,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on global health and foreign policy;

2. *Urges* Member States to protect, promote and respect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to consider health in a holistic manner, including by considering health issues in the formulation of foreign policy;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to promote adequate incentives and an enabling and safe working environment for the effective retention and equitable distribution of the health workforce and to implement the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel as a guide to strengthen health systems through sustainable access to qualified personnel;

4. *Invites* the World Health Organization to provide technical support to Member States upon request in order to strengthen their capacity to deal with public health emergencies and the implementation of the International Health Regulations, with particular focus on developing countries, in order to build capacity, strengthen health systems and promote financial sustainability, training, recruitment and retention of human resources for health and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

5. *Calls for* the development and attainment by Member States of resilient and sustainable health systems that accelerate the transition towards universal health coverage in such a way as to ensure uninterrupted and accessible services for their populations, and stresses that medical and health personnel should be able to offer appropriate assistance without obstruction, threat or physical attack and in line with their respective professional codes of ethics and scope of practice;

6. *Calls for* all Member States and all stakeholders to respect the integrity of medical and health personnel in carrying out their duties in line with their respective professional codes of ethics and scope of practice;

7. *Recalls* World Health Assembly resolution 65.20, which calls for leadership to be provided at the global level in developing methods for systematic collection of data on attacks on health facilities, health workers, health vehicles and patients in complex humanitarian emergencies, in coordination with relevant United Nations bodies, other rel-

evant actors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, avoiding duplication of efforts;

8. *Strongly condemns* all attacks on medical and health personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and deplores the long-term consequences of such attacks for the population and health-care systems of the countries concerned;

9. *Urges* full respect for the rules and principles of international humanitarian law, including the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and 2005, as applicable, stresses the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and applicable national laws and regulations, to respect and protect medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, notes in this regard the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, and urges States to develop effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel;

10. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law, including the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to promote equal access to health services and to respect and protect medical and health personnel from obstruction, threats and physical attacks;

11. *Invites* the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations to develop their capacity to assist Member States, including through the promotion of research, and, upon request and through technical cooperation and other means, to develop appropriate preventive measures to enhance and promote the safety and protection of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations, to improve the resilience of health systems and to promote the effective implementation of universal health coverage;

12. *Notes* that challenges in global health still remain and demand persistent attention, and that this urgently requires the fulfilment of commitments to strengthen the global partnership for development, emphasizing in particular in this regard North-South cooperation, as well as the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation and the exchange of best practices, as well as capacity-building and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to address health inequities in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, in line with national priorities;

13. *Urges* Member States, in cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant international organizations and relevant non-State actors, to develop effective preventive measures to enhance and promote the safety and protection of medical and health personnel, as well as respect for their respective professional codes of ethics, including but not restricted to:

(a) Clear and universally recognized definitions and norms for the identification and marking of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations;

(b) Specific and appropriate educational measures for medical and health personnel, State employees and the general population;

(c) Appropriate measures for the physical protection of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations;

(d) Other appropriate measures, such as national legal frameworks where warranted, to effectively address violence against medical and health personnel;

(e) Collection of data on obstruction, threats and physical attacks on health workers;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, to submit a report on the protection of health workers, which compiles and analyses the experiences of Member States and presents recommendations for action to be taken by relevant stakeholders, including appropriate preventive measures.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that agenda item “Global health and foreign policy” would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

International Day of Yoga

On 11 December, the General Assembly considered a draft resolution, introduced by India and co-sponsored by 175 Member States, proposing an International Day of Yoga to raise global awareness of the many health benefits of practicing yoga.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 69], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/131** [draft: A/69/L.17 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 124].

International Day of Yoga

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 66/2 of 19 September 2011 on the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and 68/98 of 11 December 2013 on global health and foreign policy,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

Noting the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health,

Underscoring the fact that global health is a long-term development objective that requires closer international cooperation through the exchange of best practices aimed at building better individual lifestyles devoid of excesses of all kinds,

Recognizing that yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being,

Recognizing also that wider dissemination of information about the benefits of practising yoga would be beneficial for the health of the world population,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 21 June the International Day of Yoga;

2. *Invites* all Member and observer States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day of Yoga, in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise awareness of the benefits of practising yoga;

3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member and observer States and the organizations of the United Nations system.

Road safety

On 10 April, the General Assembly, in follow-up on resolution 66/260 [YUN 2012, p. 1166] and in consideration of an earlier report [YUN 2013, p. 1184] on improving global road safety, prepared by WHO, in consultation with the UN regional commissions and other partners of the UN Road Safety Collaboration [YUN 2005, p. 1334], called on Member States to implement road safety activities from the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020 [YUN 2010, p. 1233].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 April [meeting 82], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/269** [draft: A/68/L.40 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 12].

Improving global road safety

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003, 58/289 of 14 April 2004, 60/5 of 26 October 2005, 62/244 of 31 March 2008, 64/255 of 2 March 2010 and 66/260 of 19 April 2012 on improving global road safety,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, in which Member States took into account road safety as part of their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Recalling further the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on improving global road safety and the recommendations contained therein,

Noting that road traffic injuries are a major public health and development problem that has a broad range of social and economic consequences which, if unaddressed, may affect the sustainable development of countries and hinder progress towards the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing its concern that the number of road traffic deaths still remains unacceptably high, with an estimated 1.24 million lives lost in 2010, and that only 7 per cent of the world’s population is covered by adequate laws that address

all behavioural risk factors, including the non-use of helmets, safety belts and child restraints, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, inappropriate and excessive speed and the inappropriate use of cellular telephones, including texting, while driving,

Expressing its concern also that half of all road traffic deaths worldwide involve pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists and that some developing countries have inadequate infrastructure and insufficient policies in place to protect these vulnerable road users,

Recognizing the role of the first Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 November 2009, which culminated in a declaration inviting the General Assembly to declare a decade of action for road safety,

Noting with satisfaction that targeted steps to reduce road traffic injuries undertaken by the United Nations, including in the framework of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, have yielded positive results, and recognizing in this regard that more than 100 Member States, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives organized pedestrian safety activities during the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week, held from 6 to 12 May 2013,

Commending the Governments of Brazil, Mozambique, Romania and Thailand and the World Health Organization for the successful launch, in May 2013, in the context of the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly, of the Global Alliance for Care of the Injured,

Acknowledging the role of Oman in drawing the attention of the international community to global road safety and in preparing the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week, held from 23 to 29 April 2007, during the sixth meeting of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, held in Muscat on 27 and 28 February 2007,

Commending the World Health Organization for its role in implementing the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly to coordinate road safety issues within the United Nations system, in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, in providing support for the implementation of the Decade of Action and in preparing the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2013 and publishing a pedestrian safety manual, which provides information for use in developing and implementing comprehensive measures to improve pedestrian safety, and commending also the progress of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration,

Recognizing the work of the United Nations regional commissions in increasing road safety activities and advocating increased political commitment to road safety, in elaborating global road safety-related legal instruments, including international conventions and agreements, technical standards, resolutions and recommendations, and in working towards setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets,

Commending the Economic Commission for Europe for its plan to implement the Decade of Action, which includes actions, initiatives and measures for the Working Parties of the Commission in the areas of road infrastructure, traffic rules, dangerous goods and vehicle regulations, noting with satisfaction the establishment by the Commission of the two new groups of experts, namely on road signs and signals and on improving safety at level crossings, recognizing the continuous work of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations to modify vehicle regulations to

increase safety performance, and further commending the Commission for organizing special events in May 2013 in the framework of the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week, as well as for servicing 57 legal instruments that provide a commonly accepted legal and technical framework for the development of international road, rail, inland water and combined transport,

Acknowledging the important interregional efforts of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in organizing the Europe-Asia Road Safety Forum to promote the implementation of United Nations road safety conventions and to facilitate the exchange of experiences in this field among European and Asian countries,

Commending the road safety initiatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the organization of the regional Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Road Safety Improvement in Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Seoul from 8 to 10 May 2013, during the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week, and which adopted a joint statement on improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific, and the technical assistance provided to member countries to develop and refine national road safety goals, targets and indicators in support of the Decade of Action,

Commending also the efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa in strengthening the road safety initiative in Africa, including the adoption of the African Action Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety as a guiding document that addressed the continent's specificities and targeted a reduction in road traffic crashes by 50 per cent by 2020,

Commending further the efforts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to advocate and improve road safety in the Latin American and Caribbean region through studies and the dissemination of best practices among national Governments, the private sector, academia and multilateral regional institutions and to include road safety in comprehensive and regionally coordinated transport policies, including the efforts to establish the Mesoamerican Road Safety Plan, and strengthening the capacity of the road safety agency of Chile by enhancing its road safety data collection system as a tool for designing and monitoring effective policies,

Commending the efforts of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on enhancing road safety in the Arab region, including the organization of regional training workshops to accelerate the implementation of the Decade of Action and related recommendations included in the conclusions of the yearly intergovernmental meetings on transport, such as the fourteenth session of the intergovernmental Committee on Transport,

Acknowledging a number of other important international efforts on road safety, including the development by the International Road Transport Union of harmonized and internationally recognized standards for the vocational training of road transport professionals,

Taking note of the report of the Commission for Global Road Safety on safe roads for all as part of a post-2015 agenda for health and development,

Acknowledging the continued efforts of the Road Safety Initiative of the multilateral development banks, coordinated by the Global Road Safety Facility of the World Bank, and their collective actions to scale up road safety management capacity and infrastructure safety, improve

safety performance measures and scale up resources through the development of systematic country projects in low- and middle-income countries,

Commending Member States that have acceded to the United Nations international legal instruments on road safety and that have adopted comprehensive legislation on major risk factors, including disregard for road signs and signals, the non-use of helmets, safety belts and child restraints, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, inappropriate and excessive speed and the inappropriate use of cellular telephones, including texting, while driving,

Recognizing Member States and civil society for their continued commitment to road safety by observing the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on the third Sunday of November every year,

Recognizing also the efforts made by some countries to implement best practices, to set ambitious targets and to monitor road traffic fatalities and serious injuries,

Taking into account the importance of strengthening capacity and continuing international cooperation to further support efforts to improve road safety, particularly in developing countries, including least developed countries and middle-income countries, and providing, as appropriate, financial and technical support and knowledge to meet the goals of the Decade of Action,

Recognizing that a solution to the global road safety crisis can be achieved only through multisectoral collaboration, private and public funding mechanisms and partnerships involving the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, including national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, academia, professional associations, non-governmental organizations, victims' organizations, youth organizations and the media,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods and access to environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas, and in this regard takes into account road safety as part of the effort to achieve sustainable development;

2. *Commends* Member States that have developed national plans that are in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020, and encourages Member States that have not yet developed such plans to do so, paying special attention to the needs of all road users, in particular pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users, as well as issues related to sustainable mobility;

3. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to nominate, as appropriate, national focal points for the Decade of Action for Road Safety to coordinate and facilitate national activities for the Decade;

4. *Also invites* Member States that have not yet done so to address road safety holistically, starting with the implementation or continuation of a road safety management system, including, as appropriate, interdepartmental cooperation, the development of national road safety plans in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action, improvement of the quality of road safety statistics and data disaggregated by sex and age, collected through the standardization of definitions and reporting practices, and investments in multisectoral road traffic crash surveillance and analysis;

5. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to consider enacting comprehensive legislation on key

risk factors for road traffic injuries, including disregard for road signs and signals, the non-use of helmets, safety belts and child restraints, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, inappropriate and excessive speed and the inappropriate use of cellular telephones, including texting, while driving, in order to increase the proportion of countries with comprehensive legislation to 50 per cent by the end of the Decade of Action, and encourages Member States to strengthen their enforcement of existing road safety legislation on the risk factors;

6. *Encourages* the implementation of new car assessment programmes in all regions of the world in order to improve the availability of consumer information about the safety performance of motor vehicles;

7. *Invites* Member States to continue to improve, where appropriate, their road management systems and to introduce both road safety audits for new construction projects and road safety assessment programmes for the existing networks;

8. *Also invites* Member States to develop and implement comprehensive policies on post-crash care and to consider enacting legislation to legally protect bystanders who in good faith provide care to those injured in a crash;

9. *Further invites* Member States to raise awareness of serious road traffic injuries, in particular brain and spinal cord injuries, and to encourage investment in scientific research aimed at effectively treating such injuries;

10. *Encourages* Member States to continue to improve and strengthen pre-hospital, trauma and rehabilitation care through the adoption of a national emergency medical system telephone number, capacity-building and the provision of adequate and appropriate equipment;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of addressing global road safety issues through international cooperation and by strengthening collaboration between Member States and civil society to build capacity and raise awareness in the field of road safety and to continue to raise awareness through the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on the third Sunday of November every year;

12. *Also reaffirms* the role and importance of the United Nations legal instruments on road safety, such as the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic, the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic, the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals and the 1958 and 1998 agreements of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, in facilitating road safety at the global, regional and national levels, and encourages Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming contracting parties and, beyond accession, applying, implementing and promoting their provisions or safety regulations, as well as adhering to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

13. *Requests* the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and other stakeholders, to continue the activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Decade of Action;

14. *Also requests* the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions to facilitate the organization of activities during 2015 for the third United Nations Global Road Safety Week, with a focus on improving the safety of children in traffic;

15. *Invites* the World Health Organization to continue to monitor, through its global status reports, progress

towards the attainment of the goal of the Decade of Action to stabilize and reduce road traffic deaths by 2020, and in this regard notes the importance of targets and indicators against which progress can be systematically measured;

16. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to promote effective international cooperation on road safety issues, including in the broader context of sustainable transport, and in this regard encourages further efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen the coordination of the work of the United Nations system on sustainable transport, while taking into account the need to adequately address road safety issues;

17. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take a leading role in implementing the activities of the Decade of Action, while fostering multisectoral collaboration that includes the efforts of academia, the private sector, professional associations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, including national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, victims' organizations, youth organizations and the media;

18. *Invites* Member States, international organizations, development banks and funding agencies, foundations, professional associations and private sector companies to consider providing adequate and additional funding to activities relating to the Decade of Action, including through contributions to the Road Safety Fund established by the World Health Organization and the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society;

19. *Invites* all interested relevant stakeholders to explore new and innovative funding modalities to support and collaborate in national efforts to implement the Global Plan for the Decade of Action, particularly in developing countries, including least developed countries and middle-income countries;

20. *Encourages* Member States and the international community to take road safety into due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing the importance of a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable transport;

21. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Brazil to host the second high-level global conference on road safety, to be held in 2015, to bring together delegations of ministers and representatives dealing with transport, health, education, safety and related traffic law enforcement issues, to review progress in implementing the Global Plan for the Decade of Action and in meeting the goal of the Decade of Action and to provide an opportunity for Member States to exchange information and best practices;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session an item entitled "Improving global road safety", and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at that session on the progress made in the attainment of the objectives of the Decade of Action.

Food, agriculture and nutrition

Food aid

World Food Programme

The Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP) held its 2014 sessions [E/2015/36] in Rome: first (10–11 February), annual (3–6 June) and second (10–13 November), during which it made decisions

and recommendations on various organizational and programme matters. It also approved several projects and policies, including protracted relief and recovery operations in Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Haiti, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Yemen and the State of Palestine. On 13 November, the Board approved its 2015–2016 biennial programme of work.

The Economic and Social Council, by **decision 2014/228** of 14 July, took note of the report [E/2014/36] of the WFP Executive Board on its first and second regular sessions and annual session of 2013, as well as of the WFP annual report for 2013 [E/2014/14].

WFP activities

According to a later WFP annual performance report [E/2015/14], unprecedented humanitarian crises made 2014 a challenging year in which WFP provided vital aviation, logistics, telecommunications and other common services to the humanitarian and development community. WFP work was dominated by responses to concurrent Level 3 and Level 2 emergencies that stretched the organization's capacities beyond their expected limits. Four of the emergencies were triggered during 2014: Iraq (see p. 1073), Libya (see p. 383), Ukraine (see p. 1074) and the Ebola crisis in West Africa (see p. 1069). WFP and its partners also continued their responses to protracted emergencies in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, the State of Palestine, Somalia and the Sudan that involved conflict, natural disasters, economic shocks and significant disruptions to food systems. The concurrent emergency responses required high levels of staff commitment: 2,900 WFP staff—roughly 20 per cent of the total—worked on one or more of the Level 3 emergencies; 600 employees were temporarily deployed, often at short notice.

In 2014, WFP received its highest-ever level of voluntary contributions in the amount of \$5.38 billion, 79 per cent of which was directed to the emergency response effort. In total, direct food assistance was provided for 80 million people in 82 countries, most of whom were women and children, compared with the estimated 75.9 million people anticipated in its management plan. The use of cash and voucher transfers increased to 18 per cent of the year-end budget, compared with 14 per cent in the previous financial period, primarily because that was the main modality used to assist Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Cash and voucher transfers assisted 8.9 million people during 2014, 13 per cent more than in 2013. The Ebola virus disease outbreak response required extraordinary efforts, innovative ways of working and new inter-sectoral partnerships. To prevent some health crises from becoming food crises, WFP and its partners rapidly reached affected communities in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and restored essential transport, logistics and telecom-

munications services necessary to operationalize the wider response throughout the region.

Looking ahead, the annual performance urged a redoubling of efforts to tackle the harmful effects of hunger and malnutrition on those people left behind by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Programme's mission to end hunger would continue to be guided by the five pillars of the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge [YUN 2012, p. 1170], namely: eliminating stunting among children under two; guaranteeing universal access to adequate and nutritious food; ensuring that food systems were sustainable; increasing the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers by 100 per cent; and eliminating loss or waste of food.

Food Assistance Convention

The Food Assistance Convention (FAC), which came into force on 1 January 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1185], saw its membership increase with the accession of six countries: Australia, Luxembourg, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, bringing the total membership at the end of 2014 to 14. FAC expanded the traditional focus of previous Food Aid Conventions which centred exclusively on commitments of in-kind food aid for direct consumption. It also incorporated a broader toolbox of eligible activities and food assistance products, including cash, vouchers and products intended for protecting livelihoods, a greater focus on nutrition, and a commitment to improved transparency and accountability. Parties to the Convention were making their commitments in monetary value as opposed to the metric wheat tonne equivalent, sharing information and best practices in food assistance delivery, and meeting twice annually to discuss the most efficient and effective means of delivery of food assistance.

Annual FAC financial commitments to improving the food security and nutritional status of vulnerable populations amounted to over \$2.7 billion dollars in 2014. FAC members responded to humanitarian crises throughout the world, with the Syrian regional conflict constituting the largest single response. Other notable responses included the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa and the crises in South Sudan and Ukraine. In 2014, all members fulfilled their financial commitments, and some exceeded their commitments substantially. Food assistance operations were provided bilaterally, through intergovernmental or other international organizations including WFP.

Food security

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to address global

food insecurity. The 2014 edition of the organization's report *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, which focused on strengthening the enabling environment for food security and nutrition, stated that 805 million people—or one in nine people—were chronically undernourished in 2012–14: an amount 100 million lower than the previous decade, and 209 million lower than in 1990–92. The vast majority of those undernourished people lived in developing countries, where an estimated 791 million were chronically hungry. The developing world, however, accounted for most of the improvements over the previous two decades, with an overall reduction of 203 million undernourished people since 1990–92. The MDGs hunger target of reducing by half the proportion of undernourished people by 2015 was within reach if appropriate and immediate efforts were stepped up.

Despite the overall progress, the developing world was not on track to achieve the 1996 World Food Summit [YUN 1996, p. 1129] target of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. Marked differences also persisted across regions. Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest prevalence rate of undernourishment, having made only modest progress in preceding years; around one in four people in the region remained undernourished. Asia, the most populous region in the world, still had the highest number of undernourished. Latin America and the Caribbean, as a whole, met the MDG hunger target as well as the more stringent World Food Summit target.

Key messages outlined in the report included the need for sustained political commitment at the highest level as a prerequisite for hunger eradication; an integrated hunger reduction approach that would include public and private investments to raise agricultural productivity; better access to inputs, land, services, technologies and markets; social protection for the most vulnerable, including strengthening their resilience to conflicts and natural disasters; and specific nutrition programmes, especially to address micronutrient deficiencies in mothers and children under five.

Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Malabo Declaration. At the twenty-third ordinary session of the African Union (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 26–27 June), which also marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development [YUN 2009, p. 1234], African leaders adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, reaffirming Africa's strong commitment to using growth in agricultural productivity to spur economic growth, boost the food and income security

of rural households and reduce extreme poverty and hunger. The CAADP aimed at eliminating hunger and reducing poverty through agriculture by increasing public investment in agriculture and raising agricultural productivity. The Malabo Declaration represented a recommitment by Heads of State to the key principles and values of the Programme, particularly mutual accountability on actions and results.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/233 [YUN 2013, p. 1187], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/279] on agriculture development, food security and nutrition. The report examined progress and challenges in achieving food security and nutrition, sustainably increasing agricultural production, and reducing agricultural losses and waste in accordance with the Zero Hunger Challenge [YUN 2012, p. 1170] and international agreements. The Secretary-General also made recommendations on how to maintain momentum beyond the achievement of the 2015 targets through the incorporation of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in the post-2015 development agenda (see p. 960).

The Secretary-General stated that developing regions as a whole had registered significant progress towards meeting the MDG hunger target, but that 33 countries—26 in Africa and 7 in Asia—remained in need of external assistance for food owing to conflict, crop failures and high domestic food prices, or a combination of those factors. From 2000 to 2012, the global prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age had declined from one in three to one in four—with the number of children affected falling from 197 million to 162 million, 90 per cent of whom were in Africa and Asia. Worldwide in 2012, 51 million children under 5 years of age were wasted (dangerously thin for one's height), and 17 million were severely wasted—prevalence rates of almost 8 per cent and just under 3 per cent, respectively. Approximately 71 per cent of all severely wasted children lived in Asia and 28 per cent in Africa, with similar figures for wasted children of 69 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively.

As the report also set forth, the International Year of Family Farming, 2014—whose implementation the General Assembly had invited FAO to facilitate in its resolution 66/222 [YUN 2011, p. 1168] declaring the Year—was officially launched on 22 November 2013 at UN Headquarters in New York. Events included five regional dialogues that engaged family farmers and representatives from governments, the scientific community, civil society organizations and the private sector. The dialogues aimed to identify the main challenges and opportunities for family farming in each region, and the main tenets of an enabling policy environment for family farming as a central component for achieving food and nutrition security, and effectively eradicating hunger and rural poverty. At the request of the International Steering Committee

of the Year, the 2014 FAO regional conferences provided forums for constructive dialogue among those stakeholders, and further defined the scope of the work and priorities of FAO in support of family farming at the regional level.

The Secretary-General emphasized that eliminating hunger, ensuring food security and adequate nutrition, and making agriculture and food systems sustainable would require a more integrated approach across many sectors. He referenced an emerging consensus that food security in the post-2015 development agenda had to be aligned with the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries [YUN 2011, p. 828], which was designed to lift the poorest countries out of poverty. Targets on nutrition in the post-2015 development agenda had also to take into account the 2012 World Health Assembly targets [YUN 2012, p. 1175], which touched upon all dimensions of malnutrition.

The Secretary-General recommended that countries be enabled to determine their own nationally articulated food security strategies developed through consultation with all key stakeholders; Governments undertake research and make other investments to support the capacity of smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change; and continued efforts be made towards improving the food security and nutritional status of the poor, including through strengthened social protection and safety nets.

Committee on World Food Security. By a note [A/69/91-E/2014/84] of 3 September the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security. The report, submitted in response to Council decision 2011/217 [YUN 2011, p. 1162], provided a brief description of the outcomes and decisions taken by the Committee at its fortieth session in October 2013, and, where appropriate, updates on follow-up actions.

Among its principal actions, the Committee endorsed the second version of the Global Strategic Framework that included policy recommendations previously endorsed at its thirty-ninth session in 2012 [YUN 2013, p. 1186]. It also endorsed the next steps of the Communication Strategy for the Framework, and requested that an implementation plan including the budget be developed. The Committee further endorsed the terms of reference, qualifications and selection procedure for the new Committee Secretary, and the modalities and requirements for the inclusion in its Secretariat of other UN system entities that were directly involved in food security and nutrition.

At the session, the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition presented two reports: "Biofuels and Food Security" and "Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security" that were used

as the basis for discussions at two policy round tables. Other topics addressed by the Committee included food security in protracted crises; the Multi-Year Programme of Work; and the work of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition.

On 17 November (**decision 2014/250**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the note transmitting the report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/474], adopted **resolution 69/240** without vote [agenda item 25].

Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/178 of 20 December 2010, 66/220 of 22 December 2011, 67/228 of 21 December 2012 and 68/233 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling also the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, and noting the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, as well as the Framework for Action, which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for use by Governments, as appropriate, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition, held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014,

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 September 2013,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

Recalling also its resolution 68/309 of 12 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered,

in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Welcoming the implementation of the International Year of Family Farming, 2014, which raised the profile of the role of family farming and smallholder farming in contributing to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition, looking forward to the implementation of the International Year of Soils, 2015, and World Soil Day, 5 December, and also looking forward to the participation of the United Nations in Expo Milano 2015, “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, which will focus on the theme “The Zero Hunger Challenge—United for a Sustainable World”,

Welcoming also the outcome of the forty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 13 to 18 October 2014,

Noting the adoption by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Malabo on 26 and 27 June 2014, of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, which also marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Reaffirms* the commitments to making every effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in support of developing countries, in particular those countries that are lagging most behind and those Goals where progress is most off track, thus improving the lives of the poorest people;
3. *Stresses* the importance of continued consideration of the issue of agriculture development, food security and nutrition, and further encourages Member States and all stakeholders to give due consideration to this issue in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on new developments related to the issues highlighted in its resolution 68/233 and in the present resolution;
5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition”.

Nutrition

Scaling up nutrition. In 2014, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement saw the introduction of self-assessments, undertaken by 37 SUN countries and involving all stakeholders assessing their performance and confirming the ownership by governments and their partners. During the year, an additional 13 countries joined the SUN movement taking the total to 54 countries. Substantial progress was noted in relation to SUN Movement Strategic Objectives 1 and 2, on creating an enabling political environment and establishing best practices for scaling up proven interventions, respectively. In relation to Strategic Objective 3 on aligning in-country actors around a common results framework, it was not an easy task and required continuous efforts by all concerned. In relation to Strategic Objective 4 on increasing resources, there

were early signs that as countries progressed in relation to the first two strategic objectives, they started to see an increase in the resources available for nutrition.

The technical group of the *SUN* UN System Network (UN Network), built around FAO, WHO, WFP, UNICEF and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, held a face-to-face meeting to help articulate a joint UN vision and discuss necessary institutional arrangements required to promote improved harmonized approaches within the United Nations. The UN Network provided direct support to governments in 14 countries. It also hosted side events aimed at raising the profile of nutrition, including during the fortieth session of the Committee on World Food Security in October 2013 (see p. 1375) and the preparatory technical meetings in November 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1194] for the Second International Conference on Nutrition (see below).

Second International Conference on Nutrition.

As set forth in a later report [A/70/333], the Second International Conference on Nutrition, co-organized by FAO and WHO, was held at FAO headquarters (Rome, 19–21 November 2014). The high-level intergovernmental conference focused global attention on malnutrition in all its forms—undernourishment, undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight and obesity. The Conference brought together a total of 164 members of FAO and WHO. More than 2,200 individuals participated, including Heads of State and Government, experts and representatives of civil society and the private sector.

The Conference was convened to review progress made since the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition [YUN 1992, p. 830], respond to new challenges and opportunities, and identify policy options for improving nutrition; bring food, agriculture, health and other sectors together to enable them to align their sectoral policies for improving nutrition in a sustainable manner; propose adaptable policy options and institutional frameworks that could adequately address major nutrition challenges in the foreseeable future; encourage greater political and policy coherence, alignment, coordination and cooperation among food, agriculture, health and other sectors; mobilize the political will and resources needed to improve nutrition; and identify priorities for international cooperation on nutrition in the near and medium terms.

The political Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, a voluntary technical guide of 60 recommendations on how to implement the Declaration, were the two outcome documents endorsed by participating Governments at the Conference, committing world leaders to establish national policies for eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and transforming food systems so as to make nutritious diets available to all. In the Rome Declaration, ministers and representatives of the members of FAO and WHO also recommended that the General Assembly “consider declaring a decade of action on nutrition from 2016 to 2025 within existing structures and available resources”.

International drug control and crime prevention

In 2014, the United Nations, through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), continued to strengthen international cooperation in countering transnational organized crime, corruption, drugs and international terrorism. UNODC provided technical assistance, legal advice and research to the main United Nations policymaking bodies in drug control and crime prevention, and assisted Member States in developing domestic legislation and in implementing the international drug control and crime prevention conventions. During the year, the Office improved the alignment between its strategic framework and the normative and technical cooperation services it provided, implemented 16 regional and country programmes; launched a new regional programme in support of the Caribbean Community Crime and Security Strategy; and strengthened cooperation at the regional level in the Sahel. The Office also expanded its global programmes supporting the ratification and implementation of the international conventions on drugs and crime and promoting UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. It supported preparations for the high-level review conducted by CND, strengthened its cooperation and coordination with other UN agencies, promoted the coherence of UN initiatives on the rule of law and amplified the impact of its work through cooperation with international organizations.

CND—the main UN policymaking body dealing with drug control—held its fifty-seventh session in March, during which it recommended to the Economic and Social Council one draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly, and two decisions for adoption by the Council. It adopted one decision and 11 resolutions on topics such as alternative development; drug abuse prevention through sport; prevention based on scientific evidence; supporting recovery from drug use disorders; the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016; education and training on drug use disorders; health services during economic downturns; illicit activities related to opium poppy seeds; identification of new psychoactive substances; preventing the diversion of ketamine; and measures to support the Greater Mekong subregion in countering drug trafficking and abuse. The Commission also conducted a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the 2009 Political Declaration and

Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

In its report for 2014, INCB discussed the implementation of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to addressing the world drug problem and facilitating the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, to be accomplished through compliance with the three international drug control conventions. It stressed the importance of drug demand and supply reduction strategies and noted that the illicit cultivation of drug crops was intertwined with socioeconomic factors and thus its reduction and elimination should be addressed in the broader context of sustainable development.

CCPCJ—the principal UN policymaking body in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice—held its twenty-third session in May, during which it recommended to the Economic and Social Council six draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly, and three draft resolutions and two decisions for adoption by the Council. It held a thematic discussion on international cooperation in criminal matters and adopted one decision and three resolutions on topics that included trafficking in forest products; trafficking in human organs; and strengthening the goAML (Anti-Money-Laundering) system.

In December, the General Assembly reaffirmed that countering the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility to be addressed in a multilateral setting. The Assembly adopted the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences and urged Member States to apply them to the maximum extent possible, in view of strengthening international cooperation. The Assembly also adopted the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and requested UNODC to ensure their broad dissemination.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) addressed the interrelated issues of transnational organized crime, corruption, drugs and international terrorism, and offered global solutions for

those problems within the multilateral framework of the United Nations. Guided by its governing bodies—the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)—the Office continued its work with Member States and civil society on pursuing a balanced and integrated approach to controlling drugs and combating crime as part of the UN system-wide effort to promote justice, human rights, development, health, peace and security. CND held its fifty-seventh session (13 December 2013; 13–21 March and 3–5 December 2014) [E/2014/28 & Add.1] and CCPCJ its twenty-third session (13 December 2013; 12–16 May and 4–5 December 2014) [E/2014/30 & Add.1], all in Vienna.

In a report to the two Commissions [E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2], the UNODC Executive Director described the Office's 2014 activities, which focused on countering corruption, terrorism and transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking; crime prevention and criminal justice; drug use prevention; treatment and reintegration; alternative development; and research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support. At the intergovernmental level, the Office supported preparations for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, conducted by CND at its fifty-seventh session (see p. 1381). It provided expertise and technical support to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, to be held in 2016. UNODC also supported the organization of four regional meetings in preparation for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Qatar in 2015. The Office expanded the number and volume of integrated regional and country programmes, providing the operational frameworks and cooperation platforms to support Member States in their drug and crime control priorities and to contribute to regional strategies and action plans. During the year, it was implementing 16 programmes, initiated evaluations for the regional programmes in East and West Africa and launched the new regional programme in support of the Caribbean Community and Security Strategy. In the Sahel, the comprehensive UNODC interregional response was rolled out. The Office supported the ratification and implementation of the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Corruption [YUN 2003, p. 1127] and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime [YUN 2000, p. 1048] and the Protocols thereto, while strengthening its cooperation and coordination with other UN agencies.

With a view to countering transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking, UNODC, through the Paris Pact initiative, continued to support efforts to counter the threat of illicit Afghan opiates

and foster joint action against drug-related financial flows and money-laundering, expanded maritime cooperation and enhanced regional cooperation in criminal matters. Initiatives in drug supply reduction and countering drug trafficking focused on building operational links between various regional and international law enforcement organizations. The UNODC Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) supported interregional cooperation against drug trafficking through the development of intelligence- and information-sharing platforms, with a focus on priority international airports in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Container Control Programme, implemented jointly by UNODC and the World Customs Organization to assist States in the development of sustainable law enforcement structures in sea and dry ports, expanded with operational units in 20 countries. The Office continued providing technical support to States within the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control of the Greater Mekong subregion and through the UNODC regional programme for South-East Asia. Through its global programmes on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, UNODC delivered over 30 technical assistance activities, reaching over 25 countries and 440 practitioners. Through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC cooperated with regional networks in building national systems to counter money-laundering in Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and East and Southern Africa. In January, UNODC reconvened the intergovernmental expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property, which led to the finalization of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, adopted by Assembly resolution 69/196 (see p. 1408). In May, UNODC launched the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, which addressed the illicit supply of and demand for wild fauna and flora at the global level. As part of its Maritime Crime Programme, UNODC assisted Kenya, Mauritius and Seychelles in their prosecution of suspected pirates.

As to countering corruption, the Office continued to provide technical assistance to the country review process of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption, which entered the last year of its first cycle, with 171 States parties engaged in the process. The joint UNODC-World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (STAR) Initiative provided technical assistance on asset recovery to approximately 30 countries. In terrorism prevention, UNODC promoted the ratification and/or implementation of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism. It provided legal assistance to Member States for the harmonization of national

counter-terrorism legislation, and it strengthened its cooperation with entities participating in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

In crime prevention and criminal justice, UNODC assisted and advised an increasing number of countries on strengthening the rule of law through crime prevention and the promotion of fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems. The Office convened intergovernmental expert group meetings on the elimination of violence against children and on the gender-related killing of women and girls, as well as the third meeting of the Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Vienna, 25–28 March). The United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice were subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 69/194 (see p. 1440).

With respect to prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development, UNODC supported drug prevention and drug dependence treatment in more than 50 countries and continued its collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) in 45 countries on strengthening services for the treatment, care and recovery of people suffering from drug dependence as well as children exposed to drugs at a very young age. To support reaching the target of reducing HIV transmission among people who injected drugs by 50 per cent by 2015, as established by the General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS [YUN 2011, p. 1135], UNODC supported a rapid scaling-up of the delivery of harm reduction services, including advocacy, technical assistance and capacity-building in 24 high-priority countries. It continued implementation of alternative development programmes in six key countries affected by illicit crop cultivation: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru.

The Office continued to provide technical support to Member States for the development of crime statistics and to collect and analyse data and trends with respect to illicit trafficking of opiates, especially from Afghanistan. It also assisted countries by providing training to improve the collection, analysis and reporting of drug data.

The financial situation of UNODC remained vulnerable, and low levels of non-earmarked or soft marked funding represented a challenge to the implementation of its mandates and programmes. The consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2014–2015, as revised, totalled \$760.1 million, of which 11.7 per cent came from regular budget funds and 83.3 per cent from extrabudgetary resources.

The *World Drug Report 2014* [Sales No. E.14.XI.7] highlighted trends and emerging issues regarding the global drug situation and presented an analysis of the status of precursor control. The Office published

the latest *Global Study on Homicide* [Sales No. 14.IV.1] during the year, based on data for 219 countries and territories worldwide. The *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014* [Sales No. 14.V.10] provided global data and highlighted patterns and flows. The *Illicit Drug Trade through South-Eastern Europe* provided a picture of the drug trafficking routes and trends in the region and beyond.

The Executive Director concluded his report with recommendations to the Commissions.

Administrative and budgetary matters

Administration

UNODC strategy. In a January note [E/CN.7/2014/15-E/CN.15/2014/15] on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017, the Secretary-General invited CND and CCPCJ to review and provide comments on the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice [A/69/6 (Prog. 13)].

Intergovernmental working group. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2013/246 [YUN 2013, p. 1197], CND resolutions 52/13 [YUN 2009, p. 1252], 54/10 [YUN 2011, p. 1173], 54/17 [ibid.] and 56/11 [YUN 2013, p. 1197], and CCPCJ resolutions 18/3 [YUN 2009, p. 1082], 20/1 [YUN 2011, p. 1173], 20/9 [ibid.] and 22/2 [YUN 2013, p. 1197], the Secretariat submitted a January note [E/CN.7/2014/8-E/CN.15/2014/8] on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, which covered the working group's activities between 31 October 2013 and 13 January 2014. During the reporting period, the working group discussed implementation of the UNODC consolidated budgets for 2012–2013 and 2014–2015; the UNODC mandate with respect to cybercrime; action taken to strengthen programme-level reporting; the introduction of a sustainable funding model based on full cost recovery; an update on the regional programme for West Africa for 2010–2014; and a new regional programme for South-East Asia for 2014–2017.

An October addendum to the note [E/CN.7/2014/8/Add.1-E/CN.15/2014/8/Add.1] covered the working group's activities between 12 February and 1 October. It considered progress by UNODC in the implementation of its thematic programme on crime prevention and criminal justice reform for 2012–2015, full cost recovery implementation and the use of general purpose and programme support cost funds in the consolidated budget for 2014–2015.

Budget

In November [E/CN.7/2014/18-E/CN.15/2014/21], the UNODC Executive Director identified adjustments to the consolidated budget for the biennium 2014–2015 for UNODC and provided information on the implemen-

tation of the funding model of the Office, as requested by CND resolution 56/17 [YUN 2013, p. 1197] and CCPCJ resolution 22/9 [ibid.].

The total general-purpose expenditure for the drug and crime programme funds was projected to decrease by \$5.3 million (25.3 per cent), from \$21.2 million in 2012–2013 to \$15.9 million in 2014–2015; and requirements against the programme support cost resources were anticipated to increase by \$8.7 million (23 per cent), from \$38 million in 2012–2013 to \$46.7 million in 2014–2015. The total special-purpose expenditure of the drug and crime programme funds was projected to increase by \$111.2 million (23.4 per cent), from \$474.5 million in 2012–2013 to \$585.7 million in 2014–2015. The total regular budget resources reflected an increase of \$3.3 million, from \$85 million in 2012–2013 to \$88.3 million in 2014–2015.

For the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Member States were requested to endorse revised estimates for special-purpose funds totalling \$323,384,700, reflecting an increase of \$18,816,800 vis-à-vis the amounts endorsed by CND resolution 56/17. The amounts approved for general-purpose funds (\$11,189,700) and endorsed for programme support cost funds (\$23,880,600) were maintained. For the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, Member States were requested to endorse revised estimates for special-purpose funds totalling \$285,159,200, reflecting an increase of \$4,016,600 vis-à-vis the amounts endorsed by CCPCJ resolution 22/9. The amounts approved for general-purpose funds (\$4,684,800) and endorsed for programme support cost funds (\$22,830,900) were maintained.

Commission action. On 5 December [E/2014/28/Add.1 (res. 57/12)], CND endorsed the revised estimates of \$323,384,700 for special-purpose funds. On the same date [E/2014/30/Add.1 (res. 23/4)], CCPCJ endorsed the revised estimates of \$285,159,200 for special-purpose funds. Both the Commissions noted the cost-saving measures taken by UNODC to maintain general-purpose expenditure at \$11,189,700 and programme support cost expenditure at \$23,880,600, encouraged the efforts made by UNODC to develop an annual report and an annual pledging process and invited Member States to provide extrabudgetary resources for those purposes. They also requested UNODC to encourage donors to provide general-purpose funding and invited Member States and other donors to support the general-purpose funds of the Office.

International drug control

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

At its fifty-seventh session (Vienna, 13 December 2013 and 13–21 March 2014) [E/2014/28], the

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of one draft resolution on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, for adoption by the General Assembly. It also recommended two draft decisions for the Economic and Social Council's adoption, and adopted 11 resolutions, one decision and the Joint Ministerial Statement of its high-level segment, all of which it brought to the attention of the Council (see below).

At its reconvened fifty-seventh session (Vienna, 3–5 December) [E/2014/28/Add.1], the Commission adopted one resolution on implementation of the budget for the biennium 2014–2015 for the Fund of the UN International Drug Control programme and brought it to the attention of the Council. It brought two draft decisions to the Council's attention and recommended one draft decision for adoption by the Council.

On 16 July, by **decision 2014/233**, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Commission's report on its reconvened fifty-sixth (2013) session. On the same date, by **decision 2014/234**, the Council took note of the Commission's report on its fifty-seventh session [E/2014/28], Commission decision 55/1 of 2012 on the organization of work for future CND sessions, and Commission resolution 57/5 regarding organizational matters relevant to preparations for the 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (see p. 1383). It also approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's fifty-eighth (2015) session.

Commission documentation. The Commission considered a December 2013 report [E/CN.7/2014/6] by the Secretariat with information on the costs and the number and frequency of documents prepared for the Commission, and efforts by the Secretariat to increase efficiencies in the manner in which it produced such documentation and the savings linked to those efficiencies. The report made recommendations, including exploring possibilities to improve and reduce the yearly reporting requirements through an examination of the Commission's mandates, with a view to identifying those which were outdated or duplicative.

International cooperation against the world drug problem

High-level review. The high-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held on 13 and 14 March [E/2014/28], consisted of a mid-term review of progress achieved and challenges in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second (2009) session of the Commission [YUN 2009, p. 1237] and by General Assembly resolution

64/182 [ibid.]. The themes for the three round-table discussions were demand reduction; supply reduction; and international cooperation. On 14 March, the participants adopted the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

In a May note [A/69/87-E/2014/80], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/197 [YUN 2013, p. 1198], the report of the Chair of the Commission on the outcome of the CND high-level review. Annexed to that report was the Joint Ministerial Statement.

By **decision 69/538** of 18 December, the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note.

Special session on the world drug problem. On 21 March [E/2014/28 (res. 57/5)], the Commission on Narcotic Drugs urged States to ratify or accede to the provisions of the three main drug control conventions, and underlined the importance of the special session of the General Assembly to address the world drug problem to be convened in early 2016, as a milestone on the way to 2019, which had been set as the target date for the achievement of the goals of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem [YUN 2009, p. 1237]. Recognizing its leading role in the preparations for the special session, the Commission decided to take measures to ensure an adequate preparatory process by making use of its meetings, reporting entitlements and regular budget resources in the most efficient manner. It requested UNODC to provide expertise and technical support, encouraged the participation of Member States and the provision of assistance to the least developed countries in the preparatory work, and invited Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for this purpose. It recommended that organs, entities and specialized agencies of the UN system, multilateral development banks, and other relevant international and regional organizations contribute to the Commission's preparations, and recognized the important role played by civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations. The Commission invited Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the preparatory process.

On 4 December [E/2014/28/Add.1 (dec. 57/2)], CND decided that, in order to ensure continuity with respect to its preparatory work for the special session of the General Assembly to address the world drug problem to be convened in early 2016, a Board tasked by the Commission would be elected based on the regional distribution of officers of the Bureau of its fifty-seventh session. The Board would participate in the meetings

of the extended bureaux of the fifty-eighth (2015) and fifty-ninth (2016) sessions and assist the Commission and the Chairs of those respective sessions in fulfilling their mandate. It would be in charge of organizing all actions taken by the Commission in preparation for the special session and would address all organizational and substantive matters for that purpose.

On 5 December [dec. 57/3], the Commission approved the provisional agenda for the special segment to be held during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, in March 2015, on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [E/2014/28], adopted **resolution 2014/24** without vote [agenda item 17 (d)].

Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly

1. *Welcomes* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 57/5 of 21 March 2014, and notes with satisfaction the support expressed at the high-level review by the Commission of the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem for the decision taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012 to convene a special session on the world drug problem early in 2016, in implementation of the recommendation contained in paragraph 40 of the Political Declaration;

2. *Urges* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, and States parties to implement, as a matter of priority, all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the special session on the world drug problem in 2016, as noted in Commission resolution 57/5, as a milestone on the way to 2019, which has been set as the target date in the Political Declaration for the review of implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* that, at its special session on the world drug problem in 2016, it will address substantive issues on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility and in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in particular with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

5. *Decides* that the special session shall be convened following the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, scheduled to be held in March 2016;

6. *Also decides* that the special session on the world drug problem in 2016 shall have an inclusive preparatory process that includes extensive substantive consultations, allowing organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice;

7. *Further decides* that the Commission, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, shall lead this process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and in this regard invites the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Commission to take all measures necessary to use its existing meetings and reporting entitlements in the most efficient manner to ensure adequate preparation for the special session in 2016, and requests the Commission to continue to take all measures necessary to prepare for the special session, as early as possible;

9. *Encourages* the participation of all Member States and the provision of assistance to the least developed countries in the preparatory work undertaken by the Commission in order to work actively towards the attainment of the objectives and goals of the special session, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for this purpose;

10. *Recognizes* that the special session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 constitutes an opportunity for a high-level and wide-ranging discussion among Member States leading up to the target date of 2019, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

11. *Also recognizes* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for and during the fifty-second and the fifty-seventh sessions of the Commission, including their high-level segments, and recognizes further the need for their active involvement in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need for their effective, substantive and active involvement during the special session, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practice developed for other special sessions of the General Assembly, and requests the Chair of the Commission to consider undertaking consultations and other appropriate actions in this regard with relevant stakeholders;

12. *Invites* organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks, other relevant international organizations, including the International Narcotics Control Board, and regional organizations to contribute fully to the preparations for the special session in 2016, in particular by submitting to the Commission, through the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, specific recommendations on the issues to be addressed at the special session;

13. *Requests* the Commission to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Economic

and Social Council, on the progress made in preparation for the special session in 2016;

14. *Reaffirms* its decision taken in resolution 67/193 to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing regular budget resources;

15. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes set out in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/490], adopted **resolution 69/200** without vote [agenda item 106].

Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

The General Assembly

1. *Welcomes* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 57/5 of 21 March 2014, and notes with satisfaction the support expressed at the high-level review by the Commission of the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem for the decision taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012 to convene a special session on the world drug problem early in 2016, in implementation of the recommendation contained in paragraph 40 of the Political Declaration;

2. *Urges* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, and States parties to implement, as a matter of priority, all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the special session on the world drug problem in 2016, as noted in Commission resolution 57/5, as a milestone on the way to 2019, which has been set as the target date in the Political Declaration for the review of implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* that, at its special session on the world drug problem in 2016, it will address substantive issues on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility and in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in particular with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

5. *Decides* that the special session shall be convened following the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, scheduled to be held in March 2016;

6. *Also decides* that the special session on the world drug problem in 2016 shall have an inclusive preparatory process that includes extensive substantive consultations, allowing organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil

society and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice;

7. *Further decides* that the Commission, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, shall lead this process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and in this regard invites the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Commission to take all measures necessary to use its existing meetings and reporting entitlements in the most efficient manner to ensure adequate preparation for the special session in 2016, and requests the Commission to continue to take all measures necessary to prepare for the special session, as early as possible;

9. *Encourages* the participation of all Member States and the provision of assistance to the least developed countries in the preparatory work undertaken by the Commission in order to work actively towards the attainment of the objectives and goals of the special session, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for this purpose;

10. *Recognizes* that the special session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 constitutes an opportunity for a high-level and wide-ranging discussion among Member States leading up to the target date of 2019, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

11. *Also recognizes* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in the preparations for and during the fifty-second and the fifty-seventh sessions of the Commission, including their high-level segments, and recognizes further the need for their active involvement in the preparations for the special session, as well as the need for their effective, substantive and active involvement during the special session, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practice developed for other special sessions of the General Assembly, and requests the Chair of the Commission to consider undertaking consultations and other appropriate actions in this regard with relevant stakeholders;

12. *Invites* organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, multilateral development banks, other relevant international organizations, including the International Narcotics Control Board, and regional organizations to contribute fully to the preparations for the special session in 2016, in particular by submitting to the Commission, through the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, specific recommendations on the issues to be addressed at the special session;

13. *Requests* the Commission to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in preparation for the special session in 2016;

14. *Reaffirms* its decision taken in resolution 67/193 to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing regular budget resources;

15. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes set out in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/197 [YUN 2013, p. 1198], the Secretary-General submitted a June report [A/69/111] on international cooperation against the world drug problem, which reviewed the world drug situation and the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by Member States, UNODC, other entities of the UN system and relevant international organizations. It also provided information on the outcome of the high-level review of the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem [YUN 2009, p. 1237], conducted in March by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as recommendations for consideration by the Assembly in preparing for the special session on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. At the global level, UNODC implemented thematic programmes supporting the ratification and implementation of the international drug conventions. At the regional level, it promoted cross-border cooperation and regional programmes and initiatives among partner countries, and it initiated an approach connecting various interregional programmes. At the national level, the Office assisted Member States in improving their normative, institutional and operational capacity and provided assistance in drafting national legislation for the implementation of the three conventions. In the field of demand reduction, the Office supported drug prevention and drug dependence treatment in 57 countries. It also reached people in 38 countries through its continued collaboration with WHO on improving the coverage and quality of services for the treatment and care of people with drug use disorders. It strengthened its capacity to help countries scale up the delivery of harm reduction services in the context of HIV, and it identified 24 high-priority countries in the area of injecting drug use and HIV, in which the Office was concentrating efforts and resources for the period 2013–2015. On supply reduction, the Office addressed illicit drug crop cultivation through development-oriented drug control programmes in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru. Through its thematic programme on transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking, including drug trafficking, UNODC delivered technical assistance to build the counter-narcotics capacity of national agencies in West Africa, South-East Asia, Central and South America, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan and supported efforts to increase the co-ordination and sharing of information on targeted transnational drug trafficking groups and on precursor control. It also continued to promote South-South cooperation and the exchange of experiences among Member States in alternative development and provided technical assistance for country-level alternative

development programmes. As to data collection and research, the Office supported countries in improving the availability of data on drugs, particularly by assisting Governments in the monitoring of illicit crops and drug production. In 2013, technical support was provided to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru for monitoring coca bush cultivation, to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar for monitoring opium poppy cultivation, and to Afghanistan and Mexico for monitoring opium poppy and cannabis plant cultivation. Expert advice was provided on the setting-up of drug monitoring systems in East and West Africa and for the issuance of the first annual report on the drug situation in Afghanistan. Of particular importance in the *World Drug Report 2014* [Sales No. E.14.XI.7] were the estimates jointly produced by UNODC, WHO, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Bank on the number of people who injected drugs and of people who injected drugs living with HIV. The *Report* also contained a discussion on the global chemical industry and potential vulnerabilities allowing for the diversion of chemicals that could be used in the manufacture of illicit drugs. In the framework of its global Synthetics Monitoring, Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme, the Office established the UNODC early warning advisory, a global Internet-based platform to monitor, analyse and report trends on new psychoactive substances. The Secretary-General concluded with recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/490], adopted **resolution 69/201** without vote [agenda item 106].

International cooperation against the world drug problem

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,

Reaffirming also the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the joint ministerial statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome addressing the world drug problem, the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

including General Assembly resolution 68/197 of 18 December 2013 and those on regional and international cooperation to prevent the diversion and smuggling of precursors,

Recalling also the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of its resolution 2012/12 of 26 July 2012 on the strategy for the period 2012–2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, welcoming the measures taken by the Office to develop a thematic and regional programme approach to its activities, and noting the progress in the implementation of such an approach,

Noting the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop, within the United Nations system, an effective and comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime and the world drug problem, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in this regard,

Welcoming the efforts made by Member States to achieve the aims and comply with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,

Emphasizing the importance both of the universality of the three above-mentioned international drug control conventions and of their implementation, noting that they are concerned with the health and welfare of humankind, and reaffirming the guiding principles enshrined therein and the system of control that they embody,

Recalling all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session,

Gravely concerned that, despite continuing increased efforts by States, relevant organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and young people and their families, and to the national security and sovereignty of States, and that it undermines socioeconomic and political stability and sustainable development,

Reaffirming that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Stressing the need to take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children and young people against the use or abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as defined in the relevant treaties, and to prevent the use of children and young people in the illicit production of and trafficking in such substances, and urging Governments to implement the resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs relating to this matter, including resolution 57/3 of 21 March 2014,

Recognizing the importance of preventing and addressing drug-related youth crime, considering its impact on the social and economic development of societies, and supporting the rehabilitation and treatment of young offenders and their reintegration into society,

Stressing the importance of the focus placed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session on the issues of the prevention of drug abuse, including

through education and training on drug use disorders and sport, supporting the treatment, rehabilitation, reintegration and recovery of drug-dependent persons and other measures aimed at minimizing the public health and social consequences of drug abuse, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions,

Stressing also the importance placed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session on enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances and incidents involving such substances,

Noting with grave concern the global increased abuse of certain drugs and the proliferation of new substances, which are a possible threat to public health and are not controlled under the three international drug control conventions,

Noting with grave concern also the increasing sophistication of the transnational criminal groups engaged in the illicit manufacture and distribution of amphetamine-type stimulants worldwide, as well as the proliferation and diversion of chemical precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recognizing the critical importance of forensic and scientific laboratory and treatment centre data and qualitative information in understanding the problem of illicit synthetic drugs and the range of products available on the illicit market,

Noting the need to promote adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, in accordance with national legislation, while preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, in order to realize the aims of the three international drug control conventions,

Expressing its appreciation for the results already achieved by the initiatives at the bilateral, regional and international levels, and recognizing that further positive results can be achieved with sustained and collective efforts through international cooperation in reducing the demand and supply of illicit drugs,

Recognizing the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies, together with the International Narcotics Control Board, as the United Nations organs with prime responsibility for drug control matters, as well as the role of the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, and recognizing also the need to promote and facilitate the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,

Reaffirming that countering the world drug problem in all its aspects requires a political commitment and collective efforts through international cooperation to significantly and measurably reduce illicit supply and demand, as an integral component of a balanced and comprehensive drug control strategy, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, including the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, also adopted at that session, and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,

Reaffirming equally that reducing drug abuse requires efforts to reduce demand, which must be demonstrated by sustained widespread demand reduction initiatives that are age- and gender-sensitive and integrate a comprehensive public health approach spanning the spectrum of prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session, and other relevant Assembly resolutions,

Conscious of the need to continue to raise public awareness of the risks and threats posed to all societies by the world drug problem in all its aspects,

Noting the importance of addressing the world drug problem in a coordinated manner while taking into consideration balanced, comprehensive and integrated drug policies that may, where appropriate, include measures based on scientific evidence and that contribute, as appropriate, in mutual complementarity with other measures, to strengthening national, regional and global strategies in an effort to seek effective solutions and further achievements in response to current challenges, in compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in the full and effective implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,

Welcoming the efforts of countries that have worked for decades to counter the world drug problem and have acquired knowledge, experience and institutional capacities that enable them to afford cooperation to other countries in application of the principle of common and shared responsibility,

Inviting Member States to consider, when developing crime prevention programmes, such issues as social inclusion, the strengthening of the social fabric, access to justice, drug-related violence, the social reintegration of offenders and access to health and education services, as well as the needs of victims of crime, and to promote a culture of lawfulness and concern for the well-being of individuals, families and communities, with a particular emphasis on children and youth,

Encouraging Member States to endeavour to ensure that measures taken at the national and local levels in response to economic and financial constraints do not have a disproportionate impact on the implementation of balanced drug demand and supply reduction policies,

Recalling the adoption, by its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the decision, contained in the Political Declaration, on the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action held by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, the recommendation that the Economic and Social

Council devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem and the recommendation that the General Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem,

Recalling also its resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which it decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, following the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which was conducted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in March 2014,

Recalling further its decision in the aforementioned resolution that the special session of the General Assembly would review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

Noting its decision to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing resources,

1. *Reiterates its call upon* States to take, in a timely manner, the measures necessary to implement the actions and attain the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, and to address the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the joint ministerial statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

2. *Reaffirms* that countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting, that it requires an integrated and balanced approach and that it must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other provisions of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on human rights and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, for the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to engage in effective cooperation and practical action aimed at addressing the world drug problem on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility;

4. *Encourages* Member States to give adequate consideration to the negative effects of the world drug problem and its consequences on development and on society in general;

5. *Invites* Member States to implement comprehensive drug abuse prevention measures from a perspective that considers the individual as well as the community and society as a whole, including through public health education on the dangers of drug abuse, violence prevention, rehabilitation and aftercare to reintegrate former drug users into society, as well as anticipate, detect and analyse various risks to communities associated with drug-related violence and crime;

6. *Undertakes* to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including through intelligence-sharing and cross-border cooperation, aimed at countering the world drug problem more effectively, in particular by encouraging and supporting such cooperation by those States most directly affected by illicit crop cultivation and the illicit production, manufacture, transit, trafficking, distribution and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

7. *Reiterates* the commitment of Member States to promoting, developing, reviewing or strengthening effective, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures, including primary prevention, education, early detection and intervention, treatment, care and related support services, recovery support, rehabilitation and social reintegration efforts, as well as measures aimed at minimizing the public health and social consequences of drug abuse and at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, taking into account the specific needs of women and the particular challenges posed by high-risk drug users, in full compliance with the three international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, and commits Member States to investing increased resources in ensuring access to those interventions on a non-discriminatory basis, including in detention facilities, bearing in mind that those interventions should also consider vulnerabilities that undermine human development, such as poverty and social marginalization;

8. *Encourages* Member States to develop and implement, as appropriate, comprehensive policies and programmes that, by fostering social development, are aimed at the prevention of crime and violence and that address the multiple factors that contribute to crime and victimization, in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, and based on scientific evidence and taking into account good practices;

9. *Reaffirms* the need for Member States to review and, if necessary, strengthen coordinated measures, enhance capacity-building to combat money-laundering arising from drug trafficking and improve judicial cooperation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels, to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, in order to provide for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of such crimes;

10. *Notes* the importance of an integrated approach in drug policies, including by strengthening the partnerships between public health, justice and law enforcement sectors and facilitating inter-agency cooperation and communication, where appropriate;

11. *Encourages* the promotion, where appropriate, in the framework of international cooperation, of the use of law enforcement techniques, consistent with national legislation and international law, including applicable human rights obligations, in order to ensure that drug traffickers are brought to justice and that major criminal organizations are disrupted and dismantled;

12. *Notes with great concern* the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole, reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to tackling those problems in the context of comprehensive, complementary and multisectoral drug demand reduction strate-

gies, in particular such strategies targeting children, young people and their families, also notes with great concern the alarming rise in the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among injecting drug users, also reaffirms the commitment of all Member States to working towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes and treatment, care and related support services, in full compliance with the international drug control conventions and in accordance with national legislation, taking into account all relevant General Assembly resolutions and, when applicable, the revised technical guide for countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, issued by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and requests the Office to carry out its mandate in this area in close cooperation with relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

13. *Urges* Member States, where appropriate, to develop national responses to address the issue of drug-affected driving by, inter alia, exchanging information and best practices on effective responses, including through engagement with the international scientific and legal communities;

14. *Notes with concern* that the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, particularly for the relief of pain and for palliative care, remains low to non-existent in many countries of the world, and highlights the need for Member States, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, as appropriate, to address that situation by promoting measures to ensure their availability and accessibility for medical and scientific purposes, in accordance with national legislation, while simultaneously preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, in order to realize the aims of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments;

15. *Urges* all Member States to enact comprehensive measures aimed at stemming the abuse of prescription drugs, in particular through the establishment of awareness-raising initiatives targeting the general public and health-care providers;

16. *Acknowledges* the continuing efforts made and the progress achieved in countering the world drug problem, notes with great concern the continuing illicit production of and trafficking in opiates, the continuing illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine, the increasing illicit production of and trafficking in cannabis, the ongoing global spread of the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants and the increasing diversion of precursors, as well as the related distribution and use of illicit drugs, and stresses the need to strengthen and intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels to tackle those global challenges in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of enhanced and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance;

17. *Expresses its concern* that, despite all the efforts of Member States and the international community, and according to the *World Drug Report 2014* of the United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, overall the global situation with regard to the prevalence of illicit drug use and problem drug use is generally stable, with the total global number of drug users increasingly commensurate with the growth of the world population;

18. *Stresses* that it is absolutely imperative for Member States to strengthen international efforts in order to achieve more effective results in countering the world drug problem;

19. *Recognizes* that it is necessary for Member States, under the three international drug control conventions and the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems and national legislation, to consider, where appropriate:

(a) Regularly reviewing and assessing their drug control policies, ensuring that they are effective, comprehensive, balanced and aimed at promoting the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities and society as a whole;

(b) Providing, as appropriate, comprehensive, integrated drug demand reduction programmes, based on scientific evidence and covering a range of measures, including primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and measures aimed at minimizing the negative public health and social impacts of drug abuse, aimed at promoting health and social well-being among individuals, families and communities and reducing the adverse consequences of drug abuse for individuals and society as a whole;

20. *Invites* Member States to take appropriate measures so as to strengthen international cooperation and the exchange of information regarding the identification of new routes and *modi operandi* of organized criminal groups dedicated to the diversion or smuggling of substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in particular with respect to their trafficking via the Internet, and to continue to notify the International Narcotics Control Board of such information;

21. *Continues to encourage* Member States to promote, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 57/9 of 21 March 2014, the sharing of information on the potential abuse of and trafficking in new psychoactive substances, including synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists, as well as the sharing of information with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and best practices with respect to interventions and new and existing control measures;

22. *Recognizes* the progress made in the development of a consolidated international response to the increasing availability of new psychoactive substances that may pose risks to public health and safety, including the development of a global reference point, the early warning advisory and cooperation with Member States and relevant regional organizations in the identification and reporting of such substances, in order to increase data collection, improve our collective understanding and find effective policy responses, requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to enhance the capacity of Member States in this regard, and calls upon Member States to further improve the application of the international scheduling process and to provide to the Secretary-General, through the Office, and to the World Health Organization timely information, identifying a national government focal point to coordinate the provision of information on substances for effective review by the World Health Organization Expert Committee on Drug Dependence;

23. *Encourages* Member States to adopt measures to strengthen public awareness of the risks and threats to and negative impacts on society posed by the abuse and production of and trafficking in illicit drugs;

24. *Recognizes*:

(a) That sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances require international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility and an integrated and balanced approach, taking into account the rule of law and, where appropriate, security concerns, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) That such crop control strategies include, inter alia, alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, eradication and law enforcement measures;

(c) That alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure for countering the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, as well as a choice in favour of societies free of drug abuse, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of efforts by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies;

(d) That such crop control strategies should be in full conformity with article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and appropriately coordinated and phased in accordance with national policies in order to achieve the sustainable eradication of illicit crops and the creation of alternative legal livelihood opportunities and facilitate long-term development, noting furthermore the need for Member States to undertake to increase long-term investment in such strategies, coordinated with other development measures, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication in affected rural areas, taking due account of the traditional licit uses of crops where there is historical evidence of such use and giving due consideration to the protection of the environment;

(e) That developing countries with extensive expertise in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, play a significant role in promoting best practices and lessons learned from alternative development programmes, and invites them to continue to share those best practices with States affected by illicit crop cultivation, with a view to using them in accordance with the national specificities of each State;

25. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take due account of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, and welcomes the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of its resolution 57/1 of 21 March 2014;

26. *Requests* the international community, in particular the countries of destination, to continue to provide, bilaterally, multilaterally or through the competent international and regional organizations, in accordance with article 10 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit

Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility, urgent and sufficient technical assistance and support to the most affected transit States, in full cooperation with national authorities, in order to promote the capacities of such States to counter the flow of illicit drugs;

27. *Reiterates* the urgent need for Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation in order to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, money-laundering, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and, in some cases, terrorism and the financing of terrorism, and to the significant challenges faced by law enforcement and judicial authorities in responding to the ever-changing means used by transnational criminal organizations, including the corruption of State officials, to avoid detection and prosecution;

28. *Expresses deep concern* at the growing violence resulting from activities of criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking, recognizes the increasing links between drug trafficking, including gang-related association, and the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms in some regions of the world and the need to prevent the spread of that problem to other regions, and urges Member States to take adequate measures, consistent with their international treaty obligations and other relevant international standards, to fully cooperate in preventing the acquisition and use of firearms and ammunition by those criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking and in combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in such firearms and ammunition;

29. *Calls upon* Member States to also consider, when developing comprehensive policies to tackle the world drug problem, measures, programmes and actions that address the needs of those affected by drug-related violence and crime;

30. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its field offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and encourages the Office to maintain an effective level of support for national and regional efforts in countering the world drug problem;

31. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to collaborate with relevant intergovernmental, international and regional organizations involved in addressing the world drug problem, as appropriate, in order to share best practices and scientific standards and to maximize the benefits from their unique comparative advantage, and to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States so as to enhance capacity in countering the world drug problem, including enhancing the analytical work of laboratories, by carrying out training programmes to develop indicators and instruments for the collection and analysis of accurate, reliable and comparable data on all relevant aspects of the world drug problem and, where appropriate, by supporting requesting States to enhance or develop new national indicators and instruments;

32. *Welcomes* the further collaboration, within their mandates, between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, which provides leadership and guidance, to further strengthen public health as part of a comprehensive and balanced approach to drug demand reduction based on scientific evidence;

33. *Invites* Member States to invest, where necessary and taking into account specific needs and available resources, in capacity-building and quality-enhancing activities for the collection and reporting of information, to participate in joint cooperation efforts organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by other national, regional or international organizations and bodies, aimed at the exchange of technical knowledge of experts in the area of data collection, analysis and evaluation and of practical experience in the area of drug data, and to regularly report data and information relating to all aspects of the world drug problem to the Office through the annual report questionnaires, and invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body of the United Nations system on drug-related matters, to strengthen the capacity of the Office to collect, analyse, use and disseminate accurate, reliable, objective and comparable data and to reflect such information in the *World Drug Report*;

34. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts in supporting States to establish, upon request, operational frameworks essential for communication within and across national borders and in facilitating the exchange of information on and analysis of drug trafficking trends, with a view to increasing knowledge about the world drug problem at the national, regional and international levels, recognizes the importance of integrating laboratories and providing scientific support to drug control frameworks and of treating quality analytical data as a primary source of information worldwide, and urges coordination with other international entities, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

35. *Requests* all Member States to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand, improve and strengthen, within its mandates, its operational and technical cooperation activities, including with a view to assisting Member States with the full implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as well as with the full implementation of relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

36. *Expresses concern* regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, emphasizes the need to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources and to ensure their cost-effective utilization, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report, within existing reporting obligations, on the financial situation of the Office and to continue to ensure that the Office has sufficient resources to carry out its mandates fully and effectively;

37. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to address the above-mentioned issues within the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office in order for the Office to fulfil its mandate effectively, efficiently and with the appropriate resources;

38. *Encourages* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the principal policymaking organ of the United Nations on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the International Narcotics Control Board to strengthen their useful work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

39. *Urges* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, and States parties to implement, as a matter of priority, all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

40. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, in close collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board, as may be appropriate, adequate support and technical assistance to Governments in all regions so as to enable them to implement and fully meet their obligations under conventions and give adequate follow-up to subsequent resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, including for the strengthening of regulatory authorities and controls, provision of information and fulfilment of reporting requirements, and urges donors to contribute to the Office for those purposes;

41. *Takes note* of the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh Session, the *World Drug Report 2014* and the most recent report of the International Narcotics Control Board, and calls upon Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation and coordination to counter the threat to the international community caused by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, especially those in the opium group, as well as other aspects of the world drug problem, and to continue to take concerted measures within the framework of the Paris Pact and other relevant regional and international initiatives and mechanisms, such as the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan, also known as the "Heart of Asia" initiative, in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchange with a view to countering drug trafficking with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other international and regional organizations;

42. *Urges* Member States to continue to actively cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board in the exercise of its mandate, and emphasizes the need to ensure that an appropriate level of resources is made available to the Board to enable it to engage with Governments to effectively monitor compliance by States parties with the three international drug control conventions;

43. *Emphasizes* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, notes with appreciation their important contribution to the review process, and notes that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug demand and supply reduction policy;

44. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that civil society plays a participatory role, where appropriate,

through consultation in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, in particular with regard to aspects of demand reduction;

45. *Encourages* the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, and in this regard welcomes the discussions conducted in Vienna from 2 to 5 July 2013, Addis Ababa from 15 to 19 September 2014, Asunción from 6 to 10 October 2014, and Bangkok from 21 to 24 October 2014;

46. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation in addressing the world drug problem and to seek effectiveness and comprehensiveness in the strategies and policies undertaken by regional and subregional organizations and transregional initiatives;

47. *Invites* Member States, in consultation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, donors and other relevant international organizations, to continue to assist African States in addressing health problems and raising awareness of the dangers associated with the abuse of all drugs, and in this regard encourages the Office and the African Union Commission to continue to work together to enhance the complementarities of their activities;

48. *Reiterates its call upon* the relevant United Nations agencies and entities and other international organizations, and invites international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to mainstream efforts to counter the world drug problem into their programmes, and calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain its leading role by providing relevant information and technical assistance;

49. *Reaffirms* its decision, as recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, that the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 shall have an inclusive preparatory process that includes extensive substantive consultations, allowing organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the process in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice;

50. *Recognizes* the constructive role that parliamentarians can play in addressing the world drug problem, and encourages their participation, as appropriate, in the preparatory process for the special session;

51. *Notes* the ongoing discussions in some regions on how to address the world drug problem, in the light of the current situation and policies, and emphasizes the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive and scientific evidence-based discussion among Member States, with input from other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in multilateral settings, on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;

52. *Reaffirms its support* for the preparations for the special session, which will review the progress in the imple-

mentation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments by, inter alia, addressing measures to reach an effective balance between supply and demand reduction measures and addressing all the consequences of the world drug problem, including in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice and security fields;

53. *Invites* Member States to share their drug policy experiences as a contribution to the special session;

54. *Reaffirms* its resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014, in which it is stated that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, shall lead that process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner, and in this regard reiterates its invitation to the President of the General Assembly to support, guide and stay involved in the process;

55. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters and having the leading role in the preparation of the special session of the Assembly, to hold, within existing resources, a high-level thematic debate in 2015 in support of the process towards the 2016 special session of the Assembly on the world drug problem with Member States and other relevant stakeholders and to prepare a Chair's summary of the discussions for transmission to the Commission;

56. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, and requests that he submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

World situation on drug abuse. The Commission considered a report [E/CN.7/2014/3] by the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse, which reviewed the extent of and trends in illicit drug use worldwide and according to region, and the consequences of drug use, including HIV and hepatitis among people who injected drugs, treatment demand and drug-related deaths. In 2011, between 3.6 and 6.9 per cent of people aged 15 to 64 (between 167 million and 315 million people), were estimated to have illicitly used drugs at least once in the preceding year. Since 2009, there had been a slight overall increase in the prevalence and number of people illicitly using drugs. UNODC provided new estimates for 2011 of the numbers of people who injected drugs (14 million) and who injected drugs while living with HIV (1.6 million). Globally, there was a continued shift in developed countries away from the use of heroin and cocaine towards the use of synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances that were not under international control, and the misuse of prescription drugs. In Europe, the use of cannabis, cocaine and heroin decreased or stabilized, but the use of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoac-

tive substances increased. In the United States and Mexico, cannabis use increased, and its use also was on the rise in Africa, Latin America and parts of Asia. While heroin use stabilized, the non-medical use of prescription opioids continued to increase in most regions. The use of amphetamine-type stimulants increased, most noticeably in Asia, Africa and parts of Latin America. Globally, cannabis remained the most common drug and its use was increasingly mentioned in relation to treatment demand and associated psychiatric disorders. Opioids remained the drugs causing the most harm in terms of treatment demand, injecting drug use and HIV infections, and drug-related deaths. About 210,000 deaths were estimated as attributable to illicit drug use, and most of them were fatal overdoses among opioid users. In 2011, nearly one in six problem drug users received treatment for drug use disorders and dependence. Disparities, however, remained in the delivery of evidence-based drug dependence treatment and care in many regions.

The Secretariat noted the low rate of response from Member States to the annual report questionnaire, which formed the basis of the information system by which global trends in drug use were reported each year. The lack of sustainable drug information systems and drug observatories from many parts of the world continued to hinder the monitoring of current and emerging drug trends in most regions, as well as the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based responses to counter the illicit demand for drugs. It was important for Member States to take stock of the situation on the availability and quality of data on drug use indicators; to consider strategies to improve that situation, taking into account the gaps in capacities for collection, analysis and reporting of quality data, especially in Africa and Asia; and to provide the necessary resources to address gaps in setting up drug monitoring systems.

Alternative development. On 21 March [E/2014/28 (res. 57/1)], CND adopted a resolution on promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development [YUN 2013, p. 1205] and a proposal to organize an international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the Guiding Principles. Acknowledging that alternative development was an important and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crimes, and recognizing the role played by countries with extensive expertise in alternative development, the Commission called upon Member States to take the Guiding Principles into consideration while designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects. It called upon Member States and other donors to consider long-term support to alternative development programmes and projects, targeting the illicit cultivation of crops, in order to con-

tribute to the sustainability of social and economic development as well as poverty eradication, including through enhanced development-oriented approaches that implemented measures for rural development, strengthened local governments and institutions, improved infrastructure and promoted the participation of local communities. It encouraged Member States with extensive expertise to continue sharing best practices and strengthening international cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, including cross-continental and interregional cooperation and subregional and regional technical cooperation. The Commission welcomed the proposal by Thailand to host an international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the Guiding Principles, and noted that implementation of the Principles would require a long-term commitment by Member States and collaboration among UNODC, other international and regional organizations, civil society, development agencies, and donors and financial institutions, which were invited to participate in the seminar/workshop. The UNODC Executive Director was requested to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth (2015) session.

HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases. A secretariat note [E/CN.7/2014/11] prepared in response to Commission resolution 51/14 [YUN 2008, p. 1372] discussed the promotion of coordination and the alignment of decisions between CND and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Pursuant to Commission resolution 49/4 [YUN 2006, p. 1456], the UNODC Executive Director submitted a report [E/CN.7/2014/12] on progress in responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users. The report reviewed the UNODC response and summarized activities implemented in 2012 and 2013 in HIV/AIDS policy and programme development; scaling up HIV prevention, treatment and care and the provision of support services; dissemination of tools, guidelines and best practices; and legal and policy reviews and building capacity among law enforcement officials. UNODC delivered technical assistance in compliance with the relevant declarations, resolutions and decisions of UN bodies, and assisted Member States, civil society organizations and other partners in developing, adopting and implementing strategies and programmes on HIV/AIDS related to drug use, particularly for people who injected drugs, and policies and programmes for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support in prisons and other closed settings. At the end of 2012, an estimated 35.3 million people were living with HIV worldwide. That represented an increase from previous years, as more people were receiving the life-saving antiretroviral therapy. There were 2.3 million new HIV infections globally, a 33 per cent decline from the number of new in-

fections recorded in 2001 (3.4 million), due primarily to a reduction in the sexual transmission of HIV. Injecting drug use continued to drive the expansion of the HIV epidemic in many countries. In 2013, an estimated 14 million people injected drugs worldwide, and of those, 1.6 million, or 11.5 per cent, were living with HIV. There was a high prevalence of injecting drug use in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and in Central Asia: 1.3 per cent of the population aged 15 to 64 (four times the global average); and there were elevated rates of HIV infection among people who injected drugs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as in East and South-East Asia. HIV transmission through injecting drug use emerged as a major concern in East Africa and was reported in several other African countries. Hepatitis C represented another major health challenge. In 2011, 51 per cent of all people who injected drugs were living with hepatitis C, and, as with HIV, the transmission of hepatitis C was fuelled by incarceration. The prevalence of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis was from 2 to 20 (and in some cases up to 50) times higher among prison populations than the general population.

The Executive Director noted that an approach to drug use and dependence that was centered on public health, based on human rights and informed by evidence had yet to be implemented. In many affected countries, the national AIDS and drugs policies, strategies and programmes needed to be reviewed, and in countries where the HIV epidemic was driven by unsafe injecting use, there was a need to prioritize the implementation of needle and syringe programmes and long-acting opioid maintenance therapy. He further added that people who used drugs in prisons should have access to health services, and interventions in prisons should be integrated into national plans and programmes on drugs, AIDS and tuberculosis, with resources allocated for their implementation.

Data collection, reporting and analysis. Pursuant to Commission resolution 53/16 [YUN 2010, p. 1250], the Executive Director submitted a report [E/CN.7/2014/7] that contained an analysis of the second round of responses provided by Member States to parts I and II of the annual report questionnaire concerning action taken to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. The report addressed measures taken by States in the areas of drug demand and supply reduction, countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation, and included related recommendations.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/235 [YUN 2013, p. 1223], the Secretary-General transmitted [E/CN.3/2014/19 & Corr.1] to the Statistical Commission (see p. 1457) the UNODC report on improving the quality and availability of

drug statistics, which outlined the status and challenges faced by countries and international and regional organizations in the collection and reporting of data on the supply and use of drugs. The report stated that the availability of high-quality data on drug use and supply remained key to understanding the drug situation at the national, regional and global levels, and data on drug indicators not only provided a tool for planning, monitoring and evaluating drug policies nationally, but also served as the basis for reviewing international and regional plans of action and strategies. It proposed actions on improving methodologies; promoting and reinforcing the role of national statistical offices; developing capacity to improve data collection and reporting; and improving international data collection and analysis. It also stressed the need to establish a joint working group of the Statistical Commission and CND to develop standards and guidelines for the priority indicators, and invited stakeholders to review the regional and international mechanisms for collection, analysis and reporting of drug statistics.

Paris Pact initiative. In accordance with CND resolution 56/3 [YUN 2013, p. 1210], a report [E/CN.7/2014/14] of the UNODC Executive Director described steps taken by the Office to strengthen international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative. UNODC and Paris Pact partners continued to recognize the challenges for all stakeholders tackling the menace of opiates originating in Afghanistan, and the need to strengthen coordination between partners and to streamline the Paris Pact framework towards operationalizing the Vienna Declaration [YUN 2012, p. 1184]. The launch of the fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative, on 1 June 2013, was a critical juncture for the partnership to implement an operationally oriented approach for interventions. The fourth phase commenced with the identification of two dimensions within the Paris Pact: the initiative itself, which encompassed 58 partner countries and 21 organizations, including UNODC; and the UNODC programme, with its main objective of supporting the initiative. The fourth phase emphasized the partnership as a multi-layered initiative that defined policy and translated it into action, with the objective of demonstrating the results of heightened collaboration on the four pillars for intervention outlined in the Vienna Declaration: strengthening regional initiatives; blocking financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates; preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals; and reducing drug abuse and dependence. UNODC was engaged in the development of a systematic means for measuring progress on the four priority areas, and the streamlining of the initiative was expected to culminate in an annual global report that would facilitate systematic updating. The objective of the first year of fourth-phase

implementation was to organize an expert working-group meeting on each pillar of the Declaration prior to the Policy Consultative Group Meeting scheduled for June 2014. UNODC strengthened coordination among Paris Pact partners, and particularly with all relevant interdivisional UNODC specialist sections and programmes. In line with the UNODC interregional drug control approach that served to interconnect its programmes addressing the opiate trade originating in Afghanistan, the Paris Pact initiative coordinated with the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe.

Supporting recovery from drug use disorders. On 21 March [E/2014/28 (res. 57/4)], the Commission recognized that drug use disorders could result in chronic conditions that required treatment based on scientific evidence and support from governmental and community initiatives, and invited Member States to identify and, where necessary, reform their policies, practices and laws in order to facilitate further access to recovery and reintegration services. Member States, in partnership with different levels of government and with civil society and communities, should also explore means to support those in recovery, providing measures to ensure non-stigmatizing attitudes, reduce marginalization and discrimination and promote social reintegration. CND requested that Member States facilitate exchanges on developing a chronic-care approach to the treatment of drug use disorders and to gather and share scientific evidence on recovery and recovery-oriented programmes. It also invited Member States, multilateral institutions and others to share information on national and international experiences and best practices related to recovery programmes, recovery activities, and communities and organizations that supported recovery. It further requested UNODC to facilitate opportunities for Member States to share their experiences on the implementation of the resolution with the Commission at its fifty-eighth (2015) session.

Prevention based on scientific evidence. On 21 March [res. 57/3], the Commission recognized that a core component of a successful drug control and demand reduction strategy was the prevention of drug abuse, and that prevention based on scientific evidence and on a process of adaptation to local cultural and socioeconomic circumstances was the most cost-effective approach and an investment in the well-being of children, adolescents, youth, families and communities. The Commission invited Member States to improve the coverage and quality of drug abuse prevention systems, interventions and policies based on scientific evidence, and, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, to collaborate in the implementation of the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention. It encouraged States to periodically undertake scientific evaluations of the effec-

tiveness of their drug abuse prevention programmes and policies and to share the results of those studies widely. The Commission also requested UNODC to continue to disseminate scientific evidence on drug abuse prevention; to support Member States in improving the knowledge and skills of their policymakers, practitioners and researchers working in the area of drug abuse prevention; and to enhance coordination efforts with other relevant UN organizations. It requested the UNODC Executive Director to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth (2015) session on the implementation of the resolution.

Prevention through sport. On 21 March [res. 57/2], the Commission called upon Member States to cooperate with sport-related organizations, including the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote a healthy lifestyle free from drug abuse. It welcomed the cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and sport-related organizations in seeking to contribute, through sport, to raising awareness of and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It encouraged Member States and organizers of sporting events to use those events as a platform for promoting social inclusion and for increasing awareness of the dangers of drug abuse, and recognized the potential for athletes to play a leading role in and contribute to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle by emphasizing participation in sports as an alternative to drug abuse. CND also encouraged Member States to promote equal access to sports and other healthy pursuits for children and young people as a means of drug abuse prevention, and to exchange experiences on the theme of drug abuse prevention through sport at a future session of the Commission.

Education and training on drug use disorders. On 21 March [res. 57/6], the Commission recognized the need for better training and education on treating drug dependence and noted the absence of corresponding minimum standards, despite scientific evidence from WHO and UNODC that drug dependence was a preventable and treatable disorder. The Commission invited Member States to strengthen professional knowledge and skills for those working with people affected by drug use disorders; to collaborate in the provision of scientific and evidence-based education and training programmes; and to promote a comprehensive approach to the study of substance use disorders. It highlighted the importance of strengthening the capacity of competent and experienced trainers and of using an interdisciplinary approach to the development of educational and training programmes. It emphasized the need to promote the quality and availability of education and training and to strengthen intersectoral collaboration involving, inter alia, health and law enforcement

professionals and civil society, in accordance with domestic legal frameworks. The Commission also recognized the importance of continual quality assurance regarding training, including its regular monitoring, evaluation and supervision, and encouraged Member States to share best practices in the field of education and training.

Health services during economic downturns. On 21 March [res. 57/7], the Commission noted the importance of public health services for drug use disorders at times of long-term and sustained economic downturns, the effects of which might exacerbate challenges related to health and well-being; lead to a rise in the marginalization of people affected by drug use disorders; and have an impact on resources as well as drug demand and supply reduction policies. The Commission recognized that addressing the world drug problem demanded an integrated, multidisciplinary approach and encouraged Member States, in cooperation with stakeholders, to ensure that measures taken at the national and local levels in response to long-term and sustained economic downturns did not disproportionately affect the implementation of comprehensive and balanced drug demand and supply reduction policies, including for the provision of health measures. It invited Member States to assist each other in meeting economic challenges, acknowledged the role of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in addressing the world drug problem and invited Member States to continue providing, including in times of economic downturn, the best attainable coverage, accessibility and quality with regard to health and social services.

Illicit cultivation, manufacture and trafficking

World situation on trafficking. In its report [E/CN.7/2014/4] on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking, the CND Secretariat reviewed global trends in the illicit cultivation of drug crops, the production of plant-based drugs and drug trafficking. Afghanistan continued to account for most of the illicit cultivation of opium poppy in the world. Cultivation in that country reached a record level in 2013, amounting to 209,000 hectares (ha). The increase was generally confined to the main opium-poppygrowing areas in the southern and western regions of the country. Opium production in Afghanistan increased by 49 per cent, to 5,500 tons. In the three Andean States—Bolivia, Colombia and Peru—that continued to account for virtually all cultivation of coca bush in the world, the total area under cultivation decreased in 2012; global cocaine seizures remained stable, however, in the same year. Seizures of cocaine in South America increased, while seizures in North America decreased. Worldwide, cannabis continued to be the plant-based drug most widely produced, trafficked and used on an illicit basis. Data suggested

that global seizures of cannabis herb decreased owing to a reduction in the quantity reported to have been seized in North America. Global seizures of cannabis resin were stable, but with a shift in seizure trends showing that a greater proportion were occurring in North Africa. Global seizures of methamphetamine continued to rise and in recent years its global market had expanded significantly. The annual amount of methamphetamine seized globally increased rapidly between 2008 and 2012, with worldwide seizures exceeding 90 tons in 2012. Global seizures of methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), commonly known as “ecstasy”, increased in 2012, but they remained well below the levels recorded between 2002 and 2007. The Secretariat reaffirmed that illicit drug characterization and forensic profiling remained invaluable in supporting law enforcement intelligence-gathering and operational work and in the international efforts against illicit drugs, but it noted the lack of extrabudgetary resources required to develop standardized guidelines.

Measures to support the Greater Mekong subregion. On 21 March [E/2014/28 (res. 57/11)], the Commission welcomed the initiatives, efforts and partnerships demonstrated by the countries of the Greater Mekong subregion in the area of drug control, and recognized their need to enhance and expand cooperation between all relevant stakeholders in the areas of demand reduction and supply reduction to counteract the illicit production, manufacturing, trafficking and abuse of drugs and the diversion of precursor chemicals. The Commission appreciated the efforts made through the mechanism of the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control between the countries of the Greater Mekong subregion and UNODC, and, in the framework of that mechanism, encouraged Member States and other donors to provide technical assistance and support to the countries of the Greater Mekong subregion to strengthen their capacities to counter drug problems. It also encouraged international cooperation between Member States, with mutual respect for domestic legislation and their commitments under the drug control conventions, and called for efforts to enhance mutual understanding to avoid possible impediments to such cooperation. It requested UNODC to report to the Commission’s fifty-eighth (2015) session.

Recommendations of subsidiary bodies

A secretariat report [E/CN.7/2015/5] described actions taken by four subsidiary bodies of the Commission during the year. Each of the bodies reviewed trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation; addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority; and reviewed the implementation of previous recommendations. The report included the recommendations generated by the subsidiary bodies at their 2014 meetings (see below).

The Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 15–19 September) [UNODC/HONLAF/24/5] made recommendations on trends and developments regarding new psychoactive and other substances not under international control; addressing challenges posed by the cultivation and abuse of cannabis; and responding to the threat posed by heroin trafficking, including by sea. The Twenty-fourth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean (Asunción, Paraguay, 6–10 October) [UNODC/HONLAC/24/5] agreed to recommendations on measures adopted to reduce the diversion of precursor chemicals, with reference to international cooperation and technical assistance; non-therapeutic use, diversion and abuse of medical preparations; and demand reduction, prevention and treatment. The Thirty-eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, Thailand, 21–24 October) [UNODC/HONLAP/38/5] adopted recommendations on responding to trafficking in synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances and preventing the diversion of chemical precursors; measures to amend legislation, agency practices and procedures that might improve the responses of national authorities to challenges posed by drug trafficking and related organized criminal offences; and collaboration and coordination among drug law enforcement agencies. The forty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (Vienna, 10–13 November) [UNODC/SUBCOM/49/5] made recommendations on the misuse of sea containers for the trafficking of illicit drugs, and possible investigative techniques; emerging challenges for Afghanistan and the region in relation to drug trafficking; and demand reduction responses, including to reduce the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and the non-therapeutic use of pharmaceutical preparations.

Conventions

International efforts to control narcotic drugs were governed by three global conventions: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs [YUN 1961, p. 382], which, with some exceptions of detail, replaced earlier narcotics treaties and was amended by the 1972 Protocol [YUN 1972, p. 397] to strengthen the role of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB); the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances [YUN 1971, p. 380]; and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances [YUN 1988, p. 690].

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol stood at 186. The number of parties to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances remained at

183 as at 31 December. With the accession of Timor-Leste in June, the number of parties to the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances increased to 189.

Implementation of drug control treaties

Review of substances for scheduling recommendations. The Commission had before it a Secretariat note [E/CN.7/2014/10] with information on the provisions of the international drug control conventions for the possible scheduling of substances, and identified challenges related to the review of substances and possible approaches to make the scheduling process more effective. Annexed to the note were descriptions of the scheduling procedures under the 1961 Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and those of the 1971 Convention, and summaries of the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention. The Secretariat note drew upon the work of international expert consultations on new psychoactive substances, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 September 2013, and the outcome document prepared by the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section. There was renewed interest in the scheduling process due to the emergence of new psychoactive substances and international cooperation was needed to maximize the use of the tools available under the Conventions. The experts recommended the development of simplified guidance for States parties on the scheduling process and identified ways to make the scheduling procedures more effective. The note concluded that the ability to schedule substances with potential for misuse or harm was a central element of a well-functioning international drug control system and proposed actions for consideration by the Commission.

Changes in the scope of control substances. In a January note [E/CN.7/2014/9], the Secretariat transmitted to the Commission a notification from the President of INCB concerning the inclusion of *alpha*-phenylacetonitrile (APAAN) in Table I of the 1988 Convention. The Board was of the opinion that the international control of APAAN was required in order to limit its availability for illicit drug manufacture and thus reduce the quantity of amphetamine and methamphetamine manufactured illicitly from that substance.

On 19 March [E/2014/28 (dec. 57/1)], the Commission decided by 40 votes to none, with no abstentions, to include APAAN and its optical isomers in Table I of the 1988 Convention.

Illicit activities related to opium poppy seeds. On 21 March [E/2014/28 (res. 57/8)], the Commission encouraged Member States to implement the control provisions recommended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/32 [YUN 1999, p. 1166] on the international regulation and control of trade in poppy seeds; to strengthen bilateral and multilateral

cooperation and exchange of information with INCB towards implementation of that resolution; and to exchange information and best practices on ways to prevent attempts to disguise and conceal in other consignments opium poppy straw and other narcotic drugs for illicit purposes. The Commission encouraged Member States in which the import of opium poppy seeds was permitted to consider recommendation 28 of the 2009 INCB report [YUN 2009, p. 1241], which urged those countries to require a certificate from the country of origin of the seeds as the basis for importation; and it requested INCB to continue to invite Member States to ensure the implementation of article 22 of the 1961 Single Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, concerning the prohibition of illicit opium poppy cultivation.

Preventing the diversion of ketamine. Also on 21 March [res. 57/10], the Commission urged Member States to address the problem of the diversion of ketamine from licit medical use by monitoring emerging trends in its abuse, diversion, illicit manufacture, and illicit domestic and international non-medical distribution; controlling its use by placing it on a list of substances controlled under their national legislation; and paying special attention to the need to adopt measures to ensure adequate availability of and access to ketamine for medical and scientific purposes. CND also called upon Member States to adopt measures aimed at detecting and countering its diversion and trafficking, including trafficking through the Internet; to consider adopting an import and export authorization system for its licit international trade; and to share information and cooperate at the bilateral, regional and international levels with a view to detecting and controlling its diversion from the licit market, in particular by strengthening cooperation in law enforcement activities and by fostering cooperation among the relevant national health authorities. The UNODC Executive Director was requested to report to the Commission's fifty-eighth (2015) session.

Identification of new psychoactive substances. On the same date [res. 57/9], CND urged Member States and relevant organizations to continue collecting data on new psychoactive substances and their threats to public health and safety; to share best practices on demand reduction measures and treatment practices based on scientific evidence; to collaborate on the development of multifaceted prevention strategies that provided information on the potential adverse health and social effects of new psychoactive substances; and to exchange ideas and experiences in adopting responses to the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances. The Commission invited UNODC to incorporate a focus on new psychoactive substances in its programmes and communications; invited the World Health Organization (WHO) to review new psychoactive substances; and urged Member States to strengthen inter-

national cooperation in the exchange of information regarding the identification of new psychoactive substances, the methods used for their distribution and the *modi operandi* of criminal and other organizations involved in their production, processing and distribution. It also urged Member States to respond swiftly to the emergence of new psychoactive substances; to use, follow and/or apply the scheduling processes and control measures established under the 1961 Single Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and to support activities under the INCB task force on new psychoactive substances.

INCB action. In its report covering 2014 [E/INCB/2014/1, Sales No. E.15.XI.1] (see p. 1398), the Board reiterated its invitation to WHO to evaluate the potential medical utility of cannabis and the extent to which cannabis posed a risk to human health; and reminded Governments that had established programmes for the use of cannabis for medical purposes, or were considering such initiatives, of their reporting and licensing obligations under the international treaties. The Board also noted that the amount of opiate raw material available for the manufacturing of narcotic drugs for medical purposes, including for pain relief, was more than sufficient to satisfy the level of demand, as estimated by Governments, with both production and stocks continuing to increase. It therefore urged cultivating and producing countries of opiate raw material for medical and scientific purposes to take into consideration the 1961 Single Convention, in which parties were required to prevent the accumulation of poppy straw in excess of quantities required for the normal conduct of business, taking into account the prevailing market conditions. Pursuant to CND resolution 57/9 (see above), INCB called on Member States to support WHO in assessing new psychoactive substances and in providing scheduling recommendations to the Commission; INCB also reiterated its position with regard to the legalization of the non-medical use of scheduled substances and urged all States to ensure full compliance with the international treaties to which they were parties.

International Narcotics Control Board

INCB held its 109th (3–7 February), 110th (19–30 May) and 111th (28 October–14 November) sessions, all in Vienna.

In accordance with the tasks assigned to it under the international conventions, the Board monitored the implementation of the international drug control treaties and maintained a permanent dialogue with Governments. The information received from Governments was used to identify the enforcement of treaty provisions requiring them to limit to medical and scientific purposes the licit manufacture of, trade in and distribution and use of narcotic drugs and psy-

chotropic substances. The Board, which was required by the treaties to report annually on the drug control situation worldwide, noted gaps and weaknesses in national control and treaty compliance and made recommendations for improvements at the national and international levels.

The Board's 2014 report [E/INCB/2014/1, Sales No. E.15.XI.1] reviewed efforts by the international community to take a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to implementing the provisions of the international drug control treaties to respond to the world drug problem. The outcome of that approach should be not only to reduce or prevent the illicit production of, trafficking in and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, but also to facilitate the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. Acting under its mandate to assess the licit use of internationally controlled drugs, the Board drew attention to major discrepancies among regions in terms of their availability. Despite progress in some regions, approximately three quarters of the world's population lived in countries with low-level or non-existent access to medicines containing narcotic drugs and had inadequate access to treatment for severe pain, while 92 per cent of the world's morphine was consumed by 17 per cent of the world's population, primarily in North America, Oceania and Western Europe. Comparable discrepancies also existed in relation to access to psychotropic substances for licit purposes. The amount of opiate raw material available for the production of opioid analgesics for pain relief was more than sufficient to satisfy the requirements and consumption reported by Governments; global stocks were increasing and the low demand for opioid analgesics in many countries was not the result of a shortage of licitly produced raw materials. The Board stressed that the situation could be improved through corrective action by States parties to address the regulatory, attitudinal, knowledge-related, economic and procurement-related problems identified as the main causes of the inadequate availability of opioids. The Board stressed the importance of both drug demand and supply reduction strategies and noted that depleting illicit supply and reducing demand had a mutually reinforcing effect. The report reviewed the socioeconomic and sociocultural aspects that impacted both the supply and demand aspects of the drug problem and stressed that illicit cultivation was intertwined with socioeconomic factors, thus its reduction and elimination should be addressed in the broader context of sustainable development. INCB made the following recommendations to Member States: to consider the principles of international law in respecting their obligations assumed by ratification of the conventions and in interpreting their provisions; to encourage the cooperation of stakeholders in the planning, implementation and monitoring of drug control policies; to consider their obligation to ensure the availability of

controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and enhance their cooperation with the Board, WHO and other relevant stakeholders; to ensure that demand reduction was one of the priorities of their drug control policies; and to place equal emphasis on supply and demand reduction, taking into consideration the socioeconomic, sociocultural, security and stability aspects that impacted the drug problem.

In its review of the functioning of the international drug control system, the report considered issues on promoting the consistent application of the treaties; ensuring the implementation of their provisions; Governments' cooperation with the Board; evaluation of overall treaty compliance; and action taken by the Board to ensure the treaties' implementation. It also covered special topics such as control measures applicable to programmes for the use of cannabis for medical purposes pursuant to the 1961 Single Convention; the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in emergency situations; the use of methylphenidate; new psychoactive substances; and the development of an international electronic import and export authorization system for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The Board's report was supplemented by the following reports: *Narcotic Drugs: Estimated World Requirements for 2015—Statistics for 2013* [E/INCB/2014/2]; *Psychotropic Substances: Statistics for 2013—Assessments of Annual Medical and Scientific Requirements for Substances in Schedules II, III and IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971* [E/INCB/2014/3]; and *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2014 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988* [E/INCB/2014/4].

By **decision 2014/235** of 16 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the INCB report for 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1214].

World drug situation

In its 2014 report [E/INCB/2014/1, Sales No. E.15.XI.1] INCB presented a regional analysis of world drug abuse trends and control efforts to keep Governments aware of situations that might endanger the objectives of international drug control treaties. For each region, the report provided information on major developments; regional cooperation; national legislation, policy and action; cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking; and abuse and treatment.

Africa

The deteriorating political situation in some African subregions spurred increases in illicit drug trafficking and worsening public health problems related to drug

use. West Africa, for example, saw more manufacturing and trafficking of methamphetamine, while a rise in drug trafficking into and out of Liberia led to increased national security concerns. Cannabis remained a major illicit drug of concern, and its production, trafficking and abuse continued. Despite eradication efforts, it was illicitly cultivated throughout the continent, while the illicit production of cannabis resin was limited to a few countries in North Africa. Morocco remained one of the largest cannabis resin producers in the world, notwithstanding that production in the country was reportedly declining. Use of khat, a plant-based substance not under international control, remained highly prevalent in some African countries. It was cultivated in East Africa, predominantly in Ethiopia and Kenya, where its abuse was widespread. The trafficking of opiates through Africa continued, owing to limited law enforcement capacity in the region. East Africa was increasingly used as a transit route for heroin originating in Asia and bound for markets in South and West Africa. Southern Africa remained a key link in the global transit of heroin and cocaine. New trends related to trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants indicated a growing domestic market throughout Africa, as well as the smuggling of amphetamine-type stimulants to East and South-East Asia and Oceania. The clandestine manufacture of methaqualone in the region continued.

The African Union implemented its Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention for the 2013–2017 period, which provided a strategic framework to guide the development of drug policy. With the support of UNODC, the African Union held expert group meetings on the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Southern Africa. UNODC continued to implement tailored programmes in the region, including the Container Control Programme; the Airport Communication Project; and the regional programmes on drugs and crime for East Africa for the 2009–2015 period. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) continued to implement its Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa, which had been extended until 2015. South Africa adopted a national master plan on drugs for 2013–2017 and, in April, amended the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act of 1992 to classify as illegal the street-drug mixtures of heroin and cannabis known locally as “nyaope” or “woonga”. Ghana approved an amendment to the schedule of the Narcotic Drug (Control Enforcement and Sanctions) Law of 1990 to control certain new psychoactive substances and other psychotropic substances, such as methamphetamine and its derivatives.

Americas

Central America and the Caribbean. Owing to its geographical location and weak governing

institutions, Central America and the Caribbean continued to be exploited by local gangs and international organized criminal groups as a transit and trans-shipment route for illicit drugs originating in South America and destined for consumer markets in North America and Europe. Local consumption of illegal drugs also appeared to be growing in many countries of the region. Costa Rica and Honduras remained primary trans-shipment points. The amount of cocaine trafficked through Central America increased, particularly along the border between Guatemala and Honduras, following an intensification of law enforcement efforts in Mexico. More than 80 per cent of all cocaine trafficked to the United States transited the region, and the illicit drugs produced in the region increased. Cannabis was produced mainly in small quantities for local consumption, but regionally, the production and trafficking of new psychoactive substances increased. Traffickers were turning to the importation of non-scheduled precursor chemicals to manufacture methamphetamine through alternative methods to avoid stricter regional control measures in place since 2011. There was intensified competition in cocaine trafficking, as the most lucrative source of income for organized criminal groups, and a corresponding increase in the level of violence, especially in the northern part of the region: Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The drug problem had contributed to high levels of street violence and drug-related corruption, which had further overloaded the criminal justice system.

In April, the UNODC regional programme for 2014–2016 in support of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) crime and security strategy was launched. In September, at the forty-sixth special session of the Organization of American States, officials from the 35 member states discussed counter-narcotics policies in the Americas. Costa Rica reported in February that it had adopted Act No. 9161, a comprehensive amendment of Act No. 8204 on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Illicit Drugs, Related Activities, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. El Salvador continued to implement its national anti-drug strategy for 2011–2015. In Panama, national institutions continued the process of strengthening and/or restructuring their national intelligence systems.

North America. In North America, the social and human costs of drug abuse remained considerable. The region continued to have the highest drug-related mortality rate of any subregion in the world (142.1 per million inhabitants aged 15 to 64 years), and overdose deaths, primarily related to prescription opioids, outnumbered homicides and road accident fatalities. The tightening of regulatory controls for the dispensing of prescription opioids, coupled with efforts by pharmaceutical companies to develop tamper-proof formulations of commonly abused prescription drugs,

contributed to a major resurgence in heroin abuse, following several years of decline. Although seizures of cocaine fell by 44 per cent between 2007 and 2012, they continued to be the largest outside the Andean region. There was a slight increase in cocaine abuse in the adult population of the United States in 2012, although it remained stable among young people and declined marginally in 2013. The availability of cannabis continued to increase, driven by increased production in all three countries and tolerant policies in many states in the United States. Cannabis remained the most widely available and abused illicit drug in the region, and the one that was most trafficked between North American countries. Sales of cannabis for non-medical purposes began in the States of Colorado and Washington, and voters in the States of Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia approved ballot initiatives on its non-medical use in their jurisdictions. Those developments occurred despite a conflict with the Controlled Substances Act, a federal statute which prohibited cannabis production, trafficking and possession. In the United States, 23 states and the District of Columbia had enacted legislation allowing for the creation of medical cannabis programmes.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) remained the main vehicle for cooperation between the three countries in the region, which was extensive. In July, the United States released its National Drug Control Strategy for 2014, which emphasized public health approaches to addressing the drug problem; identified the abuse of prescription drugs and heroin as major challenges; addressed the growing threat posed by new psychoactive substances, such as synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones; and contained enhanced measures aimed at combating transnational organized crime. Canada addressed the growing problem of prescription drug abuse by reinforcing implementation of its National Anti-Drug Strategy. The United States and Canada had also created prescription drug monitoring programmes and adopted measures to promote the interoperability of those programmes among sub-national jurisdictions. In Mexico, the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical purposes remained low, resulting in limited access by patients with legitimate medical needs. Mexico was examining changes to its regulatory structure to remove impediments to the prescription and dispensing of such drugs for medical use. In 2013, Canada introduced a bill aimed at creating a legal framework that would allow for the establishment and operation of supervised drug injection sites. The Board reiterated its concern that such facilities could be inconsistent with the provisions of the international drug control conventions. In May, the State of Minnesota signed a bill into law that established a medical cannabis programme, and in July, the State of New York signed a bill into law that allowed doctors to prescribe can-

nabis for medical purposes. The Board reminded governments in jurisdictions that had established medical cannabis programmes, or that were considering doing so, that the 1961 Single Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, set out specific requirements for their establishment, administration and monitoring, and encouraged governments to ensure that their medical cannabis programmes fully implemented the measures in the Convention.

South America. South America continued to be affected by the illicit cultivation of coca bush, cannabis plant and, in some countries, opium poppy, all of which were processed, usually in the country of cultivation, into the corresponding plant-based drugs. Aside from being the source for virtually the entire supply of the world's cocaine, the region also accounted for a significant proportion of its global consumption. The illicit use of cannabis and, to a lesser extent amphetamine-type stimulants, also affected segments of the population. As at 2012, South America accounted for almost one fifth of all past-year cocaine users globally, and slightly less than one tenth of cannabis users. One issue of special concern was the consumption of smokable forms of cocaine. Among the drugs and psychotropic substances most abused on a global scale, cocaine was the only one for which the illicit processes leading to the consumable end product (cultivation, production and manufacture) were largely confined to a specific region—South America. In particular, illicit coca bush cultivation was concentrated in the three countries of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. In recent years, the global supply of cocaine originating in South America had been curtailed to an extent that had a perceptible effect on major consumer markets. During the 2007–2013 period, the total area under cultivation for coca bush in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru fell by approximately one third, and cocaine availability remained significantly lower than during the peak levels reached around 2006.

South America was characterized by a high level of awareness of the illicit supply of and demand for controlled substances, in addition to a well-developed infrastructure at the national and regional levels to monitor and counter that phenomenon. The Board welcomed the number of regional cooperation activities, including the provision of training and legal assistance, organized by the countries in the region in cooperation with CICAD and UNODC. Other aspects that received attention dealt with efforts to combat the trafficking in and diversion of precursors, maritime trafficking and the abuse of smokable forms of cocaine. In March 2013, Peru approved a new regulation concerning chemicals, equipment and material used for the illicit manufacture of drugs. Under the national strategy to combat drugs implemented by Peru for 2012–2016, the eradication of coca bush intensified in the major coca growing regions.

Asia

East and South-East Asia. East and South-East Asia had some of the largest and most established illicit markets for amphetamine-type stimulants in the world. Further increases in trafficking and manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants constituted the leading source of drug-related activity in the region. They were the most abused drugs in a number of countries with demand for them, particularly for methamphetamine, continued to grow and diversify. Most of the methamphetamine abused was manufactured in clandestine laboratories within the region. The trafficking of precursors used in the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants remained one of the biggest challenges in precursor control. Seizures of large quantities of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine continued to be reported by several countries. Illicit opium poppy cultivation and production increased, mainly in Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Myanmar remained the second-largest grower of opium poppy in the world after Afghanistan. Despite the eradication in 2013 of a total of 13,000 ha reported by the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand, illicit opium poppy cultivation continued to rise. In Myanmar alone, cultivation had grown from 21,600 ha in 2006 to 57,800 in 2013. The risk of greater illicit cultivation in the Golden Triangle was expected to persist until sustainable solutions could be found to the situation of long-term poverty in Shan State, Myanmar.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held several meetings to exchange information on the drug situation, reiterate the Association's political commitment and call for intensified collaborative efforts. Other regular regional meetings, such as the Asia-Pacific Operational Drug Enforcement Conference and the Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation, as well as various subregional cooperation platforms, also facilitated the exchange of information and multilateral collaboration. To further the regional goal of a drug-free ASEAN community in 2015, a number of policies and strategies were launched or extended at the national level. Amendments to existing drug control legislation were adopted in some countries and, in the absence of a unified control framework at the international level, attempts were made to impose stricter controls over new psychoactive substances at the national level.

South Asia. The greatest drug-related challenges facing South Asia in 2013 remained trafficking in Afghan heroin; the rise in the manufacturing and trafficking of methamphetamine; the diversion of controlled substances from licit to illicit channels; and the abuse of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the

smuggling of such preparations from India to neighbouring countries. Owing to its location between the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan and Pakistan) and the Golden Triangle (Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand), South Asia continued to be particularly vulnerable to the trafficking of opiates and heroin. In addition, the widespread trafficking of cannabis, synthetic drugs and new psychotropic substances persisted in 2013.

All the countries in South Asia were members of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, through which they continued their close partnership with one another, and with the other 21 members of the Plan that were outside of the subregion, on matters of drug abuse prevention and control. In India, the level of availability of and access to opioids for pain relief continued to be low, even though India had long been a licit producer and exporter of opiate raw material, namely opium, a source of pain management medication. In March 2014, the Indian Parliament adopted amendments to drug control legislation to enable uniform, simplified rules to be issued by the central Government, leading to the removal of the regulatory barriers that had hindered the availability of such drugs for pain relief. The Government of India issued the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Regulation of Controlled Substances) Order, 2013, by which it repealed the 1993 Order of the same name. With the 2013 Order, which designated 17 precursor chemicals as controlled substances, the Government hoped to track controlled substances from source to end user and strike a balance between the legitimate requirements of licit trade and an adequate enforcement regime to prevent the diversion of controlled substances. INCB noted that enforcement agencies in the region needed awareness-raising and training on trafficking in precursors and pharmaceutical preparations to gain a better understanding of the problem. Such capacity-building should be coupled with a strengthening of existing mechanisms for law enforcement coordination at the policy and operational levels.

West Asia. The political instability caused by armed conflict and political strife in West Asia, particularly in Iraq, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine, continued to weaken governance structures and hamper drug control efforts. Moreover, the humanitarian situation in the region caused by large numbers of refugees, internally displaced persons and injured civilians strained the resources of States directly affected by the conflicts, as well as those of neighbouring States taking in large numbers of refugees. In 2014, Afghanistan set a new record for opium poppy cultivation, reaching 224,000 ha, 7 per cent more than the previous year. More than half of the country's 34 provinces had opium poppy cultivation of over 100 ha, and hundreds of thou-

sands of households were involved in illicit cultivation. Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan was inversely related to security: as security deteriorated, illicit cultivation increased. Afghanistan accounted for 80 per cent of the estimated global illicit production of opium, and production in the country increased to 6,400 tons in 2014, an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year. Nearly 20 per cent of the world's opiate abusers resided in West Asia, as increasing opium production in Afghanistan resulted in greater opium and heroin abuse, primarily in that country and in neighbouring countries located along the expanding trafficking routes.

Cannabis continued to be cultivated and consumed in the subregion, where a growing number of seizures of cannabis resin were reported. Afghanistan continued to be one of the largest producers of cannabis resin. The abuse of amphetamines and cocaine was increasingly problematic in parts of West Asia. Amphetamine dominated the market, and large seizures continue to be reported.

Regional cooperation was essential in West Asia, as the region lay at a crossroads in the global trafficking of opiates, cannabis and precursor chemicals. Stability remained a primary concern in many countries, as well as a concern of the Security Council, and much of the cooperation was increasingly focused on improving political stability in several countries, particularly in Afghanistan. The League of Arab States and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) played a fundamental role in enhancing cooperation among countries in the region. In December 2013, Afghanistan adopted the National Drug Demand Reduction Policy for the period 2012–2016. Turkey implemented its new national policy and strategy document on drugs for 2013–2018 and, in 2013 and 2014, placed numerous non-scheduled new psychoactive substances under national control, including synthetic cannabinoids, cathinones and piperazines. Several countries amended legislation in response to the growing threat posed by new psychoactive substances: In 2013, Israel added emergency scheduling powers to its existing drug control legislation, and Georgia's law on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and narcological assistance was amended to include several synthetic cannabinoids. In the State of Palestine, laws on drug control, money-laundering and cybercrime were adopted, and a national plan on drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice reform for 2014–2017 was developed with UNODC assistance.

Europe

Most countries in Western and Central Europe reported a decline in the prevalence of heroin abuse, in the number of people commencing treatment for heroin abuse for the first time, and in the quantity

of heroin seized. There were concerns, however, that heroin was being partly replaced by synthetic opioids as deaths associated with heroin abuse declined, but deaths linked to synthetic opioids were on the rise. Changing patterns with regard to injecting drug abuse were noted in some countries, particularly a trend away from the injection of heroin to the injection of synthetic opioids, amphetamine-type stimulants or new psychoactive substances. Compared to the global average, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe had a higher prevalence of injecting drug abuse, and of HIV among people who injected drugs. Relatively high rates of injecting drug abuse were observed in Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. In Eastern Europe, opiate abuse, supported by the supply of heroin from Afghanistan, was significantly higher than the global average. In 2013, there was greater use of the Balkan route for illicit trafficking, and seizures of heroin along that route increased. South-Eastern Europe continued to see an expansion of trafficking in Albanian cannabis, and many countries experienced an increase in the local production of cannabis, including a form that was highly potent. The increasing range, availability and abuse of new psychoactive substances remained a major challenge in Europe, with a record level of 81 substances newly identified in 2013 and a greater involvement of organized criminal groups in the market. The countries and areas of the western Balkans, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo, continued to cooperate on drug control with member States of the European Union (EU). An agreement between the EU and the Russian Federation on precursor chemicals came into effect in April 2014. In May, representatives of EU member States and countries of the western Balkans met in Brussels to engage in a dialogue on drugs, and bilateral cooperation in addressing trafficking in the region intensified among the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. As to national legislation, policy and action, Ukraine adopted new rules for handling narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in medical establishments, which reduced the number of administrative obstacles to their use for medical purposes; Romania adopted its national anti-drug strategy for 2013–2020 and its action plan for 2013–2016; and in Belarus, a presidential decree was adopted on State regulation of the circulation of poppy seeds, which restricted their supply as a raw material for illicit markets in the country. Many European countries took legislative measures to address the challenge posed by new psychoactive substances, and Governments continued to place individual substances and groups of substances under national control: in 2013, 58 substances were placed under control in Lithuania, 35 in the Czech Republic, 26 in Germany, 24 in Switzerland, 21 in Sweden, 9 in Denmark, 5 in Estonia, 4 each in Finland and Italy and 2 in France. Latvia intro-

duced a temporary ban on eight substances, Slovakia added a new section to national drug control legislation to control new psychoactive substances, the Russian Federation expanded its national list of controlled substances to include 43 new psychoactive substances, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia placed 15 new psychoactive substances under national control. In June 2014, an order reclassifying ketamine as a class B drug came into force in the United Kingdom, and a decision to control khat also came into effect.

Oceania

Compared with other regions, Oceania provided an expanding market for certain drugs, including cocaine, and levels of abuse were high for most substances. Seizures and arrests in Oceania were at record highs for many drugs. Increased drug seizures, particularly in Australia, were attributed not only to the vigilance of law enforcement, but also to the increased activities of transnational organized criminal groups. As the monetary value of drugs and precursors remained comparatively high throughout Oceania, the region became susceptible to illicit manufacturing and trafficking. Growing markets for amphetamine-type stimulants and proximity to trafficking routes for different illicit drugs led most countries to see higher prevalence rates for their abuse. In most of the region the availability and abuse of new psychoactive substances had become an issue of concern. The expanding market for such substances developed rapidly and presented challenges to law enforcement. The increase in demand was affected by the inability of existing legislation to ensure that such substances were not available.

In April, the sixteenth annual conference of the Oceania Customs Organization, held in Suva, Fiji, discussed communication and information-sharing for better cooperation, and the need for strengthened border security. The secretariat of the Organization also undertook an assessment visit to assist Palau on processes and products related to information and intelligence sharing. In New Zealand, the Psychoactive Substances Amendment Act was passed and came into effect in May, thereby prohibiting the sale of psychoactive substances unless they were approved by the national regulatory authority following clinical trials. The Amendment Act revoked the 2013 Act, which had granted interim approvals for 47 products containing new psychoactive substances and permitted their marketing by 150 licensed retailers. In July, Australia's Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs published the Framework for a National Response to New Psychoactive Substances, which would assist with information sharing and communication regarding new psychoactive substances, harm assessment and scheduling provisions. In 2012 and 2013, various states and territories of Australia passed legislative and regulatory amendments. New South Wales passed the New Psychoactive Substances Act, and Queensland

amended the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to create a new offence for trafficking in precursor chemicals used in the production of dangerous drugs.

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

At its twenty-third session (Vienna, 13 December 2013 and 12–16 May 2014) [E/2014/30], the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) recommended to the Economic and Social Council six draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly on the following matters: follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [YUN 2010, p. 1094] and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; international cooperation in criminal matters; United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the UN development agenda beyond 2015; and International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences. CCPCJ recommended for the Council's adoption three draft resolutions and two decisions on matters that included strengthening social policies as a tool for crime prevention; the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the post-2015 development agenda (see p. 960); and strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants. The Commission also adopted three resolutions and one decision, which it brought to the attention of the Council (see below). In addition to holding a thematic discussion on international cooperation in criminal matters, CCPCJ also considered strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions; integration and coordination of efforts by UNODC and Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice; the use and application of UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice; world crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice; follow-up to the Twelfth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; and the provisional agenda for its twenty-fourth (2015) session.

At its reconvened twenty-third session (Vienna, 4–5 December) [E/2014/30/Add.1], the Commission

adopted and brought to the Council's attention one resolution on implementation of the UNODC budget for the biennium 2014–2015. It also recommended one draft decision for adoption by the Council.

On 16 July, by **decision 2014/229**, the Economic and Social Council took note of the CCPCJ report on its reconvened twenty-second (2013) session [YUN 2013, p. 1218]. On the same date, by **decision 2014/230**, the Council took note of the CCPCJ report on its twenty-third session, reaffirmed Commission decision 21/1 [YUN 2012, p. 1198], took note of Commission decision 22/2 [YUN 2013, p. 1197], and approved the provisional agenda for the Commission's twenty-fourth (2015) session.

Follow-up to the Twelfth UN Crime Congress

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/185 [YUN 2013, p. 1219], the Secretary-General submitted a February report [E/CN.15/2014/6] on the follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Salvador, Brazil, 12–19 April 2010) [YUN 2010, p. 1094] and the ongoing preparations for the Thirteenth (2015) United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha, Qatar. The report covered the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and the finalization of a discussion guide for those meetings and for the Congress itself. The Secretary-General had organized four regional meetings in preparation for the Thirteenth Congress: Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, Thailand, 22–24 January) [A/CONF.222/RPM.1/1]; Western Asia (Doha, 3–5 February) [A/CONF.222/RPM.2/1]; Latin American and Caribbean (San José, Costa Rica, 19–21 February) [A/CONF.222/RPM.3/1]; and Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 9–11 April) [A/CONF.222/RPM.4/1]. A draft discussion guide [A/CONF.222/PM.1] was finalized by the Secretariat and made available to the meetings. The report also contained information on actions required of the Commission in reviewing the preparations.

A February note [E/CN.15/2014/9] by the Secretariat recalled that in accordance with rule 63 of the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice adopted at the Twelfth (2010) Congress, the rules of procedure as adopted [A/CONF.213/2] would be made available to the Commission at its twenty-third session.

Also in response to General Assembly resolution 68/185, the Secretary-General submitted a June report [A/69/89] with information on the implementation of that resolution. It provided an overview of the relevant mandates, as well as of the deliberations and actions taken at the twenty-third session of the Commission on issues pertaining to preparations for the Thirteenth Congress and the outcome of those deliberations.

On 18 December (**decision 69/537**), the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30], adopted **resolution 2014/15** without vote [agenda item 17 (c)].

Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[For text, see General Assembly resolution 69/191 below.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/489], adopted **resolution 69/191** without vote [agenda item 105].

Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C(VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415(V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing the significant contributions of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Recognizing also the efforts already made by the Government of Qatar to prepare for the hosting of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, including its generous contribution to support the capacity of the Secretariat to ensure effective preparations for the Thirteenth Congress,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, should be held,

Recalling also its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010 and its resolutions 66/179 of 19 December 2011, 67/184 of 20 December 2012 and 68/185 of 18 December 2013 on the follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling further, in particular, that in its resolution 68/185 it decided to hold the Thirteenth Congress in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 11 April 2015,

Mindful that in its resolution 68/185 it also decided that the high-level segment of the Thirteenth Congress would be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback,

Mindful also that in its resolution 68/185 it further decided that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress would adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration, and that the declaration would contain the major recommendations reflecting and emerging from the deliberations of the high-level segment, as well as the discussion of the agenda items and the workshops,

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World and the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein, taking into account the economic, social, legal and cultural specificities of their respective States;

2. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to inform the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice about their activities aimed at the implementation of the Salvador Declaration and the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth Congress, with a view to providing guidance on the formulation of legislation, policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice at the national and international levels, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the subject, to be submitted to the Congress for its consideration;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the discussion guide prepared by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Thirteenth Congress;

6. *Acknowledges* the relevance of the regional preparatory meetings, which have examined the substantive items of the agenda and the workshop topics of the Thirteenth Congress and made action-oriented recommendations, to serve as a basis for the draft declaration to be adopted by the Thirteenth Congress;

7. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to begin, in accordance with its resolution 68/185, the preparation of a short and concise draft declaration, reflecting the theme of the Thirteenth Congress, at intersessional meetings to be held well in advance of the Congress, taking into account the recommendations of the regional preparatory meetings and consultations with relevant organizations and entities;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held during the Thirteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and to the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

9. *Reiterates its invitation* to donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the workshops, and encourages States, other entities concerned and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops focus on their respective issues and achieve practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas, projects and documents related to enhancing bilateral and multilateral efforts in technical assistance activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make available the resources necessary to ensure the participation of the least developed countries in the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice;

11. *Encourages* Governments to make preparations for the Thirteenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion on the topics and to participating actively in the organization and conduct of the workshops, the submission of national position papers on the various substantive items of the agenda and the encouragement of contributions from the academic community and relevant scientific institutions;

12. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth Congress at the highest appropriate level, for example by Heads of State or Government or government ministers and attorneys general, to make statements in the high-level segment on the theme and substantive items of the Congress and to participate actively in its proceedings by sending legal and policy experts with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

13. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress;

14. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Thirteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

15. *Welcomes* the plan for the documentation of the Thirteenth Congress, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

16. *Also welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of a secretary-general and an executive secretary of the Thirteenth Congress, who will perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare an overview of the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide for presentation at the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice;

18. *Requests* the Commission to give high priority at its twenty-fourth session to considering the declaration of the Thirteenth Congress, with a view to recommending, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate follow-up by the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon, through the Commission, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

Thirteenth UN Crime Congress

During the regular part of its twenty-third (2014) session, CCPCJ considered the state of progress of the preparations for the Thirteenth (2015) United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Representatives noted that because the Thirteenth Congress would take place on the threshold of UN work on the post-2015 development agenda, it offered a chance to place the role of the criminal justice system in the promotion of the rule of law, and in support of sustainable development at the centre of international debate. Speakers also highlighted the need for inclusive consultations for the elaboration of a draft declaration in advance of the Congress. On 16 May, the Commission recommended a draft resolution on the matter for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30], adopted **resolution 2014/22** without vote [agenda item 17 (c)].

Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the post-2015 development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly had vested in the Economic and Social Council, and recognized the need for a more effective Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major

United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also that, through its resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, the General Assembly decided that the Economic and Social Council should base its annual programme of work on a main theme that would, inter alia, be decided by the Council based on inputs from its subsidiary bodies, as well as Member States, and that an integration segment should be held annually, the main functions of which would be to consolidate all the inputs of Member States, the subsidiary bodies of the Council, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders and to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely social, environmental and economic,

Recognizing the preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as set out in General Assembly resolution 67/184 of 20 December 2012, including the decision that the main theme of the Congress would be “Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation”,

1. *Invites* Member States, international organizations and all relevant stakeholders to provide to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime their views regarding the contribution that the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, considering its main theme, could make to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, while respecting the process established by the General Assembly, and requests the Office to report to the Congress on that matter;

2. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes set out in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Communications. In a letter [A/69/424] dated 2 October to the Secretary-General, Qatar transmitted to the General Assembly the Chair’s summary of a governmental expert meeting (Doha, Qatar, 27–29 September) on the preparations for the Thirteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The meeting was convened pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/185 [YUN 2013, p. 1219] to facilitate discussion on the contribution that the Thirteenth Congress could make to deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/22 (see p. 1406), and to gather views on the preparation of the draft Congress declaration.

In a note verbale [E/CN.15/2014/22] dated 6 October, Qatar transmitted the Chair’s summary of the governmental expert meeting to the reconvened twenty-third (2014) session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

World crime trends and emerging issues

At its twenty-third session [E/2014/30], CCPCJ considered the report of the Executive Director

[E/CN.7/2014/2-E/CN.15/2014/2] of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the Office's 2013 activities [YUN 2013, p. 1196] in the framework of its regional and thematic programmes, which included countering transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking; countering corruption; terrorism prevention; crime prevention and criminal justice; prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development; research, trend analysis and scientific and forensic support; and the strengthening of UNODC through strategic planning, evaluation, and finance and partnerships.

A further report of the Executive Director to the Commission [E/CN.7/2015/2-E/CN.15/2015/2] described the activities of the Office in those areas in 2014 (see p. 1379).

Crime data collection

In accordance with the practice established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/18 [YUN 1990, p. 727], the Secretariat submitted a February note [E/CN.15/2014/5] on world crime trends and emerging issues and responses in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The report described global and regional trends regarding conventional crime, and short- and long-term patterns for homicide, as well as the response of the criminal justice system. It provided an overview of prison populations and systems worldwide, identified challenges faced by criminal justice systems, and presented statistics and data on international cooperation in criminal matters. Statistical data on crime and criminal justice were based on data produced by Member States as reported annually through the UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems. The report noted that, while data on common crimes, such as robbery and burglary, were often available at the international level, there was a scarcity of data on more complex types of crimes, such as kidnapping for ransom, corruption offences, specific types of fraud, environmental crimes or offences related to organized crime or gang activities.

At the global level, data on police-recorded offences indicated that conventional crimes followed distinctive trends: property-related crimes decreased considerably, violent crime declined only a little and drug-related offences increased. At the regional level, crime trends diverged: over the previous decade, violent crime had increased in the Americas while declining in Asia and Europe. Levels of intentional homicide in Southern Africa and Central and South America were higher than the global average, and while global trends showed decreasing homicide rates, short-term trends were unstable or increasing in several subregions, indicating that insecurity associated with high homicide levels was persistent in several areas of the world. Rates of suspected and convicted persons were

higher in Europe than in Asia and the Americas, and, everywhere, most suspects and convicts were males, while the share of females slowly increased in all regions and the share of child suspects and convicts decreased. The global prison population increased in absolute numbers (10.4 million people at the end of 2012) but remained stable in proportion to the global population. Challenges emerged in relation to high levels of violent deaths among detainees; the large proportion of recidivist prisoners; the substantial proportion of prisoners who were foreign nationals; the large proportion of prisoners who had been sentenced for violent crimes and drug offences; and the rates of prisoners with a non-final sentence (particularly those without any sentence).

The Secretariat recommended that the Commission take note of the share of detainees without a final sentence and encourage Member States to monitor the use and duration of pretrial detention in order to ensure compliance with the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems; take note of the share of recidivist prisoners and encourage States to monitor efforts in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders; and take note of the increasing diversity of prison populations and encourage States to establish systems of statistics that were sensitive to the special needs and vulnerabilities of certain categories of prisoners and to use the relevant UNODC technical tools and guidance material, including the *Handbook on Prisoners with Special Needs*, the *Handbook on Women and Imprisonment*, and the *Handbook on the International Transfer of Sentenced Persons*.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2012/18 [YUN 2012, p. 1201] and 2013/37 [YUN 2013, p. 1221], the Secretary-General submitted a February report [E/CN.15/2014/10] on improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development, which outlined activities undertaken by UNODC in accordance with the road map described in the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and UNODC [YUN 2013, p. 1261], approved by the Statistical Commission and CCPCJ and supported by Council resolution 2013/37. The Secretary-General considered the development of new standards and methodology to improve crime statistics; the improvement of capacity to produce and disseminate crime data; the improvement of international data collections and analyses; and the monitoring of security, justice and rule of law in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Secretary-General recommended that CCPCJ encourage Member States to participate in the annual data collection conducted by UNODC through the UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems in order to increase the international availability of reliable data and improve analyses of

crime threats and the criminal justice response, and to appoint national focal points for the coordination of national responses to the Survey, in order to increase the response rate and improve the quality of national data. The Commission should also encourage UNODC to finalize the draft international classification of crime for statistical purposes to be submitted to the Statistical Commission and CCPCJ in 2015; encourage UNODC and other international organizations to foster the development of methodological tools for the measurement of emerging and complex forms of crime; and encourage UNODC and other international organizations to coordinate and intensify efforts to deliver technical assistance in the field of crime and criminal justice statistics. The Secretary-General welcomed the publication of the *Global Study on Homicide 2013* [Sales No. 14.IV.1] and invited States to consider the success of the UNODC-INEGI Center of Excellence with a view to replicating that experience in other regions.

Child abuse and exploitation through new information technologies

A March report [E/CN.15/2014/7] by the Secretary-General, prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/33 [YUN 2011, p. 1209], summarized the main findings of a UNODC study to facilitate the identification, description and evaluation of the effects of new information technologies on the abuse and exploitation of children. It also contained an assessment of the needs of States for technical assistance, particularly in the training of law enforcement personnel in the investigation of offences against children committed by using new information and communication technologies. The study and the assessment considered data collected by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime, as well as studies carried out by regional and other UN system organizations. The Secretary-General concluded that combating technology-facilitated child abuse and exploitation required further commitments from Governments, the private sector, civil society, teachers, parents and the international community to build awareness, allocate sufficient resources to prevent and combat such crimes, establish supportive government structures, enable proactive investigations, and train practitioners on gathering, preserving and presenting electronic evidence. The Secretary-General recommended that the Commission invite States to review their criminal, procedural and other relevant legislation; enable law enforcement authorities to conduct undercover investigations to address technology-facilitated grooming or child solicitation before it became contact abuse; provide training to law enforcement authorities on gathering, preserving and presenting electronic evidence; strengthen cross-border investigations of child abuse and exploitation

cases; establish specialized units within police and prosecution offices to deal with such cases; and develop awareness-raising campaigns for children, parents and caregivers.

Trafficking in cultural property

In a March note [E/CN.15/2014/16], the UNODC Secretariat submitted to CCPCJ the draft guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property and other related offences. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/186 [YUN 2013, p. 1226], the expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property met from 15 to 17 January to review and revise the draft guidelines. The finalized guidelines were contained in the report [UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.1/2014/3] on that meeting, and the expert group recommended that they be adopted by the Commission at its twenty-third (2014) session.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30], adopted **resolution 2014/20** without vote [agenda item 17 (c)].

International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[For text, see General Assembly resolution 69/196 below.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/489], adopted **resolution 69/196** without vote [agenda item 105].

International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 66/180 of 19 December 2011 and 68/186 of 18 December 2013, entitled “Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking”,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003,

Recalling further the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and

Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 November 1970, the Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, adopted by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law on 24 June 1995, and the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, adopted at The Hague on 14 May 1954, and the two Protocols thereto, adopted on 14 May 1954 and 26 March 1999, and other relevant conventions, and reaffirming the necessity for those States which have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to and, as States parties, implementing those international instruments,

Alarmed at the growing involvement of organized criminal groups in all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, and observing that illicitly trafficked cultural property is increasingly being sold through all kinds of markets, inter alia, in auctions, in particular over the Internet, and that such property is being unlawfully excavated and illicitly exported or imported with the facilitation of modern and sophisticated technologies,

Recognizing the indispensable role of crime prevention and criminal justice responses in combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences in a comprehensive and effective manner,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking,

Welcoming the initiatives promoted within the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and the cooperative network established among the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, the World Customs Organization and the International Council of Museums in the area of protection against trafficking in cultural property, and encouraging those entities to continue to play an active role in that area,

Recalling that the theme of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, will be “Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation”, and considering that one of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Congress will focus on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation,

Reiterating the significance of cultural property as part of the common heritage of humankind and as unique and important testimony of the culture and identity of peoples and the necessity of protecting cultural property, and reaffirming in that regard the need to strengthen international cooperation in preventing, prosecuting and punishing all aspects of trafficking in cultural property,

Recognizing that, in its resolution 66/180, it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within

its mandate, in consultation with Member States and in close cooperation, as appropriate, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, INTERPOL and other competent international organizations, to further explore the development of specific guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property,

Recognizing also that, in its resolution 68/186, it welcomed the progress made in exploring the development of non-binding guidelines on crime prevention and criminal justice responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property, stressed the need for their expeditious finalization, bearing in mind the importance of the matter for all Member States, and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to reconvene the expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property for Member States to review and revise the draft guidelines, with a view to finalizing and submitting the draft guidelines to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session,

Recognizing further that the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, contained in the annex to the present resolution, can be considered by Member States in the development and strengthening of their policies, strategies, legislation and cooperation mechanisms to prevent and combat trafficking in cultural property and related offences in all situations,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the meeting of the expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property held in Vienna from 15 to 17 January 2014 to finalize the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences;

2. *Adopts* the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences, contained in the annex to the present resolution, and underlines that the Guidelines represent a useful framework to guide Member States in the development and strengthening of their criminal justice policies, strategies, legislation and cooperation mechanisms in the area of protection against trafficking in cultural property and other related offences;

3. *Strongly encourages* Member States to apply the Guidelines to the maximum extent possible, where appropriate, in view of strengthening international cooperation in this field;

4. *Encourages* Member States to undertake efforts to overcome practical difficulties in the implementation of the Guidelines in their constant endeavour to combat trafficking in cultural property, in all situations and on the basis of common and shared responsibility;

5. *Strongly encourages* Member States to evaluate and review their legislation and legal principles, procedures, policies, programmes and practices related to crime prevention and criminal justice matters, in a manner consistent with their legal systems and drawing upon the Guidelines, in order to ensure their adequacy for preventing and combating trafficking in cultural property and related offences;

6. *Invites* Member States and other relevant stakeholders attending the Thirteenth United Nations Congress

on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to discuss good practices and challenges in promoting international cooperation to combat trafficking in cultural property under workshop 3 (Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation);

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property and other related offences, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and making use of the work of the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, as appropriate;

8. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make the Guidelines widely available, including through the development of relevant tools, such as handbooks and training manuals;

9. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, where appropriate, in consultation with Member States, to develop a practical assistance tool to assist in the implementation of the Guidelines, taking into consideration the technical background document developed for the elaboration of the Guidelines and the comments made by Member States;

10. *Invites* Member States to use all relevant tools developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, including the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws against Organized Crime knowledge management portal and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws, and also invites Member States to provide to the Secretariat legislation and case law related to trafficking in cultural property, for inclusion in the portal;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

ANNEX

International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences

Introduction

1. The International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences have been developed in recognition of the criminal character of such offences and their devastating consequences for the cultural heritage of humankind. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/180 and 68/186 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/19, draft guidelines were developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in consultation with Member States and in close cooperation, as appropriate, with the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and other competent international organizations.

2. The first draft of the guidelines was reviewed at an informal expert group meeting, held from 21 to 23 November 2011, composed of 20 experts from around the world with expertise in various fields related to the subject matter of the guidelines, including representatives of INTERPOL, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law. Based on the valuable comments and advice on improving the draft, a second draft was presented to and discussed by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on protection against trafficking in cultural property at its second meeting, held from 27 to 29 June 2012. Taking into account a compendium, prepared by the Secretariat, of comments made by Member States on the draft guidelines, the expert group reviewed and revised the guidelines at its third meeting, held from 15 to 17 January 2014, with a view to their finalization.

3. The Guidelines are based on crime prevention and criminal justice aspects of protection against trafficking in cultural property, taking into consideration a review of current practices and initiatives in several countries in addressing the problem of trafficking in cultural property, as well as principles and norms arising from the analysis of the following international legal instruments: the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the United Nations Convention against Corruption; the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its First and Second Protocols; the Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts; the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property; the Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects adopted by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law; and the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

4. The present set of non-binding guidelines is available to Member States for their consideration in the development and strengthening of crime prevention and criminal justice policies, strategies, legislation and cooperation mechanisms to prevent and combat trafficking in cultural property and related offences in all situations. Their development follows the expression, by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in their resolutions, of alarm at the growing involvement of organized criminal groups in all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, and of the need to promote international cooperation to combat crime in a concerted manner.

5. The Guidelines have the purpose of serving as a reference for national policymakers and as a tool for capacity-building in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice responses to trafficking in cultural property and related offences, in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other competent international organizations, as appropriate. On the basis of the guidelines finalized by the intergovernmental expert group and submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and taking into consideration the technical background document containing the version of the guidelines dated

April 2012, and the comments made by Member States, the Commission may ask the Secretariat to develop a practical assistance tool, as appropriate, to aid in the implementation of the Guidelines.

6. The Guidelines contain four chapters:

(a) Chapter I contains guidelines on crime prevention strategies (including information and data collection, the role of cultural institutions and the private sector, the monitoring of the cultural property market, imports and exports, and archaeological sites, as well as education and public awareness);

(b) Chapter II contains guidelines on criminal justice policies (including adherence to and implementation of relevant international treaties, the criminalization of specific harmful conduct or the establishment of administrative offences, corporate liability, seizure and confiscation and investigative measures);

(c) Chapter III contains guidelines on international cooperation (including matters related to jurisdictional basis, extradition, seizure and confiscation, and cooperation among law enforcement and investigating authorities, as well as the return, restitution or repatriation of cultural property);

(d) Chapter IV contains a guideline on the scope of application of the Guidelines.

I

Prevention strategies

A. Information and data collection

Guideline 1. States should consider establishing and developing inventories or databases, as appropriate, of cultural property for the purpose of protection against its trafficking. The absence of registration of cultural property in such inventories shall by no means exclude it from protection against trafficking and related offences.

Guideline 2. States should consider, where possible under their national legislation, the relevant cultural property as registered in the official inventory of a State that has enacted laws on national or State ownership, provided that the owner State has issued a public formal statement to that effect.

Guideline 3. States should consider:

(a) Introducing or improving statistics on import and export of cultural property;

(b) Introducing or improving statistics, where practical, on administrative and criminal offences against cultural property;

(c) Establishing or improving national databases, as appropriate, on trafficking in cultural property and related offences and on trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted, illicitly excavated or illicitly traded or missing cultural property;

(d) Introducing mechanisms to enable the reporting of suspicious dealings or sales on the Internet;

(e) Contributing to international data collection on trafficking in cultural property and related offences through the United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the INTERPOL database on stolen works of art and through other relevant organizations;

(f) Contributing to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization database of national laws and regulations pertaining to cultural property.

Guideline 4. States should consider, as appropriate, establishing a central national authority or empowering an existing authority and/or enacting other mechanisms for coordinating the activities related to the protection of cultural property against trafficking and related offences.

B. The role of cultural institutions and the private sector

Guideline 5. States should consider encouraging cultural institutions and the private sector to adopt codes of conduct and to disseminate best practices on policies on the acquisition of cultural property.

Guideline 6. States should encourage cultural institutions and the private sector to report suspected trafficking in cultural property cases to law enforcement authorities.

Guideline 7. States should consider promoting and supporting training on cultural property regulations for cultural institutions and the private sector, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, including rules on the acquisition of cultural property.

Guideline 8. States should encourage, as appropriate, Internet providers and web-based auctioneers and vendors to cooperate in preventing trafficking in cultural property, including through the adoption of specific codes of conduct.

C. Monitoring

Guideline 9. States should consider, in accordance with the relevant international instruments, introducing and implementing appropriate import and export control procedures, such as certificates for the export and import of cultural property.

Guideline 10. States should consider creating and implementing monitoring measures for the market of cultural property, including for the Internet.

Guideline 11. States should, where possible, create and implement programmes for research, mapping and surveillance of archaeological sites for the purpose of protecting them against pillage, clandestine excavation and trafficking.

D. Education and public awareness

Guideline 12. States should consider supporting and promoting public awareness campaigns, including through the media, to foster among the general public a culture of concern about trafficking in cultural property, for the purpose of protecting that cultural property against pillage and trafficking.

II

Criminal justice policies

A. International legal texts

Guideline 13. States should consider adopting legislation criminalizing trafficking in cultural property and related offences in accordance with applicable existing international instruments, in particular the Organized Crime Convention, relating to trafficking in cultural property and related offences.

Guideline 14. In bilateral cooperation, States may consider making use of the model treaty for the prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property.

B. Criminal and administrative offences

Guideline 15. States should consider defining the concept of "cultural property", including movable and immov-

able cultural property, when necessary, for the purposes of criminal law.

Guideline 16. States should consider criminalizing, as serious offences, acts such as:

- (a) Trafficking in cultural property;
- (b) Illicit export and illicit import of cultural property;
- (c) Theft of cultural property (or consider elevating the offence of ordinary theft to a serious offence when it involves cultural property);
- (d) Looting of archaeological and cultural sites and/or illicit excavation;
- (e) Conspiracy or participation in an organized criminal group for trafficking in cultural property and related offences;
- (f) Laundering, as referred to in article 6 of the Organized Crime Convention, of trafficked cultural property.

Guideline 17. States should consider introducing in their criminal legislation other offences, such as damaging or vandalizing cultural property or acquiring, with conscious avoidance of the legal status, trafficked cultural property, when such offences are related to trafficking in cultural property.

Guideline 18. States should consider introducing obligations, as appropriate, to report suspected cases of trafficking of and related offences against cultural property and to report the discovery of archaeological sites, archaeological finds or other objects of relevant cultural interest, and, for those States that have done so, to criminalize the failure to meet those obligations.

Guideline 19. States should consider making it possible, in a way not contradictory to their fundamental legal principles, to infer a perpetrator's knowledge that an object has been reported as trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted, illicitly excavated or illicitly traded, on the basis of objective factual circumstances, including when the cultural property is registered as such in a publicly accessible database.

C. Criminal and administrative sanctions

Guideline 20. States should consider providing proportionate, effective and dissuasive sanctions for the above-mentioned criminal offences.

Guideline 21. States may consider adopting custodial sanctions for some selected criminal offences so as to meet the standard, required under article 2 (b) of the Organized Crime Convention, for "serious crime".

Guideline 22. States should consider the adoption of bans and disqualifications, and the revocation of licences, as complementary criminal or administrative sanctions whenever possible.

D. Corporate liability

Guideline 23. States should consider introducing or extending liability (criminal, administrative or civil in nature) of corporations or legal persons for the above-mentioned offences.

Guideline 24. States should consider introducing proportionate, effective and dissuasive sanctions for corporate offences of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, including fines, bans or disqualifications, revocation of licences and revocation of benefits, including tax exemptions or government subsidies, where possible.

E. Seizure and confiscation

Guideline 25. States should consider introducing criminal investigation and the search, seizure and confiscation of trafficked cultural property, as well as the proceeds of crimes related to such trafficking, and ensure its return, restitution or repatriation.

Guideline 26. States should consider, in a way not contradictory to their fundamental legal principles, the possibility of requiring that the alleged offender, the owner or the holder (if different) demonstrate the lawful origin of cultural property liable to seizure or confiscation for trafficking or related offences.

Guideline 27. States should consider introducing confiscation of the proceeds of the offence or of property of a value equivalent to such proceeds.

Guideline 28. States may consider using confiscated economic assets for financing expenses for recovery and other prevention measures.

F. Investigations

Guideline 29. States should consider creating specialized law enforcement bodies or units, as well as providing specialized training for customs officials, law enforcement personnel and public prosecutors, with regard to trafficking in cultural property and related offences.

Guideline 30. States should consider enhancing co-ordination, at both the national and international levels, among law enforcement bodies in order to increase the probability of discovering and successfully investigating trafficking in cultural property and related offences.

Guideline 31. States may consider, in the investigation of the above-mentioned offences, especially if related to organized crime, allowing for the appropriate use by their competent authorities of controlled delivery and other special investigative techniques, such as electronic or other forms of surveillance and undercover operations, within their territory, and allowing for the admissibility in court of evidence derived therefrom.

III

Cooperation

A. Jurisdiction

Guideline 32. States should consider establishing their jurisdiction over the above-mentioned criminal offences when such offences are committed within their territory or when committed outside their territory by one of their nationals, in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality, the territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Organized Crime Convention.

B. Judicial cooperation in criminal matters

Guideline 33. States that have not yet done so should consider becoming parties to existing international law instruments, in particular the Organized Crime Convention, and use them as a basis for international cooperation in criminal matters in respect of trafficking in cultural property and related offences.

Guideline 34. States should consider providing each other with the widest possible mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings in

relation to the above-mentioned offences, also in order to enhance the effectiveness and speed of the procedures.

Guideline 35. States should contribute to and regularly update the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws and any other relevant database.

C. Extradition

Guideline 36. States should consider making the crimes against cultural property enumerated in guideline 16 extraditable offences. In the context of extradition procedures, States should also consider adopting and applying, where possible, provisional measures to preserve the cultural property related to the alleged offence for the purpose of restitution.

Guideline 37. States should consider enhancing the effectiveness and speed of extradition for trafficking in cultural property and related offences, where such offences are considered extraditable.

Guideline 38. States should consider, in the case of refusal of extradition only on the basis of nationality, submitting the case, when requested by the State that had sought extradition, to the competent authority in order to consider prosecution.

D. International cooperation for purposes of seizure and confiscation

Guideline 39. States should consider cooperating in identifying, tracing, seizing and confiscating trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted, illicitly excavated, illicitly traded or missing cultural property.

Guideline 40. States may consider putting in place mechanisms to enable the contribution of confiscated financial assets to international or intergovernmental bodies concerned with the fight against transnational organized crime, including trafficking in cultural property and related offences.

E. International cooperation among law enforcement and investigating authorities

Guideline 41. States should consider enhancing the exchange of information on trafficking in cultural property and related offences by sharing or interconnecting inventories of cultural property and databases on trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted, illicitly excavated, illicitly traded or missing cultural property, and/or contributing to international ones.

Guideline 42. States should consider, where appropriate, in the framework of international judicial cooperation, enhancing the exchange of information on previous convictions and ongoing investigations relating to trafficking in cultural property and related offences.

Guideline 43. States should consider concluding bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements in order to establish joint investigative teams for trafficking in cultural property and related offences.

Guideline 44. States should consider assisting each other in planning and implementing specialized training programmes for law enforcement personnel.

Guideline 45. States should consider enhancing or establishing privileged channels of communication between their law enforcement agencies.

F. Return, restitution or repatriation

Guideline 46. States should consider, in order to enhance international cooperation in criminal matters, undertaking appropriate measures to recover trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted, illicitly excavated or illicitly traded cultural property for the purpose of their return, restitution or repatriation.

Guideline 47. States should consider pondering, procedurally, as appropriate, the owner State's provisions on national or State ownership in order to facilitate the return, restitution or repatriation of public cultural property.

IV

Scope of application

Guideline 48. States should consider applying the Guidelines in any situations, including exceptional circumstances, that foster trafficking in cultural property and related offences, in the framework of the above-mentioned conventions and other relevant international instruments.

Economic fraud and identity-related crime

A March report [E/CN.15/2014/17] of the Secretary-General reviewed the efforts of Member States to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/39 [YUN 2013, p. 1229] and domestic policies and measures in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of economic fraud and identity-related crime. It also provided information on the work of UNODC to raise awareness about identity-related crime and the appropriate responses to it, and on activities planned by UNODC towards enhancing State capacity to prevent and combat identity-related crime. The Secretary-General recommended that CCPCJ take into account the information provided by Member States on national efforts to investigate, prosecute and punish economic fraud and identity-related crime; and encourage the core group of experts on identity-related crime to take that information into consideration when discussing elements of a multidisciplinary approach to preventing and combating such crime. The Commission should also consider the future work of the Secretariat on identity-related crime and, in doing so, focus on planned UNODC activities and provide more effective and efficient technical assistance to requesting Member States. Particular attention should be devoted to the field of identity-related crime in the preparatory phase for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Trafficking in forest products

Commission action. On 16 May [E/2014/30 (res. 23/1)], the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice encouraged Member States to make illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber, involving organized criminal groups, a serious crime; to undertake and promote bilateral, regional, subregional and international law enforcement cooperation to prevent and counter that trafficking,

thereby promoting the sustainable management and conservation of forests; and to develop and implement domestic and regional policies aimed at countering the illicit trafficking of forest products. Member States were further encouraged to strengthen domestic legal frameworks and law enforcement and judicial capacity to tackle trafficking in forest products; to adopt effective measures to combat such trafficking, including criminal laws and deterrent penalties; and to take advantage of the international cooperation provisions of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption and become parties to those Conventions. The Commission invited UNODC to work with Member States and other UN bodies to identify good practices in criminal law related to illicit trafficking in forest products, promote forest law enforcement and governance, provide technical assistance and promote the development of tools and technologies, and undertake research focused on the organized criminal networks involved. CCPCJ invited States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions and requested the UNODC Executive Director to report to the Commission's twenty-fifth (2015) session.

Integration and coordination

International cooperation in criminal matters

Thematic discussion. Pursuant to Commission decision 18/1 [YUN 2009, p. 1082], the Secretariat submitted a February note [E/CN.15/2014/12] as a guide for the thematic discussion of the Commission's twenty-third (2014) session. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2010/243 [YUN 2010, p. 1101], the prominent theme for the session was international cooperation in criminal matters. The note provided background information and a series of questions on the topics proposed for discussion by the Commission. Issues presented in the note included how to manage international cooperation in multiple legal proceedings where the same individual was involved; implementing international instruments containing provisions on international cooperation in criminal matters; learning from experiences at the regional level; international cooperation in combating new and emerging forms of crime; the provision of technical assistance; and specific modalities of international cooperation in criminal matters, such as extradition and mutual legal assistance and international cooperation for the purposes of confiscation. In considering action to address challenges in the promotion of international cooperation in criminal matters, the note suggested that the Commission focus on ways and means to avoid fragmented solutions and ensure the proper administration of justice. It could also assess the advantages and practical consequences of a flexible approach that rendered the different modalities of international cooperation complementary to each other.

The thematic discussion took place on 13–14 May [E/2014/30]. Participants noted that the globalization of criminal activity, including through offences that engaged multiple jurisdictions, had created a need for strengthened forms and models of international cooperation. Existing treaties and mechanisms should be used, and the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption should be improved at the national level. In addition to extradition and mutual legal assistance, the utility of other forms of cooperation, including the execution of foreign sentences, the transfer of sentenced persons, temporary surrender and joint investigations, was highlighted. To strengthen the effectiveness of international cooperation, participants emphasized the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building for central authorities and prosecutors, including on new and emerging forms of crime. They highlighted the importance of coordination among relevant authorities at the national level, and of cooperation platforms and networks of prosecutors at the regional and subregional levels. They also emphasized the need for effective international cooperation on requests related to cybercrime and digital evidence, as well as in cases of money-laundering and for the confiscation of criminal assets.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30], adopted **resolution 2014/17** without vote [agenda item 17 (c)].

International cooperation in criminal matters

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[For text, see General Assembly resolution 69/193 below.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/489], adopted **resolution 69/193** without vote [agenda item 105].

International cooperation in criminal matters

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols,

Conscious of the need to respect human dignity and to give effect to the rights conferred upon every person involved in criminal proceedings, in accordance with applicable international human rights instruments,

Concerned that transnational organized crime has diversified globally and represents a threat to health and safety and to the sustainable development of Member States,

Convinced that transnational organized crime, including in its new and emerging forms, creates significant challenges for Member States and that effective responses depend on strengthened international cooperation in criminal matters,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthened and collaborative efforts by all Member States to ensure the creation and promotion of strategies and mechanisms in all areas of international cooperation, especially in extradition, mutual legal assistance, transfer of sentenced persons and the confiscation of proceeds of crime,

Convinced that the establishment of bilateral and multilateral arrangements for mutual assistance in criminal matters can contribute to the development of more effective international cooperation to combat transnational crime,

Bearing in mind that the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice provide important tools for the development of international cooperation,

Recalling its resolutions 45/117 of 14 December 1990 on the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and 53/112 of 9 December 1998 on mutual assistance and international cooperation in criminal matters,

Recalling also its resolutions 45/116 of 14 December 1990 on the Model Treaty on Extradition and 52/88 of 12 December 1997 on international cooperation in criminal matters,

Recalling further its resolution 45/118 of 14 December 1990 on the Model Treaty on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters,

Recalling the Model Bilateral Agreement on the Sharing of Confiscated Proceeds of Crime or Property,

Recalling also the adoption by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders of the Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and the recommendations on the treatment of foreign prisoners,

Taking into consideration the establishment of regional networks, including those established with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, such as the Central American Network of Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, whose prime objective is to strengthen regional and international cooperation in criminal matters, facilitating cooperation in ongoing cases and the delivery of related legal and technical assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the contributions of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in promoting international cooperation by facilitating, inter alia, the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

1. *Encourages* Member States to promote and strengthen international cooperation to further develop the capacities of criminal justice systems, including through efforts to modernize and strengthen relevant legislation re-

lated to international cooperation in criminal matters, and the use of modern technology to overcome problems that hinder cooperation in a number of areas, such as witness testimony by videoconference, where applicable, and the exchange of digital evidence;

2. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, and calls upon Member States, where necessary, to incorporate the provisions of those instruments into their national legislation;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to apply the principle of "extradite or prosecute" contained in bilateral and regional agreements, as well as in the 1988 Convention, the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Convention against Corruption and the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols;

4. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their national laws, to afford one another, where feasible, mutual legal assistance in civil and administrative proceedings in relation to the offences for which cooperation is afforded, including in accordance with article 43, paragraph 1, of the Convention against Corruption;

5. *Invites* Member States to conclude bilateral and regional agreements or arrangements on international cooperation in criminal matters, and in doing so to take into account the relevant provisions under the Convention against Corruption, the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and the 1988 Convention;

6. *Encourages* Member States, relevant international organizations and institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to strengthen cooperation and partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which serves as the secretariat to the Convention against Corruption, the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and the 1988 Convention;

7. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to designate central authorities responsible for mutual legal assistance requests in accordance with article 18, paragraph 13, of the Organized Crime Convention, article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention against Corruption and article 7, paragraph 8, of the 1988 Convention;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in order to enhance the capacity of experts and staff of central authorities to effectively and expeditiously deal with mutual legal assistance requests;

9. *Commends* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its development of technical assistance tools to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters, and invites Member States in appropriate cases to avail themselves of those tools;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support central authorities in strengthening communication channels and, as appropriate, in exchanging information at both the regional and the international levels, for the purposes of enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation in criminal matters in all its

aspects, especially in dealing with requests for mutual legal assistance;

11. *Encourages* Member States to ensure, where possible, that administrative procedures facilitate cooperation in criminal matters relating to the offences falling within the scope of the Organized Crime Convention, the Convention against Corruption, the 1988 Convention and the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, in accordance with national legislation;

12. *Also encourages* Member States to review their national policies, legislation and practices with regard to mutual legal assistance, extradition, confiscation of the proceeds of crime, the transfer of sentenced persons and other forms of international cooperation in criminal matters for the purpose of simplifying and enhancing cooperation among Member States;

13. *Further encourages* Member States to give due consideration to the humanitarian and social dimensions of the transfer of sentenced persons, where legislation provides for such transfer, for the purpose of achieving the greatest possible cooperation in the transfer of foreign prisoners so that they serve the rest of their sentence in their own countries;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination and cooperation with Member States, to collect and disseminate information about the national legal requirements of Member States concerning international cooperation in criminal matters for the purpose of enhancing the knowledge and strengthening the capacity of practitioners so that they can better understand different legal systems and their requirements with regard to international cooperation while avoiding duplication of the work done in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

15. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to support the establishment and functioning of regional networks of central authorities responsible for dealing with mutual legal assistance requests, so as to contribute to the exchange of experiences and strengthen knowledge-based expertise in the area of international cooperation in criminal matters and to help to establish international networks and partnerships among Member States;

16. *Invites* Member States to provide input to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime concerning the model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters, in particular addressing the question of the necessity of updating or revising them and the prioritization of such updating or revising;

17. *Also invites* Member States, during the consideration of the agenda item of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to provide their views regarding the updating or revising mentioned in paragraph 16 above;

18. *Recommends* that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twenty-fourth session, take into account the input received from Member States and consider initiating a review of particular model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters;

19. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Strengthening technical cooperation

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 64/293 [YUN 2010, p. 1111], 68/187 [YUN 2013, p. 1252], 68/188 [ibid., p. 1243], 68/192 [ibid., p. 1249], 68/193 [ibid., p. 1231] and 68/195 [ibid., p. 1240], the Secretary-General, in June, submitted a report [A/69/94] on implementation of the mandates of the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of UNODC. The report reviewed efforts undertaken by UNODC to support Member States in combating transnational organized crime; countering trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants; and strengthening measures against trafficking in firearms. It included a section on preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the UN Convention against Corruption [YUN 2003, p. 1147]. The report provided information on progress made in the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and in the implementation by the UN system of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons [YUN 2010, p. 1111]. It also contained information on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the UN development agenda beyond 2015, and on technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism. Further sections discussed technical cooperation activities in the forensic field; on data collection, research and trend analysis; and on a number of emerging policy issues. The Secretary-General concluded with recommendations aimed at enhancing the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/489], adopted **resolution 69/197** without vote [agenda item 105].

Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 46/152 of 18 December 1991, 60/1 of 16 September 2005, 67/1 of 19 September 2012, 67/186, 67/189, 67/190 and 67/192 of 20 December 2012, 68/119 of 16 December 2013 and 68/185, 68/188, 68/189, 68/192 and 68/193 of 18 December 2013,

Reaffirming also its resolutions relating to the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting and facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention

on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and all the international conventions and protocols against terrorism,

Reaffirming further the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session,

Recalling the commitments undertaken by Member States in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006 and its successive biennial reviews,

Recalling also the importance of the measures to eliminate international terrorism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/119 and the adoption, on 18 December 2013, of resolution 68/178 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,

Reaffirming its resolutions addressing various aspects of violence against women and girls of all ages,

Recalling the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council addressing various aspects of violence against women and girls of all ages,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which addressed the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, and reiterating the importance of crime prevention and criminal justice measures for the protection of women and girls,

Noting the significance of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as a way to assist countries in strengthening their national crime prevention and criminal justice capacities to respond to all forms of violence against women and girls,

Reiterating its condemnation of all forms of violence against women and girls, and expressing deep concern about gender-related killing of women and girls,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, including resolution 68/191 of 18 December 2013, on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls, and recognizing the key role of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to gender-related killing of women and girls, including by ending impunity for such crimes,

Emphasizing the relevance of international instruments and United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice related to the treatment of prisoners, in particular women and juveniles,

Recalling its resolution 65/229 of 21 December 2010 on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and in this regard encouraging the efforts of Member States to implement the Bangkok Rules,

Recalling also its resolution 68/190 of 18 December 2013, concerning the updating of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and noting the progress made during the third meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, held in Vienna from 25 to 28 March 2014,

Recalling further its resolution 68/156 of 18 December 2013, in which it reaffirmed that no one shall be subjected

to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recalling its resolution 67/184 of 20 December 2012 on the follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, dedicated to “Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation”, and noting the progress made thus far in the preparation of that Congress,

Recalling also its resolution 66/177 of 19 December 2011 on strengthening international cooperation in combating the harmful effects of illicit financial flows resulting from criminal activities, in which it urged States parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption to apply fully the provisions of those Conventions, in particular measures to prevent and combat money-laundering, including by criminalizing the laundering of proceeds of transnational organized crime and corruption, as well as measures to enhance national confiscation regimes and international cooperation, including in asset recovery,

Taking into consideration all relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions, in particular all those relating to the strengthening of international cooperation, including resolution 2014/23 of 16 July 2014 on strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants, as well as the technical assistance and advisory services of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, promotion and reinforcement of the rule of law and reform of criminal justice institutions, including with regard to the implementation of technical assistance,

Concerned at the growing involvement of organized criminal groups in all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences,

Recalling its resolutions 66/180 of 19 December 2011 on strengthening the response to trafficking in cultural property, and 67/80 of 12 December 2012 on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin, in which it urged Member States and relevant institutions to reinforce and fully implement mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, such as the theft, looting, damage, removal, pillage and destruction of such property, and to facilitate the recovery and the return of stolen and looted cultural property, and its resolution 68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking,

Underlining the importance of the further progress made in this field, and welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences through Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/20 of 16 July 2014 as recommended by the

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session, and the establishment of a technical background document to assist in the implementation of the Guidelines through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which will support the implementation of resolutions 67/80, 68/186 and 69/196 of 18 December 2014 and facilitate operational cooperation against all forms of trafficking in cultural property, as well as the request to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide practical assistance in the implementation of the Guidelines and to facilitate cooperation in this area,

Reaffirming the need for promoting increased ratification or accession to and full and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, recalling in this regard all relevant resolutions, including resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010 on the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and resolution 68/192 of 18 December 2013 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons, and welcoming the work of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

Underlining that, although the crime of smuggling of migrants may share, in some cases, some common features with the crime of trafficking in persons, Member States need to recognize that they are distinct crimes and require separate and complementary legal, operational and policy responses, and recalling further its resolution 68/179 of 18 December 2013, in which it called upon all Member States to protect and assist migrants, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/23, recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session,

Recalling Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 22/7 on strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime and 22/8 on promoting technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national measures and international cooperation against cybercrime, both of 26 April 2013,

Concerned at the growing trend of cybercrime and the misuse of information and telecommunications technologies in multiple forms of crime,

Noting the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking for the purpose of developing an effective and comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking within the United Nations system, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States in this regard, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its grave concern about the negative effects of transnational organized crime, including smuggling of and trafficking in persons, narcotic drugs and small arms and light weapons, as well as illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, on development, peace, stability and security and human rights, and at the increasing vulnerability of States to such crime,

Convinced that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that

the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through crime prevention and criminal justice mechanisms, is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law,

Stressing the importance of strengthened international cooperation, based on the principles of shared responsibility and in accordance with international law, to dismantle illicit networks and counter the world drug problem and transnational organized crime, including money-laundering, trafficking in persons, trafficking in arms and other forms of organized crime, all of which threaten national security and undermine sustainable development and the rule of law,

Concerned by the serious challenges and threats posed by trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and concerned also about its links with terrorism and other forms of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking,

Noting international efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms, in particular in small arms and light weapons, as demonstrated by the adoption in 2001 of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the entry into force in 2005 of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the forthcoming entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty on 24 December 2014,

Noting with appreciation the activities carried out, upon request, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its Global Firearms Programme, in the areas of legislative and technical assistance, capacity-building, awareness-raising and research and analysis,

Expressing concern at the use of information and telecommunications technologies to abuse and exploit children,

Convinced of the importance of preventing youth crime, supporting the rehabilitation of young offenders and their reintegration into society, protecting child victims and witnesses, including efforts to prevent their revictimization, and addressing the needs of children of prisoners, and stressing that such responses should take into account the human rights and best interests of children and young people, as called for in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, where applicable, and in other relevant United Nations standards and norms in juvenile justice, where appropriate,

Concerned about the growing degree of penetration of criminal organizations and their financial and economic resources into the economy,

Expressing concern at the involvement of organized criminal groups, as well as the substantial increase in the volume, rate of transnational occurrence and range of criminal offences related to trafficking in precious metals and stones in some parts of the world and the potential use of trafficking in precious metals and stones as a source of funding for organized crime, other relevant criminal activities and terrorism,

Deeply concerned about the connections, in some cases, between some forms of transnational organized crime and

terrorism, and emphasizing the need to enhance cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen responses to this evolving challenge,

Recognizing that countering transnational organized crime and terrorism is a common and shared responsibility, and stressing the need to work collectively to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Emphasizing that transnational organized crime must be addressed with full respect for the principle of the sovereignty of States and in accordance with the rule of law as part of a comprehensive response to promote durable solutions through the promotion of human rights and more equitable socioeconomic conditions,

Expressing deep concern about environmental crimes, including trafficking in endangered and, where applicable, protected species of wild fauna and flora, and emphasizing the need to combat such crimes by strengthening international cooperation, capacity-building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts,

Emphasizing that coordinated action is critical to eliminate, prevent and combat corruption and disrupt the illicit networks that drive and enable trafficking in wildlife and forest products, including timber and timber products,

Encouraging Member States to develop and implement, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies, national and local strategies and action plans based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society,

Stressing that social development should be an integral element of strategies to foster crime prevention and economic development in all States,

Recognizing the need to maintain a balance in the technical cooperation capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime between all relevant priorities identified by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies,

Recognizing also that, thanks to their broad membership and wide scope of application, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption offer an important basis for international cooperation, inter alia, for extradition, mutual legal assistance and confiscation and asset recovery, and provide an effective mechanism that should be further utilized and implemented,

Mindful of the need to ensure universal adherence to and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and urging States parties to make full and effective use of these instruments,

Noting the important contribution that public-private sector cooperation can make in efforts to prevent and combat criminal activities, such as transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, in the tourism sector,

Recognizing the universal importance of good governance and the fight against corruption, and calling for zero tolerance for corruption in all its forms, including bribery, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption and other forms of economic crime,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is the most comprehensive and universal

instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote ratification of or accession to the Convention and its full implementation,

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of a regional approach to programming, based on continuing consultations and partnerships at the national and regional levels, particularly on its implementation, and focused on ensuring that the Office responds in a sustainable and coherent manner to the priorities of Member States,

Recognizing the general progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the delivery of advisory services and assistance to requesting Member States in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice reform, corruption, organized crime, money-laundering, terrorism, kidnapping, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, including the support and protection, as appropriate, of victims, their families and witnesses, as well as drug trafficking and international cooperation, with special emphasis on extradition and mutual legal assistance and the international transfer of sentenced persons,

Reiterating its concern regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to resolutions 64/293, 68/187, 68/188, 68/192, 68/193 and 68/195;

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto represent the most important tools of the international community for fighting transnational organized crime;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that the number of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime has reached 183, which is a significant indication of the commitment shown by the international community to combating transnational organized crime;

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and urges States parties to those conventions and protocols to make efforts towards their full implementation;

5. *Recalls* article 32 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and General Assembly resolution 68/193, in which, inter alia, the need for the establishment of a mechanism to review the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto by States parties was reiterated, and underlines that the review of the implementation of the Convention is an ongoing and gradual process and that it is necessary to explore all options regarding the establishment of a mechanism to assist the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and invites Member States to continue the dialogue in this regard;

6. *Notes* the progress made during the third meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, held in Vienna from 25 to 28 March 2014, and requests Member States to support the process of revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in line with General Assembly resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, and to strengthen all efforts to address the issue of prison overcrowding;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime and responses to it by Member States, the international community and the private sector, including the exchange of information on national legislation, best practices, technical assistance and international cooperation, with a view to examining options to strengthen existing and to propose new national and international, legal or other responses to cybercrime, and encourages the expert group to enhance its efforts to complete its work and to present the outcome of the study to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in due course;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance, and coordinating with and complementing the work of all relevant and competent United Nations bodies and offices;

9. *Urges* Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at the highest possible level, and encourages States to continue their preparations for the Congress with a view to making focused and productive contributions to the discussions and to promoting the participation of United Nations organs and related agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, as well as individual experts and consultants, in accordance with relevant resolutions and rules of procedure;

10. *Underscores* that respect for and promotion of crime prevention and criminal justice as well as of the rule of law should be given due consideration in relation to the post-2015 development agenda;

11. *Recommends* that Member States, as appropriate to their national contexts, adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform, based on baseline assessments and data collection and focusing on all sectors of the justice system, and develop crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes, including ones that focus on early prevention by using multidisciplinary and participatory approaches, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, including civil society, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States for this purpose;

12. *Encourages* all States to have national and local action plans for crime prevention in order to take into account, in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner, inter alia, factors that place certain populations

and places at higher risk of victimization and/or of offending and to ensure that such plans are based on the best available evidence and good practices, stresses that crime prevention should be considered an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States, and in this regard welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/21 of 16 July 2014 on strengthening social policies as a tool for crime prevention;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to strengthen their efforts to cooperate, as appropriate, at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels to counter transnational organized crime effectively;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its efforts, within existing resources and within its mandate, in providing technical assistance and advisory services for the implementation of its regional and subregional programmes in a coordinated manner with relevant Member States and regional and subregional organizations;

15. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, within its mandate, technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to strengthening the capacity of national criminal justice systems to investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of crime, while protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of defendants, as well as the legitimate interests of victims and witnesses, and to ensure access to effective legal aid in criminal justice systems;

16. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their efforts in combating cybercrime and all forms of criminal abuse of information and telecommunications technologies and to enhance international cooperation in this regard;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting persons in vulnerable groups or situations, and in that regard expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized criminal groups and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to reinforce international cooperation for preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants and for the prosecution of smugglers, in accordance, as appropriate, with article 6 of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and with national laws and legislation, while effectively protecting the rights and respecting the dignity of smuggled migrants and internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination and other applicable obligations under relevant international law, taking into account the special needs of women, children, especially when unaccompanied, and persons with disabilities and older persons, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its technical assistance to Member States in accordance with the above-mentioned Protocol;

19. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that, in investigating and prosecuting the smuggling of migrants, the concurrent undertaking of financial investigations is considered, with a view to tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds acquired through that crime, and to consider the smuggling of migrants to be a predicate offence of money-laundering;

20. *Emphasizes* the importance of preventing and combating all forms of trafficking in persons, and in this regard expresses its concern about the activities of transnational and national organized criminal groups and others who profit from such crimes, including for the purpose of organ removal, and calls upon Member States to strengthen national efforts to combat all forms of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist the victims of trafficking in accordance with all relevant legal obligations and in collaboration with international organizations, civil society and the private sector;

21. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the crime prevention and criminal justice response to the gender-related killing of women and girls, in particular measures to support the capacity of Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of such crime;

22. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide within its mandate technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, in accordance with United Nations-related instruments and international standards, including, where applicable, standards and relevant initiatives of regional, interregional and multilateral organizations and intergovernmental bodies against money-laundering, inter alia and as appropriate, the Financial Action Task Force, in accordance with national legislation;

23. *Urges* Member States to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation to enable the return of assets illicitly acquired from corruption to the countries of origin, upon their request, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption for asset recovery, in particular chapter V, requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue to provide assistance to bilateral, regional and international efforts for that purpose, and also urges Member States to combat and penalize corruption, as well as the laundering of its proceeds;

24. *Welcomes* the progress achieved by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the implementation of their respective mandates, and calls upon States parties to give full effect to the resolutions adopted by those bodies;

25. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to foster international and regional cooperation, including by facilitating the development of regional networks active in the field of legal and law enforcement cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, where appropriate, and by promoting cooperation among all such networks, including by providing technical assistance where it is required, recognizing the efforts made by the Office to establish and assist such networks;

26. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to increase collaboration with intergovernmental, international and regional organizations that have transnational organized crime mandates, as appropriate, in order to share best practices, foster cooperation and take advantage of their unique and comparative advantage;

27. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in

developing their abilities and strengthening their capacity to prevent and combat kidnapping, and requests the Office to continue to provide technical assistance with a view to fostering international cooperation, in particular mutual legal assistance, aimed at countering effectively this growing serious crime;

28. *Draws attention* to the emerging policy issues identified in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, namely, piracy, cybercrime, the use of new information technologies to abuse and exploit children, trafficking in cultural property, illicit financial flows, environmental crime, including illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, as well as identity-related crime, and invites the Office to explore, within its mandate, ways and means of addressing those issues, bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/12 of 26 July 2012 on the strategy for the period 2012–2015 for the Office;

29. *Invites* Member States and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue to strengthen the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information, including, as appropriate, data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant criteria, and strongly encourages Member States to share such data and information with the Office;

30. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop, in close cooperation with Member States, technical and methodological tools and trend analyses and studies to enhance knowledge on crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in specific areas of crime, in particular in their transnational dimension, taking into account the need to make the best possible use of existing resources;

31. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to develop national and regional strategies, as appropriate, and other necessary measures, in cooperation with the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, to address effectively transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, as well as corruption and terrorism;

32. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in combating illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and to support them in their efforts to address the links with other forms of transnational organized crime, through, inter alia, legislative assistance, technical support and enhanced data collection and analysis;

33. *Encourages* Member States to enhance the effectiveness of countering criminal threats to the tourism sector, including terrorist threats through, when appropriate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international organizations, in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization and the private sector;

34. *Urges* States parties to make effective use of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime for broad cooperation in preventing and combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural

property and related offences, especially in returning such proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and invites States parties to exchange information on all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, in accordance with their national laws, and to coordinate administrative and other measures taken, as appropriate, for the prevention, early detection and punishment of such offences, also reaffirming in this regard the importance of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/196, by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2014/20 and by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and other related documents adopted on this item by the Commission at its twenty-third session;

35. *Urges* Member States to introduce effective national and international measures to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in cultural property, including publicizing legislation, international guidelines and related technical background documents, and offering special training for police, customs and border services, and to consider such trafficking a serious crime, as defined in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

36. *Encourages* Member States to make trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime, as defined in article 2, paragraph (b), of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in order to ensure that adequate and effective means of international cooperation can be afforded in the investigation and prosecution of those engaged in trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora;

37. *Strongly encourages* Member States to take appropriate measures, consistent with their domestic legislation and legal frameworks, to strengthen law enforcement and related efforts to combat individuals and groups, including organized criminal groups, operating within their borders, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating international trafficking in wildlife, forest products, including timber, and other forest biological resources harvested in contravention of national laws and relevant international instruments;

38. *Calls upon* Member States to take appropriate and effective measures to prevent and combat trafficking in precious metals and stones by organized criminal groups, including, where appropriate, the adoption and effective implementation of the necessary legislation for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of illicit trafficking in precious metals and stones;

39. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its regional offices in building capacity at the local level in the fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and urges the Office to consider regional vulnerabilities, projects and impact in the fight against transnational organized crime, in particular in developing countries, when deciding to close and allocate offices, with a view to maintaining an effective level of support to national and regional efforts in those areas;

40. *Encourages* Member States to continue to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing targeted technical assistance, within its existing mandate, to enhance the capacity of affected States, upon their request, to combat piracy and other forms of crime committed at sea, including by assisting Member States

in creating an effective law enforcement response and strengthening their judicial capacity;

41. *Encourages* States parties to continue to provide full support to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and their subsidiary bodies, including providing information to the conferences of the parties to the conventions regarding compliance with the treaties;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate resources to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the conferences of the parties to the conventions, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as well as the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, in accordance with its mandate;

43. *Reiterates its request* to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism through the facilitation of the ratification and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in close consultation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) and its Executive Directorate, as well as to continue to contribute to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and invites Member States to provide the Office with appropriate resources for its mandate;

44. *Requests*, furthermore, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen the rule of law, taking also into account the work undertaken by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group of the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations bodies;

45. *Encourages* Member States to take relevant measures, as appropriate to their national contexts, to ensure the diffusion, use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, including the consideration and, where they deem it necessary, dissemination of existing manuals and handbooks developed and published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

46. *Urges* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to continue to provide full support to the review mechanism adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

47. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration and close consultation with Member States and within existing resources, to continue to support the enhancement of capacity and skills in the field of forensic sciences, including the setting of standards, and the development of technical assistance material for training, such as manuals, compilations of useful practices and

guidelines and scientific and forensic reference material, for law enforcement officials and prosecution authorities, and to promote and facilitate the establishment and sustainability of regional networks of forensic science providers in order to enhance their expertise and capacity to prevent and combat transnational organized crime;

48. *Reiterates* the importance of providing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme with sufficient, stable and predictable funding for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with the high priority accorded to it and in accordance with the increasing demand for its services, in particular with regard to the provision of increased assistance to developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict, in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice reform;

49. *Urges* all Member States to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, so as to enable it to continue, expand, improve and strengthen, within its mandates, its operational and technical cooperation activities;

50. *Expresses concern* regarding the overall financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, emphasizes the need to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources and to ensure their cost-effective utilization, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report, within existing reporting obligations, on the financial situation of the Office and to continue to ensure that the Office has sufficient resources to carry out its mandates fully and effectively;

51. *Invites* States and other interested parties to make further voluntary contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, reflecting also emerging policy issues and possible responses;

53. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the report referred to in paragraph 52 above information on the status of ratifications of or accessions to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/152 [YUN 1991, p. 661], and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/22 [YUN 1992, p. 842], 1994/21 [YUN 1994, p. 1174] and 1999/23 [YUN 1999, p. 1054], the Secretary-General in February [E/CN.15/2014/13] reported to CCPCJ on activities carried out in 2013 by the institutes comprising the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, which included the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI); 15 regional and affiliated institutes; and the International Scientific and Profes-

sional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

In a March note [E/CN.15/2014/18 & Add.1], the Secretary-General transmitted to CCPCJ the report of the UNICRI Board of Trustees, which contained information on the activities of the Institute. The Institute's activities focused on countering the threat of organized crime to security and development; increasing the efficiency of criminal justice systems for the protection of vulnerable groups; promoting international criminal law and practice; sharing best practices, building capacity to promote human rights and improving access to services; security governance and countering the appeal of terrorism; training and advanced education to build capacity in crime prevention and criminal justice. The report also considered risk assessment and the management of the Institute.

On 15 May [E/2014/30 (dec. 23/1)], CCPCJ decided to transmit the report of the UNICRI Board of Trustees to the Economic and Social Council. On 6 June [E/2014/85], the report of the Board of Trustees was transmitted to the Council. On 16 July, by **decision 2014/232**, the Council took note of the report.

Also on 16 July, by **decision 2014/231**, the Council endorsed the reappointment of Stuart Page (Australia) and the appointments of Carlos Castresana (Spain), Mohammed Hanzab (Qatar) and Joel Antonio Hernández García (Mexico) to the UNICRI Board of Trustees.

UN African crime prevention institute

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/194 [YUN 2013, p. 1237], the Secretary-General submitted a June report [A/69/92] on the activities carried out by the Uganda-based United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which described the challenges posed by transnational organized crime situation in Africa and the efforts undertaken by African countries in responding to them. The report highlighted the value of evidence-based interventions in addressing the challenges encountered by Governments in fighting crime, as well as the need for regional and international cooperation. It underscored the severity of problems associated with the activities of international organized criminal syndicates and the increasing use of modern information technologies for the commission of crimes. It also stressed the importance of international technical assistance and support for building capacity to fight crime in Africa, and the need for the harmonization of national laws and policies and the exchange of best practices. The report described the measures relevant to the funding of the Institute's programmes—aimed at reducing the impact of crime on development—and outlined proposals for strengthening the Institute's capacity.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/489], adopted **resolution 69/198** without vote [agenda item 105].

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/194 of 18 December 2013 and all other relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Bearing in mind that weaknesses in crime prevention lead to subsequent difficulties at the level of crime control mechanisms, and bearing in mind also the urgent need to establish effective crime prevention strategies for Africa, as well as the importance of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary at the regional and subregional levels,

Aware of the devastating impact of new and more dynamic crime trends on the national economies of African States, such as the high levels of transnational organized crime being recorded in Africa, including the utilization of digital technology to commit all types of cybercrime, and aware also of illicit trafficking in cultural property, drugs, precious metals, rhinoceros horns and ivory, of piracy and money-laundering and of the fact that crime is a major obstacle to harmonious and sustainable development in Africa,

Emphasizing that combating crime is a collective endeavour to meet the global challenge of organized crime and that investment of necessary resources in crime prevention is important to that aim and contributes to sustainable development,

Noting with concern that in most African countries the existing criminal justice system does not have sufficiently skilled personnel and adequate infrastructure and is therefore ill-equipped to manage the emergence of new crime trends, and acknowledging the challenges that Africa faces in litigation processes and the management of correctional institutions,

Recognizing that the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is a focal point for all professional efforts aimed at promoting the active cooperation and collaboration of Governments, academics, institutions and scientific and professional organizations and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Bearing in mind the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013–2017), aimed at encouraging Member States to participate in and own the regional initiatives for effective crime prevention and good governance and strengthened justice administration,

Recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable development as a complement to crime prevention strategies,

Emphasizing the need to create necessary coalitions with all partners in the process of achieving effective crime prevention policies,

Welcoming the undertaking and conclusion of a preliminary diagnostic study by a consultant of the Economic Commission for Africa prior to the commencement of a full system-wide review process, including the significance of the Institute as a viable mechanism for promoting cooperation among the relevant entities to respond to the crime problem afflicting Africa,

Expressing concern over the continued absence of a director of the Institute, and noting the important role of

such senior management positions in ensuring the normal functioning of the Institute,

Noting with concern that the financial situation of the Institute has greatly affected its capacity to deliver services to African Member States in an effective and comprehensive manner, and noting that one of the findings of the preliminary diagnostic study is that the Institute urgently needs to increase its income,

Acknowledging the Member States and organizations that have maintained their commitment to the fulfilment of their financial obligations,

1. *Commends* the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for its efforts to promote, coordinate and carry out more activities within its core mandate, including regional technical cooperation related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa, despite the resource constraints under which it is operating;

2. *Also commends* the initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in strengthening its working relationship with the Institute by supporting and involving the Institute in the implementation of a number of activities, including those contained in the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2013–2017), on strengthening the rule of law and criminal justice systems in Africa;

3. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen further the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice in African countries;

4. *Also reiterates* the benefits, in some cases, of the utilization of alternative remedial measures, where appropriate, applying standards of ethical conduct and using local traditions, counselling and other emerging correctional rehabilitation measures, consistent with the obligations of States under international law;

5. *Notes* the efforts of the Institute to establish contacts with organizations in those countries which are promoting crime prevention programmes and its maintenance of close links with regional and subregional political entities, such as the African Union Commission, the East African Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community;

6. *Encourages* the Institute, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, to take into account the various planning authorities in the region that focus attention on the coordination of activities that promote development based on sustainable agricultural production and preservation of the environment in developing its crime prevention strategies;

7. *Urges* the States members of the Institute to continue to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute;

8. *Welcomes* the undertaking and conclusion of a preliminary diagnostic study in accordance with the decision of the Governing Board of the Institute, at its eleventh ordinary session, held in Nairobi on 27 and 28 April 2011, to carry out a review of the Institute to ensure that it can fulfil its mandate and assume a more prominent role in dealing with existing crime;

9. *Encourages* the Institute, partner agencies and other stakeholders to expedite the review process;

10. *Welcomes* the introduction by the Institute of a cost-sharing initiative in its execution of various programmes with Member States, partners and United Nations entities;

11. *Urges* all Member States and non-governmental organizations and the international community to continue to adopt concrete practical measures to support the Institute in the development of the requisite capacity and in the implementation of its programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

12. *Urges* all States that have not already done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

13. *Encourages* African States that are not yet members of the Institute to consider becoming member States in order to strengthen the fight against crime and terrorism, which hamper individual and collective development efforts on the continent;

14. *Commends* the continued support provided by the Government of Uganda as host country, including resolving the issue of the ownership of the land on which the Institute is located and facilitating the Institute's collaboration with other stakeholders within Uganda and the region and with international partners;

15. *Also commends* the efforts of the Institute in implementing several programmes in the region, which have contributed, inter alia, to a growing set of coordinated remedial responses to crime on the basis of technical support in facilitating mutual assistance by law enforcement agencies and the emergence of regional jurisdictions;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate, bearing in mind that the precarious financial situation of the Institute greatly undermines its capacity to deliver services effectively;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to maintain the Institute with the core Professional staff required to enable it to function effectively in the fulfilment of its mandated obligations;

18. *Encourages* the Institute to consider focusing on specific and general vulnerabilities of each programme country and to maximize the use of available initiatives to address crime problems with existing funds, as well as available capacity, by creating useful coalitions with regional and local institutions;

19. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to work closely with the Institute, and requests the Institute to provide the annual report on its activities to the Office as well as to the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the promotion of regional cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fight against crime, especially in its transnational dimension, which cannot be dealt with adequately by national action alone;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue making concrete proposals, including for the provision

of additional core Professional staff, to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Institute, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

International cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption

In February [E/CN.15/2014/3], the Secretary-General reported to CCPCJ on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption. The report complemented the report of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on its sixth session [YUN 2012, p. 1216] and the report of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption on its fifth session [YUN 2013, p. 1239], as well as the reports of the working groups established by those Conferences. It provided information on UNODC activities in the fight against transnational organized crime and corruption; international cooperation and technical assistance activities; the implementation of Commission resolution 22/3 [ibid.]; and the work of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Commission remind Member States of the need to improve implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols by expanding the knowledge base on transnational organized crime and prioritizing knowledge management on legislation and case law related to transnational organized crime; intensifying and systematizing the provision of legislative assistance on the Convention and its Protocols; and strengthening regional network cooperation. CCPCJ should consider urging Member States to ratify or accede to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols and to the Convention against Corruption, and provide financial and material contributions for the convening of working groups and workshops to assist in the implementation of both Conventions. It should call upon States to also make financial contributions in support of the Conferences and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention against Corruption.

Conventions

UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 [YUN 2000, p. 1048], and its three supplementary Protocols—the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children [ibid., p. 1063]; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land,

Sea and Air [ibid., p. 1067]; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 55/255 [YUN 2001, p. 1036]—continued to attract adherence. As at 31 December, 183 States and the European Union (EU) were parties to the Convention, 165 States and the EU were parties to the Protocol on trafficking in persons, 140 States and the EU were parties to the Protocol on migrants, and 111 States and the EU were parties to the Protocol on firearms.

Conference of Parties. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, at its seventh session (Vienna, 6–10 October) [CTOC/COP/2014/13 & Add.1], adopted four resolutions on strengthening the implementation of the UN Convention and the Protocols thereto; the importance of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition; implementation of the provisions on technical assistance of the Convention; and implementation of the Convention's international cooperation provisions. The Conference also adopted two decisions on the provisional agenda for its eighth (2015) session, and the organization of the work for that session.

Working Group meetings. Several Working Groups of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held meetings in 2014. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance, established by the second (2005) session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention [YUN 2005, p. 1224], held its eighth meeting (Vienna, 6–7 October) [CTOC/COP/WG.2/2014/4] and submitted recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for adoption. The Working Group on International Cooperation, established by the third (2006) session of the Conference [YUN 2007, p. 1134], held its fifth meeting (Vienna, 8–9 October) [CTOC/COP/WG.3/2014/4]. The Working Group on Firearms, established by the fifth (2010) session of the Conference [YUN 2010, p. 1110], held its second meeting (Vienna, 26–28 May) [CTOC/COP/WG.6/2014/4] and adopted recommendations.

UN Convention against Corruption

As at 31 December, 173 States and the EU were parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted by the General Assembly in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1127].

Conference of Parties. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/195 [YUN 2013, p. 1240], the Secretary-General, in a June note [A/69/86], transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its fifth session (Panama City, Panama, 25–29 November 2013) [ibid., p. 1239].

On 18 December (**decision 69/537**), the General Assembly took note of that note.

The subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held meetings in 2014. The Implementation Review Group, established by the third (2009) session of the Conference of States Parties [YUN 2009, p. 1096], held its fifth (Vienna, 2–6 June) [CAC/COSP/IRG/2014/11] and resumed fifth (13–15 October) [CAC/COSP/IRG/2014/11/Add.1] sessions. The Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, established by the third (2009) session of the Conference of the States Parties [YUN 2009, p. 1096], held its fifth session (Vienna, 8–10 September) [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2014/5]. The Working Group on Asset Recovery, established by the first (2006) session of the Conference of the States Parties [YUN 2006, p. 1303], held its eighth session (Vienna, 11–12 September) [CAC/COSP/WG.2/2014/4]. The intergovernmental group of experts to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, established on an open-ended basis by the fourth (2011) session of the Conference of the States Parties [YUN 2011, p. 1203], held its third session (Vienna, 9–10 October) [CAC/COSP/EG.1/2014/3].

Transfer of proceeds and asset recovery

The Secretary-General, in his June report [A/69/94] on implementation of the mandates of the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme (see p. 1416), discussed preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The joint UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (STAR) Initiative presented a study on criminal settlements and their impact on asset recovery and provided support for existing networks of asset recovery practitioners and for the establishment of two regional networks—for the Asia-Pacific region and for East Africa. The Initiative also continued to provide targeted country-specific assistance. From 2011 to 2013, more than 1,500 practitioners were trained on asset recovery and 235 on case management, about 230 in specific case-related contexts. Sixty-two attended train-the-trainer workshops and 20 received hands-on training on case management. The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly encourage Member States to afford each other the widest measure of cooperation and assistance for the return of assets.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/489], adopted **resolution 69/199** without vote [agenda item 105].

Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 55/61 of 4 December 2000, 55/188 of 20 December 2000, 56/186 of 21 December 2001 and 57/244 of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolutions 58/205 of 23 December 2003, 59/242 of 22 December 2004, 60/207 of 22 December 2005, 61/209 of 20 December 2006, 62/202 of 19 December 2007, 63/226 of 19 December 2008, 64/237 of 24 December 2009, 65/169 of 20 December 2010, 67/189 and 67/192 of 20 December 2012 and 68/195 of 18 December 2013 and all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, including resolution 23/9 of 13 June 2013,

Welcoming the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and its full implementation,

Stressing the need for States parties to the Convention to give full effect to the resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Bearing in mind the need to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively, that the return of assets is one of the main objectives, an integral part and a fundamental principle of the Convention, and recalling article 51 of the Convention, which obligates States parties to afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance with regard to asset return,

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Recognizing also that education plays a fundamental role in the fight against corruption, inasmuch as it makes corrupt behaviour socially unacceptable,

Reaffirming the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, the proper management of public affairs and democracy in the fight against corruption,

Realizing that the fight against corruption at all levels, including by facilitating international cooperation to achieve the purposes enshrined in the Convention, including on asset recovery and return, plays an important role in the promotion and protection of all human rights and in the process of creating an environment conducive to their full enjoyment and realization,

Recognizing that supportive national legal systems are essential in preventing and combating corrupt practices, facilitating asset recovery and returning the proceeds of corruption to legitimate owners,

Recalling that the purposes of the Convention, as set out in article 1, are to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively, to promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of

and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery, and to promote the integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property,

Welcoming the commitment of States parties to the Convention, and determined to give effect to the obligations set out in chapter V of the Convention in order to prevent, detect, deter and recover in a more effective manner the international transfer of proceeds of crime and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery,

Recognizing that those who engage in corrupt acts, whether natural or legal persons, consistent with domestic law and the requirements of the Convention, should be held accountable and prosecuted by their domestic authorities, and that all appropriate efforts should be made to conduct a financial investigation into assets illegally acquired by them and to recover such assets through domestic confiscation proceedings, international cooperation for purposes of confiscation or appropriate direct recovery measures,

Acknowledging that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels, including at the local and international levels, able to undertake efficient preventive and law enforcement measures in accordance with the Convention, in particular chapters II and III,

Recognizing that the success of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption depends on the full commitment and constructive engagement of all States parties to the Convention in a progressive and comprehensive process, and recalling in that regard resolution 3/1 of 13 November 2009 of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, including the terms of reference of the Mechanism contained in the annex to that resolution, as well as decision 5/1 of 29 November 2013 of the Conference of the States Parties,

Noting with appreciation the significant number of States parties to the Convention that have been involved in the ongoing first review cycle process of the Mechanism, both as countries under review and as reviewing States, as well as the support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this regard,

Bearing in mind that the prevention and eradication of corruption is a responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another, with the support and involvement of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, if their efforts in this area are to be effective,

Reaffirming its concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the Convention,

Noting the efforts made by all States parties to the Convention in tracing, freezing and recovering their stolen assets, and underlining the need to redouble efforts to assist in the recovery of those assets in order to preserve stability and sustainable development,

Noting also the work of other initiatives in asset recovery, such as the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery, and welcoming efforts to enhance cooperation between requesting and requested States,

Recognizing that States continue to face challenges in recovering assets owing to differences between legal systems,

the complexity of multijurisdictional investigations and prosecutions, the limited implementation of effective domestic tools such as non-conviction-based forfeiture for asset recovery, as well as other administrative or civil procedures leading to confiscation, lack of familiarity with the mutual legal assistance procedures of other States and difficulties in identifying the flow of corruption proceeds, and noting the particular challenges posed in recovering the proceeds of corruption in cases involving individuals who are or have been entrusted with prominent public functions, as well as their family members and close associates,

Concerned about the difficulties, particularly the legal and practical difficulties, that both requested and requesting States face in asset recovery, taking into account the particular importance of the recovery of stolen assets for sustainable development and stability, and noting the difficulty of providing information establishing a link between proceeds of corruption in the requested State and the crime committed in the requesting State, which in many cases can be difficult to prove,

Recognizing the common difficulties experienced by States parties to the Convention in establishing a nexus between identified assets and the crime from which such assets are derived, and emphasizing the critical importance of effective domestic investigative efforts and international cooperation to overcome such difficulties,

Recognizing also the critical importance of effective international cooperation in efforts to combat corruption, particularly with respect to offences specified in the Convention with a transnational element, and encouraging continued cooperation by States parties, consistent with the requirements of the Convention, in all efforts to investigate and prosecute natural and legal persons, including the use of other legal mechanisms, where appropriate, for offences specified in the Convention and to recover assets related to such offences, consistent with chapter V of the Convention,

Calling upon all States parties to the Convention and, in particular, requested and requesting States, to cooperate to recover the proceeds of corruption and demonstrate strong commitment to ensure the return or disposal of such proceeds in accordance with article 57 of the Convention,

Noting the responsibility of requesting and requested States parties to cooperate to ensure that a greater proportion of the proceeds emanating from corruption are recovered, returned or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,

Concerned that some persons accused of crimes of corruption have managed to escape justice and thus have eluded the legal consequences of their actions, and have been successful in hiding their assets,

Taking into account the need to hold corrupt officials accountable by depriving them of their stolen assets,

Acknowledging the vital importance of ensuring the independence and effectiveness of authorities charged with investigating and prosecuting crimes of corruption and of recovering the proceeds of such crimes by several means, such as establishing the necessary legal framework and allocating the necessary resources,

Acknowledging also the fundamental principles of due process of law in criminal proceedings and in civil or administrative proceedings to adjudicate property rights,

Reiterating its concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security

of societies, undermining the institutions and the values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, in particular when an inadequate national and international response leads to impunity,

Concerned about the negative impact of widespread corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, recognizing that corruption constitutes one of the obstacles to the effective promotion and protection of human rights, as well as to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, and recognizing also that corruption may disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged individuals of society,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts by regional organizations and forums to strengthen cooperation in combating corruption, which aim, inter alia, to ensure openness and transparency, combat domestic and foreign bribery, tackle corruption in high-risk sectors, strengthen international cooperation and promote public integrity and transparency in the fight against corruption, which fuels illicit trade and insecurity and is a tremendous barrier to economic growth and the safety of citizens,

Noting the efforts of regional organizations and forums to combat corruption, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Course of Action on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency and the Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency, and the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan, the Saint Petersburg Development Strategy, the non-binding Guiding Principles on Enforcement of the Foreign Bribery Offence, the Guiding Principles to Combat Solicitation, the Asset Recovery Principles, the asset recovery country profiles and the Asset Recovery Guides,

Noting also the Lausanne process initiative on practical guidelines for efficient asset recovery, which is being undertaken with a view to identifying good practices in effective and coordinated approaches to asset recovery for practitioners from requesting and requested States, with the support of interested States, implemented in close collaboration with the International Centre for Asset Recovery and with the support of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Condemns* corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption and other forms of economic crime;
3. *Expresses concern* about the magnitude of corruption at all levels, including the scale of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and in this regard reiterates its commitment to preventing and combating corrupt practices at all levels, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
4. *Welcomes* the fact that 173 States parties have already ratified or acceded to the Convention, thus making it an instrument enjoying a status very close to universal adherence, and in this regard urges all Member States and competent regional economic integration organizations, within the limits of their competence, that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and urges all States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the panel discussion on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights held at the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council;

6. *Also notes with appreciation* the work carried out under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and by the Implementation Review Group, and urges Member States to continue to support this work and make every possible effort to provide comprehensive information and adhere to the timelines for review as contained in the guidelines for governmental experts and the secretariat in the conduct of country reviews;

7. *Welcomes* the progress made in the first review cycle of the Mechanism and the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of the Mechanism, and encourages the use of the lessons learned during the first review cycle in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Mechanism, as well as the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Encourages* Member States to engage actively in the preparation of the review of chapter II, on prevention measures, and chapter V, on asset recovery, of the Convention in the second review cycle of the Mechanism;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Groups on Asset Recovery, on the Prevention of Corruption and on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encourages States parties to the Convention to support the work of all of these subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

10. *Encourages* all States parties to the Convention to renew their commitment to effective national action and international cooperation to give full effect to chapter V of the Convention and to contribute effectively to the recovery of the proceeds of corruption;

11. *Urges* Member States to combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption, to prevent the acquisition, transfer and laundering of proceeds of corruption and to work for the prompt recovery of such assets in accordance with the principles of the Convention, including chapter V;

12. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention to call upon States parties to give particular and timely consideration to the execution of international mutual legal assistance requests that need urgent action, including those related to the States concerned in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as other requesting States, and to ensure that the competent authorities of requested States have adequate resources to execute requests, taking into account the particular importance of the recovery of these assets for sustainable development and stability;

13. *Urges* States parties that have yet to designate a central authority for international cooperation in accordance with the Convention to do so, and to appoint focal points for the purposes of international cooperation and mutual legal assistance in asset recovery, and, where appropriate, encourages States parties to make full use of the network

of focal points of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery to facilitate cooperation and the implementation of the Convention, as well as the Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery, supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

14. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to use and promote informal channels of communication, in particular prior to making formal requests for mutual legal assistance, by, inter alia, designating officials or institutions, as appropriate, with technical expertise in international cooperation in asset recovery to assist their counterparts in effectively meeting requirements for formal mutual legal assistance;

15. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to remove barriers to asset recovery, including by simplifying their legal procedures and preventing abuse of those procedures;

16. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to give full effect to the resolutions, including those on asset recovery, of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

17. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to afford one another the widest possible cooperation and assistance in the identification and recovery of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption and to give particular and timely consideration to the execution of requests for international mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the Convention, and to afford one another the widest possible cooperation and assistance in the extradition of individuals accused of the predicate offences, in accordance with their obligations under the Convention, including article 44;

18. *Also urges* States parties to the Convention to ensure that procedures for international cooperation allow for the seizure and/or restraint of assets for a time period sufficient to preserve those assets in full, pending confiscation proceedings in another State, to ensure that there are adequate mechanisms in place to manage and preserve the value and condition of assets pending the conclusion of confiscation proceedings in another State, and to allow or expand cooperation in the enforcement of foreign judgements and restraint orders and confiscation judgements, including through awareness-raising for judicial authorities;

19. *Further urges* States parties to the Convention to take a proactive approach to international cooperation in asset recovery by making full use of the mechanisms provided for in chapter V of the Convention, including initiating requests for assistance, making spontaneous disclosures of information on proceeds of offences to other States parties and considering making requests for notifications, in accordance with article 52, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention, and, where appropriate, implementing measures to permit the recognition of non-conviction-based forfeiture judgements;

20. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to ensure that reliable beneficial ownership information on companies is accessible onshore to law enforcement agencies and other relevant authorities, including, as appropriate, financial intelligence units and tax administrations, thus facilitating the investigation process and execution of requests;

21. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to cooperate in order to implement the measures necessary to enable them to obtain reliable information on beneficial

ownership of companies, legal structures or other complex legal mechanisms, including trusts and holdings, used to commit crimes of corruption or to hide and transfer proceeds;

22. *Urges* Member States, where appropriate and consistent with their national legal systems, to provide each other with the widest possible assistance in investigations of and proceedings in civil and administrative matters relating to corruption;

23. *Encourages* Member States to prevent and combat all forms of corruption by increasing transparency, integrity, accountability and efficiency in the public and private sectors, and recognizes in this regard the need to prevent impunity by prosecuting corrupt officials and those who corrupt them and to cooperate in their extradition, in accordance with the obligations under the Convention;

24. *Stresses* the need for transparency in financial institutions, invites Member States to work on the identification and tracing of financial flows linked to corruption, the freezing or seizing of assets derived from corruption and the return of such assets, in accordance with the Convention, and encourages the promotion of human and institutional capacity-building in that regard;

25. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to give timely consideration to mutual legal assistance requests relating to the identification, freezing, tracing and/or recovery of proceeds of corruption and to respond effectively to requests for exchange of information related to proceeds of crime, property, equipment or other instruments referred to in article 31 of the Convention situated in the territory of the requested State party, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including article 40;

26. *Urges* States, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to develop and implement or maintain effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability;

27. *Invites* States parties to the Convention to recognize the importance of the involvement of young people and children as key actors in strengthening ethical behaviour, beginning with the identification and adoption of values, principles and actions that make it possible to build a fair and corruption-free society, in accordance with the Convention, and in this regard welcomes the adoption on 29 November 2013 of resolution 5/5 by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

28. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States that have enacted laws and taken other positive measures in the fight against corruption in all its forms, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not yet done so to enact such laws and to implement effective measures at the national level, in accordance with the Convention;

29. *Reaffirms* the need for Member States to take measures to prevent the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption, including to prevent the financial institutions in both countries of origin and countries of destination from being used to transfer or receive illicit funds, as well as to assist in their recovery and to return such assets to the requesting State, in accordance with the Convention;

30. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to work with all stakeholders in international and domestic financial

markets to deny safe haven to assets acquired illicitly by individuals engaged in corruption, to deny entry and safe haven to corrupt officials and those who corrupt them and to enhance international collaboration in the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, as well as in the recovery of proceeds of corruption;

31. *Urges* all Member States to abide by the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility and equality before the law and the need to safeguard integrity and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability and rejection of corruption, in accordance with the Convention;

32. *Calls for* further international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer and laundering of proceeds of corruption, in accordance with the principles of the Convention, and in this regard encourages close and enhanced coordination, cooperation and synergies between anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units;

33. *Stresses* the need for further cooperation and coordination among the different international, regional and subregional organizations and initiatives mandated to prevent and combat corruption;

34. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures, within their means and in accordance with fundamental principles of their national law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption;

35. *Recalls* article 63, paragraph 4 (c), of the Convention, in which it is stated, inter alia, that the Conference of the States Parties shall agree upon activities, procedures and methods of work to achieve the objectives set forth in paragraph 1 of that article, including by cooperating with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations, and in this regard invites the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention to give due consideration to the implementation of the above-mentioned provision;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the resources necessary to enable it to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the Convention and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, and also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention is adequately funded, consistent with the resolution adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its fourth session;

37. *Reiterates its call upon* the private sector, at both the international and the national levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, to remain fully engaged in the fight against corruption, notes in this context the role that the Global Compact can play in fighting corruption and promoting transparency, emphasizes the need for all relevant stakeholders, including within the United Nations system, as appropriate, to continue to promote corporate responsibility and accountability, and in

this regard welcomes the adoption on 29 November 2013 of resolution 5/6 by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention;

38. *Recognizes* the important role of business and public-private partnerships in promoting measures to fight corruption, especially measures that support the promotion of ethical business practices in interactions between government, business and other stakeholders;

39. *Encourages* Member States to implement and raise awareness regarding effective anti-corruption education programmes;

40. *Urges* the international community to provide, inter alia, technical assistance to support national efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption and to facilitate asset recovery and the return and disposal of such proceeds in accordance with the Convention, and to support national efforts in formulating strategies for mainstreaming and promoting anti-corruption efforts, transparency and integrity in both the public and the private sectors;

41. *Urges* States parties and signatories to the Convention to strengthen the capacity of legislators, law enforcement officials, judges and prosecutors to combat corruption and to deal with matters relating to asset recovery, including in the areas of mutual legal assistance, confiscation, criminal confiscation and, where appropriate, non-conviction-based forfeiture, in accordance with national law and the Convention, and civil proceedings, and to give the highest consideration to providing technical assistance in those fields, upon request;

42. *Encourages* Member States to exchange and share with each other, including through regional and international organizations, as appropriate, information on lessons learned and good practices, as well as information related to technical assistance activities and initiatives in order to strengthen international efforts to prevent and combat corruption;

43. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to provide regular updates and to expand, where appropriate, the information contained in the relevant databases of knowledge on asset recovery, such as Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge and Asset Recovery Watch, taking into consideration constraints on information-sharing based on confidentiality requirements;

44. *Encourages* the collection and systematization of good practices and tools in the cooperation for asset recovery, including the use and expansion of secure information-sharing tools with a view to enhancing early and spontaneous information exchange insofar as possible and in accordance with the Convention;

45. *Also encourages* the collection of substantial information duly researched and regularly published by recognized organizations and representatives of civil society;

46. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to make widely available information on their legal frameworks and procedures with regard to asset recovery under chapter V of the Convention, in a practical guide or other format designed to facilitate use by other States, and to consider, where advisable, the publication of that information in other languages;

47. *Calls upon* requesting and requested States with practical experience in asset recovery to develop, as appro-

priate, in cooperation with interested States and providers of technical assistance, non-binding practical guidelines, such as a step-by-step guide, for efficient asset recovery, with a view to enhancing effective approaches to asset recovery based on the lessons learned from past cases, being mindful to seek to add value by building upon existing work in this area;

48. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to share approaches and practical experience for the return of assets, consistent with article 57 of the Convention, for further dissemination through the Secretariat;

49. *Encourages* requesting States to ensure that adequate national investigative procedures have been initiated and substantiated for the purpose of presenting mutual legal assistance requests, and in this context encourages requested States to provide, when appropriate, information on legal frameworks and procedures to the requesting State;

50. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to compile and provide information in accordance with article 52 of the Convention and to take other actions that help to establish the linkage between assets and offences under the Convention;

51. *Notes with appreciation* the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank and its cooperation with relevant partners, including the International Centre for Asset Recovery and INTERPOL, and encourages coordination among existing initiatives;

52. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, in collaboration with the World Bank through the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and in coordination with other relevant stakeholders, upon request, technical assistance for the implementation of chapter V of the Convention, including by providing direct expertise on policy or capacity-building through the Office's thematic programme on action against corruption, economic fraud and identity-related crime and, where appropriate, regional programmes, using its range of technical assistance tools;

53. *Notes* the work of other initiatives in the field of asset recovery, such as the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery, and welcomes their efforts to enhance cooperation between requesting and requested States;

54. *Welcomes* the work of the International Anti-Corruption Academy, a centre of excellence for education, training and academic research in the anti-corruption field, including in the area of asset recovery, and looks forward to its continued efforts in this regard to promote the goals and implementation of the Convention;

55. *Also welcomes* the holding of the fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, in Panama City from 25 to 29 November 2013, and its outcomes and contributions to promoting the implementation of the Convention, and reiterates its appreciation for the offer by the Government of the Russian Federation to host the sixth session of the Conference of the States Parties in 2015;

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing reporting obligations, to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice an analytical section entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners,

in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Assembly the report of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on its sixth session.

Strengthening the rule of law

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/188 [YUN 2013, p. 1243], the Secretary-General, in his June report [A/69/94] on implementation of the mandates of the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme, discussed measures taken to strengthen the rule of law and promote its inclusion into the post-2015 development agenda. UNODC had contributed to the General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions, and in that regard the Office co-hosted a side event on conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance during the Open Working Group's eighth session, in February. The Secretary-General requested Member States to recognize the importance of peaceful and inclusive societies, accountable institutions and justice and the rule of law as enabling conditions for and as integral parts of sustainable and equitable growth, and to include relevant goals, targets and indicators in the post-2015 development framework (see p. 960).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30], adopted **resolution 2014/19** without vote [agenda item 17 (d)].

Rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[For text, see General Assembly resolution 69/195 below.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/489], adopted **resolution 69/195** without vote [agenda item 105].

Rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

Reaffirming also its commitment to the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels,

Strongly determined to reinvigorate political will and to raise the level of the international community's commitment to moving the sustainable development agenda forward, through the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming the necessity of respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the prevention of crime and the administration of and access to justice, including criminal justice,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”, and noting the recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

Noting the activity of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting also the thematic and national consultations on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda organized by the United Nations Development Group in many countries,

Reiterating that the rule of law and development are inter-related and mutually reinforcing and that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law,

Reiterating also that transnational crime must be addressed with full respect for the principles of the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, and in accordance with the rule of law, as part of a comprehensive response to promote durable solutions through the promotion of human rights and more equitable socioeconomic conditions, and in that regard stressing again the importance of encouraging Member States to develop, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, while emphasizing that crime prevention should be an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States,

Stressing the importance of a well-functioning, efficient, fair, effective and humane criminal justice system as the basis for a successful strategy against transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of trafficking,

Recalling its resolution 67/186 of 20 December 2012, entitled “Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the United Nations system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking”, and its resolution 68/188 of 18 December 2013, entitled “The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”,

Acknowledging the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law, and also acknowledging that long-term sustainable economic and social development and the establishment of a functioning,

efficient, effective and humane criminal justice system have a positive influence on each other, as stated in the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, of 2010,

Reaffirming the importance of promoting the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,

Reaffirming also the importance of relevant international anti-terrorism instruments, as appropriate, and drawing on the existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Recalling its resolution 63/23 of 17 November 2008, entitled "Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence",

Concerned about the serious threat that violence related to transnational organized crime poses to development and the rule of law, security and well-being of communities, hindering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by reducing national income and productivity, diverting investment and rolling back hard-won development gains, and recognizing that comprehensive crime prevention strategies can contribute to addressing those challenges effectively,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring that women and girls, on the basis of gender equality, fully enjoy the benefits of the rule of law, and committed to using law to uphold equal rights and ensure their full and equal participation,

Welcoming the conference entitled "Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law", hosted by the Government of Thailand in Bangkok on 15 November 2013, which discussed the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice as a substantive contribution to the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda,

Noting the publication of the study paper entitled "Accounting for security and justice in the post-2015 development agenda" by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2013,

Noting also the publication of the "Global Study on Homicide 2013: Trends, Contexts, Data" by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Taking into consideration that the main theme of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha in 2015, will be "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation",

Convinced that respect for and promotion of the rule of law, both nationally and internationally, are essential elements in addressing and preventing transnational organized crime and corruption, and noting that the rule of law requires strong and efficient justice sector coordination, as well as effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination with other relevant United Nations offices and activities,

1. *Recognizes* the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development, and recommends that such linkages and interrelationships be properly addressed and further elaborated;

2. *Underscores* that the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda should take into account respect for and promotion of the rule of law and that crime prevention and criminal justice have an important role in that regard, giving due consideration to the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to channel, as appropriate, its contribution to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders;

3. *Encourages* Member States, in their deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, to give due consideration to the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice, while promoting universal respect for human rights and strengthening relevant national institutions;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as a member of the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, to continue to contribute analytical inputs and expertise to the work of the Task Team and to report to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session on the results of this work;

5. *Stresses* the importance of a comprehensive approach to transitional justice, incorporating the wide range of judicial and non-judicial measures to ensure accountability and promote reconciliation while protecting the rights of victims of crime and of abuse of power, drawing on the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with its mandates, to support criminal justice reforms and strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels;

6. *Also stresses* the need for government institutions, the judicial system and the legislative system to be gender-sensitive and for the continued promotion of the full participation of women in such institutions;

7. *Further stresses* the importance of promoting the design and implementation of national and regional strategies and policies, as appropriate, on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice as an effective and coordinated response to transnational organized crime, particularly in connection with new and emerging forms of transnational organized crime;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in developing comprehensive crime prevention strategies, to address violence related to transnational organized crime, including urban crime, and to continue to support the exchange of expertise and good practices, with the support of civil society, as appropriate;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in improving systems for collecting and analysing data on crime prevention and criminal justice at all levels, where necessary, including gender-specific data, in order to contribute, where appropriate, to the post-2015 development agenda;

10. *Invites* the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to continue to include in their work programmes the issues of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as to consider exploring the challenges posed by violence related to transnational organized crime, and encourages them to develop appropriate training material;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described

above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, through the Commission, to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Trafficking in persons

Trafficking in women and girls. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 67/145 [YUN 2012, p. 1110], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/224] on measures taken by Member States and activities within the UN system to address trafficking in women and girls (see p. 1292). In an August note [A/69/269], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (see p. 873), submitted in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 17/1 [YUN 2011, p. 740].

On 18 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/149** (see p. 1293) on trafficking in women and girls, by which it urged Member States that had not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and urged Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, to implement the relevant provisions of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. It encouraged the UN system to mainstream the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes; invited the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to cooperate with international, regional and national mechanisms; urged Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls; and invited Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes were sensitive to the situation of trafficked women and girls.

Smuggling of migrants

During the regular part of its twenty-third (2014) session, CCPCJ considered and approved for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on the issue of international cooperation in combating the smuggling of migrants (see below). Participants noted that it was the first time the Commission had approved a resolution on the smuggling of migrants and that doing so provided an opportunity to promote

debate and international cooperation on the issue—an area in which multilateralism could make a concrete difference.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30], adopted **resolution 2014/23** without vote [agenda item 17 (c)].

Strengthening international cooperation in addressing the smuggling of migrants

The Economic and Social Council,

Convinced of the need to provide migrants with humane treatment and full protection of their rights,

Expressing its deepest concern over the negative impact of the smuggling of migrants on society and the rule of law and over the fact that individual migrants have lost their lives in dangerous smuggling operations, and commending all those who have dedicated themselves to protecting and assisting smuggled migrants, whose lives or safety are endangered by reason of being the object of such conduct,

Expressing its deepest concern also about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized criminal entities and others that profit from the smuggling of migrants, especially women and children, and related offences,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 66/128 of 19 December 2011, entitled “Violence against women migrant workers”, 66/172 of 19 December 2011, entitled “Protection of migrants”, 67/185 of 20 December 2012, entitled “Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families”, 67/219 of 21 December 2012, entitled “International migration and development”, 68/4 of 3 October 2013, entitled “Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development”, and 68/193 of 18 December 2013, entitled “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity”,

Recognizing that international migration is a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, and also recognizing that this cross-cutting phenomenon should be addressed in a coherent, comprehensive and balanced manner, while respecting human rights and integrating development aspects, with due regard for social, economic and environmental dimensions,

Underlining the challenges posed by the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air, as illustrated by events at the global level,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States under applicable international law to exercise due diligence to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and to investigate and punish perpetrators, notwithstanding the obligation of States to protect the rights and respect the dignity of smuggled migrants under applicable international law,

Recognizing the sovereign right of States to enact and implement migration and border security measures, without prejudice to applicable international commitments in relation to the free movement of people,

Recognizing also the need for more effective international information-sharing, law enforcement cooperation and mutual legal assistance to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants,

Recalling that migrants shall not be liable to criminal prosecution under the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, for the fact of having been the object of conduct set out in article 6 of the Protocol, and that nothing in the Protocol prevents a State party from taking measures against a person whose conduct constitutes an offence under its domestic law,

Bearing in mind the need for a focused and consistent criminal justice approach to the smuggling of migrants and related offences,

Underlining that, although the crime of smuggling of migrants may share, in some cases, some common features with the crime of trafficking in persons, Member States need to recognize that they are distinct crimes requiring separate and complementary legal, operational and policy responses,

Welcoming the work and tools of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the framework of the Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants, including the Model Law against the Smuggling of Migrants, the International Framework for Action to Implement the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and the Assessment Guide to the Criminal Justice Response to the Smuggling of Migrants,

Noting the launch by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the voluntary reporting system on migrant smuggling and related conduct as a secure solution for collecting, sharing and analysing information on the smuggling of migrants, in support of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime,

Recalling that the theme of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, will be "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation",

1. *Underlines* the need to address challenges related to the smuggling of migrants through a comprehensive and balanced approach, and through bilateral, regional and international cooperation and dialogue, as appropriate, between countries of origin, transit and destination;

2. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing preventive measures, combating criminal networks and improving border control management, without prejudice to applicable international commitments in relation to the free movement of people;

3. *Highlights* the need to promote or strengthen, as appropriate, development programmes and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, taking into account the socioeconomic realities of migration and paying special attention to economically and socially depressed areas, in order to combat the root socioeconomic causes of the smuggling of migrants, especially those related to poverty;

4. *Underlines* that international cooperation to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants implies a common and shared responsibility among Member States;

5. *Also underlines* the crucial role of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as the primary international legal instruments to combat the smuggling of migrants and related conduct;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the increasing level of adherence to the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and, on the tenth anniversary of its entry into force, urges States parties to implement it fully, and encourages States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Protocol;

7. *Urges* Member States, where appropriate, to adopt measures to increase public awareness of the fact that the smuggling of migrants is a criminal activity frequently perpetrated by organized criminal groups for profit, posing serious risks to the migrants concerned;

8. *Stresses* the need to develop national and, as appropriate, regional policies and strategies against the smuggling of migrants and to reinforce international cooperation for the prevention of the crime and for the prosecution of smugglers, in accordance with national laws and legislation;

9. *Encourages* Member States to adopt relevant measures, including, if necessary, reviewing relevant legislation, including criminal legislation, and to criminalize the acts covered by the Organized Crime Convention and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, including by introducing appropriate sanctions commensurate with the nature and gravity of the offence;

10. *Urges* Member States, as appropriate, to avail themselves of the international cooperation framework provided by the Organized Crime Convention, the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and other applicable international legal instruments, in order to ensure that they have an adequate legal framework to allow for extradition, mutual legal assistance and other cooperation tools in relation to such crimes;

11. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with each other and with relevant international organizations to the fullest extent possible, in accordance with articles 18 and 19 of the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and applicable obligations under relevant international law;

12. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure that, in investigating and prosecuting the smuggling of migrants, the concurrent undertaking of financial investigations is considered, with a view to tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds acquired through that crime, and to consider the smuggling of migrants to be a predicate offence of money-laundering;

13. *Further encourages* Member States to take measures to protect witnesses in cases of smuggling of migrants, as called for in the Organized Crime Convention, to take appropriate measures to provide for the effective protection of witnesses who testify in criminal proceedings and, as appropriate, their relatives, including protection from potential retaliation, and to strengthen international cooperation in this area;

14. *Encourages* Member States to promote the reliable collection of data and research, at the national and, as appropriate, the regional and international levels, on the smuggling of migrants, including on smuggling networks and the involvement of organized crime in countries of origin, transit and destination, and on the possible links that

may exist between the smuggling of migrants and other criminal activities;

15. *Also encourages* Member States to consider strengthening multi-agency cooperation and coordination at the national, bilateral and, where appropriate, regional levels, and to consider, if necessary, the establishment of multi-agency centres for the purpose of data collection, strategic analysis and information-sharing in order to detect, prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants, in accordance with national legislation;

16. *Further encourages* Member States to exchange information, as appropriate, on best practices to promote cooperation to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and coordination to investigate and prosecute the smuggling of migrants, in accordance with applicable domestic and international law;

17. *Encourages* Member States to use existing channels for information exchange, such as those provided by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), to exchange information, in a manner consistent with domestic law, including information on persons convicted or suspected of conducting or facilitating the smuggling of migrants;

18. *Notes* the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in protecting the rights of smuggled migrants and the need to avoid approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability, and reaffirms the need to effectively protect the rights and respect the dignity of smuggled migrants and internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination and other applicable obligations under relevant international law, taking into account the special needs of women and children, especially unaccompanied children;

19. *Stresses* the primary role of the State in overcoming the challenges posed by the smuggling of migrants, and recognizes the important contribution of non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society in protecting and assisting smuggled migrants;

20. *Invites* Member States to fully utilize all relevant tools developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime within the Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants and the relevant regional and national programmes, including the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws against Organized Crime knowledge management portal, and also invites Member States to provide to the Secretariat legislation and case law related to the smuggling of migrants, for inclusion in that portal;

21. *Also invites* Member States, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, where appropriate, to collaborate to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants through the provision of assistance, including technical assistance, upon request, with a view to building capacities and enhancing abilities to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants;

22. *Encourages* Member States to provide specialized training for law enforcement, immigration and border control officials and coastguard personnel, as well as forensic experts, prosecutors and judges, so that they are better able to recognize and deal with issues related to the smuggling of migrants;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide, upon request, technical

assistance aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to criminalize, investigate and prosecute the smuggling of migrants, and invites Member States to consider and to draw upon the International Framework for Action to Implement the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, the Basic Training Manual on Investigating and Prosecuting the Smuggling of Migrants and the In-depth Training Manual on Investigating and Prosecuting the Smuggling of Migrants;

24. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen collaboration and cooperation with all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including Global Migration Group members, within their respective mandates, in order to adopt a coherent, comprehensive and co-ordinated approach and thus to fully address the challenges posed by the smuggling of migrants;

25. *Encourages* Member States to make the best use of the relevant work and initiatives of the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network in order to promote regional and international cooperation against the smuggling of migrants;

26. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote cooperation on the most effective ways to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants, in view of, among other things, the workshop on the topic "Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims", to be held within the framework of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

27. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Terrorism

In a February report [E/CN.15/2014/4], the Secretary-General reviewed the activities of UNODC during 2013, particularly those of its Terrorism Prevention Branch, in delivering counter-terrorism assistance. The report highlighted the efforts made and challenges faced by Member States regarding the criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism and emphasized the need for enhanced governmental support. The objective of the Office's counter-terrorism activities was to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism through promoting ratification of the 18 international legal instruments against terrorism and assisting States with incorporating the provisions of those instruments into national legislation; building the capacity of national officials to implement counter-terrorism legislation; and promoting regional and international cooperation in criminal matters. Such assistance to requesting Member States contributed to 24 new ratifications

and led to the preparation of 16 new or revised pieces of national counter-terrorism legislation. It also enhanced the knowledge and practices of national criminal justice systems regarding the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism cases, as well as their capacity to cooperate regionally and internationally. In 2013, UNODC provided capacity-building assistance to 83 countries worldwide through 93 workshops at the national, subregional and regional levels and training for over 2,500 criminal justice officials. Capacity-building efforts related to countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; improving the assistance provided to victims of acts of terrorism and the criminal justice response in support of such victims; countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism; suppressing the financing of terrorism; addressing transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences; criminal justice responses to terrorism in the framework of the rule of law and respect for human rights; developing specialized technical assistance tools; and providing technical assistance in close cooperation with national training institutions and other bodies. During the year, partnerships with UN entities and subregional, regional and international organizations contributed to enhanced coordination and cooperation in the delivery of assistance, including through several joint projects. The report concluded with a set of recommendations for consideration by CCPCJ.

In a July report [A/69/209] (see p. 1517), the Secretary-General reviewed measures to eliminate international terrorism. It considered measures taken at the national and international levels, contained a list of international legal instruments, and provided information on workshops and training courses on combating crimes connected with international terrorism.

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/127** on measures to eliminate international terrorism (ibid.).

(For more information on terrorism, see PART ONE, Chapter I and PART FOUR, Chapter III.)

Trafficking in human organs

Commission action. On 16 May [E/2014/30 (res. 23/2)], the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice urged Member States to combat trafficking in organs by preventing and punishing the unauthorized removal or implantation of organs and the illicit sale, brokering, purchase and other illicit transactions in respect of human organs, as well as trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal. It encouraged Member States to review, develop or amend legislative measures to combat illicit trafficking of human organs; strengthen regulatory oversight of relevant medical facilities and the medical personnel thereof; provide training for law enforcement, border control officials and medical per-

sonnel to identify potential cases of organ trafficking and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal; conduct awareness campaigns targeted at potential donors to make them informed of their rights and the health and safety risks associated with organ removal in exchange for material benefits; and exchange experience and information relevant to the issue. The Commission requested UNODC to conduct a study on trafficking in human organs, based on the analysis of information provided by States, for consideration by the Commission at its twenty-fifth (2016) session. In that regard, it also invited UNODC to engage in a dialogue with relevant international intergovernmental organizations, in close consultation with States, to collect data and conduct an analysis of instances of organ trafficking and prosecutions of trafficking in organs, as well as to collect examples of applicable legislation. It encouraged Member States to provide relevant information to UNODC, and invited Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources.

UN standards and norms

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30 & Add.1] had before it a February report [E/CN.15/2014/11], in which the Secretary-General described progress made by UNODC in 2013 to support the use and application of UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The report outlined the development of new standards and norms and the Office's efforts to collect and analyse data, develop implementation tools and provide technical assistance at the global, regional and country levels. It also described the Office's partnerships for promoting intervention in crime prevention and criminal justice reform.

UNODC made progress in the development and promotion of the use and application of the UN standards and norms, which covered the following areas: persons in custody, non-custodial sanctions, juvenile justice and restorative justice; crime prevention and victim issues; and good governance, the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of criminal justice personnel. The standards and norms were also central to UN work on the rule of law and human rights, as they provided detailed guidance on various principles of human rights in the administration of justice. Through its thematic programme on crime prevention and criminal justice reform, implemented in over 40 countries, UNODC assisted Member States in developing new instruments, strategies, policies and programmes. Support included advocacy, research, legislative and legal support, norm-setting and technical assistance. During the reporting period, UNODC supported Member States in setting global standards in the areas of treatment of prisoners, violence against children and gender-related killing

of women and girls. Important normative developments included the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners [YUN 1955, p. 209], and the development of model strategies and practical measures for the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The Office continued to collect data on selected crimes and on the operation of justice systems through the UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems. The network of focal points to coordinate national responses to the Survey was extended, which resulted in coverage of more than 110 countries and an improved rate of response. UNODC also continued developing tools and handbooks, training curricula and guidance notes to provide sustained technical assistance in an increasing number of countries.

Treatment of prisoners

Standard minimum rules. By an April note [E/CN.15/2014/19 & Corr.1], the Secretariat informed CCPCJ about the work of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, established in response to General Assembly resolution 65/230 [YUN 2010, p. 1095]. At its third meeting (Vienna, 25–28 March), the Expert Group considered for revision rules in the following thematic areas: respect for prisoners' inherent dignity and value as human beings; medical and health services; disciplinary action and punishment, including the role of medical staff, solitary confinement and reduction of diet; investigation of all deaths in custody, as well as any signs or allegations of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners; protection and special needs of vulnerable groups deprived of their liberty, taking into consideration countries in difficult circumstances; the right of access to legal representation; complaints and independent inspection; and training of relevant staff to implement the Standard Minimum Rules. The Expert Group agreed on a series of recommendations for submission to the Commission's twenty-third (2014) session for consideration and further action.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30], adopted **resolution 2014/16** without vote [agenda item 17 (d)].

Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[For text, see General Assembly resolution 69/192 below.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/489], adopted **resolution 69/192** without vote [agenda item 105].

Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principal purposes of the United Nations, as set out in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and inspired by the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, without distinction of any kind, and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Bearing in mind the long-standing concern of the United Nations for the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of human rights,

Aware that the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners remain the universally acknowledged minimum standards for the detention of prisoners and that they have been of value and influence in the development of correctional laws, policies and practices since their adoption by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in 1955,

Mindful that, in the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, Member States recognized that an effective, fair, accountable and humane criminal justice system was based on the commitment to uphold the protection of human rights in the administration of justice and the prevention and control of crime, and acknowledged the value and impact of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in designing and implementing national crime prevention and criminal justice policies, laws, procedures and programmes,

Taking into account the progressive development of international standards pertaining to the treatment of prisoners since 1955, including in international instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto, and other relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice related to the treatment of prisoners, namely, the procedures for the effective implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Of-

ficials, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems,

Mindful of its resolution 67/166 of 20 December 2012 on human rights in the administration of justice, in which it recognized the importance of the principle that persons deprived of their liberty shall retain their non-derogable human rights and all other human rights and fundamental freedoms, except for those lawful limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, and took note of general comment No. 21 on the humane treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, adopted by the Human Rights Committee, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 24/12 of 26 September 2013, in which the Council noted the work of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, reiterating that any changes should not lower any existing standards but should reflect recent advances in correctional science and best practices,

Recalling its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, in which it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert group to exchange information on best practices, as well as national legislation and existing international law, and on the revision of existing United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners so that they reflect recent advances in correctional science and best practices, with a view to making recommendations to the Commission on possible next steps, and requested the Expert Group to report to the Commission on progress in its work,

Recalling also its resolutions 67/188 of 20 December 2012 and 68/190 of 18 December 2013, entitled "Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners", as well as its resolution 68/156 of 18 December 2013, entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", in particular paragraph 38 thereof,

Recalling further that, in its resolution 67/184 of 20 December 2012 on follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, it decided that one of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Thirteenth Congress would be devoted to the topic "Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders",

1. *Notes with appreciation* the further progress made during the third meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, held in Vienna from 25 to 28 March 2014;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Brazil for its financial support for the third meeting of the Expert Group;

3. *Acknowledges* the work done by the Expert Group at its previous meetings, held in Vienna from 31 January to 2 February 2012 and in Buenos Aires from 11 to 13 December 2012;

4. *Also acknowledges* the work accomplished by the Secretariat in preparing the relevant documentation, in particular the working paper for the third meeting, as well as the determined progress achieved at the meetings of the Expert Group in reviewing the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;

5. *Expresses appreciation* for the important submissions and suggestions of Member States pursuant to the request to exchange information on best practices and on the revision of the existing Standard Minimum Rules, as reflected in the working paper submitted to the Expert Group at its third meeting;

6. *Reiterates* that any changes to the Standard Minimum Rules should not lower any of the existing standards, but should reflect the recent advances in correctional science and good practices so as to promote safety, security and humane conditions for prisoners;

7. *Recognizes* the need for the Expert Group to continue to take into account the social, legal and cultural specificities, as well as human rights obligations, of Member States;

8. *Notes* that the revision process should maintain the existing scope of application of the Standard Minimum Rules;

9. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the important contributions received from the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as other submissions received for consideration from a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and invites them in this regard to continue to be actively involved in the Expert Group process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council;

10. *Acknowledges* that the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules is a time-intensive exercise of crucial importance, emphasizes that efforts should be made to finalize the revision process, building on the recommendations made at the three meetings of the Expert Group and the submissions of Member States, for consideration at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha in 2015, and also emphasizes that the concern for a speedy process should not compromise the quality of the outcome;

11. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Expert Group, authorizing it to continue its work, with the aim of reaching a consensus, and to present a report to the Thirteenth Congress, for the information of the workshop on the role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems, and to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fourth session for consideration, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the required services and support are provided;

12. *Invites* the bureau of the third meeting of the Expert Group to continue to be involved in the revision of the rules by preparing, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a revised consolidated working paper, in all official languages of the United Nations, consisting of the draft revised rules, which should reflect the progress achieved so far, including the recommendations made by the Expert Group at its meetings held in Buenos Aires in 2012 and in Vienna in 2014, also taking into account proposals for revision put forward by Member States in relation to the areas and rules identified by the General Assembly in paragraph 6 of its resolution 67/188, for submission to and consideration by the Expert Group at its next meeting;

13. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of South Africa for its intention to host the next meeting of the Expert Group, and welcomes any support, in particular financial support, that other interested countries and organizations may wish to provide;

14. *Invites* Member States to actively participate in the next meeting of the Expert Group and to include in their delegations persons with a variety of expertise from relevant disciplines;

15. *Encourages* Member States to improve conditions in detention, consistent with the principles of the Standard Minimum Rules and all other relevant and applicable international standards and norms, to continue exchanging good practices, such as those regarding conflict resolution in detention facilities, including in the area of technical assistance, to identify challenges faced in implementing the Rules and share their experiences in dealing with those challenges and to provide relevant information in that regard to their experts participating in the Expert Group;

16. *Also encourages* Member States to promote the implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), as well as the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty;

17. *Recommends* that Member States continue to endeavour to reduce prison overcrowding and, where appropriate, resort to non-custodial measures as alternatives to pretrial detention, to promote increased access to justice and legal defence mechanisms, to reinforce alternatives to imprisonment and to support rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules);

18. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to promote the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice by, inter alia, providing advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, on request, including assistance in crime prevention, criminal justice and law reform, and in the organization of training for law enforcement, crime prevention and criminal justice personnel and support in the administration and management of penal and penitentiary systems, thus contributing to the upgrading of their efficiency and capabilities;

19. *Reaffirms* the important role of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in contributing to the dissemination, pro-

motion and practical application of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, in accordance with the procedures for their effective implementation;

20. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes outlined in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Violence against children

Model strategies and practical measures. On 15 May [E/CN.15/2014/14], CCPCJ considered a March report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on the development of a draft set of model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (Bangkok, Thailand, 18–21 February), convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/189 [YUN 2013, p. 1258]. Annexed to the report was the draft set of model strategies and practical measures, as submitted by the expert group. On 27 May [E/CN.15/2014/14/Rev.1], the Secretary-General's report was reissued with the final text of the model strategies and practical measures, as amended by the Commission. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures were grouped into three categories: prohibiting violence against children, implementing prevention measures and promoting research and data collection; enhancing the capacity of the criminal justice system to respond to violence against children and protect child victims; and preventing and responding to violence against children within the justice system.

In a June note [A/69/88], the Secretary-General transmitted his May report to the General Assembly. On 18 December (**decision 69/537**), the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30], adopted **resolution 2014/18** without vote [agenda item 17 (c)].

United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[For text, see General Assembly resolution 69/194 below.]

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/489], adopted **resolution 69/194** without vote [agenda item 105].

**United Nations Model Strategies
and Practical Measures on the Elimination
of Violence against Children in the Field of
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all other relevant international and regional treaties,

Recalling also the numerous international standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular on juvenile justice, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System, the Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime, the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, the guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the Guidelines for the Effective Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials,

Recalling further its relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

Convinced that violence against children is never justifiable and that it is the duty of States to protect children, including those in conflict with the law, from all forms of violence and human rights violations and to exercise due diligence to prohibit, prevent and investigate acts of violence against children, eliminate impunity and provide assistance to the victims, including prevention of revictimization,

Acknowledging the value of the joint report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on access to justice for children and the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on accessible and child-sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms to address incidents of violence,

Noting with appreciation the important work on child rights in the context of crime prevention and criminal justice conducted by United Nations agencies, funds and

programmes, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Children's Fund, and by the Special Representative and relevant mandate holders and treaty bodies, and welcoming the active participation of civil society in this field of work,

Emphasizing that children, by reason of their physical and mental development, face particular vulnerabilities and need special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection,

Emphasizing also that children in contact with the justice system as victims, witnesses or alleged or recognized offenders must be treated in a child-sensitive manner and with respect for their rights, dignity and needs,

Stressing that the right for all to have access to justice and the provision that child victims or witnesses of violence and children and juveniles in conflict with the law are entitled to the same legal guarantees and protection as are accorded to adults, including all fair trial guarantees, form an important basis for strengthening the rule of law through the administration of justice,

Recognizing the complementary roles of crime prevention, the criminal justice system, child protection agencies and the health, education and social sectors, as well as civil society, in creating a protective environment and preventing and responding to incidents of violence against children,

Being aware of the different economic, social and cultural contexts of crime prevention and criminal justice prevailing in each Member State,

Recalling its resolution 68/189 of 18 December 2013, in which it requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene a meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group, in collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Special Representative, to develop a draft set of model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, to be considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its session following the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group,

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against children, reaffirms the duty of the State to protect children from all forms of violence in both public and private settings, and calls for the elimination of impunity, including by investigating and prosecuting, with due process, and punishing all perpetrators;

2. *Expresses its extreme concern* about the secondary victimization of children that may occur within the justice system, and reaffirms the responsibility of States to protect children from this form of violence;

3. *Welcomes* the work done at the meeting of the expert group on the development of draft model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 21 February 2014, and takes note with appreciation of its report;

4. *Adopts* the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice annexed to the present resolution;

5. *Urges* Member States to take all necessary and effective measures, as appropriate, to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children who come in contact with the justice system as victims, witnesses or alleged or recognized offenders, and to provide for consistency in their laws and policies and in the application thereof in order to promote the implementation of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

6. *Also urges* Member States to remove any barrier, including any kind of discrimination, that children may face in accessing justice and in effectively participating in criminal proceedings, to pay particular attention to the issue of the rights of the child and the child's best interests in the administration of justice and to ensure that children in contact with the criminal justice system are treated in a child-sensitive manner, taking into account the specific needs of those children who are in particularly vulnerable situations;

7. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet integrated crime prevention and children's issues into their overall rule of law efforts to do so, and to develop and implement a comprehensive crime prevention and justice system policy, with a view to preventing the involvement of children in criminal activities, promoting the use of alternative measures to detention, such as diversion and restorative justice, adopting reintegration strategies for former child offenders and complying with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

8. *Encourages* Member States, where appropriate, to strengthen multisectoral coordination among all relevant government agencies in order to better prevent, identify and respond to the multidimensional nature of violence against children and to ensure that criminal justice and other relevant professionals are adequately trained to deal with children;

9. *Also encourages* Member States to establish and strengthen child rights monitoring and accountability systems, as well as mechanisms for the systematic research, collection and analysis of data on violence against children and on the systems designed to address violence against children, with a view to assessing the scope and incidence of such violence and the impact of policies and measures adopted to reduce it;

10. *Stresses* the importance of preventing incidents of violence against children and of responding in a timely manner to support child victims of violence, including to prevent their revictimization, and invites Member States to adopt knowledge-based, comprehensive and multisectoral prevention strategies and policies to address the factors that give rise to violence against children and that expose them to the risk of violence;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to take steps to ensure the broad dissemination of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

12. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, at the request of Member States, to identify the needs and capacities of countries and to provide technical assistance and advisory services to Member States in order to develop or strengthen, as appropriate, legislation, procedures, policies and practices to prevent and respond to

violence against children and to ensure respect for the rights of the child in the administration of justice;

13. *Further requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to closely coordinate with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and with other relevant national and regional institutes with a view to developing training materials and offering training and other capacity-building opportunities, in particular for practitioners working in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice and for providers of support services for the victims of violence against children and for child witnesses within the criminal justice system, and to disseminate information on successful practices;

14. *Invites* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Human Rights Council, as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and relevant regional and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to strengthen cooperation in supporting the efforts of States to eliminate all forms of violence against children;

15. *Encourages* Member States to promote country-to-country, regional and interregional technical cooperation in sharing best practices in the implementation of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures;

16. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for the purposes outlined in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

ANNEX

United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Introduction

1. The United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have been prepared to help Member States to address the need for integrated strategies for violence prevention and child protection, thereby offering children the protection to which they have an unqualified right.

2. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures take into consideration the complementary roles of the justice system on the one hand, and the child protection, social welfare, health and education sectors on the other, in creating a protective environment and in preventing and responding to violence against children. They draw attention to the need for Member States to ensure that criminal law is used appropriately and effectively to criminalize various forms of violence against children, including forms of violence prohibited by international law. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures will enable criminal justice institutions to strengthen and focus their efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children, and to increase their diligence in investigating, convicting and rehabilitating perpetrators of violent crimes against children.

3. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures take into account the fact that children who are alleged as, ac-

cused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law, especially those who are deprived of their liberty, face a high risk of violence. Because special attention must be paid to the especially vulnerable situation of these children, the Model Strategies and Practical Measures are aimed at not only improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to violence against children, but also at protecting children against any violence that may result from their contact with the justice system.

4. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures reflect the fact that some of the perpetrators of violence against children are themselves children and often victims of violence. The need to protect child victims in such instances cannot negate the rights of all of the children involved to have their best interests considered as a matter of primary importance.

5. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures are grouped into three broad categories: general prevention strategies to address violence against children as part of broader child protection and crime prevention initiatives; strategies and measures to improve the ability of the criminal justice system to respond to crimes of violence against children and to protect child victims effectively; and strategies and measures to prevent and respond to violence against children in contact with the justice system. Good practices are set forth, to be considered and used by Member States within the framework of their national legal systems in a manner consistent with applicable international instruments, including relevant human rights instruments, and taking into consideration relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. Member States should be guided by the Model Strategies and Practical Measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation.

Definitions

6. For the purposes of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures:

(a) “Child” means, as in article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, “every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”;

(b) A “child protection system” refers to the national legal framework, formal and informal structures, functions and capacities to prevent and respond to violence against and abuse, exploitation and neglect of children;

(c) “Children in contact with the justice system” refers to children who come into contact with the justice system as victims or witnesses, children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law, or children who are in any other situation requiring legal proceedings, for example regarding their care, custody or protection, including cases involving children of incarcerated parents;

(d) “Child-sensitive” denotes an approach that takes into consideration the child’s right to protection and individual needs and views in accordance with the age and maturity of the child;

(e) “Child victims” denotes children who are victims of crime regardless of their role in the offence or in the prosecution of the alleged offender or group of offenders;

(f) “Crime prevention” comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring

and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence the multiple causes of crime;

(g) “Criminal justice system” refers to laws, procedures, professionals, authorities and institutions that apply to victims, witnesses and persons alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law;

(h) “Deprivation of liberty” means any form of detention or imprisonment or the placement of a person in a public or private custodial setting, from which that person is not permitted to leave at will, by order of any judicial, administrative or other public authority;

(i) “Diversion” refers to a process for dealing with children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law as an alternative to judicial proceedings, with the consent of the child and the child’s parents or legal guardian;

(j) “Informal justice system” refers to the resolution of disputes and the regulation of conduct by adjudication or with the assistance of a neutral third party that is not part of the judiciary as established by law and/or whose substantive, procedural or structural foundation is not primarily based on statutory law;

(k) A “juvenile justice system” comprises laws, policies, guidelines, customary norms, systems, professionals, institutions and treatment specifically applicable to children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law;

(l) “Legal aid” includes legal advice, assistance and representation for persons detained, arrested or imprisoned as a result of being suspected or accused of or charged with a criminal offence, and for victims and witnesses in the criminal justice process, which is provided at no cost for those without sufficient means or when the interests of justice so require. Furthermore, “legal aid” is intended to include the concepts of legal education, access to legal information and other services provided for persons through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and restorative justice processes;

(m) A “protective environment” is an environment conducive to ensuring to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child, including physical, mental, spiritual, moral, psychological and social development, in a manner compatible with human dignity;

(n) “Restorative justice programme” means any programme that uses restorative processes and seeks to achieve restorative outcomes;

(o) “Restorative process” means any process in which the victim and the offender and, where appropriate, any other individuals or community members affected by a crime participate actively together in the resolution of matters arising from the crime, generally with the help of a facilitator. Restorative processes may include mediation, conciliation, conferencing and sentencing circles;

(p) “Violence” means all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

Guiding principles

7. In implementing the Model Strategies and Practical Measures at the national level, Member States should be guided by the following principles:

(a) That the inherent rights of the child to life, survival and development are protected;

(b) That the right of the child to have his or her best interests as a primary consideration in all matters involving or affecting him or her is respected, whether the child is a victim or a perpetrator of violence, as well as in all measures of prevention and protection;

(c) That every child is protected from all forms of violence without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status;

(d) That the child is informed of his or her rights in an age-appropriate manner and that the right of the child to be consulted and to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting him or her is fully respected;

(e) That all strategies and measures to prevent and respond to violence against children are designed and implemented from a gender perspective that specifically addresses gender-based violence;

(f) That the specific vulnerabilities of children and the situations they find themselves in, including children in need of special protection and children committing criminal offences under the age of criminal responsibility, should be addressed as part of comprehensive violence prevention strategies and identified as a priority for action;

(g) That measures to protect child victims of violence are non-coercive and do not compromise the rights of these children.

Part one

Prohibiting violence against children, implementing broad prevention measures and promoting research and data collection

8. Child protection should begin with the proactive prevention of violence and the explicit prohibition of all forms of violence. Member States have the duty to take appropriate measures that effectively protect children from all forms of violence.

I. Ensuring the prohibition by law of all forms of violence against children

9. Recognizing the importance of the existence of a sound legal framework which prohibits violence against children and empowers authorities to respond appropriately to incidents of violence, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments, to ensure:

(a) That their laws are comprehensive and effective in prohibiting and eliminating all forms of violence against children and that provisions that justify, allow for or condone violence against children or may increase the risk of violence against children are removed;

(b) That cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of children is prohibited and eliminated in all settings, including schools.

10. Because a countless number of girls and boys fall victim to harmful practices undertaken under different pretexts or grounds, including female genital mutilation or cutting, forced marriage, breast ironing and witchcraft rituals, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To establish by law a clear and comprehensive prohibition of all harmful practices against children, supported by detailed provisions in relevant legislation to secure the effective protection of girls and boys from those practices, to provide means of redress and to fight impunity;

(b) To remove from all national legislation any legal provisions that provide justification or allow for consent to harmful practices against children;

(c) To ensure that resorting to informal justice systems does not jeopardize children's rights or preclude child victims from accessing the formal justice system, and to establish the supremacy of international human rights law.

11. Recognizing the serious nature of many forms of violence against children and the need to criminalize these conducts, Member States should review and update their criminal law to ensure that the following acts are fully covered thereunder:

(a) Engaging in sexual activities with a child who is under the legal age of consent, ensuring as well that an appropriate "age of protection" or "legal age of consent", below which a child cannot legally consent to sexual activity, is set;

(b) Engaging in sexual activities with a child using coercion, force or threats, abusing a position of trust, authority or influence over a child, including within the family, and abusing a particularly vulnerable situation of a child, because of a mental or physical disability or a situation of dependence;

(c) Committing sexual violence against a child, including sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and sexual harassment through or facilitated by the use of new information technologies, including the Internet;

(d) The sale of or trafficking in children for any purpose and in any form;

(e) Offering, delivering or accepting, by whatever means, a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation of the child, transfer of organs of the child for profit or engagement of the child in forced labour;

(f) Offering, obtaining, procuring or providing a child for child prostitution;

(g) Producing, distributing, disseminating, importing, exporting, offering, selling or possessing child pornography;

(h) Slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(i) Committing gender-related violence against a child and, in particular, gender-related killing of girls.

II. Implementing comprehensive prevention programmes

12. General and context-specific measures should be developed by Member States to prevent violence against children. Prevention measures, building on a growing understanding of factors that give rise to violence against children and addressing the risks of violence to which children are exposed, should be part of a comprehensive strategy to eliminate violence against children. Criminal justice agencies, working together with, as appropriate, child protection, social welfare, health and education agencies and civil society organizations, should develop effective violence prevention programmes as part of both broader crime prevention programmes and initiatives to build a protective environment for children.

13. Preventing the victimization of children through all available means should be recognized as a crime prevention priority. Member States are therefore urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To strengthen existing child protection systems and to help to create a protective environment for children;

(b) To adopt measures to prevent violence within the family and the community, address cultural acceptance or tolerance of violence against children, including gender-related violence, and challenge harmful practices;

(c) To encourage and support the development and implementation at every level of government of comprehensive plans for the prevention of violence against children in all of its forms, based on in-depth analysis of the problem and incorporating:

- (i) An inventory of existing policies and programmes;
- (ii) Well-defined responsibilities for the relevant institutions, agencies and personnel involved in preventive measures;
- (iii) Mechanisms for the appropriate coordination of preventive measures between governmental and non-governmental agencies;
- (iv) Evidence-based policies and programmes that are continually monitored and carefully evaluated in the course of implementation;
- (v) Parental capacity-building and family support as the primary preventive measures, while strengthening child protection in school and in the community;
- (vi) Methods for effectively identifying, mitigating and reducing the risk of violence against children;
- (vii) Public awareness-raising and community involvement in prevention policies and programmes;
- (viii) Close interdisciplinary cooperation, with the involvement of all relevant agencies, civil society groups, local and religious leaders and, where relevant, other stakeholders;
- (ix) Participation of children and families in policies and programmes for the prevention of criminal activities and victimization;

(d) To identify the specific vulnerabilities and risks faced by children in different situations and to adopt proactive measures to reduce those risks;

(e) To take appropriate actions to support and protect all children, in particular children in different situations of vulnerability and children in need of special protection;

(f) To be guided by the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime and play a leading role in developing effective crime prevention strategies and in creating and maintaining institutional frameworks for their implementation and review.

14. The risk of violence against children committed by children should be addressed by specific prevention measures, including measures:

(a) To prevent physical, psychological and sexual violence exerted, often through bullying, by children against other children;

(b) To prevent the violence sometimes exerted by groups of children, including violence by youth gangs;

(c) To prevent the recruitment, use and victimization of children by youth gangs;

(d) To identify and protect children, in particular girls, who are linked to gang members and who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation;

(e) To encourage law enforcement agencies to use multi-agency intelligence to proactively profile local risk and, accordingly, to direct enforcement and disruption activity.

15. The risk of violence associated with trafficking in children and various forms of exploitation by criminal groups should be addressed by specific prevention measures, including measures:

(a) To prevent the recruitment, use and victimization of children by criminal groups, terrorist entities or violent extremist groups;

(b) To prevent the sale of children, trafficking in children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(c) To prevent the production, possession and dissemination of images and all other materials that depict, glorify or incite violence against children, including when perpetrated by children, particularly through information technologies, such as the Internet, in particular social networking environments.

16. Broad public education and awareness campaigns are required. Member States, in cooperation with educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, relevant professional associations and the media, are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To implement and support effective public awareness and public education initiatives that prevent violence against children by promoting respect for their rights and by educating their families and communities about the harmful impact of violence;

(b) To raise awareness of how to prevent and respond to violence against children among persons who have regular contact with children in the justice, child protection, social welfare, health and education sectors and in areas relating to sport, culture and leisure activities;

(c) To encourage and support inter-agency cooperation in implementing violence prevention activities and programmes, planning and delivering public information campaigns, training professionals and volunteers, gathering data on the incidence of violence against children, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of programmes and strategies and exchanging information on good practices and lessons learned;

(d) To encourage the private sector, in particular the information and communications technology sector, the tourism and travel industry and the banking and finance sectors, and civil society to participate in the development and implementation of policies to prevent the exploitation and abuse of children;

(e) To encourage the media to contribute to community efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children and to promote changes in social norms that tolerate such violence, and to encourage the establishment of media-led ethical guidelines that will allow child-friendly coverage and reportage on cases involving child victims of abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination, taking into consideration the right of children to privacy;

(f) To involve children, their families, communities, local leaders, religious leaders and criminal justice and

other relevant professionals in discussing the impact and detrimental effects of violence against children and ways to prevent violence and eliminate harmful practices;

(g) To challenge attitudes that condone or normalize violence against children, including the tolerance and acceptance of corporal punishment and harmful practices, and the acceptance of violence.

17. In order to address the vulnerability and the specific risks of violence faced by unaccompanied children, migrant children and children who are refugees or asylum seekers, Member States are urged, as appropriate and without prejudice to their obligations under international law:

(a) To ensure that these children have access to independent assistance, advocacy and advice, that they are always placed in appropriate accommodation and treated in a manner that is fully compatible with their best interests, that they are separated from adults when necessary to protect them and, when applicable, to sever relationships with smugglers and traffickers, and that a legally appointed representative is available from the moment an unaccompanied child is detected by the authorities;

(b) To conduct regular analyses of the nature of the threats faced by these children and to assess their needs for assistance and protection;

(c) To uphold the principle of burden-sharing and solidarity with the host country and to enhance international cooperation.

III. Promoting research and data collection, analysis and dissemination

18. Member States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, relevant entities of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, research institutes, non-governmental organizations and professional associations are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To set up and strengthen mechanisms for the systematic and coordinated collection of data on violence against children, including on violence against children in contact with the justice system;

(b) To monitor and publish periodic reports on cases of violence against children reported to the police and other criminal justice agencies, including the number of cases, apprehension or arrest and clearance rates, prosecution and case disposition with regard to the alleged offenders and the prevalence of violence against children and, in so doing, to make use of data derived from population-based surveys. The reports should disaggregate data by type of violence and include, for example, information on the age and sex of the alleged offender and his or her relationship to the victim;

(c) To develop a multilevel system of reporting, starting from the most basic unit of government to the national level and to allow, in accordance with national legislation, the exchange of relevant information, statistics and data among all relevant institutions to help to ensure comprehensive data gathering for policy and programme development that will promote child protection;

(d) To develop population-based surveys and child-sensitive methodologies aimed at collecting data regarding children, including crime and victimization surveys, to allow for assessment of the nature and extent of violence against children;

(e) To develop and implement indicators relating to the performance of the justice system in preventing and responding to violence against children;

(f) To develop and monitor indicators relating to the prevalence of violence against children in contact with the justice system;

(g) To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system in meeting the needs of child victims of violence and preventing such violence, including with regard to the way in which the justice system treats child victims of violence, the use it makes of different intervention models and the degree to which it cooperates with other agencies responsible for the protection of children, and also to evaluate and assess the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures relating to violence against children;

(h) To collect, analyse and disseminate data on independent inspections of places of detention, access to complaint mechanisms by children in detention and outcomes of complaints and investigations in accordance with the obligations of States under international human rights law;

(i) To use research studies and data collection to inform policy and practice and to exchange and disseminate information concerning successful violence prevention practices;

(j) To encourage and provide sufficient financial support for research on violence against children;

(k) To ensure that data, periodic reports and research are aimed at supporting the efforts of Member States to address violence against children and are used in the framework of constructive cooperation and dialogue with and among Member States.

Part two

Enhancing the ability and capacity of the criminal justice system to respond to violence against children and protect child victims

IV. Establishing effective detection and reporting mechanisms

19. In order to respond to the need to detect and report acts of violence against children, Member States are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To ensure that measures are taken to identify risk factors for different types of violence and identify signs of actual violence in order to trigger appropriate intervention as early as possible;

(b) To ensure that criminal justice professionals who routinely come into contact with children in the course of their work are aware of risk factors and indicators of various forms of violence, in particular at the national level, and that they have received guidance and are trained on how to interpret such indicators and have the knowledge, willingness and ability necessary to take appropriate action, including the provision of immediate protection;

(c) To legally require professionals who routinely come into contact with children in the course of their work to notify appropriate authorities if they suspect that a child is, or is likely to become, a victim of violence;

(d) To ensure that safe child- and gender-sensitive approaches, procedures and complaint, reporting and counselling mechanisms are established by law, are in conformity with the obligations of Member States under

the relevant international human rights instruments, take into account relevant international standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice and are easily accessible to all children and their representative or a third party without fear of reprisal or discrimination;

(e) To ensure that individuals, and in particular children, reporting in good faith alleged incidents of violence against children are protected against all forms of reprisal;

(f) To work with Internet service providers, mobile telephone companies, search engines, public Internet facilities and others to facilitate and, where feasible, enact appropriate legislative measures to ensure the reporting of any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes, defined as child pornography under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child Pornography to the police or other authorized bodies and the blocking of access to websites where such material is available or the deletion of illegal content, and to keep records, in accordance with the law, and preserve evidence for a period of time and as determined by law for the purpose of investigation and prosecution.

V. Offering effective protection to child victims of violence

20. In order to more effectively protect child victims of violence through the criminal justice process and avoid their secondary victimization, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments, to take appropriate measures:

(a) To ensure that laws clearly define the roles and responsibilities of government departments and define standards for the actions of other institutions, services and facilities responsible for the detection of violence against children and the care and protection of children, in particular in cases of domestic violence;

(b) To ensure that police and other law enforcement agencies have, with judicial authorization where required by national law, adequate powers to enter premises and conduct arrests in cases of violence against children and to take immediate measures to ensure the safety of the children;

(c) To ensure that police, prosecutors, judges and all other relevant professionals who may be in contact with child victims respond promptly to incidents of violence against children and that relevant cases are managed expeditiously and efficiently;

(d) To ensure that criminal justice and other relevant professionals, in dealing with cases of child victims of violence, pay particular attention to child- and gender-sensitive approaches, including through the use of modern technologies in different stages of criminal investigations and criminal proceedings;

(e) To ensure that national standards, procedures and protocols are developed and implemented among relevant national actors in order to respond with sensitivity to child victims of violence whose physical or psychological integrity remains at serious risk and requires their urgent removal from the dangerous context, and that temporary protection and care are provided in an appropriate place of

safety pending a full determination of the best interests of the child;

(f) To ensure that the police, courts and other competent authorities have the legal authority to issue and enforce protection measures such as restraining or barring orders in cases of violence against children, including removal of the perpetrator from the domicile and prohibiting further contact with the victim and other affected parties inside and outside the domicile, as well as to impose penalties for breaches of those orders in accordance with national legislation, and to ensure that, when the child victim of violence remains under the care and protection of the non-abusive parent, the parent can safeguard the child and that such protective measures are not dependent on the initiation of criminal proceedings;

(g) To ensure that a registration system is established for judicial protection and restraining or barring orders, where such orders are permitted by national law, so that police and other criminal justice officials can quickly determine whether such an order is in force;

(h) To ensure that an informal or mediated settlement of cases involving violence against children takes place only when it is in the best interests of the child, and does not involve harmful practices, such as forced marriage, taking into account any power imbalance and the vulnerability of the child or his or her family in consenting to a settlement, with due regard for any future risk to the safety of the child or other children;

(i) To ensure that child victims of violence and their families have access to appropriate mechanisms or procedures in order to obtain redress and reparation, including from the State, and that relevant information about those mechanisms is publicized and easily accessible.

21. Recognizing the fact that, for prosecutions to be effective, it is often necessary for child victims of violence to participate in the criminal justice process, that in some jurisdictions children can be required or compelled to testify and that these children are vulnerable and in need of special protection, assistance and support in order to prevent further hardship and trauma that may result from their participation in the criminal justice process, Member States are required in this regard to ensure that the child's privacy is fully respected at all stages of the proceedings and are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To ensure the availability for children of special services, physical and mental health care and protection that take into account gender and are appropriate to the age, level of maturity and needs of the child in order to prevent further hardship and trauma and promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims of violence;

(b) To ensure that children who have been subjected to sexual abuse, and especially girls who have become pregnant or children living with HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases as a result of the abuse, receive age-appropriate medical advice and counselling and are provided with the requisite physical and mental health care and support;

(c) To ensure that child victims receive assistance from support persons commencing at the initial report and continuing until such services are no longer required;

(d) To ensure that professionals who are responsible for assisting child victims make every effort to coordinate support to avoid unnecessary procedures and limit the number of interviews.

VI. Ensuring effective investigation and prosecution of incidents of violence against children

22. In order to effectively investigate and prosecute incidents of violence against children and bring the perpetrators to justice, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To ensure that the primary responsibility for initiating investigations and prosecutions lies with the police, the prosecution and other competent authorities and does not require an official complaint to be filed by the child victim of violence or a parent or legal guardian of the child;

(b) To adopt and implement policies and programmes aimed at guiding all decisions concerning the prosecution of offences of violence against children and ensuring the fairness, integrity and effectiveness of such decisions;

(c) To ensure that the applicable laws, policies, procedures, programmes and practices related to violence against children are consistently and effectively implemented by the criminal justice system;

(d) To ensure that child-sensitive investigation procedures are adopted and implemented so as to ensure that violence against children is correctly identified and to help provide evidence for administrative, civil and criminal proceedings, while according due assistance to children with special needs;

(e) To develop and implement policies and appropriate responses regarding the investigation and collection of evidence, in particular bodily samples, that take into account the needs and views of child victims of violence in accordance with the age and maturity of child victims, respect their dignity and integrity and minimize intrusion into their lives, while abiding by national standards for the collection of evidence;

(f) To ensure that the persons investigating alleged incidents of violence against children have the duty, powers and necessary authorization to obtain all the information necessary to the investigation, in accordance with criminal procedure as laid out in national law, and have at their disposal all the budgetary and technical resources necessary for effective investigation;

(g) To ensure that great care is taken to avoid subjecting a child victim of violence to further harm through the process of the investigation, including by inviting and giving due weight to the child's views in accordance with the age and maturity of the child and adopting child-sensitive and gender-sensitive investigation and prosecution practices;

(h) To ensure that decisions on the apprehension or arrest, detention and terms of any form of release of an alleged perpetrator of violence against a child take into account the need for the safety of the child and others related to the child, and that such procedures also prevent further acts of violence.

VII. Enhancing cooperation among various sectors

23. Acknowledging the complementary roles of the criminal justice system, child protection agencies, health, education and social service sectors and, in some cases, informal justice systems in creating a protective environment and preventing and responding to incidents of violence against children, Member States are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To ensure effective coordination and cooperation among the criminal justice, child protection, social welfare,

health and education sectors in detecting, reporting and responding to violence against children and protecting and assisting child victims;

(b) To establish stronger operational links, particularly in emergency situations, between health and social service agencies, both public and private, and criminal justice agencies for the purposes of reporting, recording and responding appropriately to acts of violence against children, while protecting the privacy of child victims of violence;

(c) To establish stronger links between informal justice systems and justice and child protection institutions;

(d) To develop information systems and inter-agency protocols to facilitate the exchange of information and enable cooperation in identifying incidents of violence against children, responding to them, protecting child victims of violence and holding perpetrators accountable, in accordance with national laws on data protection;

(e) To ensure that violent acts against children, when suspected by health and social services or child protection agencies, are promptly reported to the police and other law enforcement agencies;

(f) To promote the establishment of specialized units specifically trained to deal with the complexities and sensitivities relating to child victims of violence, from which victims can receive comprehensive assistance, protection and intervention services, including health and social services, legal aid and police assistance and protection;

(g) To ensure that adequate medical, psychological, social and legal services sensitive to the needs of child victims of violence are in place to enhance the criminal justice management of cases involving violence against children, to encourage the development of specialized health services, including comprehensive, free and confidential forensic examinations by trained health providers and appropriate treatment, including HIV-specific treatment, and to facilitate and support inter-agency referrals of child victims for services;

(h) To provide support to children whose parents or caregivers are deprived of liberty in order to prevent and address the risk of violence such children may be exposed to as a result of the parents' or caregiver's actions or situation.

VIII. Improving criminal proceedings in matters involving child victims of violence

24. With respect to criminal proceedings in matters involving child victims of violence, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To ensure that comprehensive services are provided and protection measures are taken to ensure the safety, privacy and dignity of victims and their families at all stages of the criminal justice process, without prejudice to the ability or willingness of the victim to participate in an investigation or prosecution, and to protect them from intimidation and retaliation;

(b) To ensure that the child's views are given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, that the child is provided the opportunity to participate fully in any judicial and administrative proceedings, that every child is treated as a capable witness and that his or her testimony is not presumed to be invalid or untrustworthy by reason of the child's age alone, as long as the court or other competent authority deems that his

or her age and maturity allow the giving of intelligible and credible testimony, with or without communication aids and other assistance;

(c) To ensure, in appropriate cases, that child victims of violence are not required to testify as part of the criminal justice process without the knowledge of their parents or legal guardians, that a child's refusal to testify does not constitute a criminal or other offence and that child victims of violence are able to testify in criminal proceedings through adequate measures and child-friendly practices that facilitate such testimony by protecting their privacy, identity and dignity, ensuring their safety before, during and after legal proceedings, avoiding secondary victimization and respecting their need and legal right to be heard while recognizing the legal rights of the accused;

(d) To ensure that child victims of violence, their parents or legal guardians and legal representatives, from the first contact with the justice system and throughout the judicial proceedings, are promptly and adequately informed of, *inter alia*, the rights of the child, the relevant procedures, available legal aid and the progress and disposition of the specific case;

(e) To ensure that the child victim's parents or legal guardian and, where appropriate, a child protection professional accompany the child during interviews conducted as part of the investigation and during trial proceedings, *inter alia*, while testifying as a witness, except in the following circumstances, as dictated by the best interests of the child:

- (i) The parent(s) or the legal guardian are the alleged perpetrator(s) of the offence committed against the child;
- (ii) The court deems that it is not in the best interests of the child to be accompanied by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian, including on the basis of credible concern expressed by the child;

(f) To ensure that proceedings relevant to the testimony of the child are explained to the child and conducted in language that is simple and comprehensible to the child and that interpretation into language that the child understands is made available;

(g) To protect the privacy of child victims of violence as a matter of primary importance, to protect them from undue exposure to the public, for example by excluding the public and the media from the courtroom during the child's testimony, and to protect information relating to a child's involvement in the justice process by maintaining confidentiality and restricting disclosure of information that may lead to identification of the child;

(h) To ensure, within the framework of national legal systems, that criminal proceedings involving child victims take place as soon as possible, unless delays are in the child's best interest;

(i) To provide for the use of child-sensitive procedures, including interview rooms designed for children, interdisciplinary services for child victims integrated within the same location, modified court environments that take child witnesses into consideration, recesses during a child's testimony, hearings scheduled at times of day appropriate to the age and maturity of the child, an appropriate notification system to ensure that the child goes to court only when necessary and other appropriate measures to facilitate the child's testimony;

(j) To ensure that, when child victims of violence may be the subject of intimidation, threats or harm, appropriate

conditions are put in place to ensure their safety and that protective measures are taken, such as:

- (i) Preventing direct contact between a child victim and the accused at any point during the criminal justice process;
- (ii) Requesting restraining orders from a competent court, supported by a registry system;
- (iii) Requesting a pretrial detention order for the accused from a competent court, with "no contact" bail conditions;
- (iv) Requesting an order from a competent court to place the accused under house arrest if necessary;
- (v) Requesting protection for a child victim by the police or other relevant agencies and safeguarding the whereabouts of the child from disclosure.

25. Recognizing the serious nature of violence against children and taking into account the severity of the physical and psychological harm caused to child victims, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments, to ensure, when informal justice systems are resorted to, that violence against children is appropriately denounced and deterred, that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable for their actions and that redress, support and compensation for child victims is provided.

26. Recognizing that measures to protect and assist child victims of violence must continue after the person accused of that violence has been convicted and sentenced, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To ensure the right of a child victim of violence, or his or her parents or legal guardian, to be notified of the offender's release from detention or imprisonment if they so wish;

(b) To develop, implement and evaluate treatment and reintegration and rehabilitation programmes for those convicted of violence against children that prioritize the safety of victims and the prevention of recidivism;

(c) To ensure that judicial and correctional authorities, as appropriate, monitor compliance by perpetrators with any treatment or other court order;

(d) To ensure that the risk to a child victim of violence and the best interests of that child are considered at the time of making decisions concerning the release of the offender from detention or imprisonment or the re-entry of the offender into society.

IX. Ensuring that sentencing reflects the serious nature of violence against children

27. Recognizing the serious nature of violence against children, while taking into account the fact that the perpetrators of that violence may also be children, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To ensure that offences involving violence against children are, by law, punishable by appropriate penalties that take into account their grave nature;

(b) To ensure that national law takes into account specific factors which may aggravate a crime, including the age of the victim, the fact that the victim is severely handicapped mentally or intellectually, repeated violent acts, abuse of a position of trust or authority and perpetra-

tion of violence against a child in a close relationship with the offender;

(c) To ensure that people who commit acts of violence against children while under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other substances are not exempt from criminal responsibility;

(d) To ensure that individuals can be prohibited or restrained by a court order or other means, within the framework of the national legal system, from harassing, intimidating or threatening children;

(e) To ensure that safety risks, including the vulnerability of victims, are taken into account in decisions concerning non-custodial sentences, bail, conditional release, parole or probation, especially when dealing with repeat and dangerous offenders;

(f) To make available to the courts, through legislation, a full range of sentencing dispositions to protect the victim, other affected persons and society from further violence, and to rehabilitate the perpetrator, as appropriate;

(g) To review and update national law to ensure that the decisions made by the courts in cases involving violent offences against children:

- (i) Denounce and deter violence against children;
- (ii) Hold offenders accountable, with due regard to their age and maturity, for their acts involving violence against children;
- (iii) Promote victim and community safety, including by separating the offender from the victim and, if necessary, from society;
- (iv) Allow for the severity of the physical and psychological harm caused to the victim to be taken into consideration;
- (v) Take into account the impact on victims and, if affected, their family members, of sentences imposed on perpetrators;
- (vi) Provide reparations for harm caused as a result of the violence;
- (vii) Promote the rehabilitation of the perpetrator, including by promoting a sense of responsibility in offenders and, where appropriate, rehabilitating and reintegrating perpetrators into the community.

X. Strengthening capacity and training of criminal justice professionals

28. Recognizing the responsibility of criminal justice professionals to prevent and respond to violence against children and to protect child victims of violence, as well as the need to facilitate and support this role, Member States are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To take measures and allocate adequate resources to develop the capacity of professionals within the criminal justice system to actively prevent violence against children and to protect and assist child victims of violence;

(b) To enable close cooperation, coordination and collaboration between criminal justice officials and other relevant professionals, especially those from the child protection, social welfare, health and education sectors;

(c) To design and implement training programmes for criminal justice professionals on the rights of the child, in particular on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international human rights law, and to provide information on appropriate ways to deal with all children, in particular those who might be subject to discrimination, and to

educate criminal justice professionals about the stages of child development, the process of cognitive development, the dynamics and nature of violence against children, the difference between regular peer groups and gangs, and the appropriate management of children who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs;

(d) To design and deliver guidance, information and training to informal justice system actors in order to ensure that their practices, legal interpretations and decisions comply with international human rights law and effectively protect children against all forms of violence;

(e) To design and implement mandatory, cross-cultural gender- and child-sensitivity training modules for criminal justice professionals on the unacceptability of all forms of violence against children and on the harmful impact on and consequences for all those who experience such violence;

(f) To ensure that criminal justice professionals receive adequate training and continuing education on all relevant national laws, policies and programmes, as well as relevant international legal instruments;

(g) To promote the development and use of specialized expertise among criminal justice professionals, including through the establishment, where possible, of specialized units or personnel and specialized courts or dedicated court time, and to ensure that all police officers, prosecutors, judges and other criminal justice professionals receive regular and institutionalized training to sensitize them to gender- and child-related issues and to build their capacity with regard to responding to violence against children;

(h) To ensure that criminal justice officials and other relevant authorities are adequately trained in their respective areas of competence:

- (i) To identify and respond appropriately to the specific needs of child victims of violence;
- (ii) To receive and treat all child victims of violence respectfully, with a view to preventing secondary victimization;
- (iii) To handle complaints confidentially;
- (iv) To conduct effective investigations of alleged incidents of violence against children;
- (v) To interact with child victims in an age-appropriate and child- and gender-sensitive manner;
- (vi) To conduct safety assessments and implement risk management measures;
- (vii) To enforce protection orders;
- (i) To support the development of codes of conduct for criminal justice professionals that prohibit violence against children, including safe complaint and referral procedures, and to encourage relevant professional associations to develop enforceable standards of practice and behaviour.

Part three

Preventing and responding to violence against children within the justice system

XI. Reducing the number of children in contact with the justice system

29. Recognizing the importance of avoiding the unnecessary criminalization and penalization of children, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments, to ensure that any conduct not considered a

criminal offence or not penalized if committed by an adult is also not considered a criminal offence and not penalized if committed by a child, in order to prevent the child's stigmatization, victimization and criminalization.

30. In this regard, Member States are encouraged not to set the minimum age of criminal responsibility at too low an age level, bearing in mind the emotional, mental and intellectual maturity of children, and in this respect reference is made to the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to increase the lower minimum age of criminal responsibility without exception to the age of 12 years as the absolute minimum age, and to continue to increase it to a higher age level.

31. Recognizing that an important and highly effective way of reducing the number of children in the justice system is through diversion measures, restorative justice programmes and the use of non-coercive treatment and education programmes as alternative measures to judicial proceedings, as well as the provision of support for families, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To consider diversion to community-based programmes and to provide police and other law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges with options for diverting children away from the justice system, including warning and community work, to be applied in combination with restorative justice processes;

(b) To foster close cooperation among the justice, child protection, social welfare, health and education sectors, so as to promote the use and enhanced application of alternative measures to judicial proceedings and to detention;

(c) To consider designing and implementing restorative justice programmes for children as alternative measures to judicial proceedings;

(d) To consider the use of non-coercive treatment, education and assistance programmes as alternative measures to judicial proceedings and the development of alternative non-custodial interventions and effective social reintegration programmes.

XII. Preventing violence associated with law enforcement and prosecution activities

32. Mindful of the fact that police and other security forces can sometimes be responsible for acts of violence against children, Member States are urged, while taking into consideration relevant international legal instruments, to prevent abuse of power, arbitrary detention, corruption and extortion by police officers who target children and their families.

33. Member States are urged to effectively prohibit the use of all forms of violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to obtain information, extract confessions, coerce a child into acting as an informant or agent for the police, or engage a child in activities against his or her will.

34. Mindful of the fact that arrests and investigations are situations in which violence against children can occur, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To ensure that all arrests are conducted in conformity with the law, to limit the apprehension, arrest and detention of children to situations in which these measures

are necessary as a last resort, and to promote and implement, where possible, alternatives to arrest and detention, including summonses and notices to appear, in cases involving children as alleged perpetrators;

(b) To implement the principle that the apprehension or arrest of children should be conducted in a child-sensitive manner;

(c) To prohibit the use of firearms, electric shock weapons and violent methods to apprehend and arrest children, and to adopt measures and procedures that carefully limit and guide the use of force and instruments of restraint by the police while apprehending or arresting children;

(d) To require, ensure and monitor police compliance with the obligation to notify parents, legal guardians or caregivers immediately following the apprehension or arrest of a child;

(e) To ensure that, when considering whether a parent, legal guardian, legal representative or responsible adult or, when necessary, a child protection professional is to be present at, or to observe a child during, the interview or interrogation process, the best interests of the child as well as other relevant factors are taken into consideration;

(f) To ensure that children are informed of their rights and have prompt access to legal aid during police interrogation and while in police detention, and that they may consult their legal representative freely and fully confidentially;

(g) To review, evaluate and, where necessary, update national laws, policies, codes, procedures, programmes and practices to implement policies and strict procedures for searching children while respecting their privacy and dignity, for taking intimate and non-intimate samples from child suspects and for assessing the age and gender of a child;

(h) To implement measures to specifically prevent violence related to unlawful practices by the police, including arbitrary arrests and detention and extrajudicial punishment of children for unlawful or unwanted behaviours;

(i) To establish accessible, child-appropriate and safe procedures for children to complain about incidents of violence during their arrest or interrogation or while in police custody;

(j) To ensure that alleged incidents of violence against children during their contact with the police are independently, promptly and effectively investigated and that those alleged to have been implicated in violence against children are removed from any position of control or power, whether direct or indirect, over complainants, witnesses and their families, as well as those conducting the investigation;

(k) To take measures to address the risk of violence and protect children during their transport to a court, hospital or other facility, including the risk of violence while being held in court holding cells together with adults;

(l) To ensure that, when a parent, legal guardian or caregiver is arrested, the child's best interests, care and other needs are taken into account.

XIII. Ensuring that deprivation of liberty is used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time

35. Recognizing that limiting the use of detention as a sentence and encouraging the use of alternatives to deten-

tion can help to reduce the risk of violence against children within the justice system, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) Not to deprive children of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily and, in cases of deprivation of liberty, to ensure that it is in conformity with the law and used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

(b) To ensure that children have continued access to government-funded legal aid during all stages of the justice process;

(c) To ensure that children can exercise their right to appeal a sentence and obtain the legal aid necessary to do so;

(d) To provide for the possibility of early release and make available aftercare and social reintegration programmes and services;

(e) To facilitate professional specialization, or at least specialized training, for criminal justice professionals dealing with children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law.

XIV. Prohibiting torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

36. Recognizing that no child should be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Member States are urged:

(a) To review, evaluate and, where necessary, update their national laws to effectively prohibit sentences involving any form of corporal punishment for crimes committed by children;

(b) To review, evaluate and, where necessary, update their national laws to ensure that, under legislation and practice, neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without the possibility of release is imposed for offences committed by persons when they were under 18 years of age.

XV. Preventing and responding to violence against children in places of detention

37. Recognizing that the majority of children deprived of their liberty are in police custody or pretrial or preventive detention and that those children might be at risk of violence, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To ensure that children in police custody or pretrial or preventive detention can promptly appear before a court or tribunal to challenge that detention and that they have an opportunity to be heard either directly or through a representative or an appropriate body in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law, in order to obtain a prompt decision on any such action;

(b) To reduce delays in the justice process, to expedite trials and other proceedings involving children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law, and to avoid the resulting prolonged or arbitrary detention of children while they await trial or the conclusion of a police investigation;

(c) To ensure the effective oversight and independent monitoring of all cases of police custody or pretrial or preventive detention of children;

(d) To endeavour to reduce pretrial detention by, inter alia, adopting legislative and administrative measures and policies on its preconditions, limitations, duration and alternatives and by taking measures aimed at the implementation of existing legislation, as well as by ensuring access to justice and legal aid.

38. Recognizing that, when children must be detained, the conditions of detention themselves can be conducive to various forms of violence against children, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To ensure that all detention facilities have adopted and implemented child-sensitive policies, procedures and practices, and to monitor compliance with them;

(b) To establish a maximum capacity for all places of detention and take concrete and sustained measures to address and reduce overcrowding in such institutions;

(c) To ensure that, in all places of detention, children are separated from adults and girls are separated from boys;

(d) To promote good practices in order to strengthen the protection and safety of children living in custody with an incarcerated parent, including consultation with the parents to determine their views regarding their child's care during the period of custody and the provision of special mother-and-child units or, where parents are detained for violation of immigration laws, separate family units in order to identify their special needs and accordingly provide appropriate protection;

(e) To facilitate the assessment and classification of children held in detention facilities in order to identify their special needs and accordingly provide appropriate protection and individualize treatment and interventions, including with respect to the specific needs of girls, and to ensure that there is a sufficient array of facilities to accommodate and adequately protect children of different ages or with differing needs;

(f) To ensure that treatment and support is offered to detained children with special needs, including to girls who are pregnant, give birth and/or raise children in detention, and that treatment for mental illness, disabilities, HIV/AIDS and other communicable and non-communicable diseases and drug addiction is offered, and to address the needs of children at risk of committing suicide or other forms of self-harm;

(g) To ensure that appropriate care and protection is provided to children accompanying a parent or legal guardian deprived of liberty on any ground, including for a violation of immigration law;

(h) To review, update and improve safety and security policies and practices within places of detention to reflect the obligation of the authorities to ensure the safety of children and protect them against all forms of violence, including violence among children;

(i) To prevent all forms of discrimination against or ostracism or stigmatization of detained children;

(j) To take strict measures to ensure that all alleged incidents of violence, including sexual abuse of children in a place of detention, are immediately reported and independently, promptly and effectively investigated by appropriate authorities and, when well founded, effectively prosecuted.

39. Recognizing also that it is imperative to minimize the risk of violence against children in detention, Member

States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To ensure that children in detention and their parents and/or legal guardians are aware of their rights and can access the mechanisms in place to protect those rights, including access to legal aid;

(b) To prohibit the use of placement in a dark cell or closed or solitary confinement or any other punishment that may compromise the physical or mental health of a child;

(c) To adopt and implement strict policies guiding the use of force and physical restraints on children during their detention;

(d) To adopt policies prohibiting the carrying and use of weapons by personnel in any facility where children are detained;

(e) To prohibit and effectively prevent the use of corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure, to adopt clear and transparent disciplinary policies and procedures that encourage the use of positive and educational forms of discipline and to establish in law the duty of managers and personnel of detention facilities to record, review and monitor every instance in which disciplinary measures or punishment are used;

(f) To prohibit any form of violence or threats of violence against children by staff of places of detention in order to force children to engage in activities against their will;

(g) To ensure the effective supervision and protection of children, as necessary, from violence by other children and adults, including through measures to prevent bullying by adults and by other children, and from self-harm;

(h) To prevent violence associated with youth gang activities and racist harassment and violence within places of detention;

(i) To encourage and facilitate, wherever possible and in the best interests of the child, frequent family visits and regular contact and communication between children and their family members, as well as with the outside world, and to ensure that disciplinary sanctions for detained children do not include a prohibition of contact with family members;

(j) To prevent violence against and abuse of children suffering from mental illness or drug addiction, including through treatment and other measures to protect them from self-harm.

40. Recognizing the importance of preventing violence against children through appropriate staff recruitment, selection, training and supervision, Member States are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To ensure that all personnel working with children in places of detention are qualified, selected on the basis of professional capacity, integrity, ability and personal suitability, sufficiently remunerated, adequately trained and effectively supervised;

(b) To ensure that any person who has been convicted of a criminal offence against a child is not eligible to work in an agency or organization providing services to children, and to require agencies and organizations providing services to children to prevent persons who have been convicted of a criminal offence against a child from coming into contact with children;

(c) To train all personnel and make them aware of their responsibility to identify early signs of risks of violence and mitigate that risk, to report incidents of violence against

children and to actively protect children against violence in an ethical and child- and gender-sensitive manner.

41. Taking into account the distinctive needs of girls and their vulnerability to gender-based violence, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To eliminate the risk of all forms of harassment, violence and discrimination against girls;

(b) To ensure that the special needs and vulnerabilities of girls are taken into account in decision-making processes;

(c) To ensure that the dignity of girls is respected and protected during personal searches, which shall only be carried out by female staff who have been properly trained in appropriate searching methods and in accordance with established procedures;

(d) To implement alternative screening methods, such as scans, to replace strip searches and invasive body searches in order to avoid the harmful psychological and possible physical impact of such searches;

(e) To adopt and implement clear policies and regulations on the conduct of staff aimed at providing maximum protection for girls deprived of their liberty from any physical or verbal violence, abuse or sexual harassment.

42. Recognizing the crucial importance of independent monitoring and inspection mechanisms, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To ensure effective monitoring of, regular access to and inspection of places of detention and community-based institutions by national independent bodies and national human rights institutions, ombudspersons or members of the judiciary, who are empowered to conduct unannounced visits, conduct interviews with children and staff in private and investigate allegations of violence;

(b) To ensure that they cooperate with relevant international and regional monitoring mechanisms that are legally entitled to visit institutions in which children are deprived of their liberty;

(c) To promote international cooperation with regard to best practices and lessons learned related to national monitoring and inspection mechanisms;

(d) To ensure that all deaths of children in detention facilities are reported and promptly and independently investigated, and to promptly endeavour, as appropriate, to investigate injuries suffered by children and ensure that their parents, legal guardian or closest relatives are informed.

XVI. Detecting, assisting and protecting children who are victims of violence as a result of their involvement with the justice system as alleged or sentenced offenders

43. Given the crucial importance of providing children who report abuse and incidents of violence within the justice system with immediate protection, support and counselling, Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international human rights instruments:

(a) To establish complaint mechanisms for child victims of violence within the justice system that are safe, confidential, effective and easily accessible;

(b) To ensure that children receive clear information, in particular when they first arrive in a place of detention, both verbally and in writing, about their rights, relevant

procedures, how they can exercise their right to be heard and listened to, effective remedies to address incidents of violence and available services for assistance and support, as well as information on seeking compensation for damages, that such information is age- and culturally appropriate and child- and gender-sensitive, and that parents and legal guardians are equally provided with relevant information on these measures;

(c) To protect children who report abuse, specifically taking into account the risks of retaliation, including by removing those allegedly implicated in violence against or ill-treatment of children from any position of control or power, whether direct or indirect, over complainants, witnesses and their families, and those conducting the investigation;

(d) To take effective measures to protect children who provide information or act as witnesses in proceedings related to a case involving violence within the justice system;

(e) To provide access to fair, prompt and equitable redress mechanisms and accessible procedures for seeking and obtaining compensation for child victims of violence in the justice system, and to endeavour to adequately fund victim compensation schemes.

44. Recognizing the importance of detecting and responding to all incidents of violence against children as a result of their involvement with the justice system as alleged or sentenced offenders, Member States are urged, as appropriate:

(a) To ensure that laws establishing obligations to report violence against children in the justice system respect children's rights and are incorporated into the relevant regulations of agencies and rules of conduct, and that all those working with children have clear guidance on reporting requirements and consequences;

(b) To implement protection measures for staff who report in good faith alleged incidents of violence against children, and to adopt rules and procedures that protect the identity of professionals and private individuals who bring cases of violence against children to the attention of the competent authorities;

(c) To ensure the prompt, independent and effective investigation of all alleged incidents of violence against children involved with the justice system, as alleged or sentenced offenders, by competent and independent authorities, including medical personnel, with full respect for the principle of confidentiality.

XVII. Strengthening accountability and oversight mechanisms

45. Member States are urged to take all appropriate measures to combat impunity and the tolerance of violence against children within the justice system, including through awareness-raising programmes, education and effective prosecution of violent offences committed against children within the justice system.

46. Member States are encouraged to ensure that there is a clear and sustained commitment and obligation at all levels of justice institutions to prevent and address violence against children, including in a child- and gender-sensitive manner.

47. Member States are urged, as appropriate and while taking into consideration relevant international legal instruments:

(a) To promote accountability for incidents of violence against children in the justice system, including by adopt-

ing and implementing effective measures to enhance integrity and prevent corruption;

(b) To establish internal and external accountability mechanisms in policing and in places of detention;

(c) To establish all key elements of an effective accountability system, including independent national oversight, monitoring and complaint mechanisms for agencies dealing with children;

(d) To ensure the independent, prompt and effective investigation and prosecution of offences involving violence against children within the justice system;

(e) To ensure that all public officials who are found to be responsible for violence against children are held accountable through workplace disciplinary measures, termination of employment and criminal justice investigations, where appropriate;

(f) To promote transparency and public accountability regarding all measures taken to hold accountable perpetrators of violence and those who are responsible for preventing such violence;

(g) To undertake criminal or other public investigations into all serious reports of violence against children at any stage of the justice process, and to ensure that such investigations are carried out by persons of integrity, are adequately funded and are completed without undue delay.

Strengthening social policies for crime prevention

During the regular part of its twenty-third (2014) session, CCPCJ considered and approved for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution on the issue of strengthening social policies as a tool for crime prevention (see below). In doing so, participants highlighted the importance of tailored approaches for youth and the potential of social policies with regard to effective crime prevention strategies and programmes.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 16 July [meeting 45], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice [E/2014/30], adopted **resolution 2014/21** without vote [agenda item 17 (c)].

Strengthening social policies as a tool for crime prevention

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the importance of adopting effective policies, programmes and actions to prevent and confront crime, violence and insecurity, including measures for the protection of individuals and groups in vulnerable situations,

Recognizing the importance of integrating crime prevention considerations into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, placing particular emphasis on communities, families, children and youth,

Recognizing also that States should encourage partnerships between all appropriate levels of government and relevant stakeholders within civil society, aimed at ensuring the strengthening and sustainability of effective crime prevention

strategies, programmes and initiatives, as appropriate, and at promoting a culture of peace and non-violence,

Emphasizing that public security policies should encourage measures for addressing the multiple causes of crime, violence and insecurity,

Recognizing that the development and adoption of crime prevention policies and programmes and their monitoring and evaluation are the responsibility of States, and reaffirming that such efforts should be based on a participatory, collaborative and integrated approach that involves all relevant stakeholders, including those from civil society,

Recognizing also the importance of strengthening public-private partnerships in preventing crime in all its forms and manifestations, through joint and coordinated programmes,

Mindful of the prevention provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as relevant standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines), the guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention, the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime and the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the area of crime prevention, including the development of technical tools and the provision of technical assistance to requesting Member States, in particular in the field of statistics and data collection and analysis in support of violence and crime prevention policies,

Underlining the need for all States to implement in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner crime prevention strategies, policies and programmes that address the multiple risk factors of both crime and victimization, based on the best available evidence and good practices, as an integral element of strategies to foster comprehensive social and economic development,

1. *Encourages* Member States to develop and implement, as appropriate, comprehensive policies and programmes that, by fostering social development, are aimed at the prevention of crime and violence and that address the multiple factors that contribute to crime and victimization, in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, and based on available evidence and good practices;

2. *Invites* Member States to consider, when developing crime prevention programmes, such issues as social inclusion, the strengthening of the social fabric, access to justice, social reintegration of offenders and access to health and education services, to consider the needs of victims of crime when developing those programmes, and to promote a culture of lawfulness and the well-being of individuals, with a particular emphasis on children and youth;

3. *Encourages* Member States to review and update, where appropriate, existing crime prevention strategies and to ensure that their effectiveness is measurable, in order to respond to the needs of the population and society as a whole;

4. *Urges* Member States to create and implement crime prevention policies and programmes designed to promote, inter alia, the participation of youth in achieving safer and more just, democratic and cohesive societies;

5. *Invites* Member States to exchange successful experiences and best practices in crime prevention with other Member States, thus promoting regional cooperation and coordination in crime prevention, with a view to addressing shared challenges through a comprehensive approach, in order to achieve significant long-term progress in this field;

6. *Encourages* Member States to coordinate crime prevention measures by assigning them to appropriate government bodies or, as necessary, creating a dedicated body that addresses and studies ways of strengthening social policies for crime prevention;

7. *Commends* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its development of tools and facilitation of technical assistance programmes, urges the Office to continue to strengthen such programmes, and calls upon the Organization, upon request by Member States, to support the sharing of successful experiences and best practices between Member States;

8. *Recommends* that, in order to deepen cooperation and coordination among Member States, the issue of social policies for the prevention of violence and crime should be included as a matter of particular importance within the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

9. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Strengthening the goAML system

Commission action. On 16 May [E/2014/30 (res. 23/3)], the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice acknowledged the results achieved by Member States through the use of the goAML (Anti-Money-Laundering) software system, a product of the UNODC Information and Technology Service available for financial intelligence units and developed within the framework of the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism. It encouraged Member States to combat money-laundering, the financing of terrorism, corruption and transnational organized crime through implementation of financial intelligence tools such as goAML, and to consider the identification and use of specialized financial intelligence software systems on the basis of their national needs. The Commission requested UNODC to support States by continuing the development, implementation and maintenance of the goAML software within its operational and funding modalities, and requested the UNODC Executive Director to report to the Commission at its twenty-fourth (2015) session on progress made in that regard.

Statistics

In 2014, the United Nations continued its work on various aspects of statistics, mainly through the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In January, the General Assembly stressed the critical role of high-quality official statistical information in informed policy decision-making and endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. In March, the Statistical Commission welcomed the first draft of guidelines on how to strengthen implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as presented by the Friends of the Chair group. The Commission asked the Friends of the Chair group to continue working on the matter and invited countries to contribute to the implementation guidelines by submitting comments and good practices. The Commission also established a technical committee responsible for advancing the research agenda of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework; established the Friends of the Chair group to carry out the evaluation of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme; welcomed the progress made in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen statistics through regional cooperation; and stressed the importance of the effective coordination of UN statistical activities and endorsed the proposal that UN chief statisticians hold regular meetings. The Commission further decided to celebrate the next World Statistics Day (20 October 2015) under the general theme of “Statistics for better decision-making—statistics for better development/life”.

Statistical Commission

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/235 [YUN 2013, p. 1260], the Statistical Commission held its forty-fifth session in New York from 4 to 7 March [E/2014/24]. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision on the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session and the provisional agenda and dates for its forty-sixth (2015) session.

The Commission brought to the Council’s attention decisions on implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; programme review; environmental-economic accounting; international trade and economic globalization statistics; information and communications technology

for development; the international comparison programme; disability statistics; big data and modernization of statistical systems; UN Statistics Division publications; coordination of statistical activities in the UN system; World Statistics Day; and regional statistical development. It took note of 18 reports considered during the session [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], as well as the oral report presented by the Acting Director of the UN Statistics Division concerning the Division’s activities, plans and priorities and the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2016–2017 [dec. 45/115].

The Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report [E/CN.3/2014/3] of the Bureau on the review of the Commission’s working methods. The report contained a series of recommendations for the Commission to consider in deciding on appropriate changes in its working methods.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/102)], the Statistical Commission supported the Bureau’s recommendation to strengthen the role of the Bureau in playing an active role in the intersession period, consulting with and informing countries and international organizations; and invited the Bureau to implement the main recommendations for the next session of the Commission.

On 13 June, by **decision 2014/219**, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session; decided that the forty-sixth session would be held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2015; and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for that session.

Demographic and social statistics

Population and housing censuses

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/235, the Secretary-General reported [E/CN.3/2014/16] on the progress of the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme during the period 2010–2013; the revision of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*; and the release of the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3*.

At the end of November 2013, 205 countries or areas in the world had conducted a population and housing census, which represented the enumeration of more than 91 per cent of the world population. It was estimated that coverage would increase to 97 per cent by the end of the census round, which spanned

from 2005 to 2014. In preparation for the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, the Statistics Division organized the first (New York, 29 October–1 November 2013) and second (New York, 29 April–2 May 2014) Expert Group Meetings on Revising the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*. Participants agreed that the third revision of that international statistical standard would be submitted to the Statistical Commission for adoption in February 2015.

In February 2013, the Statistics Division finalized the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3*, the major international statistical standard for civil registration and vital statistics. The Division also maintained a civil registration and vital statistical knowledge centre to facilitate the international exchange and sharing of knowledge and information on civil registration and vital statistics.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the Secretary-General's report.

Disability statistics

The Statistical Commission had before it the report [E/CN.3/2014/10 & Corr.1] of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics on activities to improve the quality, availability and comparability of disability statistics. Prepared with inputs from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the report described the work of the Washington Group on developing and testing questions on disability for use in censuses and surveys; joint work by the Washington Group and UNICEF on developing and testing question sets on child functioning and disability and on barriers to full participation in education for use in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and other surveys focused on children; and the development of a model disability survey led by WHO. The Commission was invited to comment on those activities; consider and approve the workplan of the Washington Group for 2014; urge support through UN regional offices for training, cognitive and field testing, technical assistance and workshops; and express views on the status of collaborative efforts to improve the quality of disability statistics and on recommendations for strengthening those efforts.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/109)], the Commission commended the collaboration between the Washington Group and UNICEF, particularly in developing the new questionnaire modules on child functioning and disability for use in surveys, and on environment and school participation to capture the environmental aspects of child disability. It welcomed the collaboration between the Washington Group and WHO on disability measurement, and encouraged the two parties to work together to develop the model disability survey instrument and to meet the objectives of both parties by including in the model survey the

questions developed by the Washington Group. The Commission supported the work programme of the Washington Group for 2014–2015 and took note of the change in the implementation timeline of the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases.

Drug statistics

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/19 & Corr.1] of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the challenges faced by countries and international and regional organizations in the collection and reporting of data on the supply and use of drugs, and on improving the quality and availability of drug statistics at the national, regional and international levels. The report gave recommendations for improving methodologies; promoting and reinforcing the role of national statistical offices; developing capacity to improve data collection and reporting; and improving international data collection and analysis. UNODC suggested that stakeholders review the regional and international mechanisms for collecting and reporting drug statistics with a view to streamlining the processes; that national statistical offices take a lead role in ensuring the quality of drug statistics and promoting coordination for the collection and reporting of drug statistics; and that the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs establish a joint group to develop standards and guidelines for priority indicators.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the report.

Gender statistics

The Statistical Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/18] of the Secretary-General on gender statistics, which summarized the recent activities of the UN Statistics Division and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics under the umbrella of the Global Gender Statistics Programme. It also reported on the results of capacity-building efforts to strengthen gender statistics programmes in countries and on the organization of the seventh meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics.

Following the recommendations of the Statistical Commission [YUN 2013, p. 1261], the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics had identified a minimum set of gender indicators composed of 52 quantitative indicators grouped into 3 tiers and 11 qualitative indicators covering norms and laws on gender equality. The Statistics Division had developed a platform through which the indicators could be disseminated online. As at December 2013, the 35 tier I indicators, consisting mainly of gender indicators on education, employment and health, were disseminated through the platform. During its first year of implementation, the Evidence and

Data for Gender Equality Initiative, executed jointly by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), sought to accelerate existing efforts to generate comparable gender indicators on education, employment, entrepreneurship and assets. The Initiative focused on the compilation and online dissemination of international data and metadata on education, employment and health; the development of international definitions and methods for measuring entrepreneurship and asset ownership; and the identification of countries that would pilot the newly developed methods to collect data on entrepreneurship and assets. The Statistics Division produced the online “Gender Statistics Manual: Integrating a Gender Perspective into Statistics”, and finalized and disseminated the “Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys”.

The meeting of the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (New York, 11 September 2013) agreed on how to reconcile the minimum set of gender indicators with the “Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys”; took stock of progress in the implementation of the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative; and agreed on future priority areas of work. The seventh meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (New York, 12–13 September 2013) discussed the minimum set of gender indicators and the related data compilation and protocols for data exchange between specialized agencies and the Statistics Division; new methodological guidelines and related plans for strengthening capacity on gender statistics; and the results of the global review of national gender statistics programmes at the country level. The Group agreed on its programme of work, which included preparations for the eighth meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and the fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, both of which would be convened from 2 to 5 November 2014 in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the Secretary-General’s report on gender statistics.

International migration statistics

The Statistical Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/20] of the Secretary-General on migration statistics, which also summarized the activities of the Statistics Division and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and partner organizations to improve the collection and availability of statistics on international migration. Though international migration was at the forefront of the global agenda, the availability of data on the scope of migration and its impacts on development remained deficient. The

report discussed the three main sources of international migration statistics—population censuses, sample surveys and administrative records—and gave an overview of the availability of statistics on the stock of international migrants and on migration flows. It also discussed barriers that prevented migration data from being shared at the international level, noting there was an absence of coordination mechanisms among different national agencies involved in producing migration data, which resulted in a lack of consistency in the definitions used and the comparability of the statistics, as well as in their limited dissemination. To improve the quality of data on international migration and promote the application of common definitions and concepts by countries, the Statistics Division issued publications such as the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*, and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs developed the Global Migration Database, which produced estimates of migrant stock disaggregated by age, sex, origin and destination for 232 countries and areas in the world.

The Secretary-General noted that initiatives for the collection, production or analysis of migration-related data and statistics were conducted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Economic Commission for Europe; World Bank; International Labour Organization; UNICEF; and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Global Migration Group, an inter-agency group comprising 15 UN entities and the International Organization for Migration, hosted a working group on data and research to promote cooperation and reduce the duplication of effort. Given the heightened attention of Member States to addressing migration challenges at the national, regional and global levels, the report suggested that the international statistical community establish a capacity-development programme to improve the collection, processing and analysis of migration data for policy planning. Such a programme could address all the pre-existing sources of migration data listed in the report.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the Secretary-General’s report.

Cultural statistics

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission the report [E/CN.3/2014/21] of the Institute for Statistics of UNESCO on selected activities of its cultural statistics programme. The Institute was implementing the new global survey of cultural employment statistics, with the purpose of collecting internationally comparable data on cultural employment and producing the first global database of cultural employment statistics and indicators to

support the work of countries, policymakers and other stakeholders. The survey would likely be administered on a biennial basis and respondents would primarily be national statistical offices. The Institute anticipated launching the first global collection of cultural employment statistics in the third quarter of 2015. The report also discussed the global implementation of the 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics, focusing on two principal capacity-building activities: production of the handbook series and the programme of training workshops. The Institute continued its work on producing two handbooks for publication by 2015: *Measuring the Economic Contribution of Cultural Industries: A Case Study of Serbia* and *Festival Statistics: Key Concepts and Current Practices*. The report noted that seven training workshops attended by 247 people were held from 2007 to 2013, with more being planned, particularly for the regions of Latin America and the Arab States. The objectives of the workshops were to provide training on cultural statistics topics, use and implementation of the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics and to support the development of professional networks in cultural statistics.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the report.

Human settlements statistics

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/17] of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on human settlements statistics, which presented a methodology developed by UN-Habitat and partners to measure security of tenure, especially in urban areas, in a consistent manner across countries and regions. The report discussed progress achieved in the development of the method for monitoring security of tenure at three levels: people, land and policies. The measurement of security of tenure at the level of people could be done through stand-alone household surveys, such as the Urban Inequities Survey, or through existing surveys, such as the Demographic and Health Survey and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey. Both of those types of survey were based on a representative sample that allowed a quantitative estimate of tenure security. Security of tenure at the land level could be achieved through community-based surveys, which could be mapped, assessed, evaluated and analysed. Assessments at the land/settlement level should cover specific information on the land's legal history; the land's current jurisdictional situation; the geographical dimension of land tenure; and the harmony between plans and actual land use patterns. To monitor security of tenure at the policy level, UN-Habitat developed the Legal and Institutional Framework Index and two indicators. The Index was meant to produce qualitative results, and the overall score attained at the end of the process was a subjective assessment that had to be

supplemented by household and community surveys. The report concluded that the combination of all the instruments would provide integrated information related to secure tenure, and the use of the methodology by national statistical offices would contribute to better monitoring of the security of tenure in cities.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the report.

Economic statistics

National accounts

The Statistical Commission had before it the report [E/CN.3/2014/5] of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, which discussed progress on the changeover to the *System of National Accounts 2008* (2008 SNA) [YUN 2008, p. 1380]; guidance on 2008 SNA implementation issues, including from the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts; activities of the Working Group and of the regional commissions; and the reporting of national accounts data. The Working Group discussed its initiation of manuals and handbooks to strengthen statistical capacity for compiling national accounts. Four such publications were completed in 2013 and annexed to the report was a list of publications that were planned or in progress. The translation of the 2008 SNA from English into the five remaining official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish) had been completed and all language versions were available in electronic format on the Working Group's website. The Working Group also reported that despite progress in some countries, many developing countries were still a long way from adjusting their collections of economic statistics with a view to implementing the 2008 SNA with enough scope, detail and quality. Many of those countries needed technical assistance in adopting an integrated statistics programme in support of the implementation and the Working Group expressed the view that the Commission may establish a Friends of the Chair group to formulate a response to the need for scaling up capacity-building at the country level. The Friends of the Chair group could establish the modalities for a statistics programme focused on supporting accelerated SNA implementation by overcoming national issues in producing internationally comparable macroeconomic accounts.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/104)], the Commission endorsed the programme of work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts; appreciated the progress on the manuals, handbooks and guidelines that facilitated implementation of the 2008 SNA; recognized that scaling up the coordination, advocacy and resources for implementation of the 2008 SNA at the national level required an integrated

statistics approach; expressed the need for technical assistance to many developing countries in adopting an integrated statistics programme in support of that implementation; recognized that countries should take ownership of actions strengthening the statistical production process, institutional arrangements and a communication strategy with users; and supported the formation of a Friends of the Chair group to work out the modalities for establishing a harmonized integrated statistics programme.

Energy statistics

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission the report [E/CN.3/2014/23] of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics, which described the Group's activities during the period 2011–2013. With the adoption in February 2011 of the Statistical Commission's international recommendations for energy statistics, the Oslo Group focused on the drafting of the Energy Statistics Compilers Manual, which was intended to provide practical guidance in the implementation of the forthcoming System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy (SEEA-Energy). Through country examples, the Manual would illustrate country practices regarding topics such as institutional arrangements, data collection, data compilation, energy indicators and quality assurance. The target audience would be statisticians involved in the process of establishing, developing or improving their energy statistics, and statisticians who regularly collected and compiled energy statistics and were interested in learning about other techniques to compile the information needed. The Group held three meetings and one virtual meeting in the period under review. The Manual was expected to be finalized in the first half of 2014 and would thereafter be subjected to regular updates. Annexed to the report was the workplan for the Group's future activities.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the report.

Tourism statistics

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/25] of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on tourism statistics. The report described the process of developing and completing the compilation guide for *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008* [YUN 2008, p. 1382] and outlined the main parts of the guide. It also provided an overview of the work undertaken to implement the recommendations by UNWTO in cooperation with countries and international organizations since its previous report to the Statistical Commission [YUN 2011, p. 1219].

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Statistical Commission took note of the report.

Short-term economic indicators

The Statistical Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/27] of the Secretary-General on short-term economic statistics. The report described the joint initiatives of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Statistical Office of the European Commission, in collaboration with Statistics Canada, Statistics Italy, Statistics Netherlands and the Russian Federal State Statistics Service for implementation of the international programme of work on short-term economic statistics endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its forty-second (2011) session [YUN 2011, p. 1220]. The international programme was comprised of four themes, namely, business cycle composite indicators, economic tendency surveys, rapid estimates, and data template and analytical indicators. With a view to providing guidance, best practices and harmonized principles to States in compiling and reporting internationally comparable short-term statistics, the preparation of handbooks on those themes was in progress and being carried out by working groups constituted for that purpose. The report discussed the progress of the work and noted that the handbooks were expected to be finalized by the end of 2014.

The Statistical Commission took note of the report on 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)].

Agricultural statistics

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Committee a report [E/CN.3/2014/22] of the Global Steering Committee on the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The report covered four items: governance and resource mobilization; implementation of Global Office activities; implementation of activities at the regional level; and the way forward and priorities for 2014.

At the global governance level, two Global Steering Committee meetings were held in 2013 and decisions were taken on a regional action plan for Asia and the Pacific; the revision of the integrated budget; the no-cost extension of the global action plan up to December 2017; and a proposal for revising the monitoring and evaluation framework. There was also progress in the establishment of the Global Office. At the regional level, the Regional Steering Committee for Africa held its fourth meeting in 2013; the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific was constituted and met twice; and the Regional Steering Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean was established and met once. Regarding the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Western Asia regions, a mandate was given to prepare a regional action plan and establish mechanisms of governance. On resource mobilization, the total sums pledged as at the first week of December 2014 amounted to \$51 million, leaving

a funding gap of \$32 million. Additional resource mobilization efforts were needed for the underfunded regions, namely Latin American and the Caribbean, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Western Asia. The Global Trust Fund was operational, with efforts in 2013 to consolidate the partnership programme. Progress was made in the implementation of activities at the Global Office level, particularly on the research component of the Global Strategy; the production of guidelines and training material; and coordination with other initiatives. The implementation of activities at the regional level focused in Africa on the country assessment process, including by follow-up missions and the adaptation to the African context of the questionnaire to assess statistical capacity and needs. In Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics was endorsed in 2013, and country assessments commenced in four of the eight priority countries identified, namely Bhutan, Indonesia, Samoa and Sri Lanka. In other regions, the draft regional action plan for Latin America and the Caribbean was under review for final submission; country assessment questionnaires were sent out in Western Asia and the results presented at a validation workshop in December 2013 in Jordan; and a draft regional action plan for the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States was prepared and discussed in Sochi, Russian Federation.

The Commission took note of the report on 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 44/116)].

International trade statistics

The Secretary-General submitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/7] of the Friends of the Chair group on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization. The group, established at the forty-fourth (2013) session of the Statistical Commission [YUN 2013, p. 1263], was tasked with preparing a concept paper on the measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization and on the coordination of work in that area. The report set out the main elements of the measurement framework in terms of scope and overview of measurement issues and made a proposal for moving forward.

A draft concept paper had been prepared and submitted to the Friends of the Chair group at its meeting in November 2013, but it still needed to be completed around a detailed schematic framework. With consideration of the required next steps, the group concluded that one more year would be needed to finalize a comprehensive concept paper. It agreed to organize a conference in the third quarter of 2014, at which the draft could be presented again and working groups could present their outcomes. The group proposed that a conceptual framework, prioritized programme of work and corresponding coordination mechanism be presented to the Commission at its forty-sixth (2015) session.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/106)], the Statistical Commission reiterated the importance of obtaining more clarity in the complex measurement issues of cross-border economic relations and requested the Friends of the Chair group to pay special attention to issues such as discrepancies in mirror statistics; institutional arrangements among data-compiling agencies; the legal aspects of sharing microdata; the complexities of obtaining information on the activities of multinational enterprises; the informal cross-border trade; the role of small and medium-sized enterprises; the data sources for global input-output tables; and the importance and peculiarities of measuring intraregional trade and the relation of the work to the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Assistance for Least Developed Countries. It further requested that the proposed conceptual framework be consistent with the existing framework of the System of National Accounts; and that the group do a cost-benefit analysis of any recommendation requiring additional data sources, especially additional surveys, and thus creating an additional burden to respondents. The Commission agreed with the group's proposal regarding the overall scope of the conceptual framework and the schematic framework as an instrument for classifying the measurement issues; and agreed with the group's proposal to continue its preparation of the concept paper on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization and to submit a report, including the conceptual framework, programme of work and coordination mechanism, to the Commission's forty-sixth (2015) session.

International Comparison Programme

The Secretary-General transmitted a report [E/CN.3/2014/9] of the World Bank on behalf of the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), which updated the Statistical Commission on the status of implementation of the 2011 round of ICP. The report covered governance activities; the computation process of the 2011 estimates; the schedule of publication of the 2011 results; knowledge material for the 2011 round; the communication strategy and outreach activities; and the policy for revision of purchasing power parity statistics. The Commission was requested to establish an ICP friends of the Chair group to carry out the evaluation of the 2011 round.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/108)], the Statistical Commission appreciated the Executive Board's agreement that the ICP 2011 results were ready for publication and supported the two-staged approach for releasing summary results along with key documentation by 30 April 2014, followed by a report that would include the full set of results and more comprehensive documentation in the summer of 2014. It also agreed to establish the Friends of the Chair group to carry out

the evaluation of the 2011 round and prepare an initial report for review at the Commission's forty-sixth (2015) session; and recognized the need to develop a new methodology and shorten the interval between ICP rounds in the future.

Statistics of international trade in services

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/24] that highlighted the development of the Compilers Guide for the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* and presented the Guide's main parts. The report also described the work of the United Nations Expert Group on the Compilation of Statistics of International Trade in Service and the accomplishments of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services. The Expert Group had agreed that the draft Compilers Guide was of sufficient quality to be made available as an electronic document for use by compilers and submitted to the Commission at its forty-fifth (2014) session, with the understanding that the draft version would then be finalized and prepared for issuance in print within a reasonable time frame.

The Commission took note of the report on 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)].

Price indices

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/26] of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices. Since its last report in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1247], the Group held one meeting (Copenhagen, Denmark, 1–3 May 2013), where it continued to focus on fundamental problems of price measurement and various concepts, methods and compilation procedures for price indices. Discussion topics included residential and commercial property price indices, measuring services prices, new developments in calculation and weighting methodologies, developments in the use of transactions (scanner) data, developments of seasonal adjustment and other analytical price measures, and international comparability of price indices and other international comparisons.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the report.

Information and communications technology statistics

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/8] that gave an overview of work on information and communications technology (ICT) statistics by the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development. That included new work on measuring gender and ICT, electronic waste and trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services; the final assessment

of progress on the targets of the World Summit on the Information Society; the revised *Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals*; and revisions to the core list of ICT indicators. On the latter, the report concluded that it was critical to review and update the core list of ICT indicators on a regular basis and to develop new indicators where necessary. The report also highlighted the challenges faced by statistical offices in enhancing the quality and availability of ICT statistics, including the increasing number of data producers and the variety of ICT data sources, and provided suggestions on strengthening national coordination in that matter. In particular, it recommended the establishment of coordination mechanisms between relevant institutions at the national level, such as statistical offices, telecommunication regulatory authorities and ministries responsible for ICT policies.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/107)], the Commission agreed with the recommendations in the report on approaches to improve the availability and quality of ICT statistics and encouraged countries to increase national coordination in that area; endorsed the revised core list of ICT indicators and asked for its wide circulation; and asked the Partnership to continue reviewing the indicators in light of rapid technological advances and widespread use of ICT.

Natural resources and environment statistics

Environment statistics

The Secretary-General reported [E/CN.3/2014/28] on progress in the implementation of the Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics since its endorsement by the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth (2013) session [YUN 2013, p. 1265], and the plans for 2014–2015. The report covered the main areas in the plan of action for implementing the Framework, including the establishment of the Expert Group on Environmental Statistics and its work programme; the development of methodological and training material; training and capacity-building; and advocacy and networking.

The Commission took note of the report on 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)].

Environmental-economic accounting

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/6] of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, which described the Committee's progress on the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA); progress on the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework; efforts to promote and advance the research agenda of the Central Framework; and the testing and advancement

of the research agenda of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/105)], the Commission agreed to establish a technical committee on the SEEA Central Framework responsible for advancing its research agenda; stressed the importance of linking the implementation of the SEEA Central Framework with that of the *System of National Accounts 2008* [YUN 2008, p. 1380], agreed to establish a technical committee on the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting to advance its research and testing agenda; and requested that the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and the SEEA Applications and Extensions be issued and translated it into the UN official languages.

Other activities

Indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals

The Statistical Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/29] of the Secretary-General on the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2013 in the following areas: lessons learned from monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); improving the methodology for monitoring progress towards achievement of the MDGs; and strengthening statistical capacity-building for national monitoring. The report also gave an assessment of the availability of data to monitor progress towards achievement of the MDGs and described the preparation of the yearly progress reports.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of Secretary-General's report.

Measurement of economic performance and social progress

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/4] of the Friends of the Chair group on broader measures of progress, which took stock of current national, regional and international practices in that area and considered how to achieve a technically solid and globally agreed set of measures of progress. The group also discussed the issue of measuring and monitoring the goals of the post-2015 development agenda (see p. 960) by reviewing existing proposals, elaborating on the need for an integrated and robust measurement approach and identifying critical elements for the implementation of a new monitoring framework. A separate section contained key messages for policymakers; proposals for the further involvement of official statisticians in the ongoing debate and processes towards a post-2015 development agenda; and proposals for continuing the work programme on broader measures of progress.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/103)], the Commission requested the Friends of the Chair to continue to provide statistical support for the post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure that statistical considerations were appropriately taken into account; to engage in the debate on the data revolution; to address the need for the development of new data sources and methodologies resulting from the requirements of the post-2015 development agenda; suggested that the Friends of the Chair group include in its future work the issue of household surveys and their critical role in providing data for the post-2015 development agenda; endorsed the work programme of the group, including the development of an implementation framework for monitoring and measurement, in partnership with countries, regional and international organizations, and other stakeholders and donors; and requested the group to report to the Commission at its forty-sixth (2015) session.

Big data and modernization of statistical systems

The Statistical Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/11] of the Secretary-General that assessed the current use of big data for official statistics, providing an overview of recent activities of the official statistical community and the results of the global assessment on the use of big data for official statistics conducted by the Statistics Division in 2013. The report explored the creation of a working group at the global level that would build on regional initiatives for sharing methodological developments, best practices for strategic issues and training opportunities. The working group would also facilitate international partnership for the use of big data in the transfer of technology to developing countries and in support of the post-2015 development agenda.

On March 7 [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/110)], the Commission supported the proposal to create a global working group on the use of big data for official statistics and requested that the terms of reference and mandate of the working group be based on strategic considerations, that the working group's programme of work avoid duplication of the work carried out by the regional commissions and to pay special attention to the circumstances of developing countries. The Commission requested that the working group make an inventory of ongoing activities and concrete examples of the use of big data for official statistics at the regional, sub-regional and national levels; address the concerns of methodology, standards and norms, human resources, research, training, quality, volatility and, with priority, confidentiality, access to data and legislation related to big data; develop guidelines to classify the various types of big data sources and approaches; develop methodological guidelines for big data; and report to the Commission at its forty-sixth (2015) session.

Publications of the Statistical Division

The Statistical Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/12] of the Secretary-General that provided an overview of the publications programme of the Statistics Division. The report discussed the challenges faced by the Division in continuing to deliver publications, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, to national and international statistical agency stakeholders in the formats and languages they needed and preferred. Annexed to the report was a list of Statistics Division publications planned for 2014–2015.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/111)], the Commission supported the idea of a comprehensive review of the Division's publication and dissemination strategy with a view to reorienting it towards electronic modes of publication with a reduction of print publications to a minimum for countries with special needs and those who request them. It also insisted that high-quality translations of methodological publications into all official UN languages were critical for the implementation of global statistical norms and standards and for national capacity-building, and requested that such translations were made available and disseminated in print, when requested by countries.

Regional statistical development

The Statistical Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/15] of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on statistics and the post-2015 development agenda. The report outlined the progress made in recent years to strengthen statistics through regional cooperation under the auspices of the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It conveyed the view of the statistical community in Asia and the Pacific that the post-2015 development agenda process, while presenting challenges to national statistical systems, offered an opportunity to place statistics as a development imperative at the centre of good governance, transparency and accountability.

On 7 March [E/CN.3/2014/15 (dec. 45/114)], the Commission noted the differences in the statistical capacities of the countries in the region, and stressed the importance of developing the statistical systems in countries with very limited capacities to meet at least the minimum requirements of the post-2015 development agenda; stressed the importance of high-quality statistics as a tool for accountability and good governance; and called for the development of better measures of statistical development, in cooperation with subregional statistical forums such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Group on Statistics.

Implementation of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/2] of the Friends of the Chair group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 1265]. The report described the group's work leading to the Economic and Social Council's adoption of a resolution that both endorsed the Fundamental Principles and recommended them to the General Assembly for endorsement [YUN 2013, p. 1266]. The report discussed consultations conducted by the group on the formulation of guidelines on how to strengthen implementation of the Principles; and provided eight recommendations on which the Commission was invited to comment. Draft guidelines developed by the group were presented to the Commission as a background document.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/101)], the Statistical Commission supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Friends of the Chair group; welcomed the first draft of the implementation guidelines and asked the group to continue its work on that document; requested the UN Statistics Division to make the completed implementation guidelines available on an improved website dedicated to the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; stressed the importance of national legislation to anchor the Fundamental Principles in countries; agreed with the need of continued monitoring of the implementation of the Principles at the national, regional and global levels; and underlined that the endorsement by the General Assembly (see below) provided a positive impetus to increase the visibility and enhance the understanding and awareness of the Fundamental Principles by bringing them to the attention of politicians, other data providers and the private sector.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 January [meeting 73], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/261** [draft: A/68/L.36 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 9].

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The General Assembly,

Recalling recent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council highlighting the fundamental importance of official statistics for the national and global development agenda,

Bearing in mind the critical role of high-quality official statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision-making in support of sustainable development, peace and security, as well as for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of an increasingly connected world, demanding openness and transparency,

Bearing in mind also that the essential trust of the public in the integrity of official statistical systems and confidence in statistics depend to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles that are the basis of any society seeking to understand itself and respect the rights of its members, and in this context that professional independence and accountability of statistical agencies are crucial,

Stressing that, in order to be effective, the fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work have to be guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks and be respected at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical systems,

Endorses the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics set out below, as adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994 and reaffirmed in 2013, and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2013/21 of 24 July 2013:

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Principle 1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.

Principle 2. To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

Principle 3. To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

Principle 4. The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

Principle 5. Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

Principle 6. Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

Principle 7. The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

Principle 8. Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

Principle 9. The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

Principle 10. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations

The Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/13] of the Friends of the Chair on the coordination of statistical activities in the UN system, which described the activities and discussions of the group, elaborated various aspects of coordination and provided recommendations for improved coordination within the UN system. Two related background documents provided a description of the statistical units of the UN system and their respective work programmes, and a long-term vision for effective global data collection, data sharing and dissemination, respectively.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/112)], the Commission stressed the importance of effective coordination among the agencies of the UN system and the national statistical offices, especially in the area of data-sharing; supported the long-term vision for an effective global data-collection mechanism; and endorsed the proposal that the UN chief statisticians hold regular meetings, follow up on the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair and report back to the Commission.

Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The Statistical Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/32] of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, which summarized the conclusions of the Committee's twenty-first (New York, 25 February 2013) and twenty-second (Ankara, Turkey, 4–6 September 2013) sessions. Subjects discussed included the post-2015 development agenda and statistical capacity-building; principles governing international statistical activities; national quality assurance frameworks; health statistics; recommended practices on the use of non-official sources in international statistics; and new approaches for data collection, analyses and dissemination.

The Commission took note of the report on 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)].

World Statistics Day

The Statistical Commission had before it a report [E/CN.3/2014/14] of the Secretary-General with a proposal to organize World Statistics Day on 20 October 2015 under the theme "Statistics for better decision-making—statistics for better development". The report noted that as a result of the success of the celebration of the first World Statistics Day in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 1269], the Commission, at its forty-third (2012) session, had confirmed the recommendation of its Bureau that World Statistics Day be celebrated

every five years, with the next observance occurring in 2015 [YUN 2012, p. 1250].

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/113)], the Commission proposed to celebrate the next World Statistics Day on 20 October 2015; agreed with the general theme for the next World Statistics Day: “Statistics for better decision-making—statistics for better development/life”, but requested the Bureau to finalize the wording of the exact slogan in consultation with communications experts; requested the Bureau to initiate and support the submission of a draft resolution to the General Assembly on World Statistics Day 2015; and requested the UN Statistics Division to provide support to countries, regional and supranational organizations and thematic-oriented institutions in observance of World Statistics Day 2015.

Follow-up to General Assembly and Economic and Social Council policy decisions

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/33] on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council adopted in 2013 and earlier that were relevant to the work of the Commission. The policy decisions concerned follow-up to the MDGs; response to the Rio+20 mandate for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product; global geospatial information management; follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions on strengthening national capacity in statistics and on the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme; improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data on migration and people with disabilities; the multi-year programme of work for the annual ministerial reviews of the Economic and Social Council; and strengthening the Economic and Social Council. The report also indicated actions taken and proposed by the Commission and the Statistics Division in response to requests by the Council and the Assembly.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the report.

Global geospatial information management

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a report [E/CN.3/2014/31 & Corr.1] of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, which provided information on the establishment of the Expert Group and summarized the issues discussed at its first meeting (New York, 30 October–1 November 2013). It outlined the main outcomes and recommendations from that

meeting, including the proposal to organize an international conference on the integration of statistical and geospatial information in New York in August 2014, in conjunction with the fourth (2014) session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the report.

Efforts in developing a plan of action on statistical development

The Secretary-General transmitted to the Statistical Commission a progress report [E/CN.3/2014/30] of the World Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century on the development of a plan of action on statistical development, as agreed at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, Republic of Korea, 29 November–1 December 2011). The plan aimed to fully integrate statistics in decision-making; promote open access to statistics; and increase resources for statistical systems. To achieve its objectives, the Busan Action Plan for Statistics outlined the following five steps to strengthen national statistical systems in developing countries and increase the effectiveness of support provided by development partners: strengthen and refocus national and regional statistical strategies; implement standards for data preservation, documentation and dissemination; develop programmes to increase knowledge and skills to use statistics for planning, analysis, monitoring and evaluation; build and maintain results-monitoring instruments to track the outcomes of global summits and high-level forums; and ensure robust financing for statistical information and that funding instruments and approaches reflect the new modalities and actors in development finance.

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/116)], the Commission took note of the report.

Programme questions

On 7 March [E/2014/24 (dec. 45/115)], the Statistical Commission took note of the oral report by the Acting Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the Division's activities, plans and priorities, particularly the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2016–2017, which had been circulated in a background paper. On the same date, the Commission approved its draft 2014–2018 multi-year programme of work [E/CN.3/2014/34], and the provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-sixth session, to be held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2015.

PART FOUR

Legal questions

International Court of Justice

In 2014, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered two judgments, made 12 orders and had 16 contentious cases pending before it. The ICJ President, in an October address to the General Assembly, stressed that the Court continued to fulfil its role as the forum of choice for States to settle international disputes peacefully, and that the Court made every effort to meet in a timely manner the expectations of the parties appearing before it, particularly when presented with requests for the indication of provisional measures. He reiterated his call for increased recourse to the Court for the settlement of disputes and recognition of its compulsory jurisdiction by States.

Judicial work of the Court

During 2014, the Court delivered its judgment on the merits in the cases concerning *Maritime Dispute (Peru v. Chile)* and *Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan)*.

The Court held public hearings in the cases concerning *Questions relating to the Seizure and Detention of Certain Documents and Data (Timor-Leste v. Australia)* and *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia)*.

The Court or its President made orders on the conduct of the proceedings in the cases concerning *Questions relating to the Seizure and Detention of Certain Documents and Data (Timor-Leste v. Australia)*, *Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*, *Construction of a Road in Costa Rica along the San Juan River (Nicaragua v. Costa Rica)* (which had been joined with the case concerning *Certain Activities carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)*), *Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)*, *Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (Marshall Islands v. India)*, *Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (Marshall Islands v. Pakistan)*, *Obligation to Negotiate Access to the Pacific Ocean (Bolivia v. Chile)*, *Question of the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between Nicaragua and Colombia beyond 200 nautical miles from the Nicaraguan Coast (Nicaragua v. Colom-*

bia) and *Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean (Somalia v. Kenya)*.

Pleadings were submitted within the fixed time limits in the cases concerning *Construction of a Road in Costa Rica along the San Juan River (Nicaragua v. Costa Rica)*, *Obligation to Negotiate Access to the Pacific Ocean (Bolivia v. Chile)*, *Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*, *Questions relating to the Seizure and Detention of Certain Documents and Data (Timor-Leste v. Australia)* and *Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (Marshall Islands v. India)*.

While there were no new developments in the case concerning *Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Project (Hungary/Slovakia)* [YUN 1998, p. 1186], the parties kept the Court informed of progress made in their negotiations. In the case *Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)* [YUN 1999, p. 1209], the parties transmitted to the Court information concerning their negotiations to settle the question of reparation, as referred to in the 2005 judgment [YUN 2005, p. 1381]. Both cases remained pending.

The Court was seized of five new contentious cases in 2014. In addition, the Court Registrar received applications from the Marshall Islands against China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Israel, the Russian Federation and the United States, filed simultaneously with its applications against India (see p. 1479), Pakistan (see p. 1480) and the United Kingdom (ibid.) concerning their obligations with respect to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament; as well as an application from Argentina against the United States concerning United States judicial decisions on the restructuring of the Argentine sovereign debt. No action was taken and the cases were not entered in the General List, pending the consent of those States to the Court's jurisdiction in the cases.

ICJ activities in 2014 were covered in two reports to the General Assembly for the periods 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014 [A/69/4] and 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015 [A/70/4]. On 30 October (**decision 69/510**), the General Assembly took note of the 2013/2014 report. In its **resolution 69/123** of 10 December, the Assembly called on States to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in accordance with its Statute.

Contentious proceedings

Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (*Croatia v. Serbia*)

On 2 July 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 1210], Croatia instituted proceedings before the Court against Serbia, then known as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, for alleged violations of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide [YUN 1948–1949, p. 959] committed between 1991 and 1995. In its application, Croatia contended that by directly controlling the activity of its armed forces, intelligence agents, and various paramilitary detachments, on the territory of Croatia, Serbia was liable for ethnic cleansing of Croatian citizens. It requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Serbia had breached its legal obligations to Croatia under the Genocide Convention and that it had an obligation to pay to Croatia, in its own right and as *parens patriae* for its citizens, reparations for damages to persons and property, as well as to the Croatian economy and environment caused by those violations of international law in a sum to be determined by the Court.

As basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Croatia invoked article IX of the Genocide Convention, to which, it claimed, both States were parties.

By an order of 14 September 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 1210], the Court fixed 14 March and 14 September 2000 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by Croatia and a counter-memorial by Serbia. Those limits were twice extended by orders made during 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 1219]. Croatia filed its memorial within the extended time limit. On 11 September 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1268], within the extended time limit for filing its counter-memorial, Serbia filed certain preliminary objections on jurisdiction and admissibility. The proceedings on the merits were suspended, in accordance with article 79 of the Rules of Court. On 25 April 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1304], within the time limit fixed by the Court, Croatia filed a statement of its observations and submissions on Serbia's preliminary objections.

At the conclusion of public hearings on the preliminary objections on jurisdiction and admissibility, held from 26 to 30 May 2008, the parties presented final submissions to the Court [YUN 2008, p. 1395].

In its judgment, rendered on 18 November 2008 [ibid.], the Court found that, subject to its statement concerning the second preliminary objection raised by Serbia, it had jurisdiction, on the basis of article IX of the Genocide Convention, to entertain Croatia's application, adding that Serbia's second preliminary objection did not possess an exclusively preliminary character. It then rejected the third preliminary objection submitted by Serbia.

By an order of 20 January 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1270], the President of the Court fixed 22 March 2010 as the time limit for the filing of the counter-memorial by Serbia. That pleading, containing counterclaims, was filed within the time limit.

By an order of 4 February 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 1276], the Court directed the submission of a reply by Croatia and a rejoinder by Serbia concerning the claims presented by the parties. It fixed 20 December 2010 and 4 November 2011, respectively, as the time limits for the filing of those pleadings, which were filed within the time limits.

By an order of 23 January 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1256], the Court authorized the submission by Croatia of an additional pleading relating solely to Serbia's counterclaims, and fixed 30 August 2012 as the time limit for the filing, which was filed within the time limit.

Public hearings on Serbia's objection and on the merits of the case were held from 3 March to 1 April 2014. At the close of the hearings, the parties presented their final submissions to the Court. Croatia requested the Court to adjudge and declare that the Court had jurisdiction over all the claims raised by Croatia and that the claims were admissible; and that Serbia had breached its obligations under the Genocide Convention by failing to prevent acts of genocide committed on the territory of Croatia against the Croat ethnic group by persons for whose conduct Serbia was responsible, bring to trial those suspected of involvement in such acts, and conduct an effective investigation into the fate of Croatian citizens missing as a result of such acts. Croatia further requested the Court to adjudge and declare that as a consequence of those breaches, Serbia was under the obligation to take immediate and effective steps to submit to trial those persons within its jurisdiction suspected of having committed acts of genocide; provide Croatia with information about the Croatian citizens missing as a result of such acts, and conduct joint investigation to determine their whereabouts; return to Croatia all items of cultural property within Serbia's jurisdiction or control seized in the course of the acts of genocide; and make reparations to Croatia for damages to persons and property, as well as to the Croatian economy caused by those violations of international law in a sum to be determined by the Court.

In addition, Croatia asked the Court to reject as not founded in fact or law Serbia's counterclaims relating to the breaches of international law by Croatia (see below).

Serbia requested the Court to adjudge and declare that the Court lacked jurisdiction to entertain Croatia's requests in relation to acts committed prior to 27 April 1992, the date when Serbia came into existence as a State and became bound by the Genocide Convention, or that those requests were inadmissible; and to reject Croatia's requests relating to acts

and omissions that took place after 27 April 1992 as lacking any basis either in law or in fact. In the alternative, Serbia asked the Court to declare Croatia's requests as inadmissible with regard to acts and omissions that took place prior to 8 October 1991, the date when Croatia came into existence as a State and became bound by the Genocide Convention; or to adjudge and declare that the requests concerning acts committed prior to 27 April 1992 were only admissible insofar as they related to acts and omissions that took place before 8 October 1991, and to reject those requests as lacking any basis either in law or in fact.

The Court was further requested to adjudge and declare that Croatia had breached its obligations under the Genocide Convention by committing acts with intent to destroy the Serb national and ethnical group in Croatia, inciting and attempting to commit genocide and failing to punish acts of genocide against that group; and that Croatia must immediately take effective steps to punish such acts committed on its territory, remove from its list of public holidays the "Day of Victory and Homeland Gratitude" and the "Day of Croatian Defenders", pay compensation to the members of the Serb national and ethnical group from Croatia for damages caused by the acts of genocide in a sum to be determined by the Court, and ensure conditions for their safe and free return to a normal life in Croatia.

Maritime Dispute (*Peru v. Chile*)

On 16 January 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 1399], Peru filed an application instituting proceedings against Chile concerning a dispute in relation to the delimitation of the boundary between the maritime zones of the two States in the Pacific Ocean, beginning at a point on the coast called Concordia, the terminal point of the land boundary established pursuant to the Treaty of 3 June 1929; and in relation to the recognition in favour of Peru of a maritime zone lying within 200 nautical miles of its coast, and thus appertaining to Peru, but which Chile considered to be part of the high seas.

Peru maintained that the maritime zones between Chile and Peru had never been delimited by agreement or otherwise. Peru stated that, since the 1980s, it had consistently endeavoured to negotiate the issues in dispute, but had constantly met with a refusal from Chile to enter into negotiations. It asserted that a note of 10 September 2004 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru made further attempts at negotiation impossible.

Peru consequently requested the Court to determine the course of the boundary between the maritime zones of the two States, and to adjudge and declare that Peru possessed exclusive sovereign rights in the maritime area situated within the limit of 200 nautical miles from its coast, but outside Chile's exclusive economic zone or continental shelf.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Peru invoked article XXXI of the Pact of Bogotá of 1948, to which both States were parties.

By an order of 31 March 2008 [ibid.], the Court fixed 20 March 2009 and 9 March 2010 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by Peru and a counter-memorial by Chile. Those pleadings were filed within the time limits. Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador requested copies of the pleadings and annexed documents produced in the case. The Court, after ascertaining the views of the parties, acceded to those requests.

By an order of 27 April 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 1279], the Court authorized the submission of a reply by Peru and a rejoinder by Chile. It fixed 9 November 2010 and 11 July 2011 as the respective time limits for the filing of those pleadings, which were filed within the time limits.

Public hearings were held from 3 to 14 December 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1258], at the end of which the parties presented their final submissions to the Court. Peru requested the Court to adjudge and declare that the delimitation between the respective maritime zones was a line starting at "Point Concordia" (defined as the intersection with the low-water mark of a 10-kilometre radius arc, having as its centre the first bridge over the River Lluta of the Arica-La Paz railway) and equidistant from the baselines of both parties, up to a point 200 nautical miles from those baselines; and that, beyond the point where the common maritime border ended, Peru was entitled to exercise exclusive sovereign rights over a maritime area lying out to 200 nautical miles from its baselines.

Chile requested the Court to dismiss Peru's claims in their entirety, and adjudge and declare that the respective maritime zone entitlements of Chile and Peru had been fully delimited by agreement; that they were delimited by a boundary following the parallel of latitude passing through the most seaward marker of the land boundary between Chile and Peru, known as Hito No. 1, having a latitude of 18° 21'00" S under WGS84 Datum; and that Peru had no entitlement to any maritime zone extending to the south of that parallel.

In its judgment of 27 January 2014, the Court, by 15 votes to 1, decided that the starting point of the single maritime boundary delimiting the respective maritime areas between Peru and Chile was the intersection of the parallel of latitude passing through Boundary Marker No. 1 with the low-water line, and that the boundary's initial segment followed the parallel of latitude passing through Boundary Marker No. 1 westward. The Court further decided, by 10 votes to 6, that the initial segment ran up to a point (Point A) situated at a distance of 80 nautical miles from the starting point of the single maritime boundary, from which the boundary continued

south-westward along the line equidistant from both parties' coasts, as measured from that point, until its intersection (at Point B) with the 200-nautical-mile limit measured from the baselines from which the territorial sea of Chile was measured; from Point B, the single maritime boundary continued southward along that limit until it reached the point of intersection (Point C) of the 200-nautical-mile limits measured from the baselines from which both parties' territorial seas were measured. By 15 votes to 1, the Court decided that it did not need to rule on Peru's request for exclusive sovereign rights over a maritime area lying out to 200 nautical miles from its baselines.

Appended to the judgment were declarations by five judges and one ad hoc judge; a joint dissenting opinion by three judges and one ad hoc judge, and another dissenting opinion by one judge; and a separate opinion by one judge and another, partly concurring and partly dissenting, by one ad hoc judge.

Whaling in the Antarctic (*Australia v. Japan*)

On 31 May 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 1284], Australia instituted proceedings against Japan, alleging that Japan's continued pursuit of a large-scale programme of whaling under the Second Phase of its Japanese Whale Research Program under Special Permit in the Antarctic (JARPA II) was in breach of obligations assumed by Japan under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, as well as its other international obligations for the preservation of marine mammals and the marine environment.

Australia requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Japan was in breach of its international obligations in implementing JARPA II in the Southern Ocean, and to order that Japan cease implementation of JARPA II; revoke any authorisations, permits or licences allowing the activities which were the subject of the application to be undertaken; and provide assurances and guarantees that it would not take any further action under JARPA II or any similar programme until such programme had been brought into conformity with its obligations under international law.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Australia referred to the declarations recognizing the Court's jurisdiction as compulsory made by Australia on 22 March 2002 and by Japan on 9 July 2007.

By an order of 13 July 2010 [ibid.], the Court fixed 9 May 2011 as the time limit for the filing of a memorial by Australia and 9 March 2012 as the time limit for the filing of a counter-memorial by Japan, which were filed within the time limits. The Court subsequently decided that the filing of a reply by Australia and a rejoinder by Japan was not necessary.

On 20 November 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1262], New Zealand filed a declaration of intervention in the case under article 63 of the Court's Statute. New Zealand

contended that, as a party to the International Convention for the Registration of Whaling, it had a direct interest "in the construction that might be placed upon the Convention by the Court in its decision in these proceedings", in particular in respect of article VIII of the Convention, which provided Contracting Governments with the authority to grant any of its nationals a special permit to kill, take and treat whales for purposes of scientific research subject to such restrictions as the Contracting Government thinks fit. At the end of its declaration, New Zealand provided a summary of its interpretation of article VIII and underlined that it did not seek to become a party to the proceedings.

In accordance with article 83 of the Rules of Court, Australia and Japan were invited to furnish observations on New Zealand's declaration by 21 December 2012, which were filed within the time limit.

By an order of 6 February 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1274], the Court, taking note of Japan's concerns about the equality of the parties, recalled that intervention under Article 63 of the Statute was limited to submitting observations on the construction of the convention in question and did not allow entities that were not parties to the proceedings to deal with any other aspect of the case before the Court. The Court considered that such an intervention could not affect the equality of the parties, and concluded that New Zealand's declaration of intervention was admissible.

By the same order, the Court fixed 4 April 2013 as the time limit for the filing by New Zealand of the observations referred to in article 86, paragraph 1, of the Rules of Court; authorized the filing by Australia and Japan of their observations on New Zealand's observations; and fixed 31 May 2013 as the time limit for such filings, which were filed within the time limits.

Public hearings were held from 26 June to 16 July 2013 [ibid.], at the end of which the parties presented their final submissions to the Court.

Australia requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Japan was in breach of its international obligations in authorizing and implementing JARPA II in the Southern Ocean and that, by its conduct, Japan had violated its obligations pursuant to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling to observe the zero-catch limit in relation to the killing of whales for commercial purposes; refrain from undertaking commercial whaling of fin whales in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary; observe the moratorium on taking, killing or treating of whales, except minke whales, by factory ships or whale catchers attached to factory ships. The Court was also requested to adjudge and declare that JARPA II was not a programme for purposes of scientific research within the meaning of Article VIII of the Convention, and that Japan must refrain from authorizing or implementing any special permit whaling; cease with

immediate effect the implementation of JARPA II; and revoke any authorization, permit or licence allowing such implementation.

Japan requested the Court to adjudge and declare that the Court lacked jurisdiction over the claims brought against Japan by Australia and that, consequently, the application of New Zealand for permission to intervene in the proceedings lapsed; in the alternative, the Court was requested to reject Australia's claims.

New Zealand presented its oral observations to the Court on 8 July 2013.

In its judgment delivered on 31 March 2014, the Court unanimously found that it had jurisdiction to entertain the application filed by Australia. By 12 votes to 4, the Court found that the special permits granted by Japan in connection with JARPA II did not fall within the provisions of article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling; Japan, by granting special permits to kill, take and treat fin, humpback and Antarctic minke whales in pursuance of JARPA II, had not acted in conformity with its obligations under paragraph 10 (e) of the Schedule to the Convention; and in pursuance of JARPA II, Japan had not acted in conformity with its obligations under paragraph 10 (d) of the Schedule in relation to the killing, taking and treating of fin whales, and under paragraph 7 (b) of the Schedule in relation to the killing, taking and treating of fin whales in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary. The Court further found, by 13 votes to 3, that Japan had complied with its obligations under paragraph 30 of the Schedule with regard to JARPA II; and decided, by 12 votes to 4, that Japan must revoke any extant authorization, permit or licence granted in relation to JARPA II, and refrain from granting any further permits in pursuance of that programme.

Appended to the judgment were dissenting opinions by four judges, separate opinions by five judges and one ad hoc judge, and a declaration by one judge.

Certain Activities carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area (*Costa Rica v. Nicaragua*)

On 18 November 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 1285], Costa Rica instituted proceedings against Nicaragua in respect of an alleged incursion into, occupation of and use by Nicaragua's army of Costa Rican territory, as well as alleged breaches of Nicaragua's obligations towards Costa Rica under a number of international treaties and conventions. Costa Rica charged Nicaragua with having occupied, in two separate incidents, the territory of Costa Rica in connection with the construction of a canal across Costa Rican territory from the San Juan River to Laguna los Portillos (also known as Harbor Head Lagoon), and with having carried out related works of dredging on the San Juan

River. Costa Rica stated that the ongoing and planned dredging and the construction of the canal would seriously affect the flow of water to the Colorado River of Costa Rica, and would cause further damage to Costa Rican territory, including the wetlands and national wildlife protected areas in the region.

Costa Rica, accordingly, requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Nicaragua was in breach of its international obligations regarding the incursion into and occupation of Costa Rican territory, the damage inflicted to its protected rainforests and wetlands, and the damage intended to the Colorado River, wetlands and protected ecosystems, as well as the dredging and canalization activities being carried out by Nicaragua on the San Juan River. In particular, Costa Rica requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Nicaragua, by its conduct, had breached the territory of Costa Rica, as agreed and delimited by the 1858 Treaty of Limits, the Cleveland Award and the first and second Alexander Awards; the fundamental principles of territorial integrity and the prohibition of use of force under the UN Charter and the Charter of the Organization of American States; the obligation imposed on Nicaragua by article IX of the 1858 Treaty of Limits not to use the San Juan River to carry out hostile acts; the obligation not to damage Costa Rican territory; the obligation not to artificially channel the San Juan River away from its natural watercourse without Costa Rica's consent; the obligation not to prohibit the navigation on the San Juan River by Costa Rican nationals; the obligation not to dredge the San Juan River if that caused damage to Costa Rican territory, including the Colorado River, in accordance with the 1888 Cleveland Award; the obligations under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; and the obligation not to aggravate and extend the dispute by adopting measures against Costa Rica, including the expansion of the invaded and occupied Costa Rican territory. The Court was also requested to determine the reparation to be made by Nicaragua.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Costa Rica invoked Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court by virtue of the operation of article XXXI of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement of 1948 (Pact of Bogotá), as well as the declarations of acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court made by Costa Rica on 20 February 1973 and by Nicaragua on 24 September 1929 (amended on 23 October 2001).

Also on 18 November 2010, Costa Rica requested the Court to order provisional measures so as to rectify the ongoing breach of its territorial integrity and to prevent further irreparable harm to its territory, pending the determination of the case on the merits.

Public hearings on the request for the indication of provisional measures were held from 11 to 13 January 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 1237].

On 8 March 2011 [ibid.], the Court delivered its decision on Costa Rica's request for the indication of provisional measures. In its order, it unanimously found that each party should refrain from sending to, or maintaining in the disputed territory, including the *caño* (the canal cut by Nicaragua), any personnel, whether civilian, police or security. By 13 votes to 4, it found that notwithstanding the point above, Costa Rica could dispatch civilian personnel charged with protecting the environment to the disputed territory, including the *caño*, but only insofar as it was necessary to avoid irreparable prejudice being caused to the part of the wetland where that territory was situated; Costa Rica should consult with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention in regard to those actions, give Nicaragua prior notice of them and find common solutions with Nicaragua in that respect. It unanimously found that each party should refrain from any action that might aggravate or extend the dispute or make it more difficult to resolve; and that each party should inform the Court as to its compliance with the provisional measures. Appended to the order were separate opinions by two judges and an ad hoc judge, and declarations by three judges and an ad hoc judge.

By an order of 5 April 2011 [ibid., p. 1238], the Court, taking account of the views of the parties, fixed 5 December 2011 and 6 August 2012, respectively, as the time limits for the filing of a memorial by Costa Rica and a counter-memorial by Nicaragua, which were filed within the fixed time limits.

In its counter-memorial [YUN 2012, p. 1264], Nicaragua submitted four counterclaims. It requested the Court to declare that Costa Rica bore responsibility to Nicaragua for the impairment and possible destruction of navigation on the San Juan River caused by the construction of a road next to its right bank, and that Nicaragua had become the sole sovereign over the area formerly occupied by the Bay of San Juan del Norte. The Court was also requested to find that Nicaragua had a right to free navigation on the Colorado Branch of the San Juan de Nicaragua River, until the conditions of navigability existing at the time of the conclusion of the 1858 Treaty were re-established. In its fourth counterclaim, Nicaragua alleged that Costa Rica had failed to implement the provisional measures indicated in the Court's order of 8 March 2011.

By two separate orders of 17 April 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1275], the Court joined the proceedings in the cases concerning *Certain Activities carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)* ("the *Costa Rica v. Nicaragua* case") and the *Construction of a Road in Costa Rica along the San Juan River (Nicaragua v. Costa Rica)* ("the *Nicaragua v. Costa Rica* case") (see p. 1475), in conformity with the principle of the sound administration of justice and the need for judicial economy.

By an order of 18 April 2013 [ibid., p. 1276], the Court found unanimously that Nicaragua's first counterclaim had become without object after the proceedings of the two cases had been joined, and that it would be examined as a principal claim in the context of the joined proceedings; that Nicaragua's second and third counterclaims were inadmissible under the current proceedings; and that there was no need to examine the fourth counterclaim as any question relating to the implementation of provisional measures could be taken up by the parties in the further course of the proceedings.

On 23 May 2013, Costa Rica requested the modification of the Court's order of 8 March 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 1237], referring to Article 41 of the Statute of the Court and article 76 of the Rules of the Court. Costa Rica complained of Nicaragua's sending to and maintaining in the disputed area large numbers of persons undertaking activities that affected that territory and its ecology. In Costa Rica's view, those actions, which had occurred since the Court decided to indicate provisional measures, created a new situation necessitating further provisional measures in order to prevent the presence of any individual in the disputed territory other than civilian personnel sent by Costa Rica to protect the environment.

In its observations filed within the time limit fixed as 14 June 2013, Nicaragua asked the Court to reject Costa Rica's request and to modify its 8 March 2011 order on the basis of article 76 of the Rules of the Court, in order to allow both parties to dispatch civilian personnel charged with the protection of the environment to the disputed territory. According to Nicaragua, this modification was necessitated by the change in the factual and legal situations as a result of both the construction by Costa Rica of a 160-kilometre-long road along the right bank of the San Juan River and the joinder of the proceedings in the two cases. In its observations filed within the time limit fixed as 20 June, Costa Rica asked the Court to reject Nicaragua's request, asserting that no part of the road in question was in the disputed area and that the joinder of the proceedings did not give rise to one proceeding which should be the subject of joint orders.

In its order of 16 July 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1276], the Court, by 15 votes to 2, found that the circumstances did not require the modification of its March 2011 order; unanimously reaffirmed the provisional measures indicated in that order, in particular, the requirement to refrain from any action that might aggravate or extend the dispute or make it more difficult to resolve; reminded the parties that those measures had binding effect and therefore created international legal obligations; and underlined that the order of 16 July was without prejudice to the parties' compliance with the March 2011 order. Appended to the order were dissenting opinions of one judge and one ad hoc judge.

On 24 September 2013, Costa Rica filed a request for the indication of new provisional measures. After holding public hearings on that request from 14 to 17 October 2013, the Court, in its order of 22 November 2013 [ibid.], unanimously reaffirmed the provisional measures indicated in its 8 March 2011 order and decided that Nicaragua should refrain from any dredging and other activities in the disputed territory, in particular, from work on the two new *caños* (canals); that it should fill, within two weeks, the trench on the beach north of the eastern *caño*; and that it should immediately inform the Court of the completion of this work and submit a detailed report, including photographic evidence, within one week from the completion. The Court further found, unanimously, that Nicaragua should remove any civilian, police or security personnel or private persons under its jurisdiction or control from the disputed territory, and prevent any such personnel or persons from entering it. It held by 15 votes to 1 that, following consultation with the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and after giving Nicaragua prior notice, Costa Rica might take appropriate measures related to the two new *caños*, to the extent necessary to prevent irreparable prejudice to the environment of the disputed territory and that, in taking those measures, Costa Rica should avoid any adverse effects on the San Juan River. The Court also unanimously decided that the parties should inform it at three-month intervals about their compliance with the provisional measures.

Construction of a Road in Costa Rica along the San Juan River (*Nicaragua v. Costa Rica*)

On 22 December 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 1239], Nicaragua instituted proceedings against Costa Rica with regard to violations of Nicaraguan sovereignty and major environmental damages to its territory. Nicaragua contended that Costa Rica was carrying out major construction works along most of the border area between the two countries with grave environmental consequences.

In its application, Nicaragua claimed that Costa Rica's unilateral actions threatened to destroy the San Juan de Nicaragua River and its fragile ecosystem, including the adjacent biosphere reserves and internationally protected wetlands that depended upon the clean and uninterrupted flow of the river for their survival. According to Nicaragua, the most immediate threat to the river and its environment was posed by Costa Rica's construction of a road running parallel and in close proximity to the southern bank of the river, and extending for at least 120 kilometres, from Los Chiles in the west to Delta in the east. It was also stated that those works had caused and would continue to cause significant economic damage to Nicaragua.

Nicaragua, accordingly, requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Costa Rica had breached its ob-

ligation not to violate Nicaragua's territorial integrity as delimited by the 1858 Treaty of Limits, the Cleveland Award of 1888 and the five awards of the umpire Edward Porter Alexander of 30 September 1897, 20 December 1897, 22 March 1898, 26 July 1899 and 10 March 1900; its obligation not to damage Nicaraguan territory; and its obligations under international law and environmental conventions, including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Agreement over the Border Protected Areas between Nicaragua and Costa Rica (International System of Protected Areas for Peace Agreement), the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention for the Conservation of the Biodiversity and Protection of the Main Wild Life Sites in Central America. Furthermore, Nicaragua requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Costa Rica must restore the situation to the status quo ante; pay for all damages caused, including the costs added to the dredging of the San Juan River; not undertake any future development in the area without an appropriate transboundary environmental impact assessment, to be presented to Nicaragua for its analysis and reaction; cease all the constructions under way that affected or might affect the rights of Nicaragua; and produce and present to Nicaragua an adequate environmental impact assessment with all the details of the works.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Nicaragua invoked Article 36, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court by virtue of the operation of article XXXI of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement of 1948 (Pact of Bogotá), as well as the declarations of acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court made by Nicaragua on 24 September 1929 (as amended on 23 October 2001) and by Costa Rica on 20 February 1973. Nicaragua asserted that Costa Rica had repeatedly refused to give it appropriate information on the construction works and had denied that it had any obligation to provide to Nicaragua an environmental impact assessment allowing for an evaluation of the works. Nicaragua therefore requested the Court to order Costa Rica to produce such a document and to communicate it to Nicaragua. It added that in all circumstances, and particularly if that request did not produce results, it reserved its right to request provisional measures.

Nicaragua also stated that as the legal and factual grounds of the application were connected to the ongoing case concerning *Certain Activities carried out by Nicaragua in the Border Area (Costa Rica v. Nicaragua)* (see p. 1473), it reserved its rights to consider whether to request that the proceedings in both cases should be joined.

By an order of 23 January 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1265], the Court fixed 19 December 2012 and 19 December 2013 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by Nicaragua and a counter-memorial by Costa Rica. The memorial of Nicaragua was filed within the time limit.

By two separate orders of 17 April 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1277], the Court joined the proceedings in the *Costa Rica v. Nicaragua* and *Nicaragua v. Costa Rica* cases (see p. 1474). In the context of those joined proceedings, the Court, by its orders dated 18 April and 16 July [ibid.], ruled, respectively, on the counterclaims submitted by Nicaragua in its counter-memorial filed in the *Costa Rica v. Nicaragua* case and on the requests made by Costa Rica and Nicaragua for the modification of the provisional measures indicated in the Court's order of 8 March 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 1237] in the *Costa Rica v. Nicaragua* case.

On 11 October 2013, Nicaragua filed a request for the indication of provisional measures. After holding public hearings on that request from 5 to 8 November 2013, the Court, in its order of 13 December 2013 [ibid.], unanimously found that the circumstances did not require the indication of provisional measures.

By an order of 3 February 2014, the Court fixed 4 August 2014 and 2 February 2015 as the respective time limits for the submission of a reply by Nicaragua and a rejoinder by Costa Rica. The reply by Nicaragua was filed within the time limit.

Obligation to Negotiate Access to the Pacific Ocean (*Bolivia v. Chile*)

On 24 April 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1277], Bolivia instituted proceedings against Chile concerning a dispute in relation to Chile's obligation to negotiate in good faith and effectively with Bolivia in order to reach an agreement granting Bolivia a fully sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean.

In its application, Bolivia stated that the subject of the dispute was the existence of that obligation, Chile's non-compliance with it and Chile's duty to comply with it. Bolivia asserted that, beyond its general obligations under international law, Chile had committed itself through agreements, diplomatic practice and a series of declarations attributable to its highest-level representatives to negotiate a sovereign access to the sea for Bolivia, but had not complied with that obligation and denied its existence. Bolivia accordingly requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Chile had the obligation to negotiate with Bolivia in order to reach an agreement granting Bolivia a fully sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean; that Chile had breached that obligation; and that Chile must perform the said obligation in good faith, promptly, formally, within a reasonable time and effectively, to grant Bolivia a fully sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean. Bolivia also reserved the right to request that an arbitral tribunal be established in accordance with the obligation under article XII of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship concluded with Chile on 20 October 1904 and the Protocol of 16 April 1907, in the case of any claims arising out of that Treaty.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Bolivia invoked article XXXI of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement of 1948 (Pact of Bogotá), to which both States were parties.

By its order of 18 June 2013 [ibid., p. 1278], the Court fixed 17 April 2014 and 18 February 2015 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by Bolivia and a counter-memorial by Chile. The memorial by Bolivia was filed within the time limit.

On 15 July 2014, Chile, referring to article 79, paragraph 1, of the Rules of the Court, filed a preliminary objection to the jurisdiction of the Court in the case. In accordance with paragraph 5 of the same article, the proceedings on the merits were then suspended.

By an order of 15 July, the President of the Court fixed 14 November 2014 as the time limit for the filing by Bolivia of a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objection raised by Chile, which was filed within the time limit.

Question of the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between Nicaragua and Colombia beyond 200 nautical miles from the Nicaraguan Coast (*Nicaragua v. Colombia*)

On 16 September 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1278], Nicaragua instituted proceedings against Colombia with regard to the delimitation of the boundaries between the continental shelf of Nicaragua beyond the 200-nautical-mile limit from the baselines from which the breadth of Nicaragua's territorial sea was measured, and the continental shelf of Colombia.

In its application, Nicaragua requested the Court to adjudge and declare the precise course of the maritime boundary between Nicaragua and Colombia in the areas of the continental shelf which appertained to each of them beyond the boundaries determined by the Court in its judgment of 19 November 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1257] in the case concerning the *Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*. The Court was further requested to state the principles and rules of international law that determined the rights and duties of the two States in relation to the area of overlapping continental shelf claims and the use of its resources, pending the delimitation of the maritime boundary between them beyond 200 nautical miles from Nicaragua's coast.

Nicaragua recalled that the Court's 2012 judgment defined the single maritime boundary between the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zones of Nicaragua and of Colombia within the 200-nautical-mile limit from the baselines from which the breadth of Nicaragua's territorial sea was measured, but that the Court was not in a position at the time to delimit the continental shelf throughout the area of the overlap between Nicaragua's continental shelf entitlement and that of Colombia, as requested by Nicaragua, con-

sidering that Nicaragua had not then established that it had a continental margin extending beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which its territorial sea was measured. Nicaragua contended that its submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on 24 June 2013 demonstrated that its continental margin extended more than 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of its territorial sea was measured, both traversing an area beyond 200 nautical miles from Colombia and partly overlapping with an area within 200 nautical miles of Colombia's coast. Nicaragua also observed that the two States had not agreed upon a maritime boundary between them in the area beyond 200 nautical miles from Nicaragua's coast and that Colombia objected to continental shelf claims in that area.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Nicaragua invoked article XXXI of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement of 1948 (Pact of Bogotá), noting that it was constrained into taking action rather sooner than later because Colombia had denounced the Pact of Bogotá on 27 November 2012, with effect from 27 November 2013 in accordance with article LVI of the Pact, which would accordingly remain in force for Colombia until that date. Nicaragua also contended that the subject-matter of its application remained within the Court's jurisdiction established in the case concerning the *Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*, instituted in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1195], as in its 2012 judgment the Court did not definitively determine the delimitation of the continental shelf between Nicaragua and Colombia in the area beyond 200 nautical miles from the Nicaraguan coast.

By its order of 9 December 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1278], the Court fixed 9 December 2014 and 9 December 2015 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by Nicaragua and a counter-memorial by Colombia.

On 14 August 2014, Colombia, referring to article 79 of the Rules of Court, raised certain preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and to the admissibility of the application. In accordance with paragraph 5 of the same article, the proceedings on the merits were then suspended.

By an order of 19 September, the Court fixed 19 January 2015 as the time limit for the filing by Nicaragua of a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objections raised by Colombia.

Alleged Violations of Sovereign Rights and Maritime Spaces in the Caribbean Sea (Nicaragua v. Colombia)

On 26 November 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1278], Nicaragua instituted proceedings against Colombia with regard to violations of Nicaragua's sovereign rights and maritime zones as declared by the Court's judgment

of 19 November 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1257] in the case concerning the *Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*, and the threat of the use of force by Colombia in order to implement those violations.

In its application, Nicaragua requested the Court to adjudge and declare that Colombia had breached its obligations not to use or threaten to use force under the UN Charter and international customary law, not to violate Nicaragua's maritime zones as delimited in the Court's 2012 judgment as well as Nicaragua's sovereign rights and jurisdiction in those zones, and not to violate Nicaragua's rights under customary international law as reflected in parts V and VI of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Nicaragua also requested the Court to adjudge and declare that, consequently, Colombia was bound to comply with the 2012 judgment, to wipe out the legal and material consequences of its internationally wrongful acts, and to make full reparation for the harm caused by those acts. In support of its claim, Nicaragua cited declarations reportedly made between 19 November 2012 and 18 September 2013 by the President, the Vice-President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, as well as by the Commander of the Colombian Navy, claiming that those declarations represented a "rejection" by Colombia of the Court's judgment and a decision to consider it "not applicable".

Nicaragua also referred to Colombia's Presidential Decree 1946 establishing an "Integral Contiguous Zone" which, according to Nicaragua quoting the President of Colombia, covered maritime spaces extending from the south, where the Albuquerque and East-Southeast Keys were situated, and to the north, where Serranilla Key was located, and included the San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina, Quitasueño, Serrana and Roncador islands, as well as the other formations in the area. Nicaragua stated that the Decree violated Nicaragua's sovereign rights over its maritime areas in the Caribbean, quoting the President of Colombia's declaration that Colombia would exercise jurisdiction and control in the Integral Contiguous Zone over all areas related to security and the struggle against delinquency, and over fiscal, customs, environmental, immigration and health matters and other areas as well. According to Nicaragua, the threatening declarations by Colombian authorities and the hostile treatment of Nicaraguan vessels by Colombian naval forces had seriously affected Nicaragua's possibilities for exploiting the living and non-living resources in its Caribbean exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, while attempts at dialogue to discuss the implementation of the Court's 2012 judgment were rejected by Colombia.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Nicaragua invoked article XXXI of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement of 1948 (Pact of Bogotá), pointing out that Colombia had denounced the Pact of Bogotá on 27 November 2012, with effect from 27 November

2013 in accordance with article LVI of the Pact, which would accordingly remain in force for Colombia until that date. Nicaragua further argued that the Court's jurisdiction rested in its inherent power to pronounce on the actions required by its judgments.

By an order of 3 February 2014, the Court fixed 3 October 2014 and 3 June 2015 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by Nicaragua and a counter-memorial by Colombia. The memorial by Nicaragua was filed within the time limit.

On 19 December, Colombia, referring to article 79 of the Rules of Court, raised certain preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court. In accordance with paragraph 5 of the same article, the proceedings on the merits were then suspended.

By an order of 19 December, the President of the Court fixed 20 April 2015 as the time limit for the filing by Nicaragua of a written statement of its observations and submissions on the preliminary objections raised by Colombia.

Questions relating to the Seizure and Detention of Certain Documents and Data (*Timor-Leste v. Australia*)

On 17 December 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1279], Timor-Leste filed an application instituting proceedings with regard to the seizure and subsequent detention by Australia of documents, data and other property which belonged to Timor-Leste and which Timor-Leste had the right to protect under international law.

Timor-Leste contended that, on 3 December 2013, officers of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, allegedly acting under a warrant issued by Australia's Attorney-General, seized from the business premises of a legal adviser to Timor-Leste in Canberra documents and data containing correspondence between the Government of Timor-Leste and its legal advisers, notably relating to a pending arbitration under the 2002 Timor Sea Treaty between Timor-Leste and Australia.

Timor-Leste, accordingly, requested the Court to adjudge and declare that the seizure and continuing detention by Australia of the documents and data violated Timor-Leste's sovereignty, as well as its property and other rights under international law and any relevant domestic law; and that Australia must immediately return to Timor-Leste those documents and data, destroy beyond recovery every copy of such documents and data that was in Australia's possession or control, and ensure the destruction of every copy that Australia had directly or indirectly passed to a third person or third State. The Court was also requested to adjudge and declare that Australia should afford satisfaction to Timor-Leste in respect of those violations of its rights under international law and any relevant domestic law, in the form of a formal

apology as well as the costs incurred by Timor-Leste in preparing and presenting the current application. As basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Timor-Leste invoked the declarations of the two countries, recognizing the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court.

Also on 17 December 2013, Timor-Leste filed a request for the indication of provisional measures, stating that the purpose of the request was to protect its rights and to prevent the use of seized documents and data by Australia against Timor-Leste's interests and rights in the pending arbitration and with regard to other matters concerning the Timor Sea and its resources.

Timor-Leste, accordingly, requested the Court to indicate as provisional measures that the documents and data seized by Australia on 3 December 2013 be immediately sealed and delivered into the Court's custody, and that Australia immediately deliver to Timor-Leste and to the Court a list of all documents and data or the information that it had disclosed or transmitted to any person, as well as a list of the identities and current positions held by such persons; deliver within five days to Timor-Leste and to the Court a list of all copies that it had made of the seized documents and data; destroy all copies of the seized documents and data, secure the destruction of all copies that it had transmitted to any third party, and inform Timor-Leste and the Court of the steps taken in pursuance of that order for destruction; and give an assurance that it would not intercept or cause or request the interception of communications between Timor-Leste and its legal advisers, whether within or outside Australia or Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste further requested that, pending the Court's decision on its request for the indication of provisional measures, the President of the Court exercise his power under article 74 of the Rules of Court to call upon Australia to act in such a way as would enable any order the Court might make on the said request to have its appropriate effects.

In his 18 December 2013 communication to the Prime Minister of Australia [ibid., p. 1280], the ICJ President drew the attention of the Australian Government to the need to act in such a way as to enable any order the Court would make on the request for provisional measures to have its appropriate effects, in particular, to refrain from any act which might cause prejudice to the rights claimed by Timor-Leste in the current proceedings. By the same communication, the President of the Court fixed 20–22 January 2014 as the dates for public hearings on the request for the indication of provisional measures.

At the end of public hearings thus held, Timor-Leste confirmed the provisional measures it had requested the Court to indicate; while Australia asked the Court to refuse Timor-Leste's request and to stay the proceedings until the Arbitral Tribunal rendered its judgment in the arbitration under the Timor Sea Treaty.

By an order of 28 January, the Court fixed 28 April 2014 and 28 July 2014 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by Timor-Leste and a counter-memorial by Australia, which were filed within the time limits.

In its order of 3 March, the Court, by 12 votes to 4, decided that Australia had to ensure the content of the seized material was not in any way or at any time used to the disadvantage of Timor-Leste, pending the conclusion of the case, and that Australia had to keep under seal the seized documents and electronic data and any copies thereof until further decision of the Court was reached. The Court, by 15 votes to 1, decided that Australia should not interfere in any way in communications between Timor-Leste and its legal advisers in connection with the pending arbitration under the 2002 Timor Sea Treaty, with any future bilateral negotiations concerning maritime delimitation, or with any other related procedure between the two States, including this case. Appended to the order were dissenting opinions of two judges and one ad hoc judge, and separate opinions by two judges.

On 17 June, the Registrar transmitted to the parties the list of public hearings scheduled to take place from 17 to 24 September. By a joint letter dated 1 September, the parties requested the Court to adjourn the hearing in order to enable them to seek an amicable settlement. On 3 September, the Court decided to grant the parties' request to postpone the oral proceedings.

Maritime Delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean (*Costa Rica v. Nicaragua*)

On 25 February 2014, Costa Rica filed an application instituting proceedings against Nicaragua with regard to a dispute concerning maritime delimitation in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

In its application, Costa Rica requested the Court to determine the complete course of a single maritime boundary between all the maritime areas appertaining, respectively, to Costa Rica and to Nicaragua in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, and the precise geographical coordinates of the single maritime boundaries in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. According to Costa Rica, the coasts of the two States generated overlapping entitlements to maritime areas in both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, and there had been no maritime delimitation between the two States in either body of water. It further maintained that the two States had exhausted diplomatic means to resolve their maritime boundary disputes, following various failed attempts to settle the issue between 2002 and 2005, and in 2013.

According to Costa Rica, the divergence between the proposals presented by the two States during negotiations with regard to a single maritime boundary

in the Pacific Ocean to divide their respective territorial seas, exclusive economic zones and continental shelves demonstrated an overlap of claims. With respect to the Caribbean Sea, both States focused on the location of the initial land boundary marker on the Caribbean side, but were unable to reach agreement on the starting point of the maritime boundary. In Costa Rica's view, the existence of a dispute between the two States as to the maritime boundary in the Caribbean Sea had been affirmed by the positions expressed by both States during Costa Rica's request to intervene in the case *Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia)* [YUN 2010, p. 1277]; in exchanges of correspondence following Nicaragua's submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf; by Nicaragua's publication of oil exploration and exploitation material; and by a 2013 decree declaring straight baselines, in which Nicaragua claimed as internal waters areas of Costa Rica's territorial sea and exclusive economic zone in the Caribbean Sea, and which was protested by Costa Rica in a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General dated 23 October 2013. Costa Rica claimed that although Nicaragua accepted in 2013 the invitation to resume negotiations, it took no further action to restart the process.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Costa Rica invoked its own declaration of acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court, made on 20 February 1973, and a declaration made by Nicaragua on 24 September 1929 (as amended on 23 October 2001), as well as article XXXI of the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement of 1948 (Pact of Bogotá).

By an order of 1 April 2014, the Court fixed 3 February 2015 and 8 December 2015 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by Costa Rica and a counter-memorial by Nicaragua.

Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (*Marshall Islands v. India*)

On 24 April 2014, the Marshall Islands filed an application instituting proceedings against India, accusing it of not fulfilling its obligations with respect to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament.

In its application, the Marshall Islands, which acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 30 January 1995, asserted that the obligations enshrined in article VI of NPT were not merely treaty obligations, but also existed separately and applied to all States under customary international law. It stated that India, by engaging in conduct that directly conflicted with the obligations of nuclear disarmament and cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date, had breached and continued to

breach its legal duty to perform in good faith its obligations under customary international law, even though it had not ratified NPT. The Marshall Islands requested the Court to order India to take all steps necessary to comply with the said obligations within one year of the judgment, including the pursuit—by initiation if necessary—of negotiations in good faith aimed at concluding a convention on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, the Marshall Islands referred to the declarations, accepting the Court's compulsory jurisdiction, made by the Marshall Islands on 24 April 2013 and by India on 18 September 1974.

By its order of 16 June 2014, the Court decided that the written pleadings would first be addressed to the question of the Court's jurisdiction, and fixed 16 December 2014 and 16 June 2015 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by the Marshall Islands and a counter-memorial by India. The memorial by the Marshall Islands was filed within the time limit.

Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament
(Marshall Islands v. Pakistan)

On 24 April 2014, the Marshall Islands filed an application instituting proceedings against Pakistan, accusing it of not fulfilling its obligations with respect to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament.

In its application, the Marshall Islands, which acceded to NPT on 30 January 1995, asserted that the obligations enshrined in article VI of NPT were not merely treaty obligations, but also existed separately and applied to all States under customary international law. It stated that Pakistan, by engaging in conduct that directly conflicted with the obligations of nuclear disarmament and cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date, had breached and continued to breach its legal duty to perform in good faith its obligations under customary international law, although it had not ratified NPT. The Marshall Islands requested the Court to order Pakistan to take all steps necessary to comply with the said obligations within one year of the judgment, including the pursuit—by initiation if necessary—of negotiations in good faith aimed at concluding a convention on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, the Marshall Islands referred to the declarations, accepting the Court's compulsory jurisdiction, made by the Marshall Islands on 24 April 2013 and by Pakistan on 13 September 1960.

By an order of 10 July 2014, the President of the Court decided that the written pleadings would first be addressed to the question of the Court's jurisdic-

tion and the admissibility of the application, and fixed 12 January 2015 and 17 July 2015 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by the Marshall Islands and a counter-memorial by Pakistan.

Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament
(Marshall Islands v. United Kingdom)

On 24 April 2014, the Marshall Islands filed an application instituting proceedings against the United Kingdom, accusing it of not fulfilling its obligations with respect to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament.

In its application, the Marshall Islands invoked breaches by the United Kingdom of article VI of NPT, which provided that "[e]ach of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control". The Marshall Islands contended that by not pursuing such negotiations and engaging instead in conduct that directly conflicted with those legally binding commitments, the United Kingdom had breached and continued to breach its legal duty to perform in good faith its obligations under NPT and customary international law. It requested the Court to order the United Kingdom to take all steps necessary to comply with its obligations under article VI of NPT and under customary international law within one year of the judgment, including the pursuit—by initiation if necessary—of negotiations in good faith aimed at concluding a convention on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

As the basis for the Court's jurisdiction, the Marshall Islands referred to the declarations, accepting the Court's compulsory jurisdiction, made by the Marshall Islands on 24 April 2013 and by the United Kingdom on 5 July 2004.

By an order of 16 June 2014, the Court fixed 16 March 2015 and 16 December 2015 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by the Marshall Islands and a counter-memorial by the United Kingdom.

Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean
(Somalia v. Kenya)

On 28 August 2014, Somalia filed an application instituting proceedings against Kenya with regard to a dispute concerning the delimitation of maritime spaces claimed by both States in the Indian Ocean.

In its application, Somalia contended that both States disagreed about the location of the maritime

boundary in the area where their maritime entitlements overlapped, and that the diplomatic negotiations that took place between them had failed to resolve that disagreement. It requested the Court to determine the complete course of the single maritime boundary dividing all the maritime areas appertaining to Somalia and to Kenya in the Indian Ocean, including the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, and the precise geographical coordinates of the single maritime boundary in the Indian Ocean.

Somalia expressed the view that the maritime boundary between the parties in the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf should be established in accordance with, respectively, articles 15, 74 and 83 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the boundary line in the territorial sea should be a median line as specified in article 15, since no special circumstances existed to justify departure from such a line; and the boundary in the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf should be established according to the three-step process the Court had consistently employed in its application of articles 74 and 83. According to Somalia, Kenya maintained the position that the maritime boundary should be a straight line emanating from the parties' land boundary terminus, and extending due east along the parallel of latitude on which the land boundary terminus sits, through the full extent of the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, including the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.

As basis for the Court's jurisdiction, Somalia referred to the declarations, recognizing the Court's compulsory jurisdiction, made by Somalia on 11 April 1963 and by Kenya on 19 April 1965, as well as article 282 of the Convention on the Law of the Sea ratified by both States in 1989.

By an order of 16 October 2014, the President of the Court fixed 13 July 2015 and 27 May 2016 as the respective time limits for the filing of a memorial by Somalia and a counter-memorial by Kenya.

Other questions

Functioning and organization of the Court

Composition of the Court

Election of judges

On 4 August [A/69/230-S/2014/520], the Secretary-General notified the General Assembly and the

Security Council that the terms of office of five members of the Court would expire on 5 February 2015, and therefore the Assembly and the Council should elect five judges for a nine-year term of office, beginning on 6 February 2015. On the same date [A/69/253-S/2014/521 & A/69/254-S/2014/522], the Secretary-General submitted the list of candidates, nominated by national groups, and their curricula vitae.

On 6 November, the Assembly and the Council elected four members of the Court to fill the vacancies occurring on 6 February 2015. On 12 November [A/69/575-S/2014/808], Argentina communicated to the Secretary-General, the Assembly and the Council its decision to withdraw one candidate for the position of judge. On 17 November, the Assembly and the Council elected one additional member to fill the remaining vacancy (**decision 69/406**).

Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes

In August [A/69/337 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General reported on the activities and status of the Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice since the submission of his 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 1280]. The Fund, established in 1989 [YUN 1989, p. 818], provided financial assistance to States for expenses incurred in connection with a dispute submitted to the Court by way of a special agreement or by the application of its Statute, or the execution of a judgment of the Court.

During the period under review (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014), the Fund received applications from Burkina Faso and the Niger relating to a dispute between the two States concerning a section of their common boundary. Both States requested financial assistance to implement the Court's judgment of 16 April 2013 in the case *Frontier Dispute (Burkina Faso/Niger)* [YUN 2013, p. 1274] by carrying out the demarcation of the pertinent section of their common boundary on the basis of the Court's delimitation. A panel of experts, set up in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Terms of Reference of the Fund, was tasked with examining the applications and advising the Secretary-General on the parameters of the financial assistance.

Two States contributed to the Fund, which as at 30 June had a balance of \$3.15 million. Noting that the number of contributions remained low, the Secretary-General urged States and other entities to consider making substantial contributions to the Fund on a regular basis.

International tribunals and court

In 2014, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (ICTY) continued to expedite its proceedings, in keeping with its completion strategy. During the year, ICTY completed the substantive work before the Trial Chamber and rendered two appeal judgements. There were no outstanding indictments for violations of core statutory crimes.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwanda Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (ICTR) continued to work towards its completion strategy. In 2014, it completed the substantive work before Trial Chamber and rendered five Appeals Chamber judgements.

Following the opening of its branch in The Hague on 1 July 2013, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals was operating on two continents and performing functions inherited from both ICTY and ICTR. Those functions included attending to certain judicial matters, providing protection to witnesses, supervising the enforcement of sentences and managing archives.

The International Criminal Court continued its proceedings with respect to situations of concern in eight countries. The Office of the Prosecutor conducted preliminary examination activities in 10 situations. Twelve arrest warrants were outstanding at year's end.

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

In 2014, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), established by Security Council resolution 827(1993) [YUN 1993, p. 440] and based in The Hague, continued efforts to implement its completion strategy [YUN 2002, p. 1275], which was endorsed by Council resolution 1503(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 1330].

The Tribunal continued to focus on the completion of all trials and appeals, rendering two appeal judgements. The Office of the Prosecutor made progress towards the completion of the mandate of the

Tribunal at both the trial and appellate levels, and continued to develop working relationships with the authorities of the States of the former Yugoslavia to encourage cooperation with the Tribunal and to support domestic war crimes prosecutions. The Registry provided administrative and judicial support to the Tribunal, and coordinated the practical arrangements necessary for the transfer of responsibilities to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (the Mechanism), established by Council resolution 1966(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 1306].

The President, Judge Theodor Meron (United States), and the Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz (Belgium), continued to fulfil their duties at the Tribunal. During the year, the Security Council adopted resolution 2193(2014), which addressed, among other issues, the extension of the terms of office of the judges and ad litem judges (see p. 1483).

President Meron informed the Council on 10 December [S/PV.7332] that the Tribunal continued to make progress in completing its last trials and appeals. The Tribunal delivered two appeal judgements in 2014. By the end of the year, only four trials and five appeal cases remained outstanding. All 161 individuals indicted were accounted for. Five appeals and four trials were ongoing by the end of the year.

The activities of ICTY were covered in two reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly, for the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014 [A/69/225-S/2014/556] and from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015 [A/70/226-S/2015/585]. The Assembly took note of the 2013/2014 report on 13 October (**decision 69/508**).

On 15 September (**decision 68/664**), the General Assembly decided to include the item on ICTY in the draft agenda of its sixty-ninth (2014) session. On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on ICTY would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Chambers

During the year, the Tribunal's three Trial Chambers rendered no judgements [A/69/225-S/2014/556], while the Appeals Chamber rendered two final judgements. Judicial activities included first instance and appeals proceedings against judgements, interlocutory decisions and State requests for review. As at 31 July, ICTY had 23 judges from 22 countries, including 14 permanent tribunal judges, six permanent judges of the International Criminal Tribunal

for Rwanda serving in the Appeals Chamber, and three ad litem judges.

New arrests and indictments

During the year, there were no outstanding indictments for violations of core statutory crimes. Following the arrests of the last of the Tribunal's fugitives, Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić [YUN 2011, p. 1243], the two trials were in the defence evidence presentation phase.

Ongoing cases, trials and appeals

Ratko Mladić was charged with 11 counts of genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war, all in relation to acts allegedly committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 12 May 1992 and 30 November 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 1314]. The trial commenced on 16 May 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1270]. The defence case started on 19 May 2014. In October, Trial Chamber I granted the Prosecution's request to reopen its case in order to present previously unavailable evidence relating to a mass grave discovered in the village of Tomašica, in the Prijedor municipality of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The judgement was expected in November 2017.

Goran Hadžić was charged with 14 counts of crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war, all in relation to acts allegedly committed in Croatia and Serbia between 25 June 1991 and December 1993. The trial commenced on 16 December 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1270]. The defence case started on 3 July 2014. The trial was adjourned on 20 October and Mr. Hadžić was on provisional release. The judgement was expected in October 2016.

Radovan Karadžić was charged with 11 counts of genocide, crime against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war, for acts allegedly committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995. The trial commenced on 26 October 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1282]. The defence case closed on 2 May 2014. Closing arguments were heard between 30 September and 7 October. The judgement was expected in December 2015.

Vojislav Šešelj was charged with nine counts of crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war, for acts allegedly committed in Croatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Vojvodina (Serbia) between August 1991 and September 1993 [YUN 2003, p. 1311 & YUN 2004, p. 1277]. Trial proceedings concluded on 20 May 2012. The Trial Chamber's decision that the trial could continue despite the disqualification of Judge Harhoff and replacement by Judge Niang, was upheld by the Appeals Chamber.

In the case of *Prosecutor v. Nikola Šainović et al.*, the appeal judgement was rendered on 23 January. The Appeals Chamber affirmed majority of the defendants' convictions while granting certain grounds of appeal

raised by the appellants. It reduced Mr. Šainović's sentence from 22 to 18 years of imprisonment; reduced Vladimir Lazarević's sentence from 15 to 14 years of imprisonment; and reduced Sreten Lukić's sentence from 22 to 20 years of imprisonment.

In the case of *Prosecutor v. Vlastimir Đorđević*, the appeal judgement was rendered on 27 January. The Appeals Chamber affirmed majority of Mr. Đorđević's convictions, while granting, either in full or in part, certain grounds of appeal raised by him and one ground of appeal raised by the prosecution. Granting the latter ground of appeal, the Appeals Chamber entered an additional conviction for persecution (sexual assault). The Appeals Chamber reduced Mr. Đorđević's sentence from 27 to 18 years of imprisonment.

In the case of *Prosecutor v. Momčilo Perišić*, the Appeals Chamber, on 20 March, denied a prosecution motion seeking reconsideration of the appeal judgement.

The three Appeals Chamber cases, *Prosecutor v. Jovica Stanišić and Franko Simatović*, *Prosecutor v. Mićo Stanišić and Stojan Župljanin* and *Prosecutor v. Jadranko Prlić et al.*, were outstanding.

Judges of the Court

Extension of terms of office and ad litem judges

ICTY requests for extension. On 31 October [A/69/559-S/2014/780], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council and to the General Assembly a 1 October letter from the ICTY President, requesting the extension of the term of office of 14 permanent judges of the Trial and Appeals Chambers and three ad litem judges of the Trial Chamber until the dates set out therein or until the completion of the cases to which they were assigned.

On 3 December [A/69/631-S/2014/865], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council and to the General Assembly a 25 November letter from the ICTY President, amending his request for extension of the term of office of Judge Patrick Robinson (Jamaica) to 31 July 2015, or until the completion of the cases to which he was assigned, in view of the election of Judge Robinson to the International Court of Justice.

General Assembly action. On 23 December, the Assembly, by **decision 69/416**, decided to extend the term of office of 13 permanent judges and three ad litem judges, who were members of the Trial Chambers and the Appeals Chamber, until 31 December 2015 or until the completion of the cases to which they were assigned. It also decided to extend the term of office of one permanent judge, Judge Robinson, who was a member of the Appeals Chamber, until 31 July 2015, or until the completion of the cases to which he was assigned.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 7348], the Security Council adopted **resolution 2193(2014)** by vote (14-0-1). The draft [S/2014/907] was submitted by Chile.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its determination to combat impunity for all those responsible for serious international crimes and the necessity of all persons indicted by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (the International Tribunal) being brought to justice,

Taking note of the letters dated 31 October and 3 December 2014 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council attaching letters dated 1 October and 25 November 2014 from the President of the International Tribunal,

Recalling its resolutions 827(1993) of 25 May 1993, 1503(2003) of 28 August 2003 and 1534(2004) of 26 March 2004 and, in particular, 1966(2010) of 22 December 2010, in which it, inter alia, established the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (the Mechanism),

Taking into account the assessments by the International Tribunal in its completion strategy report, and the updated trial and appeals schedule,

Noting the concerns expressed by the President of the International Tribunal about staffing, and reaffirming that staff retention is essential for the most expeditious completion of the work of the Tribunal,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the extension of the terms of office of the permanent and ad litem judges at the International Tribunal, who are members of the Trial Chambers and the Appeals Chamber,

Recalling also its resolution 2007(2011) adopted on 14 September 2011,

Having regard to article 16 of the statute of the International Tribunal,

Having considered the nomination by the Secretary-General of Mr. Serge Brammertz for reappointment as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Requests* the International Tribunal to complete its work and facilitate the closure of the Tribunal as expeditiously as possible with the aim of completing the transition to the Mechanism, and expresses its continued concern over delays in the conclusion of the work of the Tribunal, in the light of resolution 1966(2010), in which the Security Council requested the Tribunal to complete its trial and appeals proceedings by 31 December 2014;

2. *Underlines* that States should cooperate fully with the International Tribunal, as well as with the Mechanism;

3. *Decides* to extend the term of office of the following permanent judge at the International Tribunal, who is a member of the Appeals Chamber, until 31 July 2015 or until the completion of the cases to which he is assigned, if sooner:

– Mr. Patrick Lipton Robinson (Jamaica)

4. *Also decides* to extend the term of office of the following permanent and ad litem judges at the International Tribunal, who are members of the Trial Chambers and the Appeals Chamber, until 31 December 2015 or until the completion of the cases to which they are assigned, if sooner:

– Mr. Koffi Kumelio A. Afande (Togo)

– Mr. Carmel A. Agius (Malta)

– Mr. Liu Daqun (China)

– Mr. Theodor Meron (United States of America)

– Mr. Fausto Pocar (Italy)

– Mr. Jean-Claude Antonetti (France)

– Mr. Guy Delvoie (Belgium)

– Mr. Christoph Flüge (Germany)

– Mr. Burton Hall (Bahamas)

– Mr. O-gon Kwon (Republic of Korea)

– Mr. Bakone Melema Moloto (South Africa)

– Mr. Howard Morrison (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

– Mr. Alphonsus Martinus Maria Orie (Netherlands)

– Mr. Melville Baird (Trinidad and Tobago)

– Ms. Flavia Lattanzi (Italy)

– Mr. Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

5. *Further decides* to reappoint Mr. Serge Brammertz as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal, notwithstanding the provisions of article 16, paragraph 4, of the statute of the International Tribunal related to the length of office of the Prosecutor, for a term with effect from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2015, which is subject to an earlier termination by the Council upon the completion of the work of the Tribunal;

6. *Urges* the International Tribunal, in the light of resolution 1966(2010), to redouble its efforts to review its projected case completion dates with a view towards shortening them as appropriate;

7. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2193(2014):

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom, United States.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Russian Federation.

Office of the Prosecutor

In 2014, the Office of the Prosecutor ensured the expeditious continuation of trial proceedings and handled the remaining appeals, while contending with the problem of escalating staff attrition and downsizing. As at 31 July, judgements were issued in two appeals (*Sainović et al.* and *Đorđević*); two cases were in the phase of presentation of defence evidence (*Hadžić* and *Mladić*); one case was in the final briefing process following the completion of the phase of presentation of defence evidence (*Karadžić*); and one case was still awaiting judgement at the trial chamber level (*Šešelj*). In addition, five cases were on appeal (*Popović et al.*, *Tolimir*, *Stanišić* and *Župljanin*, *Prlić et al.*, and *Stanišić* and *Simatović*).

The Office of the Prosecutor continued to rely on the full cooperation of States to fulfil its mandate. The Prosecutor continued to foster working relations with national prosecutors, meeting with officials in Sarajevo in April 2014 and in Brijuni, Croatia, in May 2014 to discuss cooperation and other issues of mutual relevance. The Office continued to request cooperation from Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of its ongoing casework.

Serbia processed requests for assistance from the Office, and facilitated its access to witnesses, by facilitating the appearance of witnesses before the Tribunal.

The Croatian authorities provided timely and adequate responses to day-to-day requests for assistance

from the Office and facilitated access to witnesses and evidence as required.

The authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina responded promptly and adequately to most requests from the Office for documents and access to government archives. They also provided valuable assistance with witness protection matters and facilitated the appearance of witnesses before the Tribunal.

With respect to cooperation in judicial matters among the States of the former Yugoslavia, the Office continued to promote regional cooperation and collaboration in war crimes matters. The regional cooperation protocols came under public scrutiny in January and February 2014, when Serbia and Croatia issued international arrest warrants against citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A protocol on the exchange of information and evidence in war crimes cases was adopted between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro on 29 April, following the signing of similar protocols between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Croatia [YUN 2013, p. 1284]. The Office encouraged the respective authorities to produce concrete results from the implementation of the protocol. In December, Serbian and Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities conducted coordinated arrest operations in relation to the *Štrpci* case, and initial proceedings were under way in both Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to bring those arrested to trial.

Support from States outside the former Yugoslavia and international organizations remained important for the completion of the Tribunal's mandate. The Office continued to access information held in the archives and other institutions of United Nations Member States, and acknowledged the assistance from the United Nations and its agencies, the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and non-governmental organizations, including those in the former Yugoslavia.

As the Tribunal moved closer to the completion of its mandate, the Office remained committed to promoting effective war crimes prosecutions in the former Yugoslavia. The Office continued to provide information related to the ongoing cases at the Tribunal to assist national jurisdictions in prosecuting crimes arising out of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The joint EU/Tribunal "liaison prosecutors" project, in its fifth year of operation, remained a central component of the Office's strategy to strengthen the capacity of national criminal justice systems in the former Yugoslavia to undertake war crimes cases. The Office continued to urge the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to finalize investigations arising out of material it had transferred to them concerning crimes documented in cases brought by the Office, but which did not form part of indictments at the Tribunal. Serious issues remained in relation to the implementation of the national war strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Although there had been some progress in the transfer of cases from State judicial organs to entity judicial organs, the number of indictments issued by the entities remained low. The Office urged the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to pay attention to cases of sexual violence, given the reported magnitude of such crimes and the dearth of prosecutions devoted to them.

The Office sought to share the lessons learned and best practices developed from its work over the past 21 years with national counterparts working across a range of criminal justice sectors in Africa, South America, Europe and the Middle East.

The Registry

During the year, the Registry provided judicial, diplomatic, operational and administrative support for the Tribunal and managed its outreach programme. The Judicial Support Services Division underwent a major restructuring and consolidation to streamline its operations and respond to the downsizing efforts of the Tribunal. The restructuring included the merger of part of the former Court Management Support Services, the Victims and Witnesses Section and the Office for Legal Aid and Defence into one new section: the Court Support Services Section as of 1 March. The established Section had four units: the Witness Support and Operations Unit and Witness Protection Unit (collectively referred to as the Victims and Witnesses Section), the Courtroom Operations Unit, and the Office for Legal Aid and Defence. Another part of the former Court Management Support Services called the Judicial Records Unit reported to the Mechanism Archives and Records Section.

As at 31 July, the Victims and Witnesses Section assisted 207 witnesses to travel to The Hague to give evidence and completed 95 witness interviews for its research regarding the long-term impact of giving testimony at the Tribunal. It also supported the Mechanism in preparing policies and practices and developing shared access to its databases for the branches of the Mechanism in The Hague and Arusha. The Witness Protection Unit coordinated professional responses to threats to witnesses and continued working on relocating protected witnesses.

The Courtroom Operations Unit supported four trials and seven appeals, including five videoconference links, four rule 92 bis missions and one site visit. It also assisted three self-represented accused through its *Pro Se* Office. As at 31 July, in cooperation with the Judicial Records Unit, the Unit had processed 81 requests for assistance submitted by national jurisdictions.

The Office for Legal Aid and Defence administered the legal aid system of the Tribunal, overseeing more than 200 defence team members. The Office also assisted detained witnesses with their legal representation and administered the appointment and remuneration of *amici curiae*. It also provided assistance on

legal, policy, and operational matters relating to the management of the legal aid system of the Mechanism.

The Judicial Records Unit, as at 31 July, had processed 3,562 Tribunal filings, 425 Mechanism filings and 714 transcripts. It also facilitated the sharing and transfer of judicial records between the Tribunal and the Mechanism.

The United Nations Detention Unit continued to support both the Tribunal and the Mechanism and was responsible for detaining up to 34 individuals in conditions meeting the applicable international standards. It facilitated the presence of detainees at court hearings, ensured the care and security of detained witnesses and implemented the provisional release of one detainee. The Unit continued to support self-represented accused in the preparation of their defence cases with a wide range of facilities. It also facilitated medical examinations by court-appointed medical experts and by physicians chosen by detainees.

The Administration Division engaged with both management and staff representatives in further implementing downsizing procedures. The Division also coordinated the finalization of the proposed budgets for the Tribunal and the Mechanism for the biennium 2014–2015. It also provided overall administrative support to the Mechanism, including the launch and start-up of the branch of the Mechanism in The Hague.

The Immediate Office of the Registrar supported the Registrar in its overall responsibility, including supervising all Registry sections and representing the Tribunal in its relations with the host State, embassies and ministries, the United Nations and other international organizations. It also supported the Registrar in managing Mechanism registry operations in both Arusha and The Hague. The Office continued to assist the Registrar and the Administration Division with the implementation of downsizing procedures.

The Mechanism Archives and Records Section supported the Tribunal offices with the preparation for transferring the records to the Mechanism. The Section contributed to the further development of policies and procedures, such as the electronic mail policy of the Tribunal. The Section continued to develop and implement the retention schedules of the Tribunal records, focusing on schedules for the records of Chambers and the Administration Division. The Section provided records storage and retrieval services for Tribunal offices, including the destruction of time-expired records in compliance with approved retention schedules.

The Communications Service provided information to a wide range of audiences. It also supported the development of an Internet platform for the Mechanism.

The outreach programme continued to deliver accurate factual information about the work of the Tribunal and to stimulate debate in the former Yugoslavia. It prepared an exhibition of the work and achievements of the Tribunal, displayed in The Hague

and in Sarajevo, and also completed the second, and initiated the third, phase of its youth outreach project in high schools and universities in all countries of the region, reaching almost 2,000 young people. The field offices of the Tribunal in Belgrade and Sarajevo organized 20 outreach events reaching approximately 1,000 individuals. Two documentaries about the work of the Tribunal were produced. The first, entitled “Through Their Eyes: Witnesses to Justice” which highlighted the crucial role that witnesses played in the work of the Tribunal, was screened in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and The Hague. The second, “Crimes before the ICTY: Central Bosnia” was completed in July.

Financing

2012–2013 biennium

Board of Auditors report. On 30 June [A/69/5/Add.14], the Chair of the Board of Auditors transmitted to the President of the General Assembly the financial statements of ICTY for the 2012–2013 biennium. The Board’s recommendations covered, among other issues, planning for the closure of the Tribunal, the transition to the Mechanism and the management of non-expendable property.

2014–2015 biennium

Report of the Secretary-General. In November [A/69/599], the Secretary-General submitted the first performance report on the ICTY budget for the 2014–2015 biennium to identify revised estimates for ICTY owing to variation in the rates of inflation and exchange, and in the standards and vacancies assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriations. The General Assembly was requested to approve a revised appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of \$201,340,300 gross (\$179,074,200 net), reflecting a decrease of \$347,900 gross (\$638,900 net).

ACABQ report. In December [A/69/655], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommended that the General Assembly take note of the first performance report and approve a revised appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 to the ICTY Special Account in the amount of \$201,340,300 gross (\$179,074,200 net).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/69/692], adopted **resolution 69/255** without a vote [agenda item 146].

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

The General Assembly,

Having considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2014–

2015, of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2013 and the report of the Board of Auditors on the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the recommendations contained therein and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling its resolution 47/235 of 14 September 1993 on the financing of the Tribunal and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/256 of 27 December 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2014–2015, of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Decides* on a revised appropriation to the Special Account for the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 of a total amount of 201,054,800 United States dollars gross (179,074,200 dollars net) for the biennium 2014–2015, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

4. *Also decides*, for the year 2015, to apportion among Member States, in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for the year, the amount of 50,176,725 dollars gross (44,608,825 dollars net), including 173,950 dollars gross (319,450 dollars net), being the decrease in assessments;

5. *Further decides*, for the year 2015, to apportion among Member States, in accordance with the rates of assessment applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for the year, the amount of 50,176,725 dollars gross (44,608,825 dollars net), including 173,950 dollars gross (319,450 dollars net), being the decrease in assessments;

6. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the amount of 11,135,800 dollars, including 291,000 dollars, being the increase in the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Tribunal for the biennium 2014–2015.

ANNEX

Financing for the biennium 2014–2015 of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

	Gross	Net
	(United States dollars)	
Initial appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 (resolution 68/256)	201,688,200	179,998,600
First performance report for the biennium 2014–2015 (A/69/599)	(347,900)	(638,900)

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/69/655)	—	—
Recommendations of the Fifth Committee	—	—
Estimated income for the biennium 2014–2015	(285,500)	(285,500)
Revised appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 (net of estimated income)	201,054,800	179,074,200
Assessment for 2014	(100,701,350)	(89,856,550)
Balance to be assessed for 2015	100,353,450	89,217,650
<i>Including:</i>		
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2015	50,176,725	44,608,825
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the rates of assessment applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2015	50,176,725	44,608,825

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on ICTY financing would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

International Tribunal for Rwanda

In 2014, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), established by Security Council resolution 955(1994) [YUN 1994, p. 299] and based in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, delivered five Appeals Chamber judgements.

The Office of the Prosecutor focused on handing over of responsibility for tracking of fugitives to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (the Mechanism) and supporting national authorities in the prosecution of crimes relating to the 1994 Rwanda genocide. Support was also extended to Rwanda authorities to assist them in preparing for the transfer of cases from the Tribunal. The Registry continued to provide a high level of administrative and judicial support to the Tribunal and to the Mechanism. The Registry ensured the cooperation and assistance of Member States with the Tribunal and further strengthened its outreach and capacity-building activities in Rwanda.

The Security Council adopted resolution 2194(2014) (see p. 1489) addressing, among other issues, the extension of the terms of office of permanent judges.

The ICTR President, Judge Vagn Joensen (Denmark), informed the Council on 10 December [S/PTV.7332] that the ICTR Appeals Chamber had completed all of its work with the exception of the *Butare* case concerning six persons. The ICTR President also updated the Council on the progress made with

respect to the issue of reparations for the victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The issue of relocating the acquitted and convicted released persons remained a challenge. As ICTR made arrangements for closure, the continued assistance of governments remained crucial to ensure the Tribunal closed its door with its mandate completed and its legacy secured.

The 2014 activities of ICTR were covered in two reports to the Council and the General Assembly, for the periods of 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 [A/69/206-S/2014/546] and 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/70/218-S/2015/577]. The Assembly took note of the 2013/2014 report on 13 October (**decision 69/507**).

On 15 September (**decision 68/663**), the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item on ICTR and to include it in the draft agenda of its sixty-ninth (2014) session. On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on ICTR would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

The Chambers

The Chambers comprised one Trial Chamber and one Appeals Chamber and were composed of 12 permanent judges in the Appeals Chamber and one ad litem judge serving as President and as member of the Trial Chamber.

New arrests

In 2014, the Office of the Prosecutor of the Tribunal had no further fugitive-related workload. The tracking, arrest and trial of the three top-level fugitives, Augustin Bizimana, Félicien Kabuga and Protais Mpiranya, and the monitoring of all referred cases were managed by the Mechanism.

Ongoing cases, trials and appeals

On 7 February 2014, the Appeals Chamber severed the case of Augustin Bizimungu from the *Ndindiliyimana et al. (Military II)* case, ordering further submissions from the parties. On 11 February, the Appeals Chamber issued its judgement in respect of the *Ndindiliyimana, Nzuwonemeye and Sagashutu* cases. The Appeals Chamber reversed Ndindiliyimana's and Nzuwonemeye's convictions in their entirety. It also partly reversed Sagashutu's convictions, reducing his sentence to 15 years of imprisonment.

The Appeals Chamber issued its judgement in respect of Mr. Bizimungu on 30 June. The Appeals Chamber affirmed Mr. Bizimungu's convictions for genocide; extermination, murder and rape as crimes against humanity; and murder and rape as serious violations of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II, while it reversed

findings of his responsibility for certain events. The Appeals Chamber affirmed the sentence of 30 years of imprisonment.

The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeals in the *Édouard Karemera and Matthieu Ndirumpatse* case in February 2014 and pronounced its judgement on 29 September. The Appeals Chamber affirmed Karemera's and Ndirumpatse's 2011 convictions [YUN 2011, p. 1251], while it reversed certain findings of the Trial Chamber, and also affirmed their sentences of life imprisonment.

The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeal in the *Ildéphonse Nizeyimana* case in April and pronounced its judgement on 29 September. The Appeals Chamber reversed Nizeyimana's 2012 convictions [YUN 2012, p. 1276] based on some events, including his conviction for extermination as a crime against humanity, but affirmed his convictions for genocide and murder as a crime against humanity and as a serious violation of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II thereto. The Appeals Chamber set aside the life sentence and imposed a sentence of 35 years of imprisonment.

The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeals in the *Callixte Nzabonimana* case in April and pronounced its judgement on 29 September. While reversing Nzabonimana's 2012 convictions [ibid.] based on certain events, the Appeals Chamber affirmed his convictions for instigating genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, and extermination as a crime against humanity. The Appeals Chamber also affirmed his life sentence.

Deliberations were in progress in the final case, *Nyiramasuhuko et al. ("Butare" case)*, which concerned six convicted persons. The Appeals Chamber was expected to hear oral arguments in April 2015.

Judges of the Court

Extension of terms of office and ad litem judges

ICTR request for extension. On 31 October [A/69/560-S/2014/779], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council and to the General Assembly a 1 October letter from the ICTR President, requesting the extension of the term of office of six permanent judges of the Appeals Chamber and one ad litem judge of the Trial Chamber until the dates set out therein or until the completion of the cases to which they were assigned.

General Assembly action. On 23 December (**decision 69/415**), the Assembly decided to extend the term of office of two permanent judges, who were members of the Appeals Chamber, until 31 July 2015 or until the completion of the cases to which they were assigned. It also decided to extend the term of office of four permanent judges, who were members

of the Appeals Chamber, until 31 December 2015 or until the completion of the cases to which they were assigned. The Assembly further decided to extend the term of office of one ad litem judge, Judge Vagn Joensen (Denmark), until 31 December 2015 so that he would continue to perform the functions required of him as trial judge and President of the International Tribunal, to complete the work of the Tribunal.

Nomination for reappointment of Prosecutor

By a letter of 31 October [S/2014/778] to the Security Council, the Secretary-General requested the Council to reappoint Hassan Bubacar Jallow (Gambia) as Prosecutor, effective 1 January 2015, for a one-year term, subject to an earlier termination by the Council upon the completion of the work of ICTR.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 7348], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2194(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/908] was submitted by Chile.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its determination to combat impunity for all those responsible for serious international crimes and the necessity of all persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (the International Tribunal) being brought to justice,

Taking note of the letter dated 31 October 2014 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council attaching a letter dated 1 October 2014 from the President of the International Tribunal,

Recalling its resolutions 955(1994) of 8 November 1994, 1503(2003) of 28 August 2003, 1534(2004) of 26 March 2004 and, in particular, 1966(2010) of 22 December 2010, in which it, inter alia, established the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (the Mechanism),

Taking into account the assessments by the International Tribunal in its completion strategy report, and the updated appeal schedule,

Noting that the year 2014 marked the twentieth anniversary of the International Tribunal, established on 8 November 1994,

Noting also the referral of cases of Laurent Bucyibaruta, Wenceslas Munyeshyaka, Jean Uwinkindi and Bernard Munyagishari to national jurisdictions, pursuant to rule 11 bis of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the International Tribunal, and emphasizing the importance of continuing to monitor progress in referred cases, as well as the goal of achieving the completion of all Tribunal and referred cases at the earliest possible time,

Noting with concern that many genocide suspects continue to elude justice, including the remaining nine fugitives indicated by the International Tribunal,

Noting with concern also that the International Tribunal continues to face problems in the relocation of acquitted persons and convicted persons who have completed serving their sentences, emphasizing the importance of the successful relocation of such persons, and also noting the assumption of responsibility of the Mechanism for such persons from 1 January 2015,

Noting the concerns expressed by the President of the International Tribunal about staffing, and reaffirming that staff retention is essential for the most expeditious completion of the work of the International Tribunal,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the extension of the terms of office of the permanent and ad litem judges at the International Tribunal, who are members of the Trial Chamber and the Appeals Chamber,

Recalling also its resolution 2006(2011) adopted on 14 September 2011,

Having regard to article 15 of the statute of the International Tribunal,

Having considered the nomination by the Secretary-General of Mr. Hassan Bubacar Jallow for reappointment as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Requests* the International Tribunal to complete its work and facilitate the closure of the Tribunal as expeditiously as possible with the aim of completing the transition to the Mechanism, taking into account resolution 1966(2010), in which the Security Council requested the Tribunal to complete its trial and appeals proceedings by 31 December 2014;

2. *Underlines* that States should cooperate fully with the International Tribunal as well as with the Mechanism;

3. *Commends* States that have accepted the relocation of acquitted persons or convicted persons who have completed serving their sentences to their territories, and reiterates its call upon all States to cooperate with and render all necessary assistance to the International Tribunal and, from 1 January 2015, the Mechanism, for increased efforts towards the relocation of acquitted persons and convicted persons who have completed serving their sentences;

4. *Urges* all States, especially States where fugitives are suspected to be at large, to intensify their cooperation with and render all necessary assistance to the International Tribunal and the Mechanism, in particular to achieve the arrest and surrender of all remaining fugitives indicted by the Tribunal as soon as possible;

5. *Urges* the Mechanism to continue to monitor cases of Laurent Bucyibaruta, Wenceslas Munyeshyaka, Jean Uwinkindi and Bernard Munyagishari, which were referred to national jurisdictions;

6. *Decides* to extend the term of office of the following permanent judges at the International Tribunal, who are members of the Appeals Chamber, until 31 July 2015 or until the completion of the cases to which they are or will be assigned, if sooner:

- Mr. Mehmet Güney (Turkey)
- Mr. William H. Sekule (United Republic of Tanzania)

7. *Also decides* to extend the term of office of the following permanent judges at the International Tribunal, who are members of the Appeals Chamber, until 31 December 2015 or until the completion of the cases to which they are or will be assigned, if sooner:

- Ms. Khalida Rachid Khan (Pakistan)
- Mr. Mandiaye Niang (Senegal)
- Ms. Arlette Ramaroson (Madagascar)
- Mr. Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov (Russian Federation)

8. *Further decides*, bearing in mind the expiry of his term of office on 31 December 2014, to extend the term of office of Judge Vagn Joensen (Denmark) until 31 December

2015 so that he may continue to perform the functions required of him as trial judge and President of the International Tribunal, to complete the work of the Tribunal;

9. *Decides* to reappoint Mr. Hassan Bubacar Jallow as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal, notwithstanding the provisions of article 15, paragraph 4, of the statute of the International Tribunal related to the length of office of the Prosecutor, for a term with effect from 1 January 2015 until 31 December 2015, which is subject to an earlier termination by the Council upon the completion of the work of the Tribunal;

10. *Also decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Office of the Prosecutor

Following the completion of all first instance trial proceedings, the Office of the Prosecutor focused on the completion of ongoing appeals, the monitoring of cases referred to national jurisdictions, transitional activities to ensure a smooth and efficient transfer of functions to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Mechanism, preparation of materials for archiving and on multiple activities related to the Prosecutor's closing report to the Secretary-General, and other essential legacy works initiated over the years.

The Office of the Prosecutor had transferred a further 596 boxes of material concerning an additional five completed cases and investigation records to the Arusha branch of the Mechanism of the Office of the Prosecutor. The Office of the Prosecutor's Appeals and Legal Advisory Division litigated 26 appeals in seven cases during the reporting period.

In January 2014, the Office hosted an international conference in Kampala, Uganda, and released a manual on best practices in the investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence. On 4 and 5 November, the Office hosted the Seventh Colloquium of International Prosecutors, which was part of broader legacy events organized by the Tribunal to mark its twentieth anniversary.

The Registry

The Registry supported the judicial process by servicing the Tribunal's other organs and the defence, as well as by seeking support from States, international organizations and other stakeholders in the conduct of proceedings.

The main activities of the Office of the Registrar focused on supporting the conclusion of the remaining appeals, engaging Member States on a variety of issues, providing support to the Mechanism, and preparing the records of the Tribunal for archiving and handover to the Mechanism necessary to achieve an orderly closure of the Tribunal. The Office of the Registrar continued to act as the channel of communication between the Tribunal and the diplomatic community. It also assisted the Mechanism with its function of monitoring the cases of *Uwinkindi* and *Munyagishari* that were transferred to Rwanda for trial, as well as the

two cases referred to France. In April, the Office of the Registrar participated in an event held to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Rwanda Genocide in Dar es Salaam, jointly organized by the United Nations Office in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Rwanda High Commission and the Government of Tanzania. The President and Registrar continued to deploy all efforts to find host countries for the remaining nine acquitted persons and three released convicts.

The Umusanzu Information and Documentation Centre in Kigali and 10 additional provincial information centres located across Rwanda played a key role in promoting outreach activities of the Tribunal through information dissemination, improved communication and access to the jurisprudence and other legal materials of the Tribunal. From February to June 2014, the staff of the Centre conducted genocide awareness workshops in six districts in Rwanda, covering 18 secondary schools, one demobilization and reintegration camp and one institution of higher learning.

The Judicial and Legal Affairs Section focal point for court management provided support services to the judicial processes of the Tribunal and the Mechanism, including the provision of transcripts of appellate proceedings, and continued to prepare judicial records for transfer to the Mechanism. The Section focal point for defence counsel, detainees and acquitted and convicted persons released in Tanzania provided essential services, such as management of payments to defence counsel and attending to requests from detainees and released persons. The Section focal point for witness and victims support worked with the Mechanism to prepare witness files for handover in relation to 58 completed cases before the Tribunal. The United Nations Detention Facility, as at 30 June, housed a total inmate population of 13 detained persons, including 11 convicted persons awaiting judgements on appeal by the Tribunal, one convicted person awaiting judgement on appeal by the Mechanism and one convicted person awaiting an order for transfer for the enforcement of sentence by the Mechanism.

The Legal Library and Reference Unit delivered legal information to both internal and external users who needed to access the materials of the Tribunal and the Mechanism, including their jurisprudence. The Unit also maintained the web database to enable researchers to access the Tribunal's jurisprudence. On 1 January, the Office of the Registrar completed the transfer of the Unit together with its functions to the Mechanism, in line with the decision of the Coordination Council.

The Division of Administrative Support Services carried the responsibility of providing a wide range of services, such as budget and finance, medical services, security, travel, human resources, training and counselling services, buildings management and property control. It continued to respond to challenges from the process of downsizing in a proactive and flexible manner.

The Career Development and Counselling Unit was implementing a four-pronged strategy to support the completion of the Tribunal's mandate. The Security and Safety Section continued to support the Tribunal and the Mechanism in ensuring the safety and security of staff, premises, assets and operations. The Health Service Unit provided curative, preventive and trauma counselling support and performed medico-administrative duties for staff members and officials of the Tribunal and Mechanism and their dependants. It also provided medical services to detainees, witnesses and victims and acquitted persons. The Information Technology Services Section continued its consolidation and optimization process in liquidating Kigali facilities, supporting the Mechanism's information technology infrastructure in Arusha and Kigali and sustaining services required by the Tribunal completion strategy. The Budget and Finance Section provided expertise on proper planning, control and monitoring of the utilization of available resources as well as services to staff members and clients of the Tribunal. The main function of the Procurement Section had been disposing of the Tribunal's assets and transferring those that might be utilized by the Mechanism into its custody, with the impending closure of the Tribunal. The Administrative Legal Services Unit played an important legal advisory role for issues pertaining to the proper implementation and interpretation of UN administrative rules, cases relating to the privileges and immunities of staff regarding civil and criminal cases, and disputes related to domestic employees of Tribunal staff members. The Unit had been assisting the Registrar with appeals related to the downsizing and retention processes, performance evaluations and investigations of allegations and misconduct in collaboration with the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Unit had also been responsible for coordination activities of all other oversight bodies.

Financing

2012–2013 biennium

Board of Auditors report. On 30 June, the Chair of the Board of Auditors transmitted the Board's report [A/69/5/Add.13] on the audit of the financial statements of ICTR for the 2012–2013 biennium to the General Assembly President. The Board recommended that the Tribunal complete the remaining International Public Sector Accounting Standards implementation opening balances activities as planned, with a view to the successful completion and handover to its successor of its mandate; consider preparing formal contingency arrangements for risks to the timetable for the completion of its mandate; develop an efficient acquisition plan that would suit the downsizing and winding-up strategy and reduce the procurement lead time process; and designate a senior officer who would regularly review the activities of system administrators

with dual roles, as a control measure to minimize the risks of fraud.

2014–2015 biennium

Report of Secretary-General. In November, the Secretary-General submitted the first performance report [A/69/597] of ICTR for the 2014–2015 biennium to identify revised estimates, taking into account variations in the rates of inflation and exchange and in the standards and vacancies assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriations. The General Assembly was requested to approve the revised appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of \$94,883,600 gross (\$88,316,800 net), reflecting an increase of \$1,287,900 gross (\$1,128,400 net).

ACABQ report. In December [A/69/655], ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly take note of the first performance report and approve the revised appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 to the ICTR Special Account in the amount of \$94,883,600 gross (\$88,316,800 net).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/691], adopted **resolution 69/254** without a vote [agenda item 145].

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

The General Assembly,

Having considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2014–2015, of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, the financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2013 and the report of the Board of Auditors on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the recommendations contained therein and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling its resolution 49/251 of 20 July 1995 on the financing of the Tribunal and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/255 of 27 December 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2014–2015, of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Decides* on a revised appropriation to the Special Account for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 of a total amount of 94,883,600 United States dollars gross (88,316,800 dollars net) for the biennium 2014–2015, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

4. *Also decides*, for the year 2015, to apportion among Member States, in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for the year, the amount of 24,042,875 dollars gross (22,361,300 dollars net), including 643,950 dollars gross (564,200 dollars net), being the increase in assessments;

5. *Further decides*, for the year 2015, to apportion among Member States, in accordance with the rates of assessment applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for the year, the amount of 24,042,875 dollars gross (22,361,300 dollars net), including 643,950 dollars gross (564,200 dollars net), being the increase in assessments;

6. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the amount of 3,363,150 dollars, including 159,500 dollars, being the increase in the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Tribunal for the biennium 2014–2015.

ANNEX

Financing for the biennium 2014–2015 of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

	Gross	Net
	(United States dollars)	
Initial appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 (resolution 68/255)	93,595,700	87,188,400
First performance report for the biennium 2014–2015 (A/69/597)	1,287,900	1,128,400
Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/69/655)	—	—
Recommendations of the Fifth Committee	—	—
Revised appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015	94,883,600	88,316,800
Assessment for 2014	(46,797,850)	(43,594,200)
Balance to be assessed for 2015	48,085,750	44,722,600

Including:

Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2015	24,042,875	22,361,300
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the rates of assessment applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2015	24,042,875	22,361,300

On the same date, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on ICTR financing would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Functioning of the Tribunals

Implementation of completion strategies

ICTY

In response to Security Council resolution 1534(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 1292], the ICTY President reported in May [S/2014/351] and November [S/2014/827] on progress made in implementing the ICTY completion strategy.

The Tribunal continued to make progress in completing its work, rendering two appeal judgements. Four trials, involving four individuals, and five appeals, involving 16 individuals, were ongoing. Following the arrests of Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 1243], there were no outstanding fugitives from ICTY. The Tribunal had concluded proceedings against 141 of the 161 individuals it had indicted. It also continued to make effort to meet the deadlines of the completion strategy, and the forecast judgement delivery dates were unchanged for almost all cases. The Tribunal undertook initiatives aimed at providing assistance and support to victims and pursued legacy and capacity-building project. It also worked to ensure a smooth transition to the Mechanism. The outreach programme continued its efforts to bring the work of the Tribunal closer to communities in the former Yugoslavia. The Tribunal implemented measures expediting its work, including the planning of additional training programmes for legal drafters in the Chambers; the assignment of staff members who had additional capacity to assist on a part-time basis with judicial cases potentially subject to delay; the active management of the translation process for judgements and the assignment of additional resources to key translations; and the maintenance of rosters of qualified applicants to ensure that departing staff could be replaced promptly.

The Victims and Witnesses Section provided assistance and support for approximately 112 witnesses appearances before the Tribunal. As the Tribunal worked towards the completion of its activities, it also continued to face challenges related to the relocation of witnesses. In order to increase efficiency and to en-

sure the accuracy and completeness of witness records, the Section allowed for shared access to the Tribunal's victims and witnesses database between the Sarajevo field office and The Hague. As at 1 January 2014, the Mechanism's victims and witnesses protection staff were providing for the protection of witnesses in ongoing trials before the Tribunal, in addition to witnesses from completed Tribunal cases.

The Tribunal continued to implement its planned downsizing process and expected to downsize 361 posts during the biennium 2014–2015, in line with the trial and appeal schedule. On 1 March, five pre-existing sections were merged into four. The new Court Support Services Section was composed of the Courtroom Operations Unit, the Victims and Witnesses Section, and the Office for Legal Aid and Defence.

All sections of the Registry supported the Mechanism with a variety of processes, including recruitment, communications, information technology support and Registry management. The Registry also provided The Hague branch of the Mechanism with judicial support services, which included assistance with court management, language services, detention services and witness support services. The Tribunal continued to prepare its digital and hard-copy records for transfer to the Mechanism. The Human Resources Section of ICTY continued to administer recruitments to fill posts for the Mechanism. As at 15 May, recruitment exercises across both branches had resulted in the filling of 120 posts.

ICTY convened a two-day conference in Sarajevo, on 26 and 27 November, to consider aspects of its legacy in the former Yugoslavia. A meeting of the working group on the establishment of information centres was also held on 26 November in Sarajevo, where local authorities confirmed support for the establishment of two such centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina, one in Sarajevo and one in Banja Luka.

As the Tribunal completed its last judicial processes, challenges remained, most notably difficulties in retaining its highly qualified and experienced staff, which affected the progress of pending cases. Though the Tribunal would not be able to complete all of its judicial work by the end of 2014, as requested by the Security Council in resolution 1966(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 1306], that should not overshadow the success of the Tribunal and its contributions to the development of substantive and procedural international criminal law and the assistance provided to rule of law efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

ICTR

In response to Security Council resolution 1534(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 1292], the ICTR President submitted reports in May [S/2014/343] and November [S/2014/829 & Corr.1] that assessed progress made in implementing the ICTR completion strategy.

As at 5 November, the Tribunal had completed its responsibilities with respect to the substantive cases at the trial level for all 93 accused indicted by the Tribunal, including 55 first-instance judgements involving 75 accused, 10 referrals to national jurisdictions, three top priority fugitives whose cases had been transferred to the Mechanism, two withdrawn indictments and three indictees who died prior to or in the course of trial. Appellate proceedings had been concluded in respect of 55 persons. The sole remaining appeal in the *Nyiramasuhuko et al.* ("Butare") case was expected to be completed not before August 2015. Nine of the accused indicted by the Tribunal for their participation in the genocide in Rwanda remained at large. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1966(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 1306], the responsibility for the tracking and trials of all nine of those fugitives remained with Rwanda and the Mechanism. The transition to the Mechanism and plans for closure of the Tribunal were close to completion; most judicial and prosecutorial functions had been handed over to the Mechanism.

The Office of the Prosecutor focused its work on the completion of the remaining appeals, supporting the monitoring of cases referred to national jurisdiction for trial, multiple transitional dispositions aimed at ensuring a smooth and effective transfer of functions to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Arusha branch of the Mechanism, the preparation of materials for archiving, and diverse activities for the Prosecutor's closing report to the Secretary-General. The Office of the Registrar continued to provide administrative and logistical support to the Chambers and the Office of the Prosecutor, including human resources management, court management, finance, general services and other administrative services. It also continued with the downsizing of the Tribunal to prepare for its closure and liquidation in 2015. During the first week of November 2014, the Tribunal organized events that involved conferences and exhibitions to commemorate its twentieth anniversary.

In accordance with its statute and transitional arrangements, the Mechanism was responsible for requests for review of Tribunal judgements, trials for contempt of court or false testimony where the indictment was confirmed on or after 1 July 2012, and for the trials of three of the remaining Tribunal fugitives once arrested. A number of designated professional staff of the Tribunal continued double hatting for activities related to the Mechanism in order to gradually make it fully operational. Activities included the monitoring of cases transferred to national jurisdictions, the management of the records of the Office of the Prosecutor, the preservation of damaged archives and the handling of appeals before the Mechanism. The Tribunal remained confident that the preparation and transfer of inactive records would be completed before closure, with minimal active records left for

preparation and transfer to the Mechanism during the liquidation phase.

Judicial and legal activity continued to be focused on completing the remaining appeals and the transition to the Mechanism. The focus of administrative energies had remained on downsizing related activities, including the continued search for a solution to the problem of relocation for the acquitted and released persons, the preparation of the records of the Tribunal for management by the Mechanism, and providing the support necessary for the remaining judicial and legal work of the Tribunal. In November, the Tribunal launched a new website, which included information on its remaining work, and recalled milestones reached and lessons learned in its pursuit of justice. The Tribunal held a symposium on its legacy on 6 and 7 November, which preceded the official commemoration event of the establishment of the Tribunal on 8 November. The Tribunal spearheaded the initiative to hold practice workshops between international tribunals and ICC, the first of which took place in The Hague on 15 and 16 September.

International Residual Mechanism

The Security Council established the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals by resolution 1966(2010) [YUN 2010, p. 1306], with the mandate to execute the residual functions of ICTY and ICTR, following the closure of those entities. The Mechanism had two branches: the one for ICTR was launched on 1 July 2012 and the one for ICTY commenced functioning on 1 July 2013. In response to Council resolution 1966(2010), the President and the Prosecutor of the Mechanism submitted progress reports in May [S/2014/350] and November [S/2014/826] on the work of the Mechanism for the periods from 16 November 2013 to 15 May 2014 and from 16 May to 19 November 2014.

The President of the Mechanism supervised matters related to the management of the Mechanism, coordinated the work of the Chambers and issued orders and decisions. The Office of the Prosecutor focused on the activities within its remit, including the tracking of the remaining fugitives indicted by ICTR, the rendering of assistance to national authorities and the prosecution of the Mechanism's first appeal from a judgement. The Office also established systems and procedures to streamline its operation and ensure coordination between its offices at the two branches. The Registry provided and coordinated a wide range of administrative and judicial support services for the Mechanism.

The activities of the Mechanism were covered in two reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly, for the periods from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 [A/69/226-S/2014/555] and from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/70/225-S/2015/586].

The Assembly took note of the second annual report (2013/2014) of the Mechanism on 13 October (**decision 69/509**).

The President and the Chamber

During the year, the President, in his capacity as the head of the Mechanism, engaged in issues relating to the establishment and management of the Mechanism. He developed and adopted practice directions, held regular meetings with the Registrar on operational matters and represented the Mechanism in a variety of forums. In his judicial capacity, the President issued numerous assignment orders, as well as six decisions granting early release, a decision provisionally recognizing a sentence remission, six orders designating an enforcement State and other confidential orders and decisions. He ruled on two requests for administrative review of a decision by the Registrar of the Mechanism, one of which was confidential. The President dismissed without prejudice three requests for revocation in relation to cases transferred to Rwanda for prosecution and issued two other decisions relating to referred cases. He also partially denied a motion in a contempt-related matter. In addition, the President presided over the Appeals Chamber and served as pre-appeal judge on the Mechanism's first appeal from judgement, in the case of *Augustin Ngirabatware v. the Prosecutor*.

At the Arusha branch, Judge Vagn Joensen, as the single judge, issued seven decisions on requests for access to confidential information or variation of protective measures for use in national proceedings under rule 86 of the Rules. He rendered four decisions denying post-appeal requests in the *Eliézer Niyitegeka* case and two decisions on allegations of contempt arising out of the *Augustin Ngirabatware* case. He also issued a decision and an order with respect to two confidential matters. In May, at the request of the Prosecutor, Judge Joensen vacated the warrants from ICTR for the arrest of Fulgence Kayishema, Phénéas Munyarugarama, Aloys Ndimbat, Ladislav Ntaganzwa, Charles Ryandikayo and Charles Sikubwabo, replacing them with Mechanism warrants for their arrest and transfer to Rwanda authorities.

At The Hague branch, Judge Bakone Justice Moloto issued 23 decisions on requests for access to confidential information or variation of protective measures for use in national proceedings under rule 86 of the Rules, and also issued a decision concerning protective measures under rule 76 of the Rules. He issued two decisions in contempt-related matters, an order following the receipt of material from a State and an order concerning a request for redaction and reclassification of material. Judge Burton Hall issued a decision on a confidential matter and an order concerning a request for redaction and reclassification of material.

The Appeals Chamber was seized of an appeal from judgement, concerning the *Augustin Ngirabat-*

ware case. The Appeals Chamber heard oral arguments in Arusha on 30 June, after having rendered 10 pre-appeal orders and decisions. On 21 November, the Appeals Chamber issued a decision dismissing Mr. Ndirabaturu's three motions for the admission of additional evidence on appeal. On 18 December, the Appeals Chamber affirmed Mr. Ndirabaturu's convictions for genocide and direct and public incitement to commit genocide. The Appeals Chamber, however, reversed the conviction for rape as a crime against humanity and reduced Mr. Ndirabaturu's sentence to 30 years of imprisonment.

The Appeals Chamber was seized of a request for review filed by Milan Lukić. The briefing was completed on 10 April. The President rendered four orders and decisions dealing with various preliminary motions and other confidential requests. The Appeals Chamber also issued a decision on an appeal against a decision denying the revocation of the referral of the *Radovan Stanković* case to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as a decision on appeals filed by Deogratias Sebureze and Maximilien Turinabo in relation to contempt proceedings.

As at 30 June, the Appeals Chamber was seized of a request filed by Eliézer Niyitegeka for the assignment of counsel to assist him with an anticipated request for review. On 6 November, the Appeals Chamber denied Mr. Niyitegeka's request for the assignment of counsel to assist him with an anticipated request for review and the presiding judge issued a related order.

Office of the Prosecutor

In 2014, the Office of the Prosecutor continued to discharge its mandate with respect to a variety of activities, including the tracking of fugitives, the rendering of assistance to national authorities, the monitoring of cases referred to national jurisdictions, the maintenance of fugitive files in anticipation of arrest and the prosecution of an appeal and other litigation before the Mechanism's Appeals Chamber. The Office also established systems and procedures to streamline operations and ensure coordination between the branches. The second joint branch meeting of the Office of the Prosecutor took place in The Hague in December.

The Arusha branch of the Office of the Prosecutor was fully staffed, with a total of 15 core staff in Arusha and the Kigali sub-office. A prosecution appeals team was also in place to handle the appeal from the judgement in the *Augustin Ndirabaturu* case. The Arusha branch continued to receive support from the Office of the Prosecutor of ICTR to ensure the smooth transition of functions. The responsibility for tracking the remaining fugitives indicted by ICTR had devolved to the Mechanism. The arrest and prosecution of the top three fugitives, Augustin Bizimana, Félicien Kabuga and Protais Mpiranya, was a key priority, and

the Prosecutor had further intensified efforts to track those fugitives, with particular emphasis on the Great Lakes and southern African regions. The Prosecutor was grateful for the Security Council's renewed and essential call, in its **resolution 2150(2014)**, for all Member States to cooperate with the Mechanism in the arrest and prosecution of the nine remaining fugitives (see p. 239) and launched the International Fugitives Initiative in Kigali on 24 July. The Prosecutor continued to render assistance to the tracking of the six fugitives whose cases had been referred to Rwanda (Fulgence Kayishema, Phénée Munyarugarama, Aloys Ndimbaty, Ladislav Ntaganzwa, Charles Ryandikayo and Charles Sikubwabo). The Arusha branch of the Office of the Prosecutor received 74 requests for assistance from 14 Member States and international organizations and hosted a delegation from a national prosecuting authority. The Office of the Prosecutor of ICTR transferred 330 boxes of materials concerning five completed cases and early investigation records to the Arusha branch of the Office of the Prosecutor. The Prosecutor continued to monitor progress in referred cases, namely the *Wenceslas Munyeshyaka* and *Laurent Bucyibaruta* cases, which were transferred to France in 2007, as well as the *Jean Uwinkindi* and *Bernard Munyagishari* cases, which were transferred to Rwanda in 2012 and 2013 [YUN 2012, p. 1280 & YUN 2013, p. 1292]. The Arusha branch of the Office of the Prosecutor continued to work with its counterpart in ICTR on a number of projects, including a best practices manual for the investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence launched in January 2014, a related training programme to be conducted in the Great Lakes region later in 2014, the development of a best practices manual on the referral of international cases to national jurisdictions, and a consolidated account of the Rwanda genocide based on facts adjudicated in the judgements of the Trial and Appeals Chambers of the Tribunal.

The Hague branch of the Office of the Prosecutor, which began operations on 1 July 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1292], was almost fully staffed, with 10 core staff members on board. An advance prosecution appeals team was established to handle appeals against ICTY judgements before the Mechanism's Appeals Chamber. The Office responded to three requests concerning allegations of contempt filed by Radovan Karadžić, and it received 244 requests for assistance from seven Member States and one international organization. It also cooperated with liaison prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia embedded in the Office of the Prosecutor of the Tribunal. The Office filed 16 submissions in relation to applications by requesting authorities for variation of protective measures. It participated in the annual regional conference of prosecutors from the former Yugoslavia held in Brijuni, Croatia. The Office was also in the process of negotiating memorandums of understanding with

prosecutors in countries of the former Yugoslavia to entrench cooperation and mutual legal assistance and ensure continuity as the Office took over those responsibilities from the Office of the Prosecutor of ICTY. The Office responded to requests for information from the Registrar of the Mechanism concerning the administration of sentences for 10 convicted persons.

The Registry

The Registry was responsible for the provision of legal, judicial, policy, diplomatic and administrative support to the Mechanism's operations. The post of Registrar continued to be funded by the ICTY budget under the double-hatting arrangement throughout the biennium. The transfer of administrative functions to the Mechanism began on 1 January 2014. As at 30 June, a total of 133 staff (regular posts and general temporary assistance) had been recruited for the Mechanism, 67 for The Hague branch and 66 for the Arusha branch, including Kigali. The Hague branch was co-located with ICTY, while the Arusha branch continued to be co-located with ICTR, and was expected to move to its new premises in 2016.

The Registry supported judicial activities in both branches of the Mechanism by preparing and managing case hearings, processing judicial filings, assigning and remunerating defence teams and providing translation of correspondence and judicial documents. The Arusha branch of the Witness Support and Protection Unit provided support to the witnesses who had testified in cases completed by ICTR, including specialized care for witnesses who were victims of sexual or gender-based violence during the Rwanda genocide. The Hague branch of the Unit continued to work on relocating protected witnesses. At both branches, the Witness Support and Protection Unit continued to contact witnesses in response to requests from national jurisdictions seeking the rescission, variation or augmentation of protective measures pursuant to rule 86 of the Rules.

The archives of the two Tribunals, for which the Mechanism would take responsibility, comprised approximately 15,000 metres of physical records and three petabyte of digital data, including more than 100,000 hours of audiovisual recordings. The Mechanism Archives and Records Section worked closely with the Tribunals on the preparation of their records and archives for transfer to the Mechanism. The Section had assumed responsibility for temporary repositories for physical records in Arusha and The Hague, pending the development of permanent repositories in both locations. The Section continued to develop the Mechanism's records and archives policies, including a record-keeping policy, an e-mail policy, standards on storing metadata, records retention schedules, and guidelines on managing sensitive information. It also began developing a comprehensive electronic docu-

ment and record management system for non-judicial records and was contributing to the development of a system for judicial records. On 1 January, the Mechanism Archives and Records Section assumed responsibility for managing the resource and research centre of ICTR. On 1 March, the Section also assumed responsibility for managing the Judicial Records Unit of ICTY.

The Arusha branch enforced up to 29 sentences in two countries and The Hague branch enforced up to 21 sentences in 14 countries. The Registry also oversaw the early release of three persons convicted by ICTR and seven persons convicted by ICTY. The Registry developed a model sentence enforcement agreement, reflecting the new legal framework of the Mechanism and practice in the enforcement of sentences. The Registry received, considered and responded to requests for assistance, including requests to question detained persons and protected witnesses, to vary protective measures of witnesses and to retrieve and transmit confidential material to national authorities. The Registry also approached other international and regional organizations or bodies to assist in identifying potential monitors. Public monitoring reports were available from the Mechanism's website. Two major projects had been developed, namely the case law database of the two Tribunals, which was an international criminal justice research tool, and a website entitled "The ICTR remembers", which commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The Mechanism took additional steps to ensure that key information was accessible to individuals in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. The Mechanism registered 38 judgements translated into Kinyarwanda as official judicial records and was exploring how best to make those records accessible to more people in Rwanda, in conjunction with ICTR.

Construction of a new facility

Report of the Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 67/244 B [YUN 2013, p. 1294], the Secretary-General, in a January report [A/68/724], provided information, as well as an update since his previous report [YUN 2013, p. 1294] on the progress made on the construction of the new premises of the Arusha branch of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. The agreement between the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Nations concerning the headquarters of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Arusha branch, was signed on 26 November 2013. A supplementary agreement governing the grant of land and the construction of the new facilities was being finalized. The solicitation process for the architectural and engineering design consultant was nearly complete.

The Government of Tanzania offered to provide land for the Arusha branch premises and any required amenities and utilities at the identified site, at no cost

to the United Nations. Upon the Mechanism's request, the host government assigned technical focal points for the project. The Project Manager submitted monthly progress reports, through the Head of the Registry (Arusha branch), to the Assistant Secretary-General, also the Registrar of the Mechanism, to ensure that all key achievements and any potential issues or challenges had been identified. The Mechanism had sought and received the assistance of other key stakeholders in the Secretariat. The Department of Safety and Security and the Office of Information and Communications Technology provided high-level expert advice on detailed functional requirements for the facility in the areas of security and information technology and communications. The Office of Legal Affairs provided legal advice to the project team and drafted key legal documents related to the project. ICTR and ICTY continued to offer technical assistance to the project, particularly in the areas of security, telecommunications, finance, human resources and procurement. A preliminary risk register, which provided a schedule of risks and anticipated outcomes, had been created in order to manage project risks. It identified potential risks related to technical and quality issues, schedule and budget. The project team took a number of actions to reduce the project schedule by a total of 15 months, from five years and three months to four years. The Mechanism considered that it was not feasible to further shorten the duration of the project without compromising the quality of the design and construction. The Mechanism continued to monitor the project and to undertake measures necessary to mitigate potential risks, so as to ensure that the project was completed within the overall timeline and budget approved by the General Assembly.

ACABQ Report. On 28 February [A/68/777], ACABQ welcomed the continued cooperation between the Mechanism and Tanzania and trusted that it would be maintained through all phases of the project. ACABQ emphasized the importance of drawing lessons from the experience of other construction projects, especially the need for requisite experience and skills of any consultants engaged as well as proactive measures to mitigate delays. It noted the efforts made by the Mechanism to initiate cooperation with other judicial institutions pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/244 B [YUN 2013, p. 1294], and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue exploring opportunities for further cooperation. ACABQ stressed that the Mechanism had to monitor the project more closely and undertake any measures necessary to mitigate potential risks so as to ensure that it would be completed within the overall timeline. It reiterated that project costs would be met from within approved resources in order to obviate the need for drawdown from contingency provisions. ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General, taking into account above comments and observations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 April [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/683/Add.1], adopted **resolution 68/267** without vote [agenda item 146].

Construction of a new facility for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Arusha branch

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 66/240 B of 21 June 2012, 67/244 A of 24 December 2012, 67/244 B of 12 April 2013 and 68/257 of 27 December 2013,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
3. *Notes with appreciation* the continued efforts of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in facilitating the construction project;
4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to include local knowledge and capacity in the implementation of the project;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all measures necessary to mitigate potential risks and to ensure that the construction project is monitored closely and is completed within the approved timeline and resources;
6. *Notes* the ongoing consultations with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 and the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 with respect to the use of useable furniture and equipment of the Tribunals for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to continue to explore the possibilities for the use of such furniture and equipment and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;
7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to apply flexible use of office space in the Arusha branch project, upon approval by the General Assembly of flexible workspace arrangements in the Secretariat;
8. *Notes* that an environmental impact assessment will be carried out to assess the potential hazards and impact of the construction, and looks forward to receiving updates in this regard in the context of the next progress report;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the procurement of goods and services for the construction project is carried out in strict compliance with the existing regulations, rules and relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions governing procurement in the United Nations;
10. *Reaffirms* paragraph 33 of its resolution 62/269 of 20 June 2008;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to update Member States regularly, through the Office of Central Support Services of the Department of Management of the Secretariat, on the progress of the construction project;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-ninth session a progress report on the implementation of the project, outlining, inter alia, the project expenditures and total costs.

Financing

2012–2013 biennium

Board of Auditors report. On 30 June, the Chair of the Board of Auditors transmitted to the President of the General Assembly the Board's report [A/69/5/Add.15] on the financial statements of the Mechanism for the 2012–2013 biennium, which comprised the statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves and fund balances, the statement of assets, liabilities and reserves and fund balances, the statement of cash flows, the statement of appropriations and the notes to the financial statements.

2014–2015 biennium

Report of the Secretary-General. In November, the Secretary-General submitted the first performance report on the budget of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals for the 2014–2015 biennium [A/69/598] to identify revised estimates for the Mechanism owing to variation in the rates of inflation and exchange, and in the standards and vacancies assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriations. The General Assembly was requested to approve a revised appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of \$117,570,000 gross (\$110,164,000 net), reflecting a decrease of \$2,726,600 gross (\$2,667,500 net).

ACABQ report. In December [A/69/655], ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly take note of the first performance report and approve a revised appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of \$115,521,800 gross (\$108,345,000 net) for the Mechanism.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/693], adopted **resolution 69/256** without vote [agenda item 147].

Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

The General Assembly,

Having considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2014–2015, of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2013 and the report of the Board of Auditors on the Mechanism and the recommendations contained therein and the related

report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling its resolution 66/240 A of 24 December 2011 on the financing of the Mechanism and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 68/257 of 27 December 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the budget, for the biennium 2014–2015, of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Decides* on a revised appropriation to the Special Account for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals of a total amount of 115,521,800 United States dollars gross (108,345,000 dollars net) for the biennium 2014–2015, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

4. *Also decides*, for the year 2015, to apportion among Member States, in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for the year, the amount of 27,686,750 dollars gross (25,964,625 dollars net), including 2,387,400 dollars gross (2,243,250 dollars net), being the decrease in assessments;

5. *Further decides*, for the year 2015, to apportion among Member States, in accordance with the rates of assessment applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for the year, the amount of 27,686,750 dollars gross (25,964,625 dollars net), including 2,387,400 dollars gross (2,243,250 dollars net), being the decrease in assessments;

6. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the amount 3,444,250 dollars, including 288,300 dollars, being the decrease in the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mechanism for the biennium 2014–2015.

ANNEX

Financing for the biennium 2014–2015 of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

	Gross	Net
	(United States dollars)	
Initial appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015 (resolution 68/257)	120,296,600	112,831,500
First performance report for the biennium 2014–2015 (A/69/598)	(2,726,600)	(2,667,500)
Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/69/655)	(2,048,200)	(1,819,000)
Recommendations of the Fifth Committee	—	—
Revised appropriation for the biennium 2014–2015	115,521,800	108,345,000
Assessment for 2014	(60,148,300)	(56,415,750)
Balance to be assessed for 2015	55,373,500	51,929,250
<i>Including:</i>		

Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments applicable to the regular budget of the United Nations for 2015	27,686,750	25,964,625
Contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the rates of assessment applicable to peacekeeping operations of the United Nations for 2015	27,686,750	25,964,625

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of the Mechanism would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court (icc), based at The Hague, was established by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court [YUN 1998, p. 1209], as a permanent institution with jurisdiction over persons accused of the most serious crimes of international concern—genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

In 2014, icc faced a heavy workload. The Office of the Prosecutor conducted preliminary examination activities in 10 situations and opened a new investigation into the situation in the Central African Republic. The Court was seized of 21 cases and eight situations. Arrest warrants issued by the Court remained outstanding against 12 individuals. Seven new judges were elected and Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (Argentina) was elected President of the Court. The Court referred two findings of non-cooperation to the Security Council in relation to the situation in Darfur, the Sudan, and one finding in relation to the situation in Libya. Reports covering icc activities during the year [A/69/321 & Corr.1, A/70/350] were submitted to the General Assembly. As at 31 December, 122 countries had ratified the Rome Statute.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 September [meeting 107], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/305** [draft: A/68/L.59 & Add.1], without vote [agenda item 75].

Report of the International Criminal Court

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/295 of 22 August 2013 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also that the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court reaffirms the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing the International Criminal Court as an independent permanent judicial institution and, in this regard, that the United Nations and the Court respect each other's status and mandate,

Reiterating the historic significance of the adoption of the Rome Statute,

Emphasizing that justice, especially transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies, is a fundamental building block of sustainable peace,

Convinced that ending impunity is essential for coming to terms with any past crimes committed and preventing such crimes in the future,

Acknowledging the fact that the International Criminal Court has achieved considerable progress in its investigations and judicial proceedings in various situations and cases which were referred to it by States parties to the Rome Statute and by the Security Council, and which the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has initiated *proprio motu*, in accordance with the Rome Statute,

Recalling that effective and comprehensive cooperation and assistance in all aspects of its mandate by States, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations remain essential for the International Criminal Court to carry out its activities,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing effective and efficient assistance to the International Criminal Court in accordance with the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court,

Acknowledging the Relationship Agreement as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/318 of 13 September 2004, including paragraph 3 of the resolution, with respect to the payment in full of expenses accruing to the United Nations as a result of the implementation of the Relationship Agreement, which provides a framework for continued cooperation between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations, which enables, inter alia, facilitation by the United Nations of the Court's field activities, and encouraging the conclusion of supplementary arrangements and agreements, as necessary,

Noting the need for funding of expenses related to investigations or prosecutions of the International Criminal Court, including in connection with situations referred to the Court by the Security Council,

Welcoming the continuous support given by civil society to the International Criminal Court,

Expressing its appreciation to the International Criminal Court for providing assistance to the Special Court for Sierra Leone,

Stressing the importance that the Rome Statute accords to the rights and needs of victims, in particular their right to participate in judicial proceedings and to claim reparations, and emphasizing the importance of informing and involving victims and affected communities in order to give effect to the mandate of the International Criminal Court towards victims,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the International Criminal Court for 2012/13;

2. *Also welcomes* the States that have become parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and calls upon all States in all regions of the world that are not yet parties to the Rome Statute to consider ratifying or acceding to it without delay;

3. *Further welcomes* the States parties as well as States not parties to the Rome Statute that are parties to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to that Agreement;

4. *Notes* the recent ratifications of the amendments adopted at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, held in Kampala from 31 May to 11 June 2010;

5. *Underlines*, bearing in mind that in accordance with the Rome Statute the International Criminal Court is complementary to national criminal jurisdictions, that States need to adopt appropriate measures within their national legal systems for those crimes for which they are required under international law to exercise their responsibility to investigate and prosecute;

6. *Encourages* further efforts by the United Nations, other international and regional organizations and States, as well as civil society, to appropriately assist States, upon their request, in strengthening their domestic capacity to investigate and prosecute crimes, and in this regard underlines the importance of national ownership;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of international cooperation and judicial assistance in conducting effective investigations and prosecutions;

8. *Acknowledges* the role of the International Criminal Court in a multilateral system that aims to end impunity, promote the rule of law, promote and encourage respect for human rights, achieve sustainable peace and further the development of nations, in accordance with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Calls upon* States parties to the Rome Statute that have not yet done so to adopt national legislation to implement obligations emanating from the Rome Statute and to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in the exercise of its functions, and recalls the provision of technical assistance by States parties in this respect;

10. *Welcomes* the cooperation and assistance provided thus far to the International Criminal Court by States parties as well as States not parties, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, and calls upon those States that are under an obligation to cooperate to provide such cooperation and assistance in the future, in particular with regard to arrest and surrender, the provision of evidence, the protection and relocation of victims and witnesses and the enforcement of sentences;

11. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General in promoting cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court in accordance with the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, and also notes in this regard that the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat has a specific role within the United Nations;

12. *Recalls* article 3 of the Relationship Agreement according to which, with a view to facilitating the effective discharge of their respective responsibilities, the United Nations and the International Criminal Court shall cooperate closely, whenever appropriate, with each other and consult each other on matters of mutual interest pursuant to the provisions of the Relationship Agreement and in conformity with the respective provisions of the Charter and the Rome Statute, and shall respect each other's status and mandate, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to include information relevant to the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement in a report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

13. *Takes note* of the guidance issued by the Secretary-General on contacts with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the International

Criminal Court, and also takes note in this regard of the information included in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement;

14. *Recalls* the Relationship Agreement, and notes that expenses related to investigations or prosecutions incurred by the International Criminal Court in connection with situations referred by the Security Council or otherwise have been borne exclusively by States parties to the Rome Statute;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of cooperation with States that are not parties to the Rome Statute;

16. *Invites* regional organizations to consider concluding cooperation agreements with the International Criminal Court;

17. *Recalls* that, by virtue of article 12, paragraph 3, of the Rome Statute, if the acceptance of a State which is not a party to the Rome Statute is required under article 12, paragraph 2, of the Rome Statute, that State may, by declaration lodged with the Registrar of the International Criminal Court, accept the exercise of jurisdiction by the Court with respect to the crime in question;

18. *Urges* all States parties to take the interests, needs for assistance and mandate of the International Criminal Court into account when relevant matters are being discussed in the United Nations, and invites all other States to consider doing the same, as appropriate;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of the full implementation of all aspects of the Relationship Agreement, which forms a framework for close cooperation between the two organizations and for consultation on matters of mutual interest pursuant to the provisions of that Agreement and in conformity with the respective provisions of the Charter and the Rome Statute, as well as the need for the Secretary-General to continue to inform the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session of the expenses incurred and reimbursements received by the United Nations in connection with assistance provided to the International Criminal Court;

20. *Encourages* further dialogue between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, and welcomes in this regard the increased interaction of the Security Council with the Court under various formats, including the holding of an open debate on peace and justice, with a special focus on the role of the Court;

21. *Continues to welcome* the statement by the President of the Security Council of 12 February 2013 in which the Council reiterated its previous call regarding the importance of State cooperation with the International Criminal Court in accordance with the respective obligations of States, and expressed its commitment to effective follow-up of Council decisions in this regard;

22. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work undertaken by the International Criminal Court liaison office to United Nations Headquarters, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to work closely with that office;

23. *Encourages* States to contribute to the Trust Fund established for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court and the families of such victims, and acknowledges with appreciation contributions made to that Trust Fund thus far;

24. *Recalls* that, at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which was convened and opened by the Secretary-General, States parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Rome Statute and its full

implementation, as well as its universality and integrity, and that the Review Conference undertook a stocktaking exercise of international criminal justice, considering the impact of the Rome Statute on victims and affected communities, peace and justice, complementarity and cooperation, called for the strengthening of the enforcement of sentences, adopted amendments to the Rome Statute to expand the jurisdiction of the Court to cover three additional war crimes when committed in armed conflicts not of an international character, and adopted amendments to the Rome Statute to define the crime of aggression and to establish conditions under which the Court could exercise jurisdiction with respect to that crime;

25. *Acknowledges* the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization;

26. *Takes note* of the decision of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court at its twelfth session, while recalling that, according to article 112, paragraph 6, of the Rome Statute, the Assembly of States Parties shall meet at the seat of the Court or at United Nations Headquarters, to hold its thirteenth session in New York and its fourteenth session in The Hague, looks forward to the thirteenth session, which is to be held from 8 to 17 December 2014, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and facilities in accordance with the Relationship Agreement and resolution 58/318;

27. *Encourages* the widest possible participation of States in the Assembly of States Parties, invites States to contribute to the Trust Fund for the participation of least developed countries, and acknowledges with appreciation contributions made to that Trust Fund thus far;

28. *Invites* the International Criminal Court to submit, if it deems it appropriate, in accordance with article 6 of the Relationship Agreement, a report on its activities for 2013/14, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Assembly of States Parties

The Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court adopted five resolutions and a decision at its thirteenth session (New York, 8–17 December) [ICC-ASP/13/20].

The Assembly approved the Court's 2015 programme budget amounting to €124,528,900, and established the Working Capital Fund in the amount of €7,405,983. The Assembly decided to maintain the Contingency Fund at a level consistent with the €7 million threshold for 2015 [ICC-ASP/13/Res.1].

A resolution on the Court's permanent premises [ICC-ASP/13/Res.2] recalled that the total estimate cost to unify the construction and transition projects amounted to €203.7 million, composed of €195.72 million for the unified revised project budget, which included all construction and transition activities and an estimated figure of €8 million from the regular annual budgets of the Court. The Assembly requested the Oversight Committee and the Project Director to ensure that effort was made to mitigate risks, seek opportunities for additional savings, and deliver the project within the budget. In a resolution on cooperation [ICC-ASP/13/Res.3], the Assembly urged States

Parties to explore possibilities for facilitating further cooperation and communication between the Court and international and regional organizations. The Assembly acknowledged efforts by States and by the Court, including through the Legal Tools Project, to facilitate exchange of information and experiences, with a view to raising awareness and facilitating the drafting of national implementing legislation.

A resolution on victims and reparations [ICC-ASP/13/Res.4] welcomed the Strategic Plan of the Trust Fund for Victims for the period 2014–2017 and encouraged States Parties, the Court and the Fund to coordinate activities and roles to ensure the proper implementation of the Plan. The Assembly decided to continue to monitor the implementation of the rights of victims under the Rome Statute. A resolution on strengthening ICC and the Assembly of States Parties [ICC-ASP/13/Res.5] addressed, among other issues, cooperation, strategic planning, victims and reparations, complementarity and programme budget.

The Assembly adopted a decision [ICC-ASP/13/Dec.1] on applicability of the former Court's pension regimes to former Judges Bruno Cotte and Daniel Nsereko, by which it reaffirmed its decision from its sixth session that judges elected at that session would hold office subject to the Pension Scheme Regulations for Judges.

The Chambers

The judicial activities of the Court were conducted by the Chambers, which consisted of 18 judges, organized in three divisions: the Pre-Trial Division, the Trial Division and the Appeals Division.

New arrests, warrants and summonses

On 11 September, Trial Chamber IV issued an arrest warrant against Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain because of the lack of guarantee that the accused would be in a position to surrender voluntarily, and vacated the scheduled trial date.

Ongoing cases, trials and appeals

In *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo* case (situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)), on 14 January 2014, the Appeals Chamber granted Mr. Dyilo's request to add an additional ground of appeal. On 19 and 20 May, the Appeals Chamber held a hearing at which two defence witnesses testified in support of Mr. Dyilo's application to present additional evidence in his appeals against conviction and sentence. On 1 December, the Appeals Chamber confirmed the verdict declaring Mr. Dyilo guilty and the decision sentencing him to 14 years of imprisonment.

In *The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga* case (situation in the DRC), on 7 March, Trial Chamber II found Mr. Katanga guilty of five counts, including war

crimes and a crime against humanity. On 23 May, the Chamber sentenced Mr. Katanga to 12 years of imprisonment. On 25 June, the defence and the Prosecutor withdrew their appeals against the judgement and indicated that they did not intend to appeal the decision on sentencing. The judgement therefore became final.

In *The Prosecutor v. Bosco Ntaganda* case (situation in the DRC), the confirmation of charges hearings took place before the Pre-Trial Chamber from 10 to 14 February. On 9 June, the Pre-Trial Chamber confirmed 13 charges of war crimes and 5 charges of crimes against humanity against Mr. Ntaganda.

In *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo* case (situation in the Central African Republic (CAR)), the closing oral statements for the case took place on 12 and 13 November.

In *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, Aimé Kilolo Musamba, Jean-Jacques Mangenda Kabongo, Fidèle Babala Wandu and Narcisse Arido* case (situation in the CAR), the five suspects made first appearances before the Pre-Trial Chamber between November 2013 and March 2014. On 3 March, Mr. Musamba requested that the Appeals Chamber disqualify the Prosecutor, the Deputy Prosecutor and the entire staff of the Office of the Prosecutor from the ongoing investigations against him for the alleged offences, which was rejected by the Pre-Trial Chamber on 28 May. Mr. Kabongo on 12 March requested that the Appeals Chamber apply its ruling equally to the proceedings in relation to him, which was rejected by Pre-Trial Chamber II on 17 March. Mr. Wandu filed observations, on 19 March, also requesting that the Appeals Chamber grant Mr. Musamba's request for disqualification. On 20 June, the Plenary of Judges declined a defence request to disqualify Judge Cuno Tarfusser from handling the pre-trial phase of the case. On 30 June, the Office of the Prosecutor submitted its document containing the charges and list of evidence. On 11 July, the Appeals Chamber, by majority, confirmed the Pre-Trial Chamber's decisions against interim release in relation to Mr. Kabongo, Mr. Wandu and Mr. Musamba and dismissed the respective appeals. On 24 July, Pre-Trial Chamber II rejected Mr. Arido's request for interim release. On 9 July, Mr. Wandu filed an appeal against the first review of his detention. On 11 November, Pre-Trial Chamber II partially confirmed the charges of offences against the administration of justice for the five suspects and committed them to trial.

In *The Prosecutor v. Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir* case (situation in Darfur), on 3 March, the Pre-Trial Chamber issued a decision inviting the competent authorities of the DRC to submit observations with regard to their alleged failure to execute the request for the arrest and surrender of Mr. al-Bashir during his visit in the territory of that country on 26 and 27 February. After receiving the observations, the Pre-Trial

Chamber issued a decision on 9 April finding that the DRC had failed to cooperate with the Court by refusing to arrest and surrender Mr. al-Bashir.

In *The Prosecutor v. Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain and Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus* case (situation in Darfur), on 16 April, the Chamber vacated the 5 May trial commencement date in the light of logistical difficulties encountered by the Registry. On 14 July, the Chamber decided that the trial would commence on 18 November and issued a cooperation request to the Government of the Sudan to take all necessary steps to facilitate Mr. Nourain's presence for his trial.

In *The Prosecutor v. William Samoei Ruto and Joshua Arap Sang* case (situation in Kenya), on 15 January, Trial Chamber V (a) decided in an oral ruling to conditionally excuse Mr. Ruto from presence at trial. On 17 April, Trial Chamber V (a) granted the Prosecution's application for summonses for eight witnesses required to appear before the Chamber, either via videolink or at a location in Kenya.

In *The Prosecutor v. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta* case (situation in Kenya), on 31 March, the Trial Chamber adjourned the provisional trial commencement date to 7 October. On 29 July, the Trial Chamber ordered the Government of Kenya to provide the prosecution with financial and communication records relating to Mr. Kenyatta from 2007 to 2010. On 3 December, Trial Chamber V (b) issued a decision rejecting the application for referral of the matter to the Assembly of States Parties of the cooperation of Kenya. On 5 December, the prosecutor filed a notice to withdraw charges against Mr. Kenyatta.

In *The Prosecutor v. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi* case (situation in Libya), on 21 May, the Appeals Chamber confirmed the 31 May 2013 decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I [YUN 2013, p. 1301], finding that the Pre-Trial Chamber did not err in either fact or law when it concluded that Libya had fallen short of substantiating, by means of evidence of a sufficient degree of specificity and probative value, that the investigation by Libya covered the same case that was before the Court. On 11 July, the Pre-Trial Chamber issued a decision which reminded Libya of its duty to proceed immediately with the surrender of Mr. Gaddafi to the Court. On 24 July, the Appeals Chamber confirmed the 11 October 2013 decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I [YUN 2013, p. 1302]. On 10 December, Pre-Trial Chamber I issued a finding of non-compliance by the Government of Libya with respect to the non-execution of two requests for cooperation transmitted by the Court.

In *The Prosecutor v. Laurent Gbagbo* case (situation in Côte d'Ivoire), on 12 June, Pre-Trial Chamber I confirmed four charges of crimes against humanity against Mr. Gbagbo and committed him for trial before a Trial Chamber. On 12 March and 11 July, the Pre-Trial Chamber issued decisions on the review of

Mr. Gbagbo's detention, and decided that he should remain in detention. The Chamber also ordered the Registry and the defence to submit reports on the progress of efforts to address the issue of Mr. Gbagbo's health, with a view to exploring the different options for conditional release.

In *The Prosecutor v. Simone Gbagbo* case (situation in Côte d'Ivoire), on 28 February, the Pre-Trial Chamber authorized Ms. Gbagbo's co-counsel, at his request, to withdraw from the case. On 11 December, Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected the Government of Côte d'Ivoire's challenge to the admissibility of the case and reminded Côte d'Ivoire of its obligation to surrender Ms. Gbagbo to the Court without delay.

In *The Prosecutor v. Charles Blé Goudé* case (situation in Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Blé Goudé was surrendered to the Court on 22 March and had his first appearance before the Pre-Trial Chamber on 27 March. On 11 July, at the request of the Prosecutor, the Pre-Trial Chamber decided to postpone the start of the confirmation of charges hearing to 22 September. Charges against Mr. Blé Goudé were confirmed on 11 December.

Office of the Prosecutor

Investigations

In 2014, the Office of the Prosecutor continued to investigate situations in the CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur (Sudan), the DRC, Kenya, Libya, Mali and Uganda.

During the period 1 August 2013–31 July 2014, on the situation in the DRC, one mission was conducted to collect information necessary in support of trials and to address the arguments raised by the defence in the case against Germain Katanga. The Office also conducted 83 missions to eight countries for the purpose of collecting evidence, screening and interviewing witnesses and securing the continued cooperation of its partners, in relation to its continued investigation in the case against Bosco Ntaganda. The Office further conducted eight missions to four countries for its investigation related to crimes committed by the Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda in the Kivu provinces, particularly in relation to its case against Sylvestre Mudacumura.

On the situation in the CAR, the Office conducted a total of 19 missions to eight countries for the purposes of interviewing witnesses and collecting other evidence, as well as securing the cooperation of partners.

On the situation in Uganda, the Office conducted five missions to Uganda in order to meet with government officials and other partners in relation to the Lord's Resistance Army.

The Office conducted 20 missions in relation to investigations into the situation in Darfur; 73 missions to 14 countries in relation to investigations into the situation in Kenya; seven missions to four countries in relation to investigations into the situation in Libya.

The Office continued its investigation into the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and conducted 43 missions to five countries for the purpose of collecting evidence, screening and interviewing witnesses, and securing the continued cooperation of its partners.

On the situation in Mali, the Office conducted 24 missions to four countries for the purpose of collecting evidence, screening and interviewing witnesses and securing the continued cooperation of its partners.

The Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, briefed the Security Council on 13 May [S/PV.7173] and on 11 November [S/PV.7306] on the situation in Libya, and on 17 June [S/PV.7199] and on 12 December [S/PV.7337] on the situation in the Sudan and South Sudan. The combined effect of instability and lack of resources had undermined the Office's investigation in Libya. The Office was attempting to do its part in strengthening justice and accountability for international crimes in Libya and was coordinating with the Libyan authorities. The Prosecutor updated the Council on developments and progress in the investigation and prosecution of those alleged to be responsible for crimes committed in Darfur. Following the Office's investigations and submissions of evidence to ICC judges, and their independent assessment, the judges concluded that evidence provided to them established that certain individuals in the Sudan should be brought before ICC to answer charges, including allegations of rape.

Preliminary examination

The Office of the Prosecutor opened preliminary examinations in the CAR, Iraq and Ukraine; continued preliminary examinations in Afghanistan, Colombia, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Nigeria and the "Gaza Freedom Flotilla" incident; and concluded its preliminary examination in the Republic of Korea.

From 1 August 2013 to 30 June 2014, the Office received 495 communications relating to article 15 of the Rome Statute, of which 408 were outside the Court's jurisdiction; 30 warranted further analysis; 37 were linked to a situation already under analysis; and 20 were linked to an investigation or prosecution.

The Registry

The Registry provided judicial and administrative support to all organs of the Court and carried out its responsibilities concerning victims, witnesses, defence and outreach. The Registry sought to develop understanding and awareness of ICC and its activities by strengthening the Court's public information capacity for outreach services in countries where the Court was active. It provided security, administrative and logistical support to the Court's investigations.

The Registry transmitted 691 requests for visas and 223 requests for cooperation. It concluded two new

relocation agreements in Africa, bringing the total number of agreements to 14, and it finalized an exchange of letters with Belgium on the provisional release of persons on 9 August.

In March, the Registrar held meetings in Kampala, Uganda, and Bunia, DRC, in order to strengthen cooperation in situation countries. The Registrar held meetings in Brasilia, Brazil, on 15 and 16 May, and participated with a Court judge and a representative of the Office of the Prosecutor in a seminar on cooperation for South American States held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 20 and 21 May. In June, the Prosecutor and the Registrar briefed the EU Council Working Group on Public International Law.

International cooperation

The Court increased efforts to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the Court and governments, including two seminars on cooperation. The first one was held in Buenos Aires on 20 and 21 May and targeted South American States; the second was organized in Accra, Ghana, on 3 and 4 July and brought together senior representatives of Anglophone African States. The New York Liaison Office continued to promote cooperation between the Court and the United Nations.

On 24 June, the Office of the Prosecutor signed a second memorandum of understanding with the Integrity Vice Presidency of the World Bank Group, in order to reaffirm commitment to collaborate with one another on matters of mutual interest. The third African Union (AU)-ICC joint seminar was held on 7 and 8 July at the AU premises in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Court and the AU organized for the first time a joint round table meeting on 11 July. The discussions focused on cooperation, complementarity, diplomatic support and mainstreaming, as well as public information and outreach.

Reports of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/305 (see p. 1499), the Secretary-General, on 10 September, submitted a report [A/69/372] on expenses incurred and reimbursements received by the United Nations in connection

with assistance provided to ICC, and, also on the same day, a report [A/69/324] on information relevant to the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and ICC.

From 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, the United Nations provided facilities and services to ICC in the amount of \$818,581. The amount covered costs incurred for staff who worked on matters pertaining to the Court and the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization satellite communications charges and maintenance, and costs incurred in connection with recruitment, personnel training, conference and related services, field security and library services.

In the field of institutional relations, addressed in chapter II of the Relationship Agreement, the United Nations provided to the Court a range of services and facilities, including reimbursable loans; satellite communications services; payroll costs for staff assigned to work exclusively on matters pertaining to the Court; access to the United Nations System Electronic Information Acquisitions Consortium; field security services; air and ground transportation services for Court personnel and equipment; provision of laissez-passers and certificates; and training services, including access to language proficiency examinations for Court staff members. In the field of cooperation and judicial assistance, the Organization provided extensive assistance to the Court in the form of access to the Organization's records and archives, and the making available of a number of UN personnel for interview by the prosecution in connection with certain situations before the Court and with certain situations under preliminary examination by the Prosecutor. In addition, the Organization provided input to the Prosecutor on her draft policy paper on sexual and gender-based crimes. A Court-wide memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the Court had been concluded. During the reporting period, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council a decision of Pre-Trial Chamber II of 9 April related to the non-cooperation of the DRC regarding the arrest and surrender of Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir.

International legal questions

In 2014, the International Law Commission continued to examine topics relating to the progressive development and codification of international law. It adopted a set of 31 draft articles on the expulsion of aliens, thus concluding its work on the topic. It also adopted a set of 21 draft articles on protection of persons in the event of disasters; provisionally adopted five draft conclusions on the identification of subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties, and two draft articles on immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction; and took note of eight draft conclusions on identification of customary international law, provisionally adopted by its drafting committee. The Commission further adopted the final report on the obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*) and concluded its consideration of the topic; included in its programme of work the topic of crimes against humanity, and reconstituted its study group on the most-favoured-nation clause, which began consideration of its final report. In December, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption of the draft articles on the expulsion of aliens and the conclusion of the Commission's work on the topic.

The General Assembly's Sixth (Legal) Committee in October established a working group with a view to finalizing the process on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism—on the basis of the work that had been pursued by the Ad Hoc Committee established by the Assembly in resolution 51/210 to elaborate the draft convention. In June, the Secretary-General reported on progress made in providing technical assistance to States for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism. In July, he reported on measures taken by States, UN system entities and international organizations to implement the 1994 General Assembly Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism. In December, the Assembly condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, and called on Member States to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects. Also in December, the Assembly urged States to become parties to the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, and reiterated its request for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its technical assistance to Member States for the ratification and implementation of those instruments.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law completed its work on a draft convention

on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration and recommended its adoption by the General Assembly. It continued its work on arbitration and conciliation, online dispute resolution, electronic commerce, insolvency law, security interests and international trade law aimed at reducing the legal obstacles faced by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and considered possible future work, in particular in the area of public-private partnerships. In December, the Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration and authorized its opening for signature on 17 March 2015.

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization considered, among other subjects, proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, with a view to strengthening the Organization, and the implementation of Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country addressed several issues raised by permanent missions to the United Nations, including delays in issuing visas, privileges and immunities, and transportation and parking.

During 2014, the United Nations continued to provide rule-of-law assistance to Member States and ensure system-wide coordination and coherence in strengthening the rule of law and its linkages to peace and security, human rights and development. In response to the Declaration of the 2012 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly proposals for enhancing those linkages.

Legal aspects of international political relations

International Law Commission

The 34-member International Law Commission (ILC) held its sixty-sixth session in Geneva in two parts (5 May–6 June and 7 July–8 August) [A/69/10]. During the second part, the International Law Seminar held its fiftieth session, which was attended by 24 young academics and diplomats from all regions

of the world. The participants attended ILC meetings, specially arranged lectures, and participated in working groups on specific topics. On 22 July, the Commission held a special meeting to commemorate the Seminar's fiftieth anniversary, attended by the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Peter Tomka, and having as its theme "International Law as a Profession". Since its inception in 1965, 1,139 participants representing 171 nationalities had taken part in the Seminar, and 699 participants had received fellowships.

ILC carried out its work with the assistance of various working groups and a drafting committee. The Commission adopted on second reading the entire set of 31 draft articles on the expulsion of aliens (see p. 1507), together with commentaries thereto, and recommended that the General Assembly take note of the draft articles, encourage their widest possible dissemination and consider elaborating a convention on their basis. On the topic of protection of persons in the event of disasters (*ibid.*), the Commission adopted on first reading a set of 21 draft articles, together with commentaries thereto, and transmitted them to Governments for comments and observations. On the obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*) (see p. 1508), ILC reconstituted its Working Group to continue the evaluation of work on the topic, particularly considering the Judgment by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of 20 July 2012 in the case *Belgium v. Senegal* [YUN 2012, p. 1260]; it also adopted the final report and concluded its consideration of the topic. Concerning the topic of subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties (see p. 1508), the Commission provisionally adopted five draft conclusions, together with commentaries thereto, relating to the identification of subsequent agreements and subsequent practice, their possible effects in interpretation, their weight as a means of interpretation, agreement of the parties regarding the interpretation of a treaty, and decisions adopted within the framework of a Conference of States Parties. On the topic of immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction (see p. 1509), ILC provisionally adopted two draft articles, together with commentaries thereto, on the definition of State official and on the persons enjoying immunity *ratione materiae*. It also took note of eight draft conclusions provisionally adopted by the Drafting Committee on the topic of identification of customary international law (*ibid.*).

The Commission considered the first report of its Special Rapporteur on protection of the atmosphere (see p. 1508), which addressed the topic's scope and basic concepts and proposed guidelines defining the term "atmosphere" and its legal status. It also examined a preliminary report of its Special Rapporteur on protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts (see p. 1510), and held an exchange

on the scope and methodology, use of terms, environmental principles, and human and indigenous rights. The Commission considered the second report by its Special Rapporteur on provisional application of treaties (*ibid.*), which provided an analysis of the legal effects of such application, and reached broad agreement on the basic premise underlying the topic. ILC also reconstituted the Study Group on the most-favoured-nation (MFN) clause (see p. 1511), which began consideration of its final report on various factors that seemed to influence investment tribunals in interpreting MFN clauses.

The Commission decided to include in its programme of work the topic of crimes against humanity (see p. 1512) and appoint a Special Rapporteur. Among its other decisions and conclusions, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/116 [YUN 2013, p. 1349], the Commission reiterated its commitment to the rule of law in all its activities and its contribution to the rule of law through consideration of such topics as expulsion of aliens, protection of persons in the event of disasters, the obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*) and immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction.

The Planning Group established by ILC held three meetings and reconstituted the Working Group on the Long-term Programme of Work to consider possible topics for inclusion in the work programme. The Commission endorsed the inclusion of the topic "*Jus cogens*" in its long-term programme of work. It also recommended that the Commission request the Secretariat to prepare, by the end of the present quinquennium, a list of potential topics for the Commission's consideration ("survey"), based on the review of the 1996 list and accompanied by brief explanatory notes. ILC decided that its sixty-seventh session would be held in Geneva from 4 May to 5 June and from 6 July to 7 August 2015.

Topical summary report. Pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/112 [YUN 2013, p. 1309], the Secretariat prepared a topical summary [A/CN.4/666] of the debate held on the report of the Commission at the Assembly's sixty-eighth (2013) session.

Assistance to special rapporteurs. At its sixty-sixth session, the Commission reiterated its views expressed in its previous reports that General Assembly resolution 56/272 of 27 March 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1402] affected the research work of ILC special rapporteurs. In December, the Assembly, in its resolution 69/118 (see p. 1512), requested the Secretary-General to continue efforts to identify support options for the work of special rapporteurs, additional to those provided under its 2002 resolution.

Election of member. On 19 February [A/68/778], Ukraine informed the General Assembly President that it was relinquishing its seat on the Commission in favour of Poland on the last day prior to the beginning

of the forty-seventh session of the Commission, in July. On 26 March, by **decision 68/417**, the Assembly elected Poland as a member of ILC for the remaining term of office of Ukraine, beginning on the first day of the forty-seventh session of the Commission, in July.

Expulsion of aliens

ILC [A/69/10] had before it the ninth report of Special Rapporteur Maurice Kamto (Cameroon) on the expulsion of aliens [A/CN.4/670], containing his proposals for reformulating the draft articles adopted by ILC on first reading in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1294], in the light of the comments and observations received from Governments [A/CN.4/669 & Add.1].

On 6 June, the Commission considered the report of the Drafting Committee and adopted on second reading the set of 31 draft articles on the expulsion of aliens, concerning general provisions, including scope (Article 1), use of terms (Article 2), right of expulsion (Article 3), requirement for conformity with law (Article 4) and grounds for expulsion (Article 5); cases of prohibited expulsion, including rules relating to the expulsion of refugees (Article 6), rules relating to the expulsion of stateless persons (Article 7), deprivation of nationality for the purpose of expulsion (Article 8), prohibition of collective expulsion (Article 9), prohibition of disguised expulsion (Article 10), prohibition of expulsion for the purpose of confiscation of assets (Article 11) and prohibition of resort to expulsion in order to circumvent an ongoing extradition procedure (Article 12); protection of the rights of aliens subject to expulsion, including obligation to respect the human dignity and human rights of aliens subject to expulsion (Article 13), prohibition of discrimination (Article 14), vulnerable persons (Article 15), obligation to protect the right to life of an alien subject to expulsion (Article 16), prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 17), obligation to respect the right to family life (Article 18), detention of an alien for the purpose of expulsion (Article 19), protection of the property of an alien subject to expulsion (Article 20), departure to the State of destination (Article 21), State of destination of aliens subject to expulsion (Article 22), obligation not to expel an alien to a State where his or her life would be threatened (Article 23), obligation not to expel an alien to a State where he or she may be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 24) and protection in a transit State of the human rights of an alien subject to expulsion (Article 25); specific procedural rules, including procedural rights of aliens subject to expulsion (Article 26), suspensive effect of an appeal against an expulsion decision (Article 27) and international procedures for individual recourse (Article 28); and legal consequences of expulsion, including readmission to the expelling State (Article 29), responsibility of States

in cases of unlawful expulsion (Article 30) and diplomatic protection (Article 31).

On 5 August, ILC adopted the commentaries to the draft articles and recommended to the General Assembly that it take note of the draft articles in a resolution, annex them to the resolution and encourage their widest possible dissemination; and that it consider elaborating a convention based on the draft articles.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth (Legal) Committee [A/69/498], adopted **resolution 69/119** without vote [agenda item 78].

Expulsion of aliens

The General Assembly,

Having considered chapter IV of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-sixth session, which contains the draft articles on the expulsion of aliens,

Noting that the International Law Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly (a) to take note of the draft articles on the expulsion of aliens in a resolution, to annex the articles to the resolution, and to encourage their widest possible dissemination; and (b) to consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles,

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the subject of the expulsion of aliens is of major importance in the relations of States,

Taking note of the comments of Governments and the discussion in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the subject,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the work of the International Law Commission on the expulsion of aliens and its adoption of the draft articles and a detailed commentary on the subject;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for its continuing contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law;

3. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the International Law Commission contained in paragraph 42 of its report on the work of its sixty-sixth session, and decides that the consideration of this recommendation shall be continued at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session an item entitled "Expulsion of aliens".

Protection of persons in the event of disasters

The Commission [A/69/10] considered the seventh report by Special Rapporteur Eduardo Valencia-Ospina (Colombia) on the protection of persons in the event of disasters [A/CN.4/668 & Corr.1 & Add.1], proposing five draft articles dealing with the protection of relief personnel and their equipment and goods, as

well as relationship with special rules of international law, matters related to disaster situations not regulated by the present draft articles, relationship to the UN Charter, and use of terms, which ILC referred to its Drafting Committee.

On 30 May, ILC considered the report of the Drafting Committee and adopted on first reading a set of 21 draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters, concerning the scope (Article 1), purpose (Article 2), definition of disaster (Article 3), use of terms (Article 4), human dignity (Article 5), human rights (Article 6), humanitarian principles (Article 7), duty to cooperate (Article 8), forms of cooperation (Article 9), cooperation for disaster risk reduction (Article 10), duty to reduce the risk of disasters (Article 11), role of the affected State (Article 12), duty of the affected State to seek external assistance (Article 13), consent of the affected State to external assistance (Article 14), conditions on the provision of external assistance (Article 15), offers of external assistance (Article 16), facilitation of external assistance (Article 17), protection of relief personnel, equipment and goods (Article 18), termination of external assistance (Article 19), relationship to special or other rules of international law (Article 20) and relationship to international humanitarian law (Article 21).

On 5 and 6 August, the Commission adopted the commentaries to the draft articles and decided to transmit them, through the Secretary-General, to Governments for comments and observations, for submission by 1 January 2016.

Obligation to extradite or prosecute

The Commission [A/69/10] reconstituted its Working Group on the obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*), which continued the evaluation of work on the topic, particularly considering the ICJ Judgment of 20 July 2012 in the case concerning *Questions relating to the Obligation to Prosecute or Extradite (Belgium v. Senegal)* [YUN 2012, p. 1260] and comments made in the Assembly's Sixth Committee at the sixty-eighth (2013) session.

The Working Group considered issues raised in the Sixth Committee that were partially or not covered by its 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 1308], such as gaps in the existing conventional regime; the transfer of a suspect to an international or special court or tribunal as a potential third alternative to extradition or prosecution; the relationship between the obligation to extradite or prosecute and *erga omnes* obligations or *jus cogens* norms; the customary international law status of the obligation to extradite or prosecute; and other matters of continued relevance in the general framework for consideration of the topic which it established in 2009.

On 7 July, ILC took note of the report of the Working Group. On 7 August, the Commission adopted its final report on the obligation to extradite

or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*) and decided to conclude its consideration of the topic. In the final report, the Commission summarized and highlighted particular aspects of its work, including obligation to fight impunity in accordance with the rule of law; typology of provisions in multilateral instruments; implementation of the obligation to extradite or prosecute; gaps in the existing conventional regime and the "third alternative"; the priority between the obligation to prosecute and the obligation to extradite, and the scope of the obligation to prosecute; the relationship of the obligation to extradite or prosecute with *erga omnes* obligations or *jus cogens* norms; and the customary international law status of the obligation to extradite or prosecute.

Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties

ILC [A/69/10] had before it the second report [A/CN.4/671] of Special Rapporteur Georg Nolte (Germany) on subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties.

On 5 June, the Commission provisionally adopted five draft conclusions contained in the report, covering the identification of subsequent agreements and subsequent practice (Conclusion 6), possible effects of subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in interpretation (Conclusion 7), weight of subsequent agreements and subsequent practice as a means of interpretation (Conclusion 8), agreement of the parties regarding the interpretation of a treaty (Conclusion 9) and decisions adopted within the framework of a Conference of States Parties (Conclusion 10). On 6 August, the Commission adopted the commentaries to the draft conclusions.

Protection of the atmosphere

The Commission [A/69/10] considered the first report [A/CN.4/667] by Special Rapporteur Shinya Murase (Japan) on the protection of the atmosphere. The report focused on the general scope and the relevant basic concepts and presented three draft guidelines concerning the definition of the term "atmosphere", the scope of the draft guidelines and the legal status of the atmosphere.

The Special Rapporteur stressed that the report was prepared in full compliance with the Commission's 2013 understanding [YUN 2013, p. 1308] that his work would not interfere with relevant political negotiations or deal with specific polluting substances. He further noted that there was abundant evidence of State practice, including treaties, judicial precedents and other normative documents, that would enable the Commission to address the topic essentially as a legal question rather than a political one. He highlighted

that the contemporary challenges to the atmosphere concerned tropospheric transboundary air pollution, stratospheric ozone depletion and climate change, and that there was no treaty regime covering all areas of atmospheric problems or treating the atmosphere as a global single unit. The draft guidelines therefore proposed the definition of “atmosphere” in both its substantive aspect as a layer of gases and its functional aspect as a medium within which the transport and dispersion of airborne substances occurs; the legal status of the atmosphere as a natural resource whose protection was a common concern of humankind, distinguishing it from “airspace”; and the scope of the draft guidelines addressing anthropogenic degradation caused by anthropogenic activities that introduced deleterious substances or energy into the atmosphere and altered its composition.

Commission members acknowledged that the protection of the atmosphere was extremely important for humankind, echoing the concerns posed by air pollution, ozone depletion and climate change, but noted the intractable difficulties pertaining to the topic and appearing in discussions among States. Some members called for a more cautious approach and expressed concern that the 2013 understanding was not fully considered by the Special Rapporteur, and that focusing on air pollution, ozone depletion and climate change would interfere with political negotiations on those subjects. According to another view, the application of the 2013 understanding required a flexible approach as practically all of the treaty practice on which the report was based could be subsumed among the subjects excluded under the understanding; other members stated that there was enough flexibility within the 2013 understanding for the Special Rapporteur to pursue a modest goal of identifying existing general principles of international environmental law and their applicability to the protection of the atmosphere. Discussions also focused on methodological approaches, use of terms, the scope of the guidelines and the legal status of the atmosphere, with some members questioning the proposed definitions and the approach focusing on the atmosphere *per se* as a single unit instead of addressing the “rights and obligations” of State and non-State actors whose activities affected the atmosphere and could be regulated.

Acknowledging the wide-ranging opinions on the 2013 understanding, the Special Rapporteur indicated his intention to reformulate parts of his report and organize in 2015 a briefing session with the scientific community. At the Special Rapporteur’s request, the referral of the draft guidelines to the Drafting Committee was deferred until 2015.

Immunity of State officials

The Commission [A/69/10] had before it the third report [A/CN.4/673] on the immunity of State officials

from foreign criminal jurisdiction by Special Rapporteur Concepción Escobar Hernández (Spain), addressing the normative elements of immunity *ratione materiae*, the general concept of a “State official” and the substantive criteria that could be used to identify such persons, as well as the choice of the most suitable term for designating persons who enjoyed immunity. The Special Rapporteur proposed two draft articles relating to the definition of State official and the subjective scope of immunity *ratione materiae*.

Following a debate in plenary, the Commission, on 11 July, referred the two draft articles to the Drafting Committee. On 25 July, the Commission received the report of the Drafting Committee and provisionally adopted draft article 2 (e) on the definition of State official and draft article 5 on the persons enjoying immunity *ratione materiae*. On 6 and 7 August, the Commission adopted the commentaries to the draft articles.

Identification of customary international law

The Commission [A/69/10] considered the second report on identification of customary international law [A/CN.4/672] by Special Rapporteur Michael Wood (United Kingdom), which provided an analysis of the scope and outcome of the topic, the basic approach, the two constituent elements of rules of customary international law—namely “a general practice” and “accepted as law”—and proposed eleven draft conclusions concerning the scope, use of terms, basic approach, assessment of evidence, role of practice, attribution of conduct, forms of practice, weighing evidence of practice, the principle that practice must be general and consistent, role of acceptance as law and evidence of acceptance as law.

The Special Rapporteur recalled that the objective of the topic was not to determine the substance of the rules of customary international law but rather to address the methodological question of the identification of the existence and content of rules of customary international law. The proposed two-element approach to the identification of rules of customary international law was followed in the practice of States and in the decisions of international courts and tribunals, including ICJ; however, there could be differences in the application of the approach in different fields or with respect to different types of rules. The Special Rapporteur drew attention to six points relating to “manifestations of practice”: first, practice could consist of verbal acts as well as physical acts; second, the usefulness of an indicative list of the forms of practice; third, many types of general practice could also serve as evidence of acceptance as law; fourth, practice embodied in treaties and resolutions of international organizations constituted two important forms of practice; fifth, the practical importance of inaction, or silence; sixth, the

importance of the practice of certain international organizations. As for the evidence of acceptance of law, according to the Special Rapporteur, such acceptance could be indicated by or inferred from practice. He also indicated that the issues of “special” or “regional” customary international law, including “bilateral custom”, as well the questions of the “persistent objector”, resolutions of international organizations and the relationship between customary international law and treaties would be covered in his third report in 2015.

Members welcomed the two-element approach and expressed broad support for the overall direction and approach of the Special Rapporteur. It was agreed that the outcome of the work should be a practical guide for practitioners who were not specialists in international law, in the form of comprehensive draft conclusions that should be read together with the commentaries thereto. There was also general agreement that the draft conclusions should not be unduly prescriptive and should reflect the flexibility of customary international law. The Special Rapporteur emphasized the importance of submissions by States on their practice in relation to customary international law, as well as information on national digests and related publications. He stressed that the draft conclusions referred primarily to State practice, although he was not dismissing the practice of some international organizations in certain fields such as in relation to treaties, privileges and immunities. In light of the discussion over the expression “accepted as law”, the Special Rapporteur suggested supplementing it by the common term “*opinio juris*”; he also recognized the need to further address the issue of “double-counting” the same act as both evidence of practice and *opinio juris*, and to study questions relating to the lawfulness of a practice, and the applicability in the present context of rules on attribution adopted for the purpose of States responsibility.

Following debate, the Commission, on 18 July, referred the eleven draft conclusions to the Drafting Committee. On 7 August, the Commission took note of the interim report of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, including eight draft conclusions provisionally adopted by the Committee.

Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict

ILC [A/69/10] had before it the preliminary report [A/CN.4/674 & Corr.1] of Special Rapporteur Marie G. Jacobsson (Sweden) on the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts, which provided an introductory overview of phase I of the topic, namely the environmental rules and principles applicable to a potential armed conflict (“peacetime obligations”), without addressing measures to be taken during an armed conflict or post-conflict (phases II

and III, respectively). The report also summarized the results of informal consultations and opinions expressed in the Assembly’s Sixth Committee, practice of States and international organizations, scope and methodology, use of terms, environmental principles and issues relating to human and indigenous rights.

The debate in the plenary addressed, among other issues, scope and methodology, use of terms, environmental principles, and human and indigenous rights. There was broad recognition of the importance of the topic and its overall purpose, and general agreement that the work should focus on clarifying the rules and principles of international environmental law applicable in relation to armed conflicts. Some members agreed with the Special Rapporteur that the Commission should not modify the law of armed conflict; others were of the view that, considering the minimal treatment of the environment in the law of armed conflict, further elaboration of environmental obligations in armed conflict might be warranted. It was suggested that the legal entity to be protected under the topic was the environment itself, and that the work on the topic should attempt to systematize the norms applicable in all three phases.

Most members supported the temporal, three-phase approach proposed by the Special Rapporteur, as opposed to a thematic one. Regarding the proposed limitations of the scope, some members were against excluding general issues concerning weapons, which were also addressed under the law of armed conflict, and the possibility of a without prejudice clause was welcomed. There was broad agreement to consider non-international conflicts under the topic, with some members proposing to include in the definition of armed conflict conflicts between organized armed groups or between such groups within a State; according to others, limiting conflicts to groups that showed a minimum level of organization would be too restrictive. There was a divergence of views on addressing the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons under the topic’s human rights dimension, as well as on the treatment of cultural heritage, in particular the landscape, given the existing gap in the protection of cultural property and heritage in relation to armed conflict. There were also divergent views on the advisability of according separate treatment to indigenous rights. It was noted that further examination of the linkages between environmental principles, human rights law and armed conflict was necessary, based on additional information on the practice of States as well as international and regional organizations.

Provisional application of treaties

The Commission [A/69/10] considered the second report [A/CN.4/675] on the provisional application of treaties by Special Rapporteur Juan Manuel Gómez-

Robledo (Mexico), which provided an analysis of the legal effects of the provisional application of treaties, including rights and obligations, source of obligations, termination of obligations and legal consequences of the breach of a treaty applied provisionally.

The Special Rapporteur pointed out that the question of the legal effects of the provisional application of treaties was central to the Commission's approach to the topic and that analysis of those effects invariably took place in the light of domestic practice of States. He observed that the source of the legal obligations in question could be traced either to a clause in the treaty itself or arose from a separate agreement adopted in parallel to the main treaty, and identified four ways in which article 25, paragraph 1, of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties [YUN 1969, p. 730] could be manifested: (1) when a treaty established that it would apply provisionally from the moment of its adoption; (2) when the treaty established that it would be applied provisionally by the signatory States; (3) when the treaty left open the possibility for each State to decide whether or not it wished to provisionally apply the treaty from the moment of the treaty's adoption; and (4) when the treaty was silent on its provisional application and States applied article 25, paragraph 1. The obligations under the provisional application of treaties could therefore take a contractual form or the form of one or more unilateral acts, while the rights established by the provisional application also depended on how such application had been enshrined in the treaty or agreed to. The Special Rapporteur further maintained that the regime that applied to the termination of treaties applied *mutatis mutandis* to the provisional application of treaties, and reiterated the applicability of the existing regime of the responsibility of States, as provided for in the 2001 articles on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts [YUN 2001, p. 1218], to the breach of a treaty being applied provisionally.

The debate revealed broad agreement that the basic premise underlying the topic was that, subject to the specificities of the treaty in question, the rights and obligations of a State which had decided to provisionally apply the treaty, or parts thereof, were the same as if the treaty were in force for that State. Additional observations were made concerning the impact of the provisional application on the content of a treaty, provisional application by States or international organizations which had not participated in the negotiation of the treaty, and the legal regime from the provisional application not being separate from that of the treaty. It was observed that a State's resort to provisional application was not only a matter of international law but was also to be determined in the light of the applicable domestic law, and an analysis of domestic provisions relating to the provisional application of treaties was therefore necessary for a proper consideration of the topic. A difference of opinion was

expressed as to the applicability of the rules on the termination of treaties or the rules on the unilateral acts of States to the termination of provisional application, as well as concerning the assertion that such termination could not be undertaken arbitrarily. A view was also expressed that the question of the applicability of the rules on responsibility for internationally wrongful acts required further reflection.

Suggestions for further consideration included examining whether provisional application always extended to the entire treaty and whether the rules of customary international law on the provisional application of treaties were the same as those in the Vienna Convention; analysing further the relationship between the provisional application of treaties and their entry into force, as well as the modalities for the termination of provisional application; studying the applicability of the regime on the reservations to treaties; and considering the difference in consequences arising from the provisional application of bilateral as opposed to multilateral treaties. Support was also expressed for the Special Rapporteur's intention to deal with the provisional application of treaties by international organizations and to propose draft guidelines or conclusions, although the possibility of developing draft articles, as the Commission had done in its work on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties, was not to be ruled out.

On 8 August, ILC requested from the Secretariat a memorandum on the Commission's previous work on that subject in the *travaux préparatoires* of the relevant provisions of the 1986 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations [YUN 1986, p. 1006].

Most-favoured-nation clause

The Commission reconstituted the Study Group on the Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) clause [A/69/10], which continued examining the various factors that seemed to influence investment tribunals in interpreting MFN clauses, and began consideration of its draft final report, to be presented for consideration at the sixty-seventh session of the Commission in 2015.

The Study Group undertook a substantive and technical review of the draft final report comprised of three parts focusing on the background; the contemporary relevance of and issues concerning MFN clauses including the different approaches in the case-law to the interpretation of MFN provisions in investment agreements; and policy considerations in investment relating to the interpretation of investment agreements, implications of investment dispute settlement arbitration as "mixed arbitration", the contemporary relevance of the 1978 draft articles on the MFN clauses [YUN 1978, pp. 945 & 948] to the interpretation of MFN provisions and the interpretation of MFN clauses.

The Group underlined the relevance of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties [YUN 1969, p. 730], as a point of departure, in the interpretation of investment treaties. The Group placed emphasis on analyzing the case-law and drawing attention to the issues that had arisen and trends in the practice.

On 25 July, the Commission took note of the oral report on the work of the Study Group.

Crimes against humanity

Further to its 2013 decision on its long-term programme of work [YUN 2013, p. 1305], the Commission [A/69/10], on 18 July 2014, included the topic of crimes against humanity in its work programme and appointed Sean D. Murphy (United States) as Special Rapporteur.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/498], adopted **resolution 69/118** without vote [agenda item 78].

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-sixth session

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-sixth session,

Emphasizing the importance of furthering the progressive development and codification of international law as a means of implementing the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing the desirability of referring legal and drafting questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission for closer examination, and of enabling the Sixth Committee and the Commission to enhance further their contribution to the progressive development and codification of international law,

Recalling the need to keep under review those topics of international law which, given their new or renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission,

Recalling also the role of Member States in submitting proposals for new topics for the consideration of the International Law Commission, and noting in this regard the recommendation of the Commission that such proposals be accompanied by a statement of reasons,

Reaffirming the importance for the successful work of the International Law Commission of the information provided by Member States concerning their views and practice,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission,

Welcoming the holding of the International Law Seminar, which commemorated its fiftieth anniversary in

2014, and noting with appreciation the voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar,

Acknowledging the importance of facilitating the timely publication of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* and of eliminating the backlog,

Stressing the usefulness of focusing and structuring the debate on the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee in such a manner that conditions are provided for concentrated attention to each of the main topics dealt with in the report and for discussions on specific topics,

Wishing to enhance further, in the context of the revitalization of the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, the interaction between the Sixth Committee as a body of governmental representatives and the Commission as a body of independent legal experts, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two bodies,

Welcoming initiatives to hold interactive debates, panel discussions and question time in the Sixth Committee, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-sixth session;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for the work accomplished at its sixty-sixth session, and notes in particular:

(a) The completion of the second reading of the draft articles on the expulsion of aliens;

(b) The completion of the first reading of the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters;

(c) The completion of the work on the topic "The obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*)" by the adoption of the final report on the topic;

3. *Takes note* of the final report on the topic "The obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*)" contained in paragraph 65 of the report of the International Law Commission, and encourages its widest possible dissemination;

4. *Recommends* that the International Law Commission continue its work on the topics in its current programme, taking into account the comments and observations of Governments, whether submitted in writing or expressed orally in debates in the Sixth Committee;

5. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their views by 31 January 2015 on the various aspects of the topics on the agenda of the Commission, in particular on all the specific issues identified in chapter III of its report, regarding:

(a) Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties;

(b) Protection of the atmosphere;

(c) Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction;

(d) Identification of customary international law;

(e) Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts;

(f) Provisional application of treaties;

(g) Crimes against humanity;

6. *Also draws the attention* of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their comments and observations by 1 January 2016

on the draft articles on the topic "Protection of persons in the event of disasters", adopted on first reading by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session;

7. *Takes note* of the decision of the International Law Commission to include the topic "Crimes against humanity" in its programme of work, and encourages the Commission to continue the examination of the topics that are in its long-term programme of work;

8. *Also takes note* of paragraphs 267 to 272 of the report of the International Law Commission, and notes in particular the inclusion of the topic "*Jus cogens*" in the long-term programme of work of the Commission and the request of the Commission that the Secretariat review the list of possible future topics established in 1996 and prepare for its consideration a list of potential topics accompanied by brief explanatory notes, by the end of the present quinquennium;

9. *Further takes note* of paragraph 281 of the report of the International Law Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to identify concrete options for support for the work of special rapporteurs, additional to those provided under General Assembly resolution 56/272 of 27 March 2002;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the International Law Commission to improve its methods of work, and encourages the Commission to continue this practice;

11. *Recalls* that the seat of the International Law Commission is at the United Nations Office at Geneva;

12. *Notes* that the International Law Commission is considering the possibility of holding part of its future sessions in New York, underlines, to that purpose, the importance of the Commission taking into account estimated costs and relevant administrative, organizational and other factors, and calls upon the Commission to deliberate thoroughly the feasibility of holding part of its sixty-eighth session in New York;

13. *Decides*, without prejudice to the output of those deliberations, to revert to the consideration of the recommendation contained in paragraph 388 of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third session during the seventieth session of the General Assembly;

14. *Invites* the International Law Commission to continue to take measures to enhance its efficiency and productivity and to consider making proposals to Member States to that end;

15. *Encourages* the International Law Commission to continue to take cost-saving measures at its future sessions, without prejudice to the efficiency and effectiveness of its work;

16. *Takes note* of paragraph 291 of the report of the International Law Commission, and decides that the next session of the Commission shall be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 4 May to 5 June and from 6 July to 7 August 2015;

17. *Stresses* the desirability of further enhancing the dialogue between the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, and in this context encourages, inter alia, the continued practice of informal consultations in the form of discussions between the members of the Sixth Committee and the members of the Commission attending the seventieth session of the Assembly;

18. *Encourages* delegations, during the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, to continue to adhere as far as possible to the structured work programme

agreed to by the Sixth Committee and to consider presenting concise and focused statements;

19. *Encourages* Member States to consider being represented at the level of legal adviser during the first week in which the report of the International Law Commission is discussed in the Sixth Committee (International Law Week) to enable high-level discussions on issues of international law;

20. *Requests* the International Law Commission to continue to pay special attention to indicating in its annual report, for each topic, any specific issues on which expressions of views by Governments, either in the Sixth Committee or in written form, would be of particular interest in providing effective guidance for the Commission in its further work;

21. *Takes note* of paragraphs 293 to 297 of the report of the International Law Commission with regard to cooperation and interaction with other bodies, and encourages the Commission to continue the implementation of articles 16 (e), 25 and 26 of its statute in order to further strengthen cooperation between the Commission and other bodies concerned with international law, having in mind the usefulness of such cooperation;

22. *Notes* that consulting with national organizations and individual experts concerned with international law may assist Governments in considering whether to make comments and observations on drafts submitted by the International Law Commission and in formulating their comments and observations;

23. *Reaffirms* its previous decisions concerning the indispensable role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat in providing assistance to the International Law Commission, including in the preparation of memorandums and studies on topics on the agenda of the Commission;

24. *Also reaffirms* its previous decisions concerning the documentation and summary records of the International Law Commission;

25. *Welcomes* the institutionalization of the practice of the Secretariat to include the provisional summary records on the website relating to the work of the International Law Commission;

26. *Takes note* of paragraph 282 of the report of the International Law Commission, underlines the importance of the publications of the Codification Division to the work of the Commission, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General continue to publish the *Work of the International Law Commission* in all six official languages at the beginning of each quinquennium, the *Reports of International Arbitral Awards* in English or French and the *Summaries of the Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice* in all six official languages every five years;

27. *Stresses* the need to expedite the preparation of the summary records of the International Law Commission, and welcomes the continuation of the experimental measures taken to streamline the processing of summary records during the sixty-fifth session of the Commission, which have led to a more rational use of resources, and expresses its satisfaction that the summary records of the Commission, constituting *travaux préparatoires* in the progressive development and codification of international law, will not be subject to arbitrary length restrictions;

28. *Takes note* of paragraph 286 of the report of the International Law Commission, stresses the unique value of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure its timely publication in all official languages;

29. *Also takes note* of paragraph 286 of the report of the International Law Commission, expresses its appreciation to Governments that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund on the backlog relating to the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and encourages further contributions to the trust fund;

30. *Further takes note* of paragraph 288 of the report of the International Law Commission, expresses its satisfaction with the remarkable progress achieved in the past few years in reducing the backlog of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* in all six languages, and welcomes the efforts made by the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva, especially its Editing Section, in effectively implementing relevant resolutions of the General Assembly calling for the reduction of the backlog;

31. *Takes note* of paragraph 288 of the report of the International Law Commission, encourages the Division of Conference Management to provide continuous necessary support to the Editing Section in advancing the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and requests that updates on progress made in this respect be provided to the Commission on a regular basis;

32. *Welcomes* the continuous efforts of the Codification Division to maintain and improve the website relating to the work of the International Law Commission, expresses its satisfaction to the Division for the successful completion of the digitization and posting on the website of the entire collection of the documents of the Commission in Spanish, and encourages the Division to continue to pursue its efforts with respect to documents in the remaining official languages;

33. *Expresses the hope* that the International Law Seminar will continue to be held in connection with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants representing the principal legal systems of the world, including in particular those from developing countries, will be given the opportunity to attend the Seminar, as well as delegates to the Sixth Committee, and appeals to States to continue to make urgently needed voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar;

34. *Takes note with appreciation* of paragraph 312 of the report of the International Law Commission and of the organization by the Commission of a meeting in July 2014 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the International Law Seminar;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the International Law Seminar with adequate services, including interpretation, as required, and encourages him to continue to consider ways to improve the structure and content of the Seminar;

36. *Underlines* the importance of the records and topical summary of the debate in the Sixth Committee for the deliberations of the International Law Commission, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to forward to the Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Commission at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate in conjunction with

their oral statements, and to prepare and distribute a topical summary of the debate, following established practice;

37. *Requests* the Secretariat to circulate to States, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session of the International Law Commission, chapter II of its report containing a summary of the work of that session, chapter III containing the specific issues on which the views of Governments would be of particular interest to the Commission and the draft articles adopted on either first or second reading by the Commission;

38. *Also requests* the Secretariat to make the complete report of the International Law Commission available as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session of the Commission for the consideration of Member States with due anticipation and no later than the prescribed time limit for reports in the General Assembly;

39. *Encourages* the International Law Commission to continue to consider ways in which specific issues on which the views of Governments would be of particular interest to the Commission could be framed so as to help Governments to have a better appreciation of the issues on which responses are required;

40. *Recommends* that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the seventieth session of the General Assembly commence on 2 November 2015.

International State relations and international law

Principle of universal jurisdiction

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/117 [YUN 2013, p. 1311], the Secretary-General issued a July report [A/69/174] on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction, based on information and observations received from seven Member States and four observers.

Working Group. Pursuant to resolution 68/117, the Sixth Committee, on 7 October, established a working group to discuss the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction [A/69/503]. The Working Group held three meetings (16, 17 and 23 October). The Chair of the Working Group delivered an oral report to the Sixth Committee on 7 November [A/C.6/69/SR.28].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/503], adopted **resolution 69/124** without vote [agenda item 83].

The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to international law and to an international order based on the rule of law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States,

Recalling its resolutions 64/117 of 16 December 2009, 65/33 of 6 December 2010, 66/103 of 9 December 2011, 67/98 of 14 December 2012 and 68/117 of 16 December 2013,

Taking into account the comments and observations of Governments and observers and the discussions held in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-fourth to sixty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction,

Recognizing the diversity of views expressed by States and the need for further consideration towards a better understanding of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction,

Reiterating its commitment to fighting impunity, and noting the views expressed by States that the legitimacy and credibility of the use of universal jurisdiction are best ensured by its responsible and judicious application consistent with international law,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General prepared on the basis of comments and observations of Governments and relevant observers;

2. *Decides* that the Sixth Committee shall continue its consideration of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, without prejudice to the consideration of this topic and related issues in other forums of the United Nations, and for this purpose decides to establish, at its seventieth session, a working group of the Sixth Committee to continue to undertake a thorough discussion of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction;

3. *Invites* Member States and relevant observers, as appropriate, to submit, before 30 April 2015, information and observations on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, including, where appropriate, information on the relevant applicable international treaties and their national legal rules and judicial practice, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report based on such information and observations;

4. *Decides* that the working group shall be open to all Member States and that relevant observers to the General Assembly will be invited to participate in the work of the working group;

5. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction”.

Effects of armed conflicts on treaties

By its resolution 66/99 [YUN 2011, p. 1276], the General Assembly took note of the articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties, adopted by the International Law Commission (ILC) in 2011 [ibid.], and included the item in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth (2014) session. The Assembly’s Sixth Committee discussed the item on 23 October [A/C.6/69/SR.18] and on 5 and 7 November 2014 [A/C.6/69/SR.27 & 28].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/504], adopted **resolution 69/125** without vote [agenda item 84].

Effects of armed conflicts on treaties

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/99 of 9 December 2011, in which it took note of and commended to the attention of Governments the articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also that the International Law Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the draft articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties in a resolution and annex them to that resolution, and that it consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles,

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the subject of the effects of armed conflicts on treaties is of major importance in the relations of States,

Taking note of the comments of Governments and the discussion in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly on this topic,

1. *Commends once again* the articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties to the attention of Governments without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Governments to submit written comments on any future action regarding the articles;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled “Effects of armed conflicts on treaties”, with a view to examining, inter alia, the question of the form that might be given to the articles.

Responsibility of international organizations

By its resolution 66/100 [YUN 2011, p. 1268], the General Assembly took note of the articles on responsibility of international organizations, adopted by the ILC in 2011 [ibid.], and included the item on responsibility of international organizations in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth (2014) session. The Assembly’s Sixth Committee discussed the item on 23 October 2014 [A/C.6/69/SR.18].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/505], adopted **resolution 69/126** without vote [agenda item 85].

Responsibility of international organizations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/100 of 9 December 2011, in which it took note of the articles on the responsibility of international organizations, contained in the annex to that resolution, and commended them to the attention of Governments and international organizations,

Recalling also that the International Law Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the draft articles on the responsibility of international organizations in a resolution and annex them

to that resolution, and that it consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles,

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the subject of responsibility of international organizations is of major importance in the relations of States and international organizations,

Taking note of the comments of Governments and the discussion in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly on this topic,

1. *Takes note once again* of the articles on the responsibility of international organizations and commends them to the attention of Governments and international organizations without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare an initial compilation of decisions of international courts, tribunals and other bodies referring to the articles and to invite Governments and international organizations to submit information on their practice in this regard, as well as written comments on any future action regarding the articles, and further requests the Secretary-General to submit this material well in advance of its seventy-second session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Responsibility of international organizations", with a view to examining, inter alia, the question of the form that might be given to the articles.

Law of treaties

The 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties [YUN 1969, p. 730], which entered into force in 1980 [YUN 1980, p. 1141], had 114 parties as at 31 December 2014, with the accession of the State of Palestine on 2 April.

Special missions

The General Assembly, by resolution 2530(XXIV) [YUN 1969, p. 750], adopted the Convention on Special Missions and its Optional Protocol on the compulsory settlement of disputes. The Convention, which entered into force in 1985, had 38 States parties as at 31 December 2014.

Treaties involving international organizations

The 1975 Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character [YUN 1975, p. 879], which would enter into force when ratified by 35 parties, had 34 States parties as at 31 December 2014.

The 1986 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations [YUN 1986, p. 1006] had 43 parties, including 12 international organizations, with the accession of Albania on 8 May. It would enter into force when ratified by 35 States.

Succession of states

The 1978 Vienna Convention on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties [YUN 1978, p. 951], which entered into force in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 1214], had 22 States parties as at 31 December 2014.

The 1983 Vienna Convention on Succession of States in Respect of State Property, Archives and Debts [YUN 1983, p. 1119], which would enter into force when ratified by 15 parties, had 7 States parties.

Jurisdictional immunities of states and their property

The General Assembly, by resolution 59/38 [YUN 2004, p. 1304], adopted the Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property. As at 31 December, the Convention had 16 States parties with the accession of Latvia on 14 February and Finland on 23 April. The Convention would enter into force when ratified by 30 parties.

International terrorism

Convention on international terrorism

Working Group. On 7 October [A/69/506], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/119 [YUN 2013, p. 1332], the Sixth Committee established a working group to finalize the process on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on convening a high-level conference to formulate a collective response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Working Group held three meetings and informal consultations on 24 October and 4 and 5 November. The Chair of the Working Group provided an oral report to the Sixth Committee on 7 November [A/C.6/69/SR.28].

The Working Group had before it the report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by Assembly resolution 51/210 [YUN 1996, p. 1208] at its sixteenth (2013) session [YUN 2013, p. 1331]. Delegations stressed the importance of concluding the draft convention. Concerning the outstanding issues surrounding the draft convention, some delegations emphasized the need to distinguish acts of terrorism from the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination in the exercise of their right to self-determination, while others stressed that no cause could legitimize terrorist acts and it was improper to draw a dichotomy between self-determination and terrorism. Some delegations expressed the view that the convention should also address State terrorism and cover acts by the armed forces of a State or irregular paramilitary groups when those acts were not covered by international humanitarian law; others reiterated that the convention should be a law-enforcement instrument focusing on individual criminal responsibility. It was recalled that provisions relating to the

obligations of States were included in the accompanying draft resolution.

On the proposed convening of a high-level conference, Egypt, as sponsor delegation, recalled that it had initially submitted the proposal in 1999. The proposed conference would provide an opportunity for adopting an action plan and a forum for addressing all issues related to the fight against terrorism. Egypt recalled that the proposal had been supported by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the African Union and the League of Arab States. Egypt further stressed that the issue should be discussed on its own merits and should not be linked to the discussions on the draft comprehensive convention.

In his oral report, the Chair of the Working Group noted that, despite overwhelming support for the conclusion of the draft convention, a lack of the necessary political will had resulted in continued impasse. Noting that more time was required to achieve substantive progress on the outstanding issues, the Working Group recommended that the Sixth Committee, at the General Assembly's seventieth (2015) session, establish a working group to finalize the process on the draft convention and discussions on convening a high-level conference.

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/53 [YUN 1995, p. 1330] and resolution 68/119 [YUN 2013, p. 1332], the Secretary-General in July issued his annual report [A/69/209] on measures taken by 16 States, 4 UN system entities and 3 international organizations to implement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, adopted by Assembly resolution 49/60 [YUN 1994, p. 1293]. The report listed 41 international instruments pertaining to terrorism, including 19 universal and 22 regional, and provided information on workshops and training courses on combating terrorism by one State.

In another report [A/69/94], issued in June in response to Assembly resolution 68/187 [YUN 2013, p. 1252], the Secretary-General provided information on the progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in delivering technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism. From mid-2013 to May 2014, UNODC provided legislative assistance to 21 States, resulting in 23 new ratifications of the international legal instruments and 16 new or revised counter-terrorism laws. UNODC also provided capacity-building training to 2,127 national criminal justice officials through 86 national, regional and international workshops. Terrorism prevention programmes were implemented in the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa, Nigeria, the Middle East and North Africa, Yemen, Afghanistan, Central Asia,

South Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. UNODC supported national training institutes in developing counter-terrorism training modules and conducting train-the-trainer programmes, and continued to develop specialized knowledge and tools in such areas as countering the financing of terrorism and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; tackling chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism; countering transport-related terrorist offences; assisting victims of acts of terrorism; and strengthening human rights while preventing and combating terrorism. In the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy [YUN 2006, p. 65], UNODC contributed to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and cooperated with the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/506], adopted **resolution 69/127** without vote [agenda item 107].

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, in all its aspects, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted on 8 September 2006, which enhances the overall framework for the efforts of the international community to effectively counter the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and recalling the first, second, third and fourth biennial reviews of the Strategy, on 4 and 5 September 2008, 8 September 2010, 28 and 29 June 2012 and 12 and 13 June 2014, respectively, and the debates that were held on those occasions,

Recalling its resolutions 62/272 of 5 September 2008, 64/297 of 8 September 2010, 66/282 of 29 June 2012 and 68/276 of 13 June 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 66/10 of 18 November 2011,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and reaffirming, in particular, the section on terrorism,

Recalling further the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996,

Recalling all General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism and Security Council resolutions on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Convinced of the importance of the consideration of measures to eliminate international terrorism by the

General Assembly as the universal organ having competence to do so,

Deeply disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts, which have been carried out worldwide,

Reaffirming its strong condemnation of the heinous acts of terrorism that have caused enormous loss of human life, destruction and damage, including those which prompted the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/1 of 12 September 2001, as well as Security Council resolutions 1368(2001) of 12 September 2001, 1373(2001) of 28 September 2001 and 1377(2001) of 12 November 2001, and those that have occurred since,

Reaffirming also its strong condemnation of the atrocious and deliberate attacks that have occurred against United Nations offices in various parts of the world,

Affirming that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with all their obligations under international law and must adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Stressing the need to strengthen further international cooperation among States and among international organizations and agencies, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements and the United Nations in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, international law and the relevant international conventions,

Noting the role of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373(2001) concerning counter-terrorism in monitoring the implementation of that resolution, including the taking of the necessary financial, legal and technical measures by States and the ratification or acceptance of the relevant international conventions and protocols,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism and of the proposals of the Secretary-General to enhance the role of the Organization in this respect,

Mindful also of the essential need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation aimed at enhancing the national capacity of States to prevent and effectively suppress international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Reiterating its call upon States to review urgently the scope of the existing international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the aim of ensuring that there is a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects of the matter,

Emphasizing that tolerance and dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation and success in combating terrorism, and welcoming the various initiatives to this end,

Reaffirming that no terrorist act can be justified in any circumstances,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1624(2005) of 14 September 2005, and bearing in mind that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Noting recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress international terrorism,

Noting also regional and subregional efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including through the elaboration of and adherence to regional conventions,

Recalling its decision in resolutions 54/110 of 9 December 1999, 55/158 of 12 December 2000, 56/88 of 12 December 2001, 57/27 of 19 November 2002, 58/81 of 9 December 2003, 59/46 of 2 December 2004, 60/43 of 8 December 2005, 61/40 of 4 December 2006, 62/71 of 6 December 2007, 63/129 of 11 December 2008, 64/118 of 16 December 2009, 65/34 of 6 December 2010, 66/105 of 9 December 2011 and 67/99 of 14 December 2012 that the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 should address, and keep on its agenda, the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recalling also that, in the Final Document of the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, adopted in Tehran on 31 August 2012, the Heads of State or Government reiterated the collective position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on terrorism and reaffirmed its previous initiative calling for an international summit conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as other relevant initiatives,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 57/219 of 18 December 2002, 58/187 of 22 December 2003, 59/191 of 20 December 2004, 60/158 of 16 December 2005, 61/171 of 19 December 2006, 62/159 of 18 December 2007, 63/185 of 18 December 2008, 64/168 of 18 December 2009, 65/221 of 21 December 2010, 66/171 of 19 December 2011 and 68/178 of 18 December 2013,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General and the oral report of the Chair of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on its work during the sixty-ninth session,

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

2. *Calls upon* all Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as the resolutions relating to the first, second, third and fourth biennial reviews of the Strategy, in all its aspects at the international, regional, subregional and national levels without delay, including by mobilizing resources and expertise;

3. *Recalls* the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, looks forward to the fifth biennial review, in 2016, and in this regard recalls its invitation to the Secretary-General to contribute to the future deliberations of the Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General when doing so to provide information on relevant activities within the Secretariat to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;

4. *Reiterates* that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstances unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them;

5. *Reiterates its call upon* all States to adopt further measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism and, to that end, to consider, in particular, the implementation of the measures set out in paragraphs 3 (a) to (f) of General Assembly resolution 51/210;

6. *Also reiterates its call upon* all States, with the aim of enhancing the efficient implementation of relevant legal instruments, to intensify, as and where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism and, in so doing, to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* States to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities;

8. *Expresses concern* at the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking with demands for ransom and/or political concessions by terrorist groups, and expresses the need to address this issue;

9. *Expresses grave concern* over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or providing or receiving terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict, emphasizes the need for States to address this issue, including through the implementation of their international obligations, and underlines the importance of United Nations capacity-building and facilitation of capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States, including those in the most affected regions, upon their request;

10. *Emphasizes* the need for States to cooperate resolutely against international terrorism by taking speedy and effective measures to eliminate this scourge, and in this regard calls upon all States, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law and the Charter, to deny safe haven and bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts;

11. *Urges* States to ensure that their nationals or other persons and entities within their territory that wilfully provide or collect funds for the benefit of persons or entities who commit, or attempt to commit, facilitate or participate in the commission of terrorist acts are punished by penalties consistent with the grave nature of such acts;

12. *Reminds* States of their obligations under relevant international conventions and protocols, and Security Council resolutions, including Council resolution 1373(2001), to ensure that perpetrators of terrorist acts are brought to justice, and recalls the General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism;

13. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation as well as actions by States to combat terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the principles of the Charter, international law and relevant international conventions;

14. *Recalls* the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol of 2005 to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, and urges all States to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to these instruments;

15. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373(2001) and Council resolution 1566(2004) of 8 October 2004, becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols as referred to in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 51/210, as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and calls upon all States to enact, as appropriate, the national legislation necessary to implement the provisions of those conventions and protocols, to ensure that the jurisdiction of their courts enables them to bring to trial the perpetrators of terrorist acts and to cooperate with and provide support and assistance to other States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to that end;

16. *Urges* States to cooperate with the Secretary-General and with one another, as well as with interested intergovernmental organizations, with a view to ensuring, where appropriate within existing mandates, that technical and other expert advice is provided to those States requiring and requesting assistance in becoming parties to and implementing the conventions and protocols referred to in paragraph 15 above;

17. *Notes with appreciation and satisfaction* that, consistent with the call contained in paragraphs 12 and 13 of General Assembly resolution 68/119 of 16 December 2013, a number of States became parties to the relevant conventions and protocols referred to therein, thereby realizing the objective of wider acceptance and implementation of those conventions;

18. *Reaffirms* the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/60, and the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 51/210, and calls upon all States to implement them;

19. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate to prevent and suppress terrorist acts;

20. *Urges* all States and the Secretary-General, in their efforts to prevent international terrorism, to make the best use of the existing institutions of the United Nations;

21. *Notes* that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre is performing its duties within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in New York and that the Centre is supporting the implementation of the United

Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and encourages all Member States to collaborate with the Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities within the Task Force;

22. *Requests* the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna to continue its efforts to enhance, through its mandate, the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism, and recognizes, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373(2001), its role in assisting States in becoming parties to and implementing the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the most recent among them, and in strengthening international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through national capacity-building;

23. *Invites* regional intergovernmental organizations to submit to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted at the regional level to eliminate international terrorism, as well as on intergovernmental meetings held by those organizations;

24. *Decides*, taking into account the recommendation of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee that more time was required to achieve substantive progress on the outstanding issues, to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations;

25. *Recognizes* the efforts of Member States towards resolving any outstanding issues, and encourages all Member States to redouble their efforts during the intersessional period;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

In its **resolution 69/197** of 18 December (see p. 1416), the Assembly called on States to become parties to the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, and to develop strategies and effective measures to address terrorism. It requested UNODC to enhance its technical assistance to Member States in preventing and combating terrorism by facilitating the ratification and implementation of the conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in close consultation with the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, as well as to continue contributing to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The Assembly also urged UNODC to provide technical assistance in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Protocols Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 67/93 [YUN 2012, p. 1305], the Secretary-General in July [A/69/184] reported on the status of the two 1977 Protocols Addi-

tional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [YUN 1977, p. 706]. The report included information submitted by eight States and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on measures taken to strengthen the dissemination and implementation of humanitarian law at the national level. Annexed to the report was a list of 174 States parties to one or both Protocols as at 2 June 2014. An addendum [A/69/184/Add.1] provided information submitted by six other States and ICRC, as well as a list of 68 States parties to Additional Protocol III of 8 December 2005 as at 23 September 2014.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/499], adopted **resolution 69/120** without vote [agenda item 79].

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recalling its biennial resolutions on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, including its resolution 67/93 of 14 December 2012,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Reaffirming the continuing value of established humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts and the need to respect and ensure respect for those rules in all circumstances within the scope of the relevant international instruments, pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

Stressing the need to consolidate the existing body of international humanitarian law through its universal acceptance and the need for wide dissemination and full implementation of such law at the national level, and expressing concern about all violations of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols,

Calling upon Member States to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law as widely as possible, and calling upon all parties to armed conflict to apply international humanitarian law,

Noting with satisfaction the increasing number of national commissions and other bodies involved in advising authorities at the national level on the implementation, dissemination and development of international humanitarian law,

Noting with appreciation the meetings of representatives of those bodies organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, together with relevant partners such as national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, to facilitate the sharing of concrete experience and the exchange of views on their roles and on the challenges they face,

Stressing the possibility of making use of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission in relation to an armed conflict, pursuant to article 90 of Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions,

Stressing also the possibility for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission to facilitate,

through its good offices, the restoration of an attitude of respect for the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I,

Taking note of the fact that, in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its resolution 1894(2009) of 11 November 2009 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, the Security Council noted the range of existing methods used, on a case-by-case basis, for gathering information on alleged violations of applicable international law relating to the protection of civilians, underlined the importance in that regard of receiving information that is timely, objective, accurate and reliable, and considered the possibility, to that end, of using the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission established by article 90 of Protocol I,

Mindful of the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in offering protection to the victims of armed conflicts,

Noting with appreciation the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to promote and disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols,

Noting the special responsibilities of national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their respective States in the humanitarian field, to cooperate with and assist their Governments in the promotion, dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, particularly in the year of the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the original Geneva Convention,

Recalling the undertakings of the Thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011, at which the Conference reaffirmed the need to reinforce the implementation of and respect for international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the launch of the initiative by Switzerland, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, to facilitate a process aimed at exploring and identifying concrete ways and means to strengthen the application of international humanitarian law, including ensuring the effectiveness of mechanisms of compliance and reinforcing dialogue on issues of international humanitarian law,

Noting the initiative by the International Committee of the Red Cross to facilitate a process regarding the legal protection of all persons deprived of their liberty in relation to armed conflict,

Noting also the work undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross in its Health Care in Danger project regarding the protection of the provision of and access to health care,

Calling upon States to respect and protect the wounded and sick, as well as health-care personnel and facilities, and medical vehicles in armed conflict in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law,

Noting the serious concern expressed by States regarding the humanitarian impact caused by cluster munitions, and noting the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 1 August 2010,

Noting also the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in 2013,

Welcoming the significant debate generated by the publication in 2005 of the study by the International Committee

of the Red Cross on customary international humanitarian law and recent initiatives by the Committee, and looking forward to further constructive discussion on the subject,

Acknowledging the fact that the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court covers the most serious crimes of international concern under international humanitarian law and that the Rome Statute, while recalling that it is the duty of every State to exercise its criminal jurisdiction over those responsible for such crimes, shows the determination of the international community to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of such crimes and thus to contribute to their prevention,

Noting the amendments to article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, relating to war crimes under the Rome Statute, adopted at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, held in Kampala on 10 June 2010,

Acknowledging the usefulness of discussing in the General Assembly the status of instruments of international humanitarian law relevant to the protection of victims of armed conflicts,

1. *Welcomes* the universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and notes the trend towards a similarly wide acceptance of the two Additional Protocols of 1977;

2. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Geneva Conventions that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Additional Protocols at the earliest possible date;

3. *Calls upon* all States that are already parties to Protocol I, or those States not parties, on becoming parties to Protocol I, to make the declaration provided for under article 90 of that Protocol and to consider making use, where appropriate, of the services of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission in accordance with the provisions of article 90 of Protocol I;

4. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the two Protocols thereto and to other relevant treaties on international humanitarian law relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict;

5. *Calls upon* States to consider becoming parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

6. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions to ensure their wide dissemination and full implementation;

7. *Affirms* the necessity of making the implementation of international humanitarian law more effective, and supports its further strengthening and development;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption at the Thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 November 2007, of resolution 3 entitled "Reaffirmation and implementation of international humanitarian law: preserving human life and dignity in armed conflict", in which the Conference, *inter alia*, reiterated the obligation of States to take national measures to implement international humanitarian law, including training the armed forces and making this law known among the general public, as well as adopting legislation to punish war crimes in accordance with their international obligations;

9. *Also notes with appreciation* the adoption at the Thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross

and Red Crescent of resolution 1 entitled “Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts”, in which the Conference, inter alia, stressed that greater compliance with international humanitarian law is an indispensable prerequisite for improving the situation of victims of armed conflict and reaffirmed the obligation of all States and all parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances;

10. *Recognizes*, taking into account questions raised by States during the preparation for the Thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and during the debates at the Conference, the importance of exploring ways to enhance and ensure the effectiveness of mechanisms of compliance with international humanitarian law, with a view to strengthening legal protection for all victims of armed conflict, and in this regard welcomes the launch of the initiative by Switzerland, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, on strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to actively participate in the Thirty-second International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to be held in Geneva in 2015;

12. *Welcomes* the activities of the Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law of the International Committee of the Red Cross in supporting efforts made by Member States to take legislative and administrative action to implement international humanitarian law and in promoting the exchange of information on those efforts between Governments, and reminds Member States of the availability of the manual on domestic implementation of international humanitarian law;

13. *Also welcomes* the increasing number of national commissions or committees for the implementation of international humanitarian law and their work in promoting the incorporation of treaties on international humanitarian law into national law and disseminating the rules of international humanitarian law;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the status of the Additional Protocols relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, as well as on measures taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, inter alia, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level, based on information received from Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross;

15. *Encourages* Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in transmitting information to the Secretary-General, to focus on new developments and activities during the reporting period;

16. *Encourages* Member States to explore ways of facilitating the submission of information for future reports of the Secretary-General and, in this context, to consider the convenience of using a questionnaire as drafted by Member States, with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross and, as appropriate, in consultation with the Secretariat, for submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled “Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts”.

Diplomatic relations

Protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

As at 31 December, the States parties to the following conventions relating to the protection of diplomatic and consular relations numbered: 190 States parties to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations [YUN 1961, p. 512], 51 parties to the Optional Protocol concerning the acquisition of nationality [ibid., p. 516] and 70 parties to the Optional Protocol concerning the compulsory settlement of disputes [ibid.].

The 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations [YUN 1963, p. 510] had 177 parties, the Optional Protocol concerning acquisition of nationality [ibid., p. 512] had 41, and the Optional Protocol concerning the compulsory settlement of disputes [ibid.] had 51. Parties to the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents [YUN 1973, p. 775] numbered 177.

Report of Secretary-General. In a July report and later addendum [A/69/185 & Add.1], the Secretary-General summarized information received from 14 States, pursuant to Assembly resolution 67/94 [YUN 2012, p. 1307], on serious violations of the protection and security of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. Fourteen additional States became parties to the instruments relevant to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives since the 2012 report [ibid.].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/500], adopted **resolution 69/121** without vote [agenda item 80].

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Conscious of the need to develop and strengthen friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Convinced that respect for the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations is a basic prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among States and for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Alarmed by the new and recurring acts of violence against diplomatic and consular representatives, as well as against representatives to international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, which endanger or take innocent lives and seriously impede the normal work of such representatives and officials,

Expressing sympathy for the victims of such illegal acts,

Noting that diplomatic and consular missions may maintain archives and documents in various forms, that

official correspondence may take a variety of forms and that diplomatic and consular missions may use a variety of means of communication,

Recalling that the archives and documents of diplomatic and consular missions shall be inviolable at any time and wherever they may be and that the official correspondence of diplomatic and consular missions shall be inviolable,

Recalling also that States shall permit and protect free communication of diplomatic and consular missions for all official purposes and that diplomatic and consular missions may employ all appropriate means in communicating with their Governments and other diplomatic and consular missions of their State, wherever situated,

Concerned at the failure to respect the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives,

Recalling that, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State,

Recalling also that diplomatic and consular premises must not be used in any manner incompatible with the functions of diplomatic and consular missions,

Emphasizing the duty of States to take all appropriate measures, as required by international law, in a timely manner, for the protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives to international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, including measures of a preventive nature, and to bring offenders to justice,

Welcoming measures already taken by States to this end in conformity with their international obligations,

Convinced that the role of the United Nations, which includes the reporting procedures established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/168 of 15 December 1980 and further elaborated in subsequent Assembly resolutions, is important in promoting efforts to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Strongly condemns* acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives to international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, and emphasizes that such acts can never be justified;

3. *Urges* States to strictly observe, implement and enforce all the applicable principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations, including during a period of armed conflict, and, in particular, to ensure, in conformity with their international obligations, the protection, security and safety of the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above officially present in territories under their jurisdiction, including practical measures to prevent and prohibit in their territories illegal activities of persons, groups and organizations that encourage, instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of acts against the security and safety of such missions, representatives and officials;

4. *Also urges* States to take all appropriate measures at the national and international levels to prevent any acts of violence against the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above, including during a period of armed conflict, and to ensure, with the participation of

the United Nations where appropriate, that such acts are fully investigated with a view to bringing offenders to justice;

5. *Recommends* that States cooperate closely through, inter alia, contacts between the diplomatic and consular missions and the receiving State with regard to practical measures designed to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, including measures of a preventive nature, and with regard to the timely exchange of information on the circumstances of all serious violations thereof;

6. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures, in accordance with international law, at the national and international levels, to prevent any abuse of diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities, in particular serious abuses, including those involving acts of violence;

7. *Recommends* that States cooperate closely with the State in whose territory abuses of diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities may have occurred, including by exchanging information and providing assistance to its juridical authorities in order to bring offenders to justice;

8. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the instruments relevant to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives;

9. *Calls upon* States, in cases where a dispute arises in connection with a violation of their international obligations concerning the protection of the missions or the security of the representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above, to make use of the means available for peaceful settlement of disputes, including the good offices of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General, when he deems it appropriate, to offer his good offices to the States directly concerned;

10. *Urges*:

(a) All States to report to the Secretary-General, in a concise and expeditious manner and in accordance with the guidelines prepared by the Secretary-General, serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organizations;

(b) The State in which the violation took place—and, to the extent possible, the State where the alleged offender is present—to report to the Secretary-General, in a concise and expeditious manner and in accordance with the guidelines prepared by the Secretary-General, on measures taken to bring the offender to justice and eventually to communicate, in accordance with its laws, the final outcome of the proceedings against the offender, and to report on measures adopted with a view to preventing a repetition of such violations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To send, without delay, a circular note to all States reminding them of the request contained in paragraph 10 above;

(b) To circulate to all States, upon receipt, the reports received by him pursuant to paragraph 10 above, unless the reporting State requests otherwise;

(c) To draw the attention, when appropriate, of the States directly concerned to the reporting procedures provided for in paragraph 10 above, when a serious violation has been reported pursuant to paragraph 10 (a) above;

(d) To address reminders to States where such violations have occurred if reports pursuant to paragraph 10 (a)

above or follow-up reports pursuant to paragraph 10 (b) above have not been made within a reasonable period of time;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to invite States, in the circular note referred to in paragraph 11 (a) above, to inform him of their views with respect to any measures needed or already taken to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives with diplomatic status to international intergovernmental organizations;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report containing:

(a) Information on the state of ratification of and accessions to the instruments referred to in paragraph 8 above;

(b) A summary of the reports received and views expressed pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 12 above;

14. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly any views he may wish to express on the matters referred to in paragraph 13 above;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives”.

Treaties and agreements

UN registration and publication of treaties

During 2014, 779 original treaties and international agreements were registered and 3 filed and recorded with the United Nations Secretariat in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter and relevant General Assembly regulations.

The United Nations published the *Monthly Statement of Treaties and International Agreements*, which provided a summary of the treaties registered with the Secretariat under Article 102 of the Charter during each month. The United Nations Treaty Collection website provided access to the *United Nations Treaty Series*, which contained all treaties and international agreements registered or filed and recorded by the Secretariat since 1945, and to up-to-date information on the status of all multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

The 2014 Treaty Event entitled “Towards Universal Participation and Implementation” (New York, 23–25 and 30 September and 1 October) resulted in 81 treaty actions undertaken by 52 States with respect to 30 treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General

The United Nations received treaty actions—such as signatures, ratifications, acceptances, approvals, accessions, declarations, reservations, objections and notifications—for deposit with the Secretary-General, resulting in the issuance of 821 depositary notifications.

The Secretary-General was performing depositary functions for more than 560 multilateral treaties.

The following multilateral treaties, conventions, protocols and amendments deposited with the Secretary-General were among those that came into force in 2014:

—*Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure*, adopted in New York on 19 December 2011 and which entered into force on 14 April 2014;

—*Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses*, adopted in New York on 21 May 1997 and which entered into force on 17 August 2014;

—*Amendment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*, adopted in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 27 February 2001 and which entered into force on 26 August 2014;

—*Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity*, adopted in Nagoya, Japan, on 29 October 2010 and which entered into force on 12 October 2014; and

—*Arms Trade Treaty*, adopted in New York on 2 April 2013 and which entered into force on 24 December 2014.

Advice and capacity-building in treaty law and practice

Advice and assistance on treaty law and practice were provided to Member States, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions, UN bodies, treaty bodies and other entities. Two seminars on treaty law and practice (8–9 April and 13–14 November) were conducted at UN Headquarters for legal advisors from Member States and other officials.

Capacity-building training was delivered to government officials as part of two regional seminars on the Law of Treaties (Lesotho, 10–14 February and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10 April).

International economic law

In 2014, legal aspects of international economic law continued to be considered by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and by the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.

Commission on International Trade Law

At its forty-seventh session (New York, 7–18 July [A/69/17]), the Commission completed its work on a draft convention on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration and recommended its adoption by the General Assembly as the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-Based

Investor-State Arbitration, which the Assembly did in December (see p. 1526).

UNCITRAL continued its work on arbitration and conciliation, online dispute resolution, electronic commerce, insolvency law, security interests and international trade law aimed at reducing the legal obstacles faced by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises throughout their life cycle, and considered possible future work, especially in the area of public-private partnerships. The Commission reviewed the implementation of the New York Convention and agreed on the publication of the UNCITRAL Secretariat Guide on the New York Convention; it also reviewed the work on the collection and dissemination of case law on UNCITRAL texts (CLOUT), as well as training and technical assistance activities.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/116 [YUN 2013, p. 1349], the Commission continued to comment on its role in promoting the rule of law and held a panel discussion on “Sharing States’ national practices in strengthening the rule of law through access to justice”, further to consideration of that subtopic in the Assembly’s Sixth Committee. It confirmed its role in strengthening the rule of law, including by facilitating access to justice, noting that UNCITRAL work was relevant to all dimensions of such access (normative protection, capacity to seek remedy and capacity to provide effective remedies). The Commission also reiterated its belief that the implementation and effective use of modern private law standards in international trade were essential for advancing good governance, sustained economic development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and that the promotion of the rule of law in commercial relations should be an integral part of the broader UN agenda to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. The Secretary-General was encouraged to devise effective practical mechanisms to achieve such integration.

Arbitration and conciliation

UNCITRAL [A/69/17] had before it the reports of Working Group II (Arbitration and Conciliation) on its fifty-ninth (Vienna, 16–20 September 2013) [A/CN.9/794 & Corr.1] and sixtieth (New York, 3–7 February 2014) [A/CN.9/799] sessions, together with a Secretariat note [A/CN.9/812] transmitting a draft convention on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration, completed by the Working Group in its second reading, and a compilation of comments on the draft convention [A/CN.9/813 & Add.1]. After consideration and further revision of the draft convention on transparency, the Commission, on 9 July, decided to submit it to the General Assembly and recommended that the Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, consider adopting a United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-Based Investor-State Arbitration, authorizing its opening for signature on

17 March 2015 in Port Louis, Mauritius, and recommending that the Convention be known as the “Mauritius Convention on Transparency” in English and “*La Convention de l’Île Maurice sur la Transparence*” in French. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to publish the Convention, including electronically, and to disseminate it broadly to Governments and other interested bodies.

The Commission was informed of the steps taken by the Secretariat for the establishment of a repository of published information under the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration, adopted in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1337], further to its 2013 opinion that the UNCITRAL Secretariat should fulfil the role of the transparency repository [ibid., p. 1338]. It expressed its appreciation for the establishment of a transparency registry website and reiterated its mandate to the Secretariat to establish and operate the Transparency Registry, initially as a pilot project, and to seek any necessary funding to that end.

UNCITRAL also considered a note [A/CN.9/822] by the Secretariat on possible future work in the enforcement of international settlement agreements, containing a proposal by the United States to develop a multilateral convention on the enforceability of international commercial settlement agreements reached through conciliation. The Commission agreed that Working Group II should consider the issue of enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from conciliation proceedings and report in 2015 on the feasibility of work in that area. It further agreed that the Working Group should consider at its next sessions the revision of the UNCITRAL Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings (1996) [YUN 1996, p. 1240], focusing on the matters of substance, and requested the Secretariat to explore further the issue of concurrent proceedings in investment treaty arbitrations and to report to the Commission at a future session.

The Commission also took note of an oral report on a joint project between the UNCITRAL Secretariat and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to promote the culture of commercial and investment arbitration in the Middle East and North Africa region.

At its sixty-first session (Vienna, 15–19 September) [A/CN.9/826], Working Group II commenced its revision of the Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings, based on the notes prepared by the Secretariat [A/CN.9/WG.II/WP.183 & A/CN.9/WG.II/WP.184]. Based on the deliberations and decisions of the Working Group, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a revised draft version of the Notes.

Implementation of the 1958 New York Convention

UNCITRAL, at its forty-seventh session [A/69/17], was informed of the progress made by the Secretariat in promoting the uniform application of the 1958

Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the New York Convention) [YUN 1958, p. 391] through the preparation of a UNCITRAL guide.

Further to its 2013 consideration of an excerpt of the UNCITRAL guide on the Convention [YUN 2013, p. 1338], during which concerns were expressed that a guide would not reflect an international consensus on the Convention's interpretation and the question of the form of its publication was raised, the Commission had before it a Secretariat note [A/CN.9/814 & Add.1–3 & Add.5] containing additional excerpts of the guide. The Commission agreed to include a disclaimer in the guide. It further agreed that the guide should be entitled "UNCITRAL Secretariat Guide on the New York Convention" and requested the Secretariat to publish it, including electronically, in the six official languages of the United Nations. The Commission also took note with appreciation of the performance of the website, which was launched in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1311] to make available information collected in preparation of the UNCITRAL Secretariat Guide on the New York Convention.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/496], adopted **resolution 69/116** without vote [agenda item 76].

United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2205(XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade in the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

Recalling also its resolution 68/109 of 16 December 2013, in which it recommended the use of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration and Arbitration Rules (as revised in 2010, with new article 1, paragraph 4, as adopted in 2013),

Recognizing the need for provisions on transparency in the settlement of treaty-based investor-State disputes to take account of the public interest involved in such arbitrations,

Believing that the Rules on Transparency contribute significantly to the establishment of a harmonized legal framework for a fair and efficient settlement of international investment disputes, increase transparency and accountability and promote good governance,

Recalling that, at its forty-sixth session, in 2013, the Commission recommended that the Rules on Transparency be applied through appropriate mechanisms to investor-State arbitration initiated pursuant to investment treaties concluded before the coming into effect of the Rules on Transparency, to the extent that such application is consistent

with those investment treaties, and that the Commission decided to prepare a convention that was intended to give those States that wished to make the Rules on Transparency applicable to their existing investment treaties concluded before 1 April 2014 an efficient mechanism to do so, without creating any expectation that other States would use the mechanism offered by the convention,

Acknowledging that the Rules on Transparency might be made applicable to investor-State arbitration initiated pursuant to investment treaties concluded before 1 April 2014, the date of coming into effect of the Rules on Transparency, by means other than a convention,

Recognizing that all States and interested international organizations were invited to participate in the preparation of the draft convention either as members or as observers during the forty-seventh session of the Commission, with full opportunity to speak and make proposals,

Noting that the preparation of the draft convention was the subject of due deliberation in the Commission and that the draft convention benefited from consultations with Governments and interested intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations,

Noting with satisfaction that the text of the draft convention was circulated for comment to all States Members of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations invited to attend the meetings of the Commission as observers, and that the comments received were before the Commission at its forty-seventh session,

Taking note with satisfaction of the decision of the Commission at its forty-seventh session to submit the draft convention to the General Assembly for its consideration,

Taking note of the draft convention approved by the Commission,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Mauritius for its offer to host a signing ceremony for the Convention in Port Louis,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for preparing the draft convention on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration;

2. *Adopts* the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration, contained in the annex to the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* a ceremony for the opening for signature of the Convention to be held in Port Louis on 17 March 2015, and recommends that the Convention be known as the "Mauritius Convention on Transparency";

4. *Calls upon* those Governments and regional economic integration organizations that wish to make the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration applicable to arbitrations under their existing investment treaties to consider becoming a party to the Convention.

ANNEX

United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration

Preamble

The Parties to this Convention,

Recognizing the value of arbitration as a method of settling disputes that may arise in the context of international relations, and the extensive and wide-ranging use of arbitration for the settlement of investor-State disputes,

Also recognizing the need for provisions on transparency in the settlement of treaty-based investor-State disputes to take account of the public interest involved in such arbitrations,

Believing that the Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on 11 July 2013 (“UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency”), effective as of 1 April 2014, would contribute significantly to the establishment of a harmonized legal framework for a fair and efficient settlement of international investment disputes,

Noting the great number of treaties providing for the protection of investments or investors already in force, and the practical importance of promoting the application of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency to arbitration under those already concluded investment treaties,

Noting also article 1(2) and (9) of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency,

Have agreed as follows:

Scope of application

Article 1

1. This Convention applies to arbitration between an investor and a State or a regional economic integration organization conducted on the basis of an investment treaty concluded before 1 April 2014 (“investor-State arbitration”).

2. The term “investment treaty” means any bilateral or multilateral treaty, including any treaty commonly referred to as a free trade agreement, economic integration agreement, trade and investment framework or cooperation agreement, or bilateral investment treaty, which contains provisions on the protection of investments or investors and a right for investors to resort to arbitration against contracting parties to that investment treaty.

Application of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency

Article 2

Bilateral or multilateral application

1. The UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency shall apply to any investor-State arbitration, whether or not initiated under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, in which the respondent is a Party that has not made a relevant reservation under article 3(1)(a) or (b), and the claimant is of a State that is a Party that has not made a relevant reservation under article 3(1)(a).

Unilateral offer of application

2. Where the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency do not apply pursuant to paragraph 1, the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency shall apply to an investor-State arbitration, whether initiated under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, in which the respondent is a Party that has not made a reservation relevant to that investor-State arbitration under article 3(1), and the claimant agrees to the application of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency.

Applicable version of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency

3. Where the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency apply pursuant to paragraph 1 or 2, the most recent version

of those Rules as to which the respondent has not made a reservation pursuant to article 3(2) shall apply.

Article 1(7) of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency

4. The final sentence of article 1(7) of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency shall not apply to investor-State arbitrations under paragraph 1.

Most favoured nation provision in an investment treaty

5. The Parties to this Convention agree that a claimant may not invoke a most favoured nation provision to seek to apply, or avoid the application of, the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency under this Convention.

Reservations

Article 3

1. A Party may declare that:

(a) It shall not apply this Convention to investor-State arbitration under a specific investment treaty, identified by title and name of the contracting parties to that investment treaty;

(b) Article 2(1) and (2) shall not apply to investor-State arbitration conducted using a specific set of arbitration rules or procedures other than the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, and in which it is a respondent;

(c) Article 2(2) shall not apply in investor-State arbitration in which it is a respondent.

2. In the event of a revision of the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency, a Party may, within six months of the adoption of such revision, declare that it shall not apply that revised version of the Rules.

3. Parties may make multiple reservations in a single instrument. In such an instrument, each declaration made:

(a) In respect of a specific investment treaty under paragraph 1(a);

(b) In respect of a specific set of arbitration rules or procedures under paragraph 1(b);

(c) Under paragraph 1(c); or

(d) Under paragraph 2);

shall constitute a separate reservation capable of separate withdrawal under article 4(6).

4. No reservations are permitted except those expressly authorized in this article.

Formulation of reservations

Article 4

1. Reservations may be made by a Party at any time, save for a reservation under article 3(2).

2. Reservations made at the time of signature shall be subject to confirmation upon ratification, acceptance or approval. Such reservations shall take effect simultaneously with the entry into force of this Convention in respect of the Party concerned.

3. Reservations made at the time of ratification, acceptance or approval of this Convention or accession thereto shall take effect simultaneously with the entry into force of this Convention in respect of the Party concerned.

4. Except for a reservation made by a Party under article 3(2), which shall take effect immediately upon deposit, a reservation deposited after the entry into force of the Convention for that Party shall take effect twelve months after the date of its deposit.

5. Reservations and their confirmations shall be deposited with the depositary.

6. Any Party that makes a reservation under this Convention may withdraw it at any time. Such withdrawals are to be deposited with the depositary, and shall take effect upon deposit.

Application to investor-State arbitrations

Article 5

This Convention and any reservation, or withdrawal of a reservation, shall apply only to investor-State arbitrations that are commenced after the date when the Convention, reservation, or withdrawal of a reservation, enters into force or takes effect in respect of each Party concerned.

Depositary

Article 6

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is hereby designated as the depositary of this Convention.

Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval, accession

Article 7

1. This Convention is open for signature in Port Louis, Mauritius, on 17 March 2015, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York by any (a) State; or (b) regional economic integration organization that is constituted by States and is a contracting party to an investment treaty.

2. This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatories to this Convention.

3. This Convention is open for accession by all States or regional economic integration organizations referred to in paragraph 1 which are not signatories as from the date it is open for signature.

4. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession are to be deposited with the depositary.

Participation by regional economic integration organizations

Article 8

1. When depositing an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, a regional economic integration organization shall inform the depositary of a specific investment treaty to which it is a contracting party, identified by title and name of the contracting parties to that investment treaty.

2. When the number of Parties is relevant in this Convention, a regional economic integration organization does not count as a Party in addition to its member States which are Parties.

Entry into force

Article 9

1. This Convention shall enter into force six months after the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

2. When a State or a regional economic integration organization ratifies, accepts, approves or accedes to this Convention after the deposit of the third instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, this Convention enters into force in respect of that State or regional economic integration organization six months

after the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Amendment

Article 10

1. Any Party may propose an amendment to the present Convention by submitting it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall thereupon communicate the proposed amendment to the Parties to this Convention with a request that they indicate whether they favour a conference of Parties for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposal. In the event that within four months from the date of such communication at least one third of the Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

2. The conference of Parties shall make every effort to achieve consensus on each amendment. If all efforts at consensus are exhausted and no consensus is reached, the amendment shall, as a last resort, require for its adoption a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting at the conference.

3. An adopted amendment shall be submitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to all the Parties for ratification, acceptance or approval.

4. An adopted amendment enters into force six months after the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval. When an amendment enters into force, it shall be binding on those Parties which have expressed consent to be bound by it.

5. When a State or a regional economic integration organization ratifies, accepts or approves an amendment that has already entered into force, the amendment enters into force in respect of that State or that regional economic integration organization six months after the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

6. Any State or regional economic integration organization which becomes a Party to the Convention after the entry into force of the amendment shall be considered as a Party to the Convention as amended.

Denunciation of this Convention

Article 11

1. A Party may denounce this Convention at any time by means of a formal notification addressed to the depositary. The denunciation shall take effect twelve months after the notification is received by the depositary.

2. This Convention shall continue to apply to investor-State arbitrations commenced before the denunciation takes effect.

DONE in a single original, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises

Recalling its 2013 decision to entrust Working Group I with work aimed at reducing the legal obstacles faced by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) throughout their life cycle, es-

pecially in developing economies [YUN 2013, p. 1344], the Commission [A/69/17] had before it the Working Group's report [A/CN.9/800] on its twenty-second session (New York, 10–14 February).

The Working Group had engaged in preliminary discussions regarding the development of a legal text on simplified incorporation and registration regimes for MSMEs. The discussions focused on issues raised in a working paper prepared by the Secretariat [A/CN.9/WG.I/WP.82], including limited liability, legal personality, the protection of third parties and creditors dealing with the enterprise, registration of the business, sole ownership, minimum capital requirements, transparency in respect of beneficial ownership, internal governance issues and freedom of contract, as well as the possible forms that the proposed legal text could take. Based on the deliberations and decisions of the Working Group, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a document setting out best practices on business registration, as well as a template on simplified incorporation and registration in order to provide the basis for drafting a possible model law. The Commission reaffirmed the Working Group's mandate.

At its twenty-third session (Vienna, 17–21 November) [A/CN.9/825 & Corr.1], Working Group I continued discussing the preparation of legal standards aimed at creating an enabling legal environment for MSMEs, in particular the simplification of incorporation and related matters. It considered best practices in business registration, based on the Secretariat's note [A/CN.9/WG.I/WP.85], as well as issues concerning transparency and beneficial ownership, alternative legislative models for micro and small businesses, legal questions surrounding the simplification of incorporation and future work in the area of business registration.

Online dispute resolution

UNCITRAL [A/69/17] welcomed the progress made by Working Group III (Online Dispute Resolution) on the draft procedural rules on dispute resolution for cross-border electronic transactions, at its twenty-eighth (Vienna, 18–22 November 2013) [A/CN.9/795] and twenty-ninth (New York, 24–28 March 2014) [A/CN.9/801] sessions, in particular regarding Track II that provided for online dispute resolution (ODR) proceedings which did not end in arbitration.

The Commission agreed that there were many common elements between Track I and Track II of the draft rules and that the Working Group should consider at its next session the text of Track I (providing for proceedings which ended in arbitration), as well as address the effects of online dispute resolution on consumer protection in developing and developed countries and countries in post-conflict situations, including when the consumer was the respondent party; explore means of effectively implementing ODR outcomes, including possible alternatives to arbitration; and consider how the

draft rules would respond to the needs of developing countries and those facing post-conflict situations. It noted that some of those issues were addressed in the proposal by Colombia, Honduras, Kenya and the United States [A/CN.9/817] requesting that the Working Group consider the needs of developing countries and small- and medium-sized enterprises, in particular the need for an unconstrained online binding arbitration procedure to be available for the resolution of cross-border trade disputes. The Commission reaffirmed the Working Group's mandate in respect to low-value, high-volume cross-border electronic transactions, and encouraged it to continue to conduct its work in the most efficient manner possible. The Commission also considered the preparation of guidelines for ODR providers and platforms as a possible topic for the Working Group's future work.

At its thirtieth session (Vienna, 20–24 October) [A/CN.9/827], the Working Group considered Track I of the Rules for ODR, taking into consideration the importance of different outcomes and enforcement mechanisms—including arbitration—particularly for developing countries and those facing post-conflict situations, and issues of consumer protection. While progress was made on the draft text of Track I, differences remained between those States that allowed binding pre-dispute agreements to arbitrate and those that did not.

Electronic commerce

UNCITRAL [A/69/17] noted the progress made by Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce) in preparing draft provisions on electronic transferable records at its forty-eighth (Vienna, 9–13 December 2013) [A/CN.9/797] and forty-ninth (New York, 28 April–2 May 2014) [A/CN.9/804] sessions. The Commission also noted the Working Group's discussion on technical assistance and coordination activities in the field of electronic commerce, including continued cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the European Commission and the World Customs Organization. It further noted the Commission Chairperson's participation in the conference on "Facilitating Trade in the Digital Economy—Enhancing Interaction Between Business and Government" (Geneva, 8–9 April), which highlighted the contribution of UNCITRAL texts to facilitating the use of electronic communications at the national and international levels. The Commission was informed that the Russian Federation and the Congo had become States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts (Electronic Communications Convention) [YUN 2005, p. 1459].

Regarding possible future work, the Commission took note of a proposal by Canada concerning legal issues on cloud computing [A/CN.9/823], aimed at identifying potential risks from current practices in relation to conflict of laws, the lack of supporting legislative framework and the possible disparities of domestic laws. It recognized the implication of cloud computing, particularly for small- and medium-sized enterprises, as well as for related issues such as data protection, privacy and intellectual property, and agreed to consider it as a possible topic at a future session.

Noting that the current work of the Working Group would greatly assist in facilitating electronic commerce in international trade, the Commission reaffirmed the Working Group's mandate to develop a legislative text on electronic transferable records, and requested the Secretariat to continue reporting on relevant developments relating to electronic commerce. The Secretariat was also requested to compile information on cloud computing, identity management, use of mobile devices in electronic commerce and single window facilities, including by organizing or participating in colloquia, workshops and other meetings, and to report to the Commission at a future session.

At its fiftieth session (Vienna, 10–14 November) [A/CN.9/828], Working Group IV continued discussions on the draft provisions on electronic transferable records, and was informed of the recent developments in technical assistance and coordination activities, including the ratification by Montenegro of the Electronic Communications Convention which brought to six the number of States parties, the entry into force of the Regulation on Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions in the Internal Market (eIDAS Regulation), and a research project on the use of electronic transferable records for supply chain financing at the University of Göteborg (Sweden).

Insolvency law

UNCITRAL [A/69/17] considered the reports by Working Group V (Insolvency Law) on its forty-fourth (Vienna, 16–20 December 2013) [A/CN.9/798] and forty-fifth (New York, 21–25 April 2014) [A/CN.9/803] sessions, as well as the report [A/CN.9/815] of the Fourth International Insolvency Law Colloquium (Vienna, 16–18 December 2013) held as part of the Working Group's forty-fourth session to discuss its work on enterprise group issues and consider future topics, including insolvency issues specific to MSMEs, further to the Commission's 2013 decision [YUN 2013, p. 1341].

The Commission noted that the Working Group had commenced discussions on the cross-border insolvency of multinational enterprise groups and that it had established an open-ended informal group to consider the feasibility of developing a convention on international insolvency issues and to study the issues

facing States with respect to adoption of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency [YUN 1997, p. 1379]. With regard to the insolvency of MSMEs, the Commission made reference to the Working Group's conclusion that the mechanisms provided by the Legislative Guide were not sufficient to address all of the needs of such enterprises but solutions for them should be developed in light of the Legislative Guide's key principles, and that a study of insolvency regimes for MSMEs should commence without delay.

The Commission approved the Working Group's mandate with regard to facilitating the cross-border insolvency of multinational enterprise groups, addressing the obligations of directors of enterprise group companies in the period approaching insolvency, and developing model legislative provisions for the recognition and enforcement of insolvency-derived judgements. The Working Group was also urged to continue its study on the feasibility of developing a convention on selected international insolvency issues and on exploring the potential for further adoption of the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency.

At its forty-sixth session (Vienna, 15–19 December) [A/CN.9/829], Working Group V commenced its deliberations based on text concerning the obligations of directors of enterprise group members in the period approaching insolvency [A/CN.9/WG.V/WP.125], the cross-border insolvency of multinational enterprise groups [A/CN.9/WG.V/WP.124] and the recognition and enforcement of insolvency-derived judgements [A/CN.9/WG.V/WP.126]. It considered draft recommendations on directors' obligations; goals and key elements of a cross-border insolvency regime for groups; as well as judgements to be covered by a recognition and enforcement regime, jurisdiction of the originating court, procedures for obtaining recognition and enforcement, and grounds to refuse recognition.

Security interests

The Commission [A/69/17] noted that Working Group VI (Security Interests), at its twenty-fourth (Vienna, 2–6 December 2013) [A/CN.9/796] and twenty-fifth (New York, 31 March–4 April) [A/CN.9/802] sessions, had completed the first reading of a concise draft model law on secured transactions, based on the recommendations of the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions adopted by UNCITRAL in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 1378] and the General Assembly in 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 1474], and consistent with all texts prepared by UNCITRAL on secured transactions. The Commission also had before it a Secretariat note entitled "Draft Model Law on Secured Transactions: Security Interests in Non-Intermediated Securities" [A/CN.9/811], which contained the definitions and draft provisions proposed by the Working Group for inclusion in the draft model law. While noting that non-intermediated securities, an important source of

business credit particularly for MSMEs, were not addressed in the Secured Transactions Guide or other international instruments, the Commission agreed with the Working Group's proposal.

Acknowledging the importance of modern secured transactions law for the availability and cost of credit, as well as the need for urgent guidance to States, in particular those with developing economies and economies in transition, the Commission expressed its satisfaction for the progress achieved by the Working Group, and requested it to complete the draft model law, including the definitions and provisions on non-intermediated securities, and to submit it, together with a guide to enactment, for adoption by the Commission.

The Commission noted the coordination efforts of the UNCITRAL Secretariat in the field of security interests, including the revision of the World Bank Insolvency and Creditor Rights Standard. The Commission also reiterated its call to the European Commission to ensure a coordinated approach to the issue of the law applicable to third-party effects of assignments of receivables. Taking note of the statement of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) on the status of the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (the Cape Town Convention) and its protocols, it renewed the Secretariat's mandate to continue cooperation with Unidroit in the area of security interests.

At its twenty-sixth session (Vienna, 8–12 December) [A/CN.9/830], Working Group VI continued the preparation of a model law on secured transactions consistent with relevant UNCITRAL texts. The Working Group considered a Secretariat note entitled "Draft Model Law on Secured Transactions" [A/CN.9/WG.VI/ WP.61 & Add.1–3]. The Secretariat was requested to revise the draft Model Law based on the Working Group's deliberations and decisions.

Public-private partnerships

The Commission [A/69/17] had before it a report of the UNCITRAL colloquium on possible future work in the area of public-private partnerships (PPPs) (Vienna, 3–4 March) [A/CN.9/821], organized in response to its 2013 request [YUN 2013, p. 1345]. The colloquium considered a discussion paper proposing recommendations [A/CN.9/819] and key topics for inclusion in a legislative text on PPPs [A/CN.9/820], prepared by the Secretariat following studies and consultations organized since 2013. The colloquium endorsed the conclusion that effective and efficient PPPs would be crucial for sustainable economic and social development, and agreed that a main issue for consideration was the potential contribution of an UNCITRAL legislative text to enabling effective PPPs. The Commission noted that the colloquium identified 15 topics for consideration in developing some legislative text on PPPs, and agreed

to discuss further the possibility of future work in PPPs at its forty-eighth (2015) session.

Case law on UNCITRAL texts

The Commission [A/69/17] considered a Secretariat note [A/CN.9/810] on the promotion of ways and means of ensuring a uniform interpretation and application of UNCITRAL legal texts, which provided information on the status of the case law on UNCITRAL texts (CLOUT) system and an update on work undertaken by the Secretariat on digests of case law relating to the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (United Nations Sales Convention) [YUN 1980, p. 1131] and the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (Model Law on Arbitration) [YUN 1985, p. 1192].

The Commission noted the increasing number of UNCITRAL legal texts represented in the CLOUT system. As at 5 May, 143 issues of compiled case-law abstracts from the CLOUT system had been prepared for publication, dealing with 1,351 cases related to, *inter alia*, the United Nations Sales Convention, the Model Law on Arbitration, the New York Convention [YUN 1958, p. 391], the 1974 Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods [YUN 1974, p. 853] and the Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods as amended by the Protocol of 11 April 1980 [YUN 1980, p. 1132]. The Commission was informed that the network of national correspondents, which began its five-year mandate in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1314], was composed of 64 correspondents representing 31 countries.

UNCITRAL was also informed of the progress in preparing the digest of case law on the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency and work to update the current version of the digest on the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, and noted the translation of the third revision of the digest on the United Nations Sales Convention into all UN official languages. It welcomed progress made in upgrading the UNCITRAL website to facilitate the functioning of the CLOUT database, and reiterated its appeal to States to assist the Secretariat in the search for additional funding to ensure proper maintenance and development of CLOUT.

Technical cooperation and assistance

UNCITRAL [A/69/17] considered a Secretariat note [A/CN.9/818] describing technical cooperation and assistance activities undertaken since 2013. The Commission noted that the number of activities remained limited due to lack of resources, and reiterated its appeal for either multi-year or specific-purpose contributions to the UNCITRAL Trust Fund for Symposia to enable the Secretariat to meet the increasing number of requests from developing countries and economies

in transition. The Secretariat was requested to continue exploring alternative sources of extrabudgetary funding, and was encouraged to seek cooperation with international organizations and bilateral partners in the provision of technical assistance.

The Commission also considered a Secretariat note [A/CN.9/808] on the activities undertaken by the UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, which were aimed at promoting international trade norms and standards in commercial transactions, in particular those elaborated by UNCITRAL; providing technical assistance to States with respect to the adoption and uniform interpretation of UNCITRAL texts; ensuring coordination with international and regional organizations active in trade law reform projects in the region; and functioning as a channel of communication between States in the region and UNCITRAL. With the growing number of initiatives and requests, the Regional Centre expanded its activities both geographically, to South Asia and the Persian Gulf region, and thematically, to cross-border insolvency and PPPs. The Commission stressed the importance of the mandate assigned to the Regional Centre and requested the Secretariat to pursue consultations regarding the possible establishment of other UNCITRAL regional centres.

Coordination and cooperation

UNCITRAL [A/69/17] considered a Secretariat note [A/CN.9/809] prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/142 [YUN 1979, p. 1132] and providing information on the activities of other international organizations active in the field of international trade law in which the UNCITRAL Secretariat had participated since 2013. The Commission noted that the Secretariat had engaged in activities with several organizations, including the UN/CEFACT, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity, the Hague Conference on Private International Law (the Hague Conference), OECD, Unidroit, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization. The Secretariat participated in expert groups, working groups and plenary meetings of those organizations to share information and expertise and avoid duplication of work.

The Commission took note of the statements made on behalf of Unidroit, the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Maritime Organization, the World Bank, the International Development Law Organization and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The importance of joint projects with OAS and the World Bank in the area of security interests for countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region was particu-

larly highlighted, as was the need for a closer and more substantive cooperation with the Hague Conference and Unidroit.

Future work

The Commission [A/69/17] considered a Secretariat note [A/CN.9/807 & A/CN.9/816] on current and possible future UNCITRAL activities in legislative development and activities designed to support the implementation, use and understanding of UNCITRAL texts, as well as proposed prioritization and allocation of UNCITRAL resources. It agreed that prevailing resource constraints necessitated prioritization of activities, confirmed that the Working Groups would continue to develop legislative texts and associated guidance in existing subject areas until its forty-eighth (2015) session, and agreed not to express itself on future work extending beyond its forty-eighth session.

The Commission reaffirmed its decisions to hold a colloquium to recognise the thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Sales Convention in 2015 and a colloquium to explore possible future work in the field of electronic commerce, addressing identity management, trust services, electronic transfers and cloud computing (see p. 1529). It also reaffirmed its support for formal working methods as the primary method of legislative development. Emphasizing the importance of support activities, the Commission encouraged the Secretariat to build partnerships and alliances with relevant international organizations as well as bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations, and reaffirmed the Secretariat's mandate to explore alternative sources of financing.

UNCITRAL approved the holding of its forty-eighth session in Vienna from 29 June to 16 July 2015. It also approved the schedule of meetings for its working groups between its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/496], adopted **resolution 69/115** without vote [agenda item 76].

Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-seventh session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2205(XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

Reaffirming its belief that the progressive modernization and harmonization of international trade law, in reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade, especially those affecting developing countries, would contribute significantly to universal economic cooperation among all States on a basis of equality, equity, common interest and respect for the rule of law, to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to peace, stability and the well-being of all peoples,

Having considered the report of the Commission,

Reiterating its concern that activities undertaken by other bodies in the field of international trade law without adequate coordination with the Commission might lead to undesirable duplication of efforts and would not be in keeping with the aim of promoting efficiency, consistency and coherence in the unification and harmonization of international trade law,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, to coordinate legal activities in this field, in particular to avoid duplication of efforts, including among organizations formulating rules of international trade, and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the modernization and harmonization of international trade law, and to continue, through its secretariat, to maintain close cooperation with other international organs and organizations, including regional organizations, active in the field of international trade law,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;

2. *Commends* the Commission for the finalization of the draft convention on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that the secretariat of the Commission has taken steps to establish and operate the repository of published information under the Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration ("transparency repository"), in accordance with article 8 of the Rules on Transparency, as a pilot project temporarily funded by voluntary contributions, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of developments regarding the funding and budgetary situation of the transparency repository;

4. *Takes note with interest* of the decisions taken by the Commission as regards its future work and the progress made by the Commission in its work in the areas of arbitration and conciliation, online dispute resolution, electronic commerce, insolvency law, security interests and international trade law aimed at reducing the legal obstacles faced by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises throughout their life cycle, endorses the Commission's decision to compile information on cloud computing, identity management, the use of mobile devices in electronic commerce and single window facilities, including by organizing, co-organizing or participating in colloquiums, workshops and other meetings within available resources, also endorses the Commission's decision to hold a colloquium and other events in 2015 to celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods within available resources, and commends the efforts undertaken by the Commission to improve the management of its resources while maintaining and increasing its current levels of activity, includ-

ing through avoiding overlap of work and the use of informal working methods where appropriate, with due regard to the formal negotiation process;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the projects of the Commission aimed at promoting the uniform and effective application of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the New York Convention), done at New York on 10 June 1958, including the preparation of a guide entitled "UNCITRAL Secretariat Guide on the New York Convention", in close cooperation with international experts;

6. *Endorses* the efforts and initiatives of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, aimed at increasing coordination of and cooperation on legal activities of international and regional organizations active in the field of international trade law and at promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in this field, and in this regard appeals to relevant international and regional organizations to coordinate their legal activities with those of the Commission, to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the modernization and harmonization of international trade law;

7. *Reaffirms* the importance, in particular for developing countries, of the work of the Commission concerned with technical cooperation and assistance in the field of international trade law reform and development, and in this connection:

(a) Welcomes the initiatives of the Commission towards expanding, through its secretariat, its technical cooperation and assistance programme, and in that respect encourages the Secretary-General to seek partnerships with State and non-State actors to increase awareness about the work of the Commission and facilitate the effective implementation of legal standards resulting from its work;

(b) Expresses its appreciation to the Commission for carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities and for providing assistance with legislative drafting in the field of international trade law, and draws the attention of the Secretary-General to the limited resources that are made available in this field;

(c) Expresses its appreciation to the Governments whose contributions enabled the technical cooperation and assistance activities to take place, and appeals to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Trust Fund for Symposia and, where appropriate, for the financing of special projects and otherwise to assist the secretariat of the Commission in carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities, in particular in developing countries;

(d) Reiterates its appeal to the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies responsible for development assistance, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as to Governments in their bilateral aid programmes, to support the technical cooperation and assistance programme of the Commission and to cooperate with the Commission and coordinate their activities with those of the Commission in the light of the relevance and importance of the work and programmes of the Commission for the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels and for the implementation

of the international development agenda, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the preparation of sustainable development goals;

8. *Recalls* the importance of adherence to the rules of procedure and methods of work of the Commission, including transparent and inclusive deliberations, taking into account the summary of conclusions as reproduced in annex III to the report on the work of its forty-third session, requests the Secretariat to issue, prior to meetings of the Commission and of its working groups, a reminder of those rules of procedure and methods of work with a view to ensuring the high quality of the work of the Commission and encouraging the assessment of its instruments, and in this regard recalls its previous resolutions related to this matter;

9. *Welcomes* the activities of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, in the Republic of Korea, towards reaching out and providing technical assistance with international trade law reforms to developing countries in the region, notes with satisfaction expressions of interest from other States in hosting regional centres of the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of developments regarding the establishment of regional centres, in particular their funding and budgetary situation;

10. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established to provide travel assistance to developing countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General, in order to enable renewal of the provision of that assistance and to increase expert representation from developing countries at sessions of the Commission and its working groups, necessary to build local expertise and capacities in those countries to put in place a regulatory and enabling environment for business, trade and investment;

11. *Decides*, in order to ensure full participation of all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to continue, in the competent Main Committee during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, its consideration of granting travel assistance to the least developed countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General;

12. *Endorses* the conviction of the Commission that the implementation and effective use of modern private law standards in international trade are essential for advancing good governance, sustained economic development and the eradication of poverty and hunger and that the promotion of the rule of law in commercial relations should be an integral part of the broader agenda of the United Nations to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, supported by the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General;

13. *Notes* the rule of law briefing and the rule of law panel discussion held at the forty-seventh session of the Commission and the comments transmitted by the Commission highlighting its role in promoting the rule of law, in particular through facilitating access to justice, pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 68/116;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in paragraph 8 of the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, adopted by consensus as resolution 67/1 of 24 September 2012, Member States recognized the importance of fair, stable and predictable legal frameworks for generating inclusive, sustainable and equitable development, economic growth and employment, generating investment and facilitating entrepreneurship and, in this regard, commended the work of the Commission in modernizing and harmonizing international trade law and that, in paragraph 7 of the declaration, Member States expressed their conviction that the rule of law and development were strongly inter-related and mutually reinforcing;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, in conformity with resolutions of the General Assembly on documentation-related matters, which, in particular, emphasize that any invitation to limit, where appropriate, the length of documents should not adversely affect either the quality of the presentation or the substance of the documents, to bear in mind the particular characteristics of the mandate and functions of the Commission in the progressive development and codification of international trade law when implementing page limits with respect to the documentation of the Commission;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the publication of Commission standards and the provision of summary records of the meetings of the Commission, including committees of the whole established by the Commission for the duration of its annual session, relating to the formulation of normative texts, and takes note of the Commission's decision to continue the trial use of digital recordings, in parallel with summary records where applicable, with a view to assessing the experience of using digital recordings and, on the basis of that assessment, taking a decision at a future session regarding the possible replacement of summary records by digital recordings;

17. *Recalls* paragraph 48 of its resolution 66/246 of 24 December 2011 regarding the rotation scheme of meetings between Vienna and New York;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Secretariat on the system for the collection and dissemination of case law on Commission texts in the six official languages of the United Nations (the CLOUT system), notes the resource-intensive nature of the system, acknowledges the need for further resources to sustain and expand it, and in this regard welcomes efforts by the Secretariat towards building partnerships with interested institutions, and appeals to Governments, the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, organizations, institutions and individuals to assist the secretariat of the Commission in raising awareness as to the availability and usefulness of the CLOUT system in professional, academic and judiciary circles and in securing the funding required for the coordination and expansion of the system and the establishment, within the secretariat of the Commission, of a pillar focused on the promotion of ways and means of interpreting Commission texts in a uniform manner;

19. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the use of texts emanating from the work of the Commission for the global unification and harmonization of international trade law, and to this end urges States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to conventions, enacting model laws and encouraging the use of other relevant texts;

20. *Welcomes* the continued work of the Secretariat on digests of case law related to Commission texts, including their wide dissemination, as well as the continuing increase in the number of abstracts available through the CLOUT system, in view of the role of the digests and the CLOUT system as important tools for the promotion of the uniform interpretation of international trade law, in particular by building local capacity of judges, arbitrators and other legal practitioners to interpret those standards in the light of their international character and the need to promote uniformity in their application and the observance of good faith in international trade;

21. *Recalls* its resolutions affirming the importance of high-quality, user-friendly and cost-effective United Nations websites and the need for their multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment, commends the fact that the website of the Commission is published in the six official languages of the United Nations, and welcomes the continuous efforts of the Commission to maintain and improve its website, including by developing new social media features, in accordance with the applicable guidelines.

Other questions

Rule of law at the national and international levels

In July, pursuant to the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 67/1 [YUN 2012, p. 1319], the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/68/213/Add.1] which addressed the linkages between the rule of law, human rights, peace and security and development, and identified key institutions for developing such linkages further. The Secretary-General recalled that at its high-level meeting, the Assembly had decided to pursue its work in developing further the linkages between the rule of law and the three pillars of the United Nations—peace and security, human rights and development—and requested him to propose ways and means in that respect.

Following consultations which involved all regional groups and yielded responses from more than 70 Member States and 20 UN entities, the report analysed how the rule of law related to and furthered each of the three pillars, which were framed around three fundamental freedoms that the United Nations must promote: freedom from fear to address peace and security challenges; freedom from want to further development; and freedom to live in dignity to promote human rights and the rule of law. The Secretary-General pointed out that the rule of law was the vehicle for the promotion and protection of the common normative framework underpinning the three pillars, which required that legal processes, institutions and substantive norms were consistent with human rights, including the core principles of equality under the

law, accountability before the law and fairness in the protection and vindication of rights.

The report examined the relationship between the rule of law and each of the three pillars through the intergovernmental process and provided evidence of their interdependence in such areas as ensuring due process and equality before the law, advancing economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, and dealing with a legacy of serious violations of humanitarian law and gross human rights violations; the rule of law in conflict prevention, in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations; transnational threats such as terrorism and organized crime; as well as protection of land and property, and exploitation of natural resources. It emphasized the importance of respect for the United Nations Charter, enhancing access to justice and strengthening sound legal frameworks, with a particular focus on the role of legal identity and on transparency and accountability to counter corruption. The report further outlined institutional means of strengthening those linkages through international adjudicative mechanisms (such as ICJ and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) and international financial institutions (including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and regional development banks), as well as the United Nations and national institutions.

The Secretary-General recommended that the high-level meeting on the rule of law at the national and international levels and the present report be followed up with periodic consideration of the rule of law and its linkages with the three pillars of the United Nations, for example through a comprehensive discussion in plenary meeting, in a Main Committee or through the establishment of a subsidiary body. He further proposed that the Assembly consider a closer interaction with the existing subsidiary bodies such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law or the International Law Commission; developing a plan of action or a strategy on the subject; elaborating guidance, principles of standards on specific issues related to the rule of law; as well as pursuing further stakeholder consultations.

Also in July, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/116 [YUN 2013, p. 1349], the Secretary-General submitted his annual report [A/69/181] on strengthening and coordinating UN rule-of-law activities, which highlighted developments in strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels over the preceding year and provided information on the measures taken to enhance coordination and coherence within the United Nations with regard to the rule of law. The report also outlined UN activities to enhance access to justice, in view of the General Assembly's focus during its sixty-ninth session on the subtopic "Sharing States' national practices in strengthening the rule of law through access to justice".

The report summarized activities to foster the rule of law at the international level relating to codification, development, promotion and implementation of an international framework of norms and standards; action by international and hybrid courts and tribunals; and non-judicial dispute resolution and accountability mechanisms such as commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions. The Secretary-General noted that UN support in conflict and post-conflict situations at the national level involved progressive restoration of the rule of law, including security institutions capable of protecting the lives and rights of all persons, as well as the functioning of justice systems that addressed serious violations of human rights and provided redress to victims.

Efforts continued to enhance coordination and coherence within the UN system and to improve the effectiveness of system-wide responses to crisis situations through the establishment of the Rights up Front mechanism. The Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, was expanded to include 20 entities and continued to ensure a strategic approach to the broader rule-of-law work of the United Nations, by supporting Member States' deliberations on incorporating the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda (see p. 960), facilitating exchanges on a wide range of activities through inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and engaging the business community in mobilizing support for the rule of law under the Secretary-General's "Business for the Rule of Law" initiative launched in September 2013.

Its efforts were complemented by the global focal point for the police, justice and corrections areas in the rule of law in post-conflict and other crisis situations—a Headquarters-based field support mechanism coordinated by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme and including 12 UN entities and 4 international organizations. Rule-of-law support was provided to host country authorities in 19 countries, including joint assessment visits, joint planning and partnerships, deployment of personnel and advice on programme structures and funding streams. The global focal point deployed 13 joint missions and 8 technical experts, and supported joint planning efforts in 11 countries, including Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone. Rule-of-law initiatives supported by the global focal point led to a comprehensive national sector-wide reform programme in Somalia; a justice and rule-of-law workplan in Afghanistan; a multi-annual programme to support the justice sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and a rule-of-law strategy in Burundi.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/502], adopted **resolution 69/123** without vote [agenda item 82].

The rule of law at the national and international levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/116 of 16 December 2013,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterating its determination to foster strict respect for them and to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world,

Reaffirming that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels and its solemn commitment to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which, together with the principles of justice, is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate the rule of law are undertaken in accordance with the Charter, and stressing the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building,

Convinced that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for the realization of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and acknowledging that collective security depends on effective cooperation, in accordance with the Charter and international law, against transnational threats,

Reaffirming the duty of all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, and calling upon States that have not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in accordance with its Statute,

Convinced that the promotion of and respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels, as well as justice and good governance, should guide the activities of the United Nations and its Member States,

Recalling paragraph 134 (e) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

1. *Recalls* the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, held during the high-level segment of its sixty-seventh session, and the declaration adopted at that meeting, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 41 of the declaration, and requests the Sixth Committee to continue its consideration of ways and means of further developing the linkages of the rule of law and the three pillars of the United Nations;

2. *Acknowledges* the efforts to strengthen the rule of law through voluntary pledges, encourages States that

have not done so to consider making pledges, individually or jointly, based on their national priorities, and also encourages those States that have made pledges to exchange information, knowledge and best practices in this regard;

3. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities;

4. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification, and reaffirms further that States shall abide by all their obligations under international law;

5. *Also reaffirms* the imperative of upholding and promoting the rule of law at the international level in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Welcomes* the dialogue initiated by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General with Member States on the topic “Promoting the rule of law at the international level”, and calls for the continuation of this dialogue with a view to fostering the rule of law at the international level;

7. *Stresses* the importance of adherence to the rule of law at the national level and the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure greater coordination and coherence among the United Nations entities and with donors and recipients, and reiterates its call for greater evaluation of the effectiveness of such activities, including possible measures to improve the effectiveness of those capacity-building activities;

9. *Calls*, in this context, for dialogue to be enhanced among all stakeholders with a view to placing national perspectives at the centre of rule of law assistance in order to strengthen national ownership, while recognizing that rule of law activities must be anchored in a national context and that States have different national experiences in the development of their systems of the rule of law, taking into account their legal, political, socioeconomic, cultural, religious and other local specificities, while also recognizing that there are common features founded on international norms and standards;

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to systematically address, as appropriate, aspects of the rule of law in relevant activities, including the participation of women in rule of law related activities, recognizing the importance of the rule of law to virtually all areas of United Nations engagement;

11. *Expresses full support* for the overall coordination and coherence role of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group within the United Nations system within existing mandates, supported by the Rule of Law Unit, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in a timely manner, his next annual report on United Nations rule of law activities, in accordance with paragraph 5 of its resolution 63/128 of 11 December 2008;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of restoring confidence in the rule of law as a key element of transitional justice;

14. *Recalls* the commitment of the Member States to take all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effec-

tive, non-discriminatory and accountable services that promote access to justice for all, including legal aid, encourages further dialogue and the sharing of national practices in strengthening the rule of law through access to justice, including with regard to legal aid, where appropriate, in both criminal and civil proceedings, and in this regard stresses the need to intensify the assistance extended to Governments upon their request;

15. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the sharing of national practices and of inclusive dialogue, and invites the Secretary-General to propose ways for Member States to voluntarily exchange best national practices on the rule of law and to include, in his annual report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, an analytical summary of the thematic debates held pursuant to resolutions 61/39 of 4 December 2006, 62/70 of 6 December 2007, 63/128 of 11 December 2008, 64/116 of 16 December 2009, 65/32 of 6 December 2010, 66/102 of 9 December 2011 and 67/97 of 14 December 2012;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to accord high priority to rule of law activities;

17. *Invites* the International Court of Justice, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the International Law Commission to continue to comment, in their respective reports to the General Assembly, on their current roles in promoting the rule of law;

18. *Invites* the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit to continue to interact with Member States in a regular, transparent and inclusive manner, in particular in informal briefings;

19. *Stresses* the need for the Rule of Law Unit to carry out its tasks in an effective and sustainable manner and the need to provide it with reasonable means required to that effect;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “The rule of law at the national and international levels”, and invites Member States to focus their comments in the upcoming Sixth Committee debate on the subtopic “The role of multilateral treaty processes in promoting and advancing the rule of law”.

On 16 July, the Economic and Social Council, by **resolution 2014/19** (see p. 1432), recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

On 18 December, in its **resolution 69/195** (*ibid.*) on that topic, the Assembly recognized the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development; underscored that discussions on the post-2015 development agenda should take into account respect for and promotion of the rule of law and that crime prevention and criminal justice had an important role in that regard; and encouraged Member States to give due consideration to the rule of law in their deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. The Assembly stressed the importance of a comprehensive approach drawing on the work of UNODC to support

criminal justice reforms and strengthen the rule of law; requested UNODC to continue assisting Member States in developing rule-of-law strategies; and invited the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to include issues of the rule of law in their work programmes.

Strengthening the role of the United Nations

Special Committee on United Nations Charter

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/115 [YUN 2013, p. 1352], the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, at its sixty-ninth session (New York, 18–26 February) [A/69/33], considered proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security; the peaceful settlement of disputes; working methods of the Committee and identification of new subjects; and the status of the publications *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.

Regarding the maintenance of international peace and security, the Committee considered the question of the implementation of Charter provisions relating to assistance to third States affected by sanctions. Many delegations stated that the issue of sanctions remained of concern and questioned whether the suffering inflicted on vulnerable groups in countries targeted by sanctions was a legitimate means to effectuate changes in action; sanctions were not applicable as a response to all violations of international obligations. Concern was also expressed over the imposition of unilateral sanctions in violation of international law. For other delegations, sanctions applied in accordance with the UN Charter and in a targeted fashion, as practised by the Security Council, had reduced the possibility of adverse consequences for civilian populations and third parties. Some delegations reaffirmed that the establishment of a mechanism for evaluating unintended effects of targeted sanctions and assisting affected States should be considered; others expressed the view that the affected individuals had the right to be heard and represented. Several delegations emphasized that sanctions should be applied in conformity with the UN Charter and international law, and imposed as a last resort when there existed a threat to international peace and security, a breach of peace or an act of aggression; and that the Security Council's power to implement sanctions should not exceed its own authority under the UN Charter or under international law. Several delegations expressed the view that sanctions should have clearly defined objectives and a specified time frame, be held under continuous review and lifted as soon as their objectives had been achieved; and that their imposition must

be based on a substantive assessment of the country concerned, with compelling evidence that it was not respecting international resolutions.

Delegations expressed support for examining the question of the provision of possible payment of compensation to targeted or third States for damage caused by unlawfully imposed sanctions and reiterated that the International Law Commission should consider the legal consequences of sanctions imposed arbitrarily by the Security Council. Some delegations noted that none of the sanctions committees had been approached by Member States on the issue of special economic problems arising from the implementation of sanctions since 2003. They also noted that in 2013, neither the Assembly nor the Economic and Social Council had found it necessary to take any action relating to that matter. Therefore, the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions was not a matter of priority for the Committee and did not merit further discussion.

The Special Committee had before it Libya's revised proposal on strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security [YUN 1998, p. 1233]. Libya indicated its willingness to discuss the proposal.

The Special Committee also discussed a revised working paper entitled "Open-ended working group to study the proper implementation of the Charter of the United Nations with respect to the functional relationship of its organs", submitted by Venezuela in 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 1301]. Several delegations reiterated their concern that the Security Council had encroached on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council by addressing issues that fell within their competence. Some delegations expressed support for the Venezuela proposal and maintained that the Special Committee was a proper forum to consider it; others maintained that the responsibilities of the principal UN organs were adequately defined in the UN Charter and that the proposal duplicated other efforts aimed at revitalizing the Organization. Venezuela announced that it would continue to hold bilateral discussions on the proposal.

The Special Committee considered a revised working paper submitted by Belarus and the Russian Federation in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 1445], in which it was recommended that an advisory opinion be requested from ICJ as to the legal consequences of the resort to the use of force by States without prior authorization by the Security Council, except in the exercise of the right to self-defence. The co-sponsors pointed out that the advisory opinion would contribute to the clarification of the provisions of the Charter regarding the use of force and to the strengthening of the principle of the non-use of force. Some delegations maintained that the issue of the use of force had been adequately addressed in the Charter and, consequently, that the

proposal could not be supported. Following informal consultations, the co-sponsors introduced a further revised working paper for consideration at the Committee's next session. The Committee decided to keep the proposal on its agenda.

The Special Committee also considered a working paper entitled "Strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness: adoption of recommendations", submitted by Cuba in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 1324]. Some delegations stated that the working paper merited continued study because it would contribute to achieving a balance between the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council; others stressed the need to conduct a legal examination of the implementation of Charter provisions pertaining to the Assembly's functions and powers. Cuba indicated that it would submit a revised working paper at the Committee's next session.

During the general exchange of views on the item entitled "Peaceful settlement of disputes", delegations reiterated that, in accordance with the mandate of the Special Committee, the item should remain on its agenda. The central role of ICJ in the peaceful settlement of disputes was highlighted, and the significance of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, approved by the General Assembly in 1982 and annexed to its resolution 37/10 [YUN 1982, p. 1372], was recalled. Cuba announced its intention to present a proposal on the issue of the peaceful settlement of disputes at the Committee's next session. The Russian Federation proposed establishing a website on the peaceful settlement of disputes and updating the United Nations' 1992 *Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States*. Some delegations expressed the view that such endeavours could contribute to revitalizing the Special Committee's work, while others questioned the added value and feasibility of those proposals.

Delegations commended ongoing Secretariat efforts to update the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and eliminate the backlog in the preparation of those publications. Concerning the *Repertory*, progress had been made in preparing studies pertaining to volume III, Supplements 7 to 9, covering the period from 1985 to 1999. With regard to the *Repertoire*, the Secretariat had completed Supplement 17, covering the period from 2010 to 2011, and commenced work on Supplement 18, covering the years 2012 and 2013. The Special Committee recommended that the Assembly call on the Secretary-General to continue efforts to update the two publications and make them available in all language versions, and to address, on a priority basis, the question of the backlog in the preparation of volume III of the *Repertory*.

Regarding the identification of new subjects, some delegations suggested examining legal matters relating

to the Organization's reform and revitalization; others called for the consideration of the proposals submitted at previous sessions. It was also suggested that no new subjects should be explored until the Special Committee had disposed of its current agenda items and that no new proposals should be considered that might envisage amendments to the Charter or duplicate efforts being made elsewhere in the Organization. Some delegations supported the proposal introduced by Ghana in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 1349] on including a new subject entitled "Principles and practical measures/mechanism for strengthening and ensuring more effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations on the maintenance of international peace and security in areas of conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding and peacekeeping, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations". Ghana subsequently revised the title of the proposal to "Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements/organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes" and indicated that it would submit a working paper on the proposal for further discussion at the Committee's next session.

Reports of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/115 [YUN 2013, p. 1352], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/69/119] on implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions. The report highlighted operational changes that had occurred due to the shift in focus in the Security Council and its sanctions committees towards targeted sanctions; recent developments concerning the activities of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions; and Secretariat arrangements related to assistance to such States.

Also in response to General Assembly resolution 68/115, the Secretary-General reported in July [A/69/159] on progress made in updating the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.

With respect to the *Repertory*, the Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly note the progress made in the preparation of *Repertory* studies and their posting on the Internet in English, French and Spanish; consider the recommendations of the Special Committee—including the increased use of the UN internship programme, expanded cooperation with academic institutions for the preparation of the studies and the sponsoring, on a voluntary basis and with no cost to the United Nations, of associate experts to assist in updating the publication; note the progress made towards the elimination of the backlog of the *Repertory* through use of the trust fund; and strongly encourage States to make additional contributions to it.

With regard to the *Repertoire*, the Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly note the progress made towards updating the publication and posting it in electronic form in all language versions on the UN website; call for voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire* and express appreciation for the contributions received; note the sponsoring by Switzerland, on a voluntary basis, of an associate expert to assist in the preparation of the *Repertoire*; and encourage other States to consider providing such assistance.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/501], adopted **resolution 69/122** without vote [agenda item 81].

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3499(XXX) of 15 December 1975, by which it established the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and its relevant resolutions adopted at subsequent sessions,

Recalling also its resolution 47/233 of 17 August 1993 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

Recalling further its resolution 47/62 of 11 December 1992 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council,

Taking note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council,

Recalling the elements relevant to the work of the Special Committee contained in its resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993,

Recalling also its resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997 on the strengthening of the United Nations system and its resolution 51/242 of 15 September 1997, entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace", by which it adopted the texts on coordination and the question of sanctions imposed by the United Nations, which are annexed to that resolution,

Concerned about the special economic problems confronting certain States arising from the carrying-out of preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Security Council against other States, and taking into account the obligation of Members of the United Nations under Article 49 of the Charter to join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Council,

Recalling the right of third States confronted with special economic problems of that nature to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter,

Recalling also that the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and reaffirming its authority and independence,

Mindful of the adoption of the revised working papers on the working methods of the Special Committee,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "*Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*",

Recalling paragraphs 106 to 110, 176 and 177 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Mindful of the decision of the Special Committee in which it expressed its readiness to engage, as appropriate, in the implementation of any decisions that might be taken at the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in September 2005 that concerned the Charter and any amendments thereto,

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 50/51 of 11 December 1995, 51/208 of 17 December 1996, 52/162 of 15 December 1997, 53/107 of 8 December 1998, 54/107 of 9 December 1999, 55/157 of 12 December 2000, 56/87 of 12 December 2001, 57/25 of 19 November 2002, 58/80 of 9 December 2003 and 59/45 of 2 December 2004,

Recalling also its resolution 64/115 of 16 December 2009 and the document entitled "Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations" annexed thereto,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee on the work of its session held in 2014,

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Special Committee to encourage States to focus on the need to prevent and to settle peacefully their disputes which are likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization;

2. *Decides* that the Special Committee shall hold its next session from 17 to 25 February 2015;

3. *Requests* the Special Committee, at its session in 2015, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995:

(a) To continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations and, in this context, to consider other proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security already submitted or which may be submitted to the Special Committee at its session in 2015;

(b) To continue to consider, in an appropriate, substantive manner and framework, including the frequency of its consideration, the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter based on all of the related reports of the Secretary-General and the proposals submitted on the question;

(c) To keep on its agenda the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States;

(d) To consider, as appropriate, any proposal referred to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the decisions of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in September 2005 that concern the Charter and any amendments thereto;

(e) To continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency and utilization of resources with a view to identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation;

4. *Invites* the Special Committee, at its session in 2015, to continue to identify new subjects for consideration in its future work with a view to contributing to the revitalization of the work of the United Nations;

5. *Also invites* the Special Committee, at its session in 2015, to consider the question of an appropriate commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Charter;

6. *Notes* the readiness of the Special Committee to provide, within its mandate, such assistance as may be sought at the request of other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in relation to any issues before them;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

8. *Recognizes* the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, as well as the importance of having recourse to the Court in the peaceful settlement of disputes, notes that, consistent with Article 96 of the Charter, the Court's advisory jurisdiction may be requested by the General Assembly, the Security Council or other authorized organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and requests the Secretary-General to distribute, in due course, the advisory opinions requested by the principal organs of the United Nations as official documents of the United Nations;

9. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the progress made in the preparation of studies for the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, including the increased use of the internship programme of the United Nations and further expanded cooperation with academic institutions for this purpose, as well as the progress made towards updating the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made by Member States to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory*, as well as the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire*;

11. *Reiterates its call* for voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory* so as to further support the Secretariat in carrying out the effective elimination of that backlog; voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire*; and the sponsoring, on a voluntary basis and with no cost to the United Nations, of associate experts to assist in the updating of the two publications;

12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts towards updating the two publications and making them available electronically in all their respective language versions;

13. *Notes with concern* that the backlog in the preparation of volume III of the *Repertory*, although slightly reduced, has not been eliminated, and calls upon the Secretary-General to address that issue effectively and on a priority basis, while commending the Secretary-General for progress made in reducing the backlog;

14. *Reiterates* the responsibility of the Secretary-General for the quality of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*, and with regard to the *Repertoire* calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to follow the modalities outlined in paragraphs 102 to 106 of his report of 18 September 1952;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on both the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Special Committee at its next session on the information referred to in paragraph 12 of his report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization", a report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

Teaching and study of international law

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/110 [YUN 2013, p. 1354], the Secretary-General submitted an October report [A/69/516 & Add.1] on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which covered implementation of the Programme in 2014. Activities included the holding of the fiftieth session of the International Law Seminar (Geneva, 7–25 July) and the convening of the International Law Fellowship Programme (The Hague, 30 June–8 August).

Lectures, seminars and study visits were organized by the UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA). The Office organized regional courses in international law, including one for Africa (Addis Ababa, 7 April–2 May). Due to the increasing demand for international law training, OLA considered permanent venues for regional courses in international law for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law had been accessed by almost 1 million individuals and institutions in 193 Member States since its creation in 2008. It offered almost 350 lectures on a broad range of subjects relating to international law, including 23 lectures added in 2014, with an extensive online collection of treaties, jurisprudence, publications, scholarly writings, training materials and law journals which could also be viewed on mobile devices since 2013. OLA provided UN legal publications and training materials, upon request, to libraries as well as academic and other training institutes in developing countries and continued disseminating them, together with other legal information, through the Internet. In response to Assembly resolution 68/110, OLA provided guidance to the African Institute of International Law in Arusha in building its research library for African scholars and practitioners as well as for its training seminars on specific topics of international law and African Union law for government officials and prac-

tioners. It also continued to research and collect legal materials, and maintained 23 websites.

The report also outlined activities planned for 2015 and provided administrative and financial implications of UN participation in the Programme during 2014 and 2015.

The Advisory Committee on the Programme held its forty-ninth session on 8, 13 and 14 October.

Communication. By a 29 August letter [A/69/524], Mauritania transmitted the African Union's decision encouraging the African Union Commission on International Law to bolster its activities in the development and codification of international law with specific focus on African Union law, and calling on its member States to provide the Commission with information on relevant issues of international law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/497], adopted **resolution 69/117** without vote [agenda item 77].

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2099(XX) of 20 December 1965, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Reaffirming that the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations and that it has provided the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law for nearly half a century,

Recognizing the major contribution of the Programme of Assistance to the teaching and dissemination of international law for the benefit of lawyers in all countries, legal systems and regions of the world for almost half a century,

Emphasizing the important contribution of the Programme of Assistance, in particular the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, to the furtherance of United Nations rule of law programmes and activities,

Reaffirming that the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities creates new challenges for the Programme of Assistance,

Recognizing the importance of the Programme of Assistance effectively reaching its beneficiaries, including with regard to languages, while bearing in mind limitations on available resources,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme

of Assistance and the views of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which are contained in the report,

Noting with concern that the activities of the Programme of Assistance, in particular the organization of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law on a regular basis and the further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, cannot be sustained with the resources available under the current programme budget, notwithstanding its resolutions 64/113 of 16 December 2009, 65/25 of 6 December 2010, 66/97 of 9 December 2011, 67/91 of 14 December 2012 and 68/110 of 16 December 2013,

Noting with regret that the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2014 were cancelled owing to insufficient funds and that no United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean has been held in the past decade,

Considering that international law should occupy an appropriate place in the teaching of legal disciplines at all universities,

Convinced that States, international and regional organizations, universities and institutions should be encouraged to give further support to the Programme of Assistance and to increase their activities to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, in particular those activities which are of special benefit to persons from developing countries,

Reaffirming that in the conduct of the Programme of Assistance it would be desirable to use as far as possible the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international and regional organizations, universities, institutions and others,

Reaffirming also the hope that, in appointing highly qualified lecturers for the seminars to be held within the framework of the fellowship programmes in international law, account would be taken of the need to secure the representation of major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions,

1. *Reiterates its approval* of the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, in particular those designed to strengthen and revitalize the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in response to the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to carry out the activities specified in his reports in 2015;

3. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2015 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea;

4. *Further authorizes* the Secretary-General to continue and further develop the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world and to continue to finance this activity from provisions in the regular budget as well as, when necessary, from voluntary financial contributions, which would

be received as a result of the requests set out in paragraphs 22 and 23 below;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the activities conducted under the Programme of Assistance and, in particular, for the efforts to strengthen, expand and enhance the international law training and dissemination activities within the framework of the Programme of Assistance in 2014;

6. *Notes with serious concern* that the provisions of paragraph 7 of resolutions 66/97, 67/91 and 68/110 have not been implemented, and therefore decides to revisit the matter of funding for the Programme of Assistance under the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, in particular the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law for the year 2015;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include additional resources under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 for the organization of the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean each year, and for the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the regular budget, for consideration by the General Assembly, the necessary funding for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea with effect from the biennium 2016–2017, should voluntary contributions be insufficient for granting at least one fellowship a year;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to consider admitting, for participation in the various components of the Programme of Assistance, candidates from countries willing to bear the entire cost of their participation;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations legal publications prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, and once again requests the Secretary-General to issue the publications referred to in his previous report in various formats, including hard copy publications, which are essential for developing countries;

11. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General issue the next volume of the *United Nations Legislative Series* containing materials on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts;

12. *Appreciates* the efforts that were undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs to bring up to date the United Nations legal publications, in particular by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its desktop publishing initiative from 2003 to 2013, which greatly enhanced the timely issuance of its legal publications and made possible the preparation of legal training materials, regrets that none of the publications referred to in the previous report of the Secretary-General was issued in 2014, when desktop publishing was discontinued owing to lack of resources, and recommends that the necessary resources be made available to resume this successful initiative;

13. *Requests* the Office of Legal Affairs to continue to maintain and expand its websites listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General as an invaluable tool for the dissemination of international law materials as well as for advanced legal research;

14. *Requests* that interns and research assistants be enlisted for the preparation of materials for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

15. *Commends* the Codification Division for the cost-saving measures undertaken with regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme to maintain the number of fellowships available for this comprehensive international law training programme;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Hague Academy of International Law for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the Programme of Assistance, which has enabled candidates under the International Law Fellowship Programme to attend and participate in the Fellowship Programme in conjunction with courses at the Academy;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of the Hague Academy to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, and calls upon Member States and interested organizations to give favourable consideration to the appeal of the Academy for a continuation of support and a possible increase in their financial contributions, to enable the Academy to carry out its activities, particularly those relating to the summer courses, regional courses and programmes of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations;

18. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Codification Division to revitalize and conduct United Nations Regional Courses in International Law as an important training activity;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* to Ethiopia for hosting and to Thailand and Uruguay for agreeing to host the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law in 2014, and to Ethiopia, Thailand and Uruguay for agreeing to host the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and, for the first time in over a decade, for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2015, and also expresses its appreciation to Costa Rica for its willingness to host this Regional Course in the future;

20. *Expresses its appreciation* to the African Union for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa, which has enabled participants to attend and participate in the Regional Course and the lectures at the African Union;

21. *Once again encourages* the Codification Division to cooperate with the African Institute of International Law, dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, in the implementation of the relevant activities under the Programme of Assistance;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion;

23. *Reiterates its request* to Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions, inter alia, for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

24. *Urges*, in particular, all Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law organized by the Codification Division as an important complement to the International Law Fellowship Programme, thus alleviating the burden on

prospective host countries and making it possible to conduct the Regional Courses on a regular basis;

25. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made voluntary contributions to support the Programme of Assistance;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2015 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years;

27. *Concludes once again* that voluntary contributions have not proven to be a sustainable method for funding the activities under the Programme of Assistance, in particular the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, and that, consequently, there is a need to provide more reliable funding for all its activities, taking into account the conclusion of the Advisory Committee at its forty-ninth session;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law".

Host country relations

At five meetings held in New York (6 February, 22 April, 31 July, 1 October, 4 November), the 19-member Committee on Relations with the Host Country considered the following aspects of relations between the UN diplomatic community and the United States, the host country: entry visas issued by the host country; the question of privileges and immunities; host country activities to assist members of the UN community; transportation: the use of motor vehicles, parking and related matters; and other matters. The recommendations and conclusions on those items, approved by the Committee at its 4 November meeting, were incorporated into its report [A/69/26]. The Committee expressed appreciation for the host country's efforts to maintain appropriate conditions for delegations and missions accredited to the United Nations and anticipated that all issues raised at its meetings would be settled in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law.

Noting the importance of the observance of privileges and immunities, the Committee emphasized the need to solve, through negotiations, problems that might arise in that regard for the normal functioning of accredited delegations and missions. It urged the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as the training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities. In case of violations, the Committee urged the host country to ensure that such cases were investigated and remedied, in accordance with applicable law.

Considering that the security of missions and the safety of their personnel were indispensable for their effective functioning, the Committee appreciated the host country's efforts to that end and anticipated that the host country would continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the missions' functioning.

The Committee noted that the missions continued to implement the Parking Programme for Diplomatic Vehicles, which came into force in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1338]. It would remain seized of the matter to ensure its proper implementation in a manner that was fair, nondiscriminatory, effective and consistent with international law. It also requested that the host country continue to bring to the attention of New York City officials reports about other problems experienced by permanent missions or their staff, in order to improve the conditions for their functioning and promote compliance with international norms concerning diplomatic privileges and immunities.

The Committee anticipated that the host country would enhance its efforts to ensure the issuance, in a timely manner, of entry visas to representatives of Member States to travel to New York on official UN business, and remained seized of the matter of the host country's failure to issue a visa to a designated permanent representative of a Member State, noting the position of the affected Member State, other Member States and the host country in that regard. It also noted that a number of delegations had requested shortening the time frame applied by the host country for issuance of entry visas, since the existing time frame posed difficulties for the full-fledged participation of Member States in UN meetings. The Committee urged the host country to remove remaining travel restrictions for personnel of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities. It also stressed the importance of permanent missions, their personnel and Secretariat personnel meeting their financial obligations.

The Committee expressed concern over the difficulties experienced by some permanent missions in obtaining suitable banking services, which affected those missions' ability to perform their functions, and welcomed the host country's efforts to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for permanent missions with other financial institutions.

Bank accounts of Permanent Missions

At the meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country on 22 April, the Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its concern raised in previous Committee meetings over the preceding two years about opening a bank account, stressing that a swift solution to the banking issue was needed. At a meeting on 31 July, the Sudan requested consideration of an item on the closure of bank accounts, stating that

its mission had no bank account for three years and was unable to function, despite the host country's efforts to find a solution. Subsequently, Cuba raised similar concerns with regard to the transfer of funds to and from its account, which were the subject of its letters addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country on 27 November 2013 [A/AC.154/405] and on 30 September 2014 [A/AC.154/406].

The host country responded that it had no authority to direct a financial institution to open an account but took up the issues concerned with the relevant banks, and noted that the United Nations Federal Credit Union had begun opening accounts for the permanent missions affected.

On 9 September, Bolivia, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced to the General Assembly a draft resolution [A/68/L.42/Rev.1] addressing the issue of decisions made over previous years by several banking institutions in the City of New York to close bank accounts of Member and Observer States' missions and refuse to continue to provide services to them, which negatively affected their normal functioning. According to Bolivia, the objective of the draft resolution was to achieve a long-term solution to the problem through additional measures by the host country to assist accredited missions and their staff.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 September [meeting 107], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/306** [draft: A/68/L.42/Rev.1] without vote [agenda items 124 & 125].

Enhancement of the administration and financial functioning of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant provisions,

Recalling the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations of 26 June 1947, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 169(II) of 31 October 1947, and the obligations it establishes for the host country,

Taking into consideration the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961, and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly on 13 February 1946,

Recognizing the problems that have arisen as a result of the decisions made on a number of occasions by several banking institutions in regard to the closing of the accounts of some Permanent Missions to the United Nations and those of their staff members accredited to the United Nations and of their family members,

Noting with concern the difficulties experienced by such Permanent Missions and individuals as a result of such account closures,

Stressing that the Governments of Member and Observer States, the Permanent Missions and their staff, as well as the United Nations at its Headquarters and the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system should have

appropriate banking services for the normal functioning of their facilities in order to discharge their duties,

Bearing in mind the need for the Permanent Missions and the United Nations as a whole to benefit from appropriate banking services based on mutual trust and respect, especially in the light of the latest actions taken by some banking institutions in this regard,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and report to the General Assembly, within 150 days following the adoption of the present resolution, any impediments or obstacles with respect to the accounts opened by the Permanent Missions of Member and Observer States to the United Nations or their staff in the City of New York, and the impact that any such impediments or obstacles have on the adequate functioning of their offices, and to this end invites Member and Observer States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information that will facilitate the elaboration of such a report;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the financial relations of the Secretariat with the banking institutions in the City of New York, in the context of the report mentioned in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, within 120 days of the adoption of the present resolution, to provide Member and Observer States with information on alternative options regarding banking services in the City of New York so as to enable them and their Permanent Missions to adequately manage and maintain their accounts, assessed budgetary contributions, voluntary contributions, transfers and other financial responsibilities directly related to their membership in the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the host country to take, as soon as possible, additional measures to assist the Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations and their staff to obtain appropriate banking services;

5. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring the confidentiality of the personal data and information of persons affected by the closure of accounts by the banking institutions, invites the host country to submit information on the norms and regulations applicable to the banking system regarding the confidentiality of personal data and information, and requests the Secretary-General to include such information in the report referred to in paragraph 1 above;

6. *Decides* to keep this matter under review during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/510], adopted **resolution 69/128** without vote [agenda item 168].

Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,

Recalling Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations and the responsibilities of the host country,

Recalling also that, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2819(XXVI) of 15 December 1971, the Committee should consider, and advise the host country on, issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement,

Recognizing that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 55 of its report;

2. *Considers* that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations and the observance of their privileges and immunities, which is an issue of great importance, are in the interest of the United Nations and all Member States, requests the host country to continue to solve, through negotiations, problems that might arise and to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions, and urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities and if violations occur to ensure that such cases are properly investigated and remedied, in accordance with applicable law;

3. *Notes* the problems experienced by some Permanent Missions to the United Nations in connection with the implementation of the Parking Programme for Diplomatic Vehicles, and notes that the Committee shall remain seized of the matter, with a view to continuing to maintain the proper implementation of the Parking Programme in a manner that is fair, non-discriminatory, effective and therefore consistent with international law;

4. *Requests* the host country to consider removing the remaining travel restrictions imposed by it on staff of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities, and in this regard notes the long-standing positions of affected States, of the Secretary-General and of the host country;

5. *Recalls* article IV of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, and notes the concerns expressed by some delegations concerning the denial and delay of entry visas to representatives of Member States;

6. *Notes* that the Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance its efforts to ensure the issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States pursuant to article IV, section 11, of the Headquarters Agreement and in a timely manner, to enable travel to New York on United Nations business, that the Committee remains seized of the matter of the host country's not is-

suing a visa to a designated Permanent Representative of a Member State, and that the Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance efforts, including visa issuance, to facilitate the participation of representatives of Member States in other United Nations meetings, as appropriate;

7. *Also notes* that a number of delegations have requested shortening the time frame applied by the host country for issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States since the time frame poses difficulties for the full-fledged participation of Member States in United Nations meetings, and invites the host country to inform the Committee, as appropriate, of efforts to address such difficulties;

8. *Notes with concern* the difficulties that continue to be experienced by some Permanent Missions to the United Nations in obtaining suitable banking services, welcomes the continued efforts of the host country to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for those Permanent Missions, and also welcomes the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/306 of 9 September 2014 in this respect;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the host country, and expects that the issues raised at the meetings of the Committee will continue to be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law, including the Headquarters Agreement;

10. *Affirms* the importance of the Committee being in a position to fulfil its mandate and meet on short notice to deal with urgent and important matters concerning the relations between the United Nations and the host country, and in that connection requests the Secretariat and the Committee on Conferences to accord priority to requests from the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for conference-servicing facilities for meetings of that Committee that must be held while the General Assembly and its Main Committees are meeting, without prejudice to the requirements of those bodies and on an "as available" basis;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country, and recalls that the Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Committee issues of mutual concern relating to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations;

12. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819(XXVI) and, in this framework, to consider additional appropriate measures to enhance the work of the Committee and its effectiveness;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".

Law of the sea

In 2014, the United Nations commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. During the year, the Organization continued to promote universal acceptance of the Convention and its two implementing Agreements on the implementation of Part XI of the Convention and on the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, respectively.

The three institutions created by the Convention—the International Seabed Authority, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf—held sessions during the year.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Signatures and ratification

In 2014, the number of parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea stood at 166. The Convention, which was adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1982 [YUN 1982, p. 178], entered into force on 16 November 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 1301].

Meeting of States Parties

The twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (9–13 June) [SPLOS/277] discussed the 2013 activities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [YUN 2013, p. 1375]; took note of the report of the Tribunal for 2013 [SPLOS/267] and the report on budgetary matters for the financial periods 2011–2012 and 2013–2014 [SPLOS/268]; adopted two decisions, one on the budgetary matters of the Tribunal for 2015–2016 [SPLOS/275] and one on the conditions of service of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf [SPLOS/276]; decided to remain seized of the matter proposed by the United Kingdom for a mechanism to scrutinize budgets of the Tribunal [SPLOS/271]; and approved the report of the Credentials Committee [SPLOS/274]. Also discussed were the activities of the International Seabed Authority (see p. 1564) and of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf [SPLOS/270] (see p. 1565) during the previous 12 months, as well as the Secretary-General's reports on oceans and the

law of the sea for 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1377] and 2014 (see p. 1567). The Meeting elected seven members of the Tribunal for a nine-year term of office commencing on 1 October 2014 to fill the seats of members whose terms of office would expire on 30 September, and elected one member of the Commission from the date of election until 15 June 2017.

Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention

During 2014, the number of parties to the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention (governing exploitation of seabed resources beyond national jurisdiction), adopted by General Assembly resolution 48/263 [YUN 1994, p. 1301], stood at 145 [A/69/71/Add.1]. The Agreement, which entered into force on 28 July 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 1215], sought to address certain difficulties with the seabed mining provisions contained in Part XI of the Convention, which had been raised primarily by the industrialized countries. The Agreement was to be interpreted and applied together with the Convention as a single instrument, and in the event of any inconsistency between the Agreement and Part XI of the Convention, the provisions of the Agreement would prevail. Any ratification of or accession to the Convention after 28 July 1994 represented consent to be bound by the Agreement also. Parties to the Convention prior to the Agreement's adoption had to deposit a separate instrument of ratification of or accession to the Agreement.

Agreement relating to conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks [YUN 1995, p. 1334] reached 81, with the Philippines becoming party during the year [A/69/71/Add.1]. Referred to as the Fish Stocks Agreement, it entered into force on 11 December 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1232].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/109** [draft: A/69/L.30 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 74 (b)].

Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its annual resolutions on sustainable fisheries, including resolution 68/71 of 9 December 2013, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention), and bearing in mind the relationship between the Convention and the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Agreement),

Noting with satisfaction that 16 November 2014 marked the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention,

Welcoming the ratifications of and accessions to the Agreement and the fact that a growing number of States, entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement, and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, have taken measures, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, in order to improve their management regimes,

Noting with satisfaction the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Agreement on 4 December 1995 at New York, as well as the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (the Code), and noting in this regard that a conference will be held in Vigo, Spain, for this purpose,

Welcoming the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, and recognizing in particular the Code and other related instruments, including the international plans of action, which set out principles and global standards of behaviour for responsible practices for conservation of fisheries resources and the management and development of fisheries, as well as the 2005 Rome Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing,

Welcoming also the outcomes, including the decisions and recommendations, of the thirty-first session of the Committee on Fisheries, held in Rome from 9 to 13 June 2014,

Recognizing the importance of data collection through accurate and reliable reporting and monitoring of catches, including by-catch and discards, as a fundamental element of effective fisheries management that provides a basis for scientific stock assessment, and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management,

Noting with concern that effective management of marine capture fisheries has been made difficult in some areas by unreliable information and data caused by, inter alia, unreported and misreported fish catch and fishing effort and that this lack of accurate data contributes to overfishing in some areas,

Recognizing the significant contribution of sustainable fisheries to food security, income, wealth and poverty alleviation for present and future generations,

Welcoming in this regard the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want", as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

Welcoming also in this regard the continuous attention given by the international community to the role of fish and fish products in nutrition and food security, especially noting the importance of the availability of highly nutritious food for low-income populations, and noting in this regard that the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea focused its discussions at its fifteenth meeting, held from 27 to 30 May 2014, on the role of seafood in global food security, and noting also that the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its forty-first session, held from 13 to 17 October 2014, recognized the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition,

Recalling that in "The future we want", States were encouraged to give due consideration to implementing the Committee on World Food Security Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,

Welcoming in this regard the convening by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of Tenure and Fishing Rights 2015: a global conference on rights-based approaches for fisheries, to be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 23 to 27 March 2015,

Noting the endorsement by the Committee on Fisheries at its thirty-first session of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication,

Recognizing the urgent need for action at all levels to ensure the long-term sustainable use and management of fisheries resources through the wide application of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches,

Expressing concern over the current and projected adverse effects of climate change on food security and the sustainability of fisheries, and noting in that regard the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Reaffirming its commitment to ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements are based on the best available scientific information,

Deploing the fact that fish stocks, including straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in many parts of the world are overfished or subject to sparsely regulated and heavy fishing efforts, as a result of, inter alia, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, inadequate flag State control and enforcement, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, inadequate regulatory measures, harmful fisheries subsidies and overcapacity, as well as inadequate port State control, as highlighted in the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entitled *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2014*,

Expressing its support for accelerating work to complete the ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organization to

strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing,

Concerned that only a limited number of States have taken measures to implement, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Recalling the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Particularly concerned that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing continues to constitute a serious threat to fish stocks and marine habitats and ecosystems, to the detriment of sustainable fisheries as well as the food security and the economies of many States, particularly developing States,

Concerned that some operators increasingly take advantage of the globalization of fishery markets to trade fishery products stemming from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and make economic profits from those operations, which constitutes an incentive for them to pursue their activities,

Recognizing that effective deterrence and combating of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing has significant financial and other resource implications,

Recognizing also the role of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels in the concerted fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

Recognizing further the duty provided in the Convention, the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (the Compliance Agreement), the Agreement and the Code for flag States to exercise effective control over fishing vessels flying their flag, and vessels flying their flag which provide support to fishing vessels, to ensure that the activities of such fishing and support vessels do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures taken in accordance with international law and adopted at the national, subregional, regional or global levels,

Recognizing the importance of adequately regulating, monitoring and controlling trans-shipment at sea to contribute to combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities,

Noting the obligation of all States, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention, to cooperate in the conservation and management of living marine resources, and recognizing the importance of coordination and cooperation at the global, regional, subregional and national levels in the areas, inter alia, of marine scientific research, data collection, information-sharing, capacity-building and training for the conservation, management and sustainable development of living marine resources,

Acknowledging the importance of ocean data buoy systems moored in areas beyond national jurisdiction to sustainable development, promoting safety at sea and limiting human vulnerability to natural disasters, due to their use in weather and marine forecasts, fisheries management,

tsunami forecasts and climate prediction, and expressing concern that most damage to ocean data buoys, such as moored buoys and tsunameters, frequently results from actions taken by some fishing operations which render the buoys inoperable,

Welcoming in this regard the adoption of measures by States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to protect ocean data buoy systems from the impacts of fishing activities,

Recognizing the need for States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to continue to develop and implement, consistent with international law, effective port State measures to combat overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the critical need for cooperation with developing States to build their capacity, and the importance of cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization in this regard,

Noting with satisfaction the ratifications, acceptances and approval of and accessions to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Welcoming the convening of the fourth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop in San José from 17 to 21 February 2014,

Recognizing the efforts of States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to implement its resolution 46/215 of 20 December 1991, in which the General Assembly called for a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, including collaborative fisheries enforcement activities,

Concerned that marine pollution from all sources constitutes a serious threat to human health and safety, endangers fish stocks, marine biodiversity and marine and coastal habitats and has significant costs to local and national economies,

Recognizing that marine debris is a global transboundary pollution problem and that, owing to the many different types and sources of marine debris, different approaches to their prevention and removal are necessary, including identification of such sources,

Noting that the contribution of sustainable aquaculture to global fish supplies continues to respond to opportunities in developing countries to enhance local food security and poverty alleviation and, together with the efforts of other aquaculture-producing countries, will make a significant contribution to meeting future demands in fish consumption, bearing in mind article 9 of the Code,

Reaffirming the importance of sustainable aquaculture to food security, and concerned about the potential effects of genetically engineered aquatic fish species on the health and sustainability of wild fish stocks,

Calling attention to the particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, other developing coastal States and subsistence fishing communities whose livelihoods, economic development and food security are heavily dependent on sustainable fisheries and will suffer disproportionately if sustainable fisheries are negatively affected,

Welcoming in this regard the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in

Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, which focused on small island developing States as a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and considered, inter alia, issues of sustainable fisheries, and calling for the full implementation in this regard of the outcome document, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway”,

Calling attention to the circumstances affecting fisheries in many developing States, in particular African States and small island developing States, and recognizing the urgent need for capacity-building, including the transfer of marine technology and in particular fisheries-related technology, to enhance the ability of such States to exercise their rights in order to realize the benefits from fisheries resources and fulfil their obligations under international instruments,

Recognizing the need to adopt, implement and enforce appropriate measures to minimize waste, by-catch and discards, including high-grading, loss of fishing gear and other factors that adversely affect the sustainability of fish stocks and ecosystems and, consequently, can also have harmful effects on the economies and food security of small island developing States, other developing coastal States and subsistence fishing communities,

Recognizing also the need to further integrate ecosystem approaches into fisheries conservation and management and, more generally, the importance of applying ecosystem approaches to the management of human activities in the ocean, and noting in this regard the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem, the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to guidelines for the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the importance of this approach to relevant provisions of the Agreement and the Code, as well as decision VII/11 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing further the economic and cultural importance of sharks in many countries, the biological importance of sharks in the marine ecosystem as key predatory species, the vulnerability of certain shark species to overexploitation, the fact that some are threatened with extinction, the need for measures to promote the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark populations and fisheries, and the relevance of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1999, in providing guidance on the development of such measures,

Welcoming in this regard the review by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, and its ongoing work in this regard,

Noting with concern that basic data on shark stocks and harvests continue to be lacking and that not all regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have adopted conservation and management measures for directed shark fisheries and for the regulation of by-catch of sharks from other fisheries,

Welcoming science-based measures taken by States to conserve and sustainably manage sharks, and noting in this respect management measures taken by coastal States, including limits on catch or fishing effort, technical measures,

including by-catch reduction measures, sanctuaries, closed seasons and areas and monitoring, control and surveillance,

Noting the addition in 2013 of five shark species and two species of manta ray to appendix II to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,

Noting with concern the continuing practice of the removal of fins from sharks, with the remainder of the carcass being discarded at sea,

Recognizing the importance of marine species occupying low trophic levels in the ecosystem and for food security, and the need to ensure their long-term sustainability,

Expressing concern over continued incidental mortality, in fishing operations, of seabirds, particularly albatrosses and petrels, as well as other marine species, including sharks, fin-fish species, marine mammals and marine turtles, while recognizing considerable efforts by States and through various regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to reduce incidental mortality as a result of by-catch,

I

Achieving sustainable fisheries

1. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular the provisions on cooperation set out in Part V and Part VII, section 2, of the Convention, and where applicable, the Agreement;

2. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention, which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, taking into account the relationship between the Convention and the Agreement;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that in “The future we want”, States addressed the sustainable development of fisheries, recognized the significant contribution of fisheries to the three dimensions of sustainable development and stressed the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people, and encourages States to implement the commitments made in “The future we want”;

4. *Encourages* States to give due priority to the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) in relation to achieving sustainable fisheries, especially restoring depleted stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield on an urgent basis and, where possible, not later than 2015, and recalls that in “The future we want”, States committed themselves to intensify their efforts to meet that target and to urgently take the measures necessary to maintain or restore all stocks at least to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, with the aim of achieving those goals in the shortest time feasible, as determined by their biological characteristics, and in order to achieve this, to urgently develop and implement science-based management plans, including by reducing or suspending fishing catch and fishing effort commensurate with the

status of the stock, consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

5. *Urges* States, either directly or through appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations or arrangements, to intensify efforts to assess and address, as appropriate, the impacts of global climate change and ocean acidification on the sustainability of fish stocks and the habitats that support them, in particular the most affected ones;

6. *Emphasizes* the obligations of flag States to discharge their responsibilities, in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement, to ensure compliance by vessels flying their flag with the conservation and management measures adopted and in force with respect to fisheries resources on the high seas;

7. *Calls upon* all States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to apply widely, in accordance with international law and the Code, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks, and also calls upon States parties to the Agreement to implement fully the provisions of article 6 of the Agreement as a matter of priority;

8. *Urges* States to increase their reliance on scientific advice in developing, adopting and implementing conservation and management measures, and to increase their efforts, including through international cooperation, to promote science for conservation and management measures that apply, in accordance with international law, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, enhancing understanding of ecosystem approaches, in order to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as a framework for the improvement and understanding of fishery status and trends;

9. *Calls upon* all States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to apply stock-specific precautionary reference points, as described in annex II to the Agreement and in the Code, to ensure that populations of harvested stocks and, where necessary, associated or dependent species are maintained at or restored to sustainable levels, and to use these reference points for triggering conservation and management action;

10. *Encourages* States to apply the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches in adopting and implementing conservation and management measures addressing, inter alia, by-catch, pollution and overfishing, and protecting habitats of specific concern, taking into account existing guidelines developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

11. *Also encourages* States to enhance or develop observer programmes, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, in order to improve data collection on, inter alia, target and by-catch species, which could also assist monitoring, control and surveillance tools, and to take into account standards, forms of cooperation and other existing structures for such programmes as described in article 25 of the Agreement and article 5 of the Code;

12. *Further encourages* States to implement, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, accurate and reliable catch reporting through effective data collection and reporting of catches, including by-catch and discards, reviewing and validating the data, and providing catch information in support of scientific stock assessment and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management;

13. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to collect and, where appropriate, report to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations required catch and effort data, and fishery-related information, in a complete, accurate and timely way, including for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks within and beyond areas under national jurisdiction, discrete high seas fish stocks, and by-catch and discards; and, where they do not exist, to establish processes to strengthen data collection and reporting by members of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, including through regular reviews of member compliance with such obligations, and, when such obligations are not met, require the member concerned to rectify the problem, including through the preparation of plans of action with timelines;

14. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the implementation and further development of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System initiative;

15. *Reaffirms* paragraph 10 of its resolution 61/105 of 8 December 2006, and calls upon States, including through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to urgently adopt and implement measures to fully implement the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks for directed and non-directed shark fisheries, based on the best available scientific information, through, inter alia, limits on catch or fishing effort, by requiring that vessels flying their flag collect and regularly report data on shark catches, including species-specific data, discards and landings, undertaking, including through international cooperation, comprehensive stock assessments of sharks, reducing shark by-catch and by-catch mortality and, where scientific information is uncertain or inadequate, not increasing fishing effort in directed shark fisheries and urgently establishing science-based management measures to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark stocks and to prevent further declines of vulnerable or threatened shark stocks, and encourages the full utilization of dead sharks caught in the context of sustainably managed fisheries;

16. *Calls upon* States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organization or arrangement and national measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

17. *Calls upon* regional fisheries management organizations with the competence to regulate highly migratory species to strengthen or establish precautionary, science-based conservation and management measures,

as appropriate, for sharks taken in fisheries within their convention areas consistent with the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks;

18. *Encourages* range States and regional economic integration organizations that have not yet done so to become signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and also invites non-range States, intergovernmental organizations and international and national non-governmental organizations or other relevant bodies and entities to consider becoming cooperating partners;

19. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, to cooperate in establishing non-detriment findings for shared stocks of marine species listed in appendices I and II to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, consistent with the concepts and non-binding guiding principles contained in resolution Conf. 16.7 on non-detriment findings adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora at its sixteenth meeting, in 2013;

20. *Urges* States to eliminate barriers to trade in fish and fisheries products which are not consistent with their rights and obligations under the World Trade Organization agreements, taking into account the importance of the trade in fish and fisheries products, particularly for developing countries;

21. *Recalls* that in "The future we want", States committed themselves to observing the need to ensure access to fisheries and the importance of access to markets by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk and women fish workers, as well as indigenous peoples and their communities, particularly in developing countries, especially small island developing States;

22. *Urges* States and relevant international and national organizations to provide for the participation of small-scale fishery stakeholders in related policy development and fisheries management strategies in order to achieve long-term sustainability for such fisheries, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries resources, and encourages States to consider promoting, as appropriate, participatory management schemes for small-scale fisheries in accordance with national laws, regulations and practices, as well as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

23. *Encourages* States, either directly or through competent and appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations and arrangements, to analyse, as appropriate, the impact of fishing for marine species corresponding to low trophic levels;

24. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the initiation of further studies by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the impact of industrial fishing activities on species corresponding to low trophic levels;

25. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider the potential effects of genetically engineered fish species on the health and sustainability of wild fish stocks and on the biodiversity of the aquatic environment and to provide guidance, consistent with the Code, on minimizing harmful impacts in this regard;

26. *Also invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in consultation with other relevant international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization, to promote awareness and cooperation to develop and strengthen capacity to prevent, minimize and mitigate the adverse impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity, including fish stocks;

II

Implementation of the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

27. *Calls upon* all States, and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement, that have not done so to ratify or accede to the Agreement and in the interim to consider applying it provisionally;

28. *Calls upon* States parties to the Agreement to effectively implement, as a matter of priority, the provisions of the Agreement through their national legislation and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate;

29. *Emphasizes* the importance of those provisions of the Agreement relating to bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation in enforcement, and urges continued efforts in this regard;

30. *Urges* States parties to the Agreement, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 4, thereof, to inform, either directly or through the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, all States whose vessels fish on the high seas in the same subregion or region of the form of identification issued by those States parties to officials duly authorized to carry out boarding and inspection functions in accordance with articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement;

31. *Also urges* States parties to the Agreement, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 4, thereof, to designate an appropriate authority to receive notifications pursuant to article 21 and to give due publicity to such designation through the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement;

32. *Invites* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements which have not yet done so to adopt procedures for high seas boarding and inspection that are consistent with articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement;

33. *Calls upon* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence over discrete high seas fish stocks, to adopt the measures necessary to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of such stocks in accordance with the Convention and consistent with the Code and the general principles set forth in the Agreement;

34. *Invites* States to assist developing States in enhancing their participation in regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, including by facilitating access to fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in accordance with article 25, paragraph 1 (b), of the Agreement, taking into account the need

to ensure that such access benefits the developing States concerned and their nationals;

35. *Invites* States and international financial institutions and organizations of the United Nations system to provide assistance according to Part VII of the Agreement, including, if appropriate, the development of special financial mechanisms or instruments to assist developing States, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, to enable them to develop their national capacity to exploit fishery resources, including developing their domestically flagged fishing fleet, value-added processing and the expansion of their economic base in the fishing industry, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries resources;

36. *Encourages* States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as natural and juridical persons, to make voluntary financial contributions to the Assistance Fund established under Part VII of the Agreement;

37. *Encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat (the Division) to continue their efforts to publicize the availability of assistance through the Assistance Fund;

38. *Encourages* accelerated progress by States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, regarding the recommendations of the Review Conference on the Agreement, held in New York from 22 to 26 May 2006, and the identification of emerging priorities;

39. *Encourages* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to consider implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of the resumed Review Conference, held in New York from 24 to 28 May 2010;

40. *Takes note* of the report on the tenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement, recalls that the resumed Review Conference agreed to keep the Agreement under review through the resumption of the Review Conference at a date no earlier than 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to resume the Review Conference, convened pursuant to article 36 of the Agreement, in New York for one week in the first part of 2016, with a view to assessing the effectiveness of the Agreement in securing the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, and to render the necessary assistance and provide such services as may be required for the resumption of the Review Conference;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the resumed Review Conference an updated report, prepared in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with the assistance of an expert consultant to be hired by the Division to provide information and analysis on relevant technical and scientific issues to be covered in the report, to assist the Review Conference in discharging its mandate under article 36, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, and also in this regard requests the Secretary-General to develop and circulate to States and to regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements a voluntary questionnaire regarding the recommendations made by the Review Conference in 2006 and 2010,

in a timely manner, taking into account the specific guidance proposed at the tenth round of informal consultations;

42. *Encourages* wide participation in the resumed Review Conference, in accordance with article 36 of the Agreement;

43. *Recalls* paragraph 6 of resolution 56/13 of 28 November 2001, and requests the Secretary-General to convene in March 2015 an eleventh round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement for a duration of two days, to serve primarily as a preparatory meeting for the resumed Review Conference;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene an event, during the eleventh round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement, in 2015, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Agreement;

45. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a draft provisional agenda and draft organization of work for the resumed Review Conference and to circulate them at the same time as the provisional agenda for the eleventh round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement, 60 days in advance of those consultations;

46. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to invite States, and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement, not parties to the Agreement, as well as the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other specialized agencies, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international financial institutions, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, other fisheries bodies, other relevant intergovernmental bodies and relevant non-governmental organizations, in accordance with past practice, to attend the eleventh round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement as observers;

47. *Reaffirms its request* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiate arrangements with States for the collection and dissemination of data on fishing in the high seas by vessels flying their flag at the subregional and regional levels where no such arrangements exist;

48. *Also reaffirms its request* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations revise its global fisheries statistics database to provide information on straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and discrete high seas fish stocks on the basis of where the catch is taken;

III

Related fisheries instruments

49. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of the provisions of the Compliance Agreement, and urges continued efforts in this regard;

50. *Calls upon* all States and other entities referred to in article X, paragraph 1, of the Compliance Agreement that have not yet become parties to that Agreement to do so as a matter of priority and, in the interim, to consider applying it provisionally;

51. *Urges* States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to implement and promote the application of the Code within their areas of competence;

52. *Urges* States to develop and implement, as a matter of priority, national and, as appropriate, regional plans of action to put into effect the international plans of action of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

53. *Welcomes in this regard* the work undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to improve the response rate for monitoring implementation of the Code and the international plans of action and strategies by developing a web-based questionnaire, and highlights the importance of responding to the questionnaire;

54. *Encourages* the development of best-practice guidelines for safety at sea in connection with marine fisheries by the competent international organizations;

55. *Encourages* States to consider signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977;

IV

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

56. *Emphasizes once again its serious concern* that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains one of the greatest threats to fish stocks and marine ecosystems and continues to have serious and major implications for the conservation and management of ocean resources, as well as the food security and the economies of many States, particularly developing States, and renews its call upon States to comply fully with all existing obligations and to combat such fishing and urgently to take all steps necessary to implement the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

57. *Recalls in this regard* that in "The future we want", States acknowledged that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing deprive many countries of a crucial natural resource and remain a persistent threat to their sustainable development and recommitted to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as advanced in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to prevent and combat those practices, including by developing and implementing national and regional action plans in accordance with the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, implementing, in accordance with international law, effective and coordinated measures by coastal States, flag States, port States, chartering nations and the States of nationality of the beneficial owners and others who support or engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by identifying vessels engaged in such fishing and by depriving offenders of the benefits accruing from it, as well as by cooperating with developing countries to systematically identify needs and build capacity, including support for monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement systems;

58. *Urges* States to exercise effective control over their nationals, including beneficial owners, and vessels flying their flag, in order to prevent and deter them from engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities or supporting vessels engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, including those vessels listed by regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements as engaged in those activities, and to facilitate mutual

assistance to ensure that such actions can be investigated and proper sanctions imposed;

59. *Also urges* States to take effective measures, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, to deter the activities, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, of any vessel which undermines conservation and management measures that have been adopted by subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in accordance with international law;

60. *Calls upon* States not to permit vessels flying their flag to engage in fishing on the high seas or in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, unless duly authorized by the authorities of the States concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, and to take specific measures, including deterring the reflagging of vessels by their nationals, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, the Agreement and the Compliance Agreement, to control fishing operations by vessels flying their flag;

61. *Urges* States, individually and collectively through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop appropriate processes to assess the performance of States with respect to implementing the obligations regarding fishing vessels flying their flag set out in relevant international instruments;

62. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, where necessary, the international legal framework for intergovernmental cooperation, in particular at the subregional and regional levels, in the management of fish stocks and in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in a manner consistent with international law, and for States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement to collaborate in efforts to address these types of fishing activities;

63. *Urges* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to further coordinate measures for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, such as through the development of a common list of vessels identified as engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing or the mutual recognition of the illegal, unreported and unregulated vessel lists established by each organization or arrangement;

64. *Reaffirms its call upon* States to take all necessary measures consistent with international law, without prejudice to a State's sovereignty over ports in its territory and to reasons of force majeure or distress, including the prohibition of vessels from accessing their ports followed by a report to the flag State concerned, when there is clear evidence that they are or have been engaged in or have supported illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, or when they refuse to give information either on the origin of the catch or on the authorization under which the catch has been made;

65. *Reaffirms* paragraph 53 of its resolution 64/72 of 4 December 2009 with regard to eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by vessels flying "flags of convenience" and requiring that a "genuine link" be established between States and fishing vessels flying their flags, and urges States operating open registry to effectively control all fishing vessels flying their flag, as required by international law, or otherwise stop open registry for fishing vessels;

66. *Encourages* States, either directly or through competent and appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations and arrangements, to consider adopting rules,

consistent with international law, to ensure that chartering arrangements and practices related to fishing vessels enable compliance with and enforcement of relevant conservation and management measures, so as not to undermine efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

67. *Recognizes* the need for enhanced port State measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and urges States to cooperate, in particular at the regional level and through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt all necessary port measures, consistent with international law taking into account article 23 of the Agreement, and to further promote the development and application of standards at the regional level;

68. *Encourages*, in this regard, States and regional economic integration organizations that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing with a view to its early entry into force;

69. *Recalls* that in “The future we want”, States that have signed the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing were called upon to expedite procedures for its ratification with a view to its early entry into force;

70. *Notes* the capacity development programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to assist developing countries in strengthening and harmonizing port State measures, including through bilateral, subregional and/or regional coordination;

71. *Also notes*, in this regard, the workshop held for the Caribbean region in Port of Spain from 24 to 28 March 2014, and the convening of a workshop for the South American region in Montevideo from 29 September to 3 October 2014, and a workshop for the Western African region in the first half of 2015;

72. *Encourages* strengthened collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization, taking into account the respective competencies, mandates and experience of the two organizations, to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in improving the implementation of flag State responsibilities and port State measures;

73. *Encourages* States, with respect to vessels flying their flag, and port States, to make every effort to share data on landings and catch quotas, and in this regard encourages regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to consider developing open databases containing such data for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of fisheries management;

74. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure that vessels flying their flag do not engage in transshipment of fish caught by fishing vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, through adequate regulation, monitoring and control of trans-shipment of fish at sea, including through additional national measures applicable to vessels flying their flag to prevent such trans-shipment;

75. *Urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt and implement internationally agreed market-related measures in accordance with international law, including principles, rights and obligations established in

World Trade Organization agreements, as called for in the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

76. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the development of best-practice guidelines for catch documentation schemes and traceability, in accordance with its agreed terms of reference and framework principles;

77. *Calls upon* States to initiate, as soon as possible, work within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the elaboration, in accordance with international law, including the agreements established under the World Trade Organization, of guidelines and other relevant criteria relating to catch documentation schemes, including possible formats;

78. *Notes with satisfaction*, in this regard, that the Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-first session, recognized that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations would undertake to elaborate guidelines and other relevant criteria relating to catch documentation schemes, including possible formats, based on the following principles: conformity with the provisions of international law; not creating unnecessary barriers to trade; equivalence; risk-based; reliable; simple, clear and transparent; and electronic if possible, with the aim of adoption at the thirty-second session of the Committee, and that the assessment of schemes and formats would include cost-benefit considerations and take into account catch documentation schemes already implemented by certain of its members as well as regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

79. *Encourages* information-sharing regarding emerging market- and trade-related measures by States and other relevant actors with appropriate international forums, given the potential implications of these measures for all States, consistent with the established plan of work of the Committee on Fisheries, and taking into account the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

80. *Acknowledges* the development of participatory surveillance activities at sea involving fishing communities in West Africa as a cost-effective way of detecting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

81. *Notes* the concern expressed by the Committee on Fisheries at the proliferation of private standards and ecolabelling schemes potentially leading to the creation of trade barriers and restrictions, and also notes the work by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private ecolabelling schemes through the Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries;

82. *Also notes* the concerns about possible connections between transnational organized crime and illegal fishing in certain regions of the world, and encourages States, including through the appropriate international forums and organizations, to study the causes and methods of and contributing factors to illegal fishing to increase knowledge and understanding of those possible connections, and to make the findings publicly available, and in this regard takes note of the study issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, bearing in mind the distinct legal regimes and remedies under international law applicable to illegal fishing and transnational organized crime;

V

**Monitoring, control and surveillance
and compliance and enforcement**

83. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with international law, to strengthen implementation of or, where they do not exist, adopt comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance measures and compliance and enforcement schemes individually and within those regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in which they participate, in order to provide an appropriate framework for promoting compliance with agreed conservation and management measures, and further urges enhanced co-ordination among all relevant States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in these efforts;

84. *Welcomes* the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance by the Committee on Fisheries at its thirty-first session, and also welcomes the fact that the Committee urged its members to start implementing the Guidelines as soon as possible;

85. *Encourages* further work by competent international organizations, including subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop guidelines on flag State control of fishing vessels;

86. *Urges* States, individually and through relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to establish mandatory vessel monitoring, control and surveillance systems, in particular to require that vessel monitoring systems be carried by all vessels fishing on the high seas as soon as practicable, recalling that in paragraph 62 of resolution 63/112 of 5 December 2008 it urged that large-scale fishing vessels be required to carry vessel monitoring systems no later than December 2008, and to share information on fisheries enforcement matters;

87. *Calls upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to strengthen or establish, consistent with national and international law, positive or negative lists of vessels fishing within the areas covered by relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in order to promote compliance with conservation and management measures and to identify products from illegal, unreported and unregulated catches, and encourages improved coordination among all States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in sharing and using this information, taking into account the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement;

88. *Encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in cooperation with States, regional economic integration organizations, the International Maritime Organization and, as appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to expedite efforts to develop and manage a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels, including with a unique vessel identifier system, using, as a first step, the International Maritime Organization Ship Identification Number Scheme for fishing vessels of 100 gross tonnage and above, adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization in its resolution A.1078(28) of 4 December 2013;

89. *Welcomes* the continued development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and

Supply Vessels by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including its efforts to keep it cost-effective, and encourages States, including through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to provide the necessary data to the Global Record;

90. *Also welcomes* the agreement that the International Maritime Organization ship identification number should be used as the unique vessel identifier for phase I of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels and the fact that several regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have made provisions for the International Maritime Organization number to be compulsory in their convention areas for all eligible vessels, and encourages those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements which have not yet done so to do the same;

91. *Requests* States and relevant international bodies to develop, in accordance with international law, more effective measures to trace fish and fishery products to enable importing States to identify fish or fishery products caught in a manner that undermines international conservation and management measures agreed in accordance with international law, taking into account the special requirements of developing States and the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement, and at the same time to recognize the importance of market access, in accordance with provisions 11.2.4, 11.2.5 and 11.2.6 of the Code, for fish and fishery products caught in a manner that is in conformity with such international measures;

92. *Requests* States to take the necessary measures, consistent with international law, to help to prevent fish and fishery products caught in a manner that undermines applicable conservation and management measures adopted in accordance with international law from entering international trade;

93. *Encourages* States to establish and undertake cooperative surveillance and enforcement activities in accordance with international law to strengthen and enhance efforts to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures, and prevent and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

94. *Urges* States, directly and through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to develop and adopt effective monitoring, control and surveillance measures for trans-shipment, as appropriate, in particular at-sea trans-shipment, in order to, inter alia, monitor compliance, to collect and verify fisheries data, and to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, in accordance with international law and, in parallel, to encourage and support the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in studying the current practices of trans-shipment and produce a set of guidelines for this purpose;

95. *Expresses its appreciation* for financial contributions from States to improve the capacity of the existing voluntary International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network for Fisheries-related Activities, and encourages States to join and actively participate in the Network and to consider supporting, when appropriate, its transformation in accordance with international law into an international unit with dedicated resources to further assist Network members, taking into account the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement;

96. *Encourages* participation in the fifth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, in March 2016, hosted by the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network for Fisheries-related Activities, in order to share information, experiences and technologies, foster coordination and improve skills among enforcement officials;

97. *Encourages* States, individually and through relevant international bodies, to improve the understanding of the causes and impacts of forced labour and human trafficking in the fishing and aquaculture industries, including processing and related industries, and to further consider actions to combat these practices, including raising awareness of the issue;

VI

Fishing overcapacity

98. *Calls upon* States to commit themselves to urgently reducing the capacity of the world's fishing fleets to levels commensurate with the sustainability of fish stocks, through the establishment of target levels and plans or other appropriate mechanisms for ongoing capacity assessment, while avoiding the transfer of fishing capacity to other fisheries or areas in a manner that undermines the sustainable management of fish stocks, including those areas where fish stocks are overexploited or in a depleted condition, and recognizing in this context the legitimate rights of developing States to develop their fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks consistent with article 25 of the Agreement, article 5 of the Code and paragraph 10 of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

99. *Reiterates its call upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to ensure that the urgent actions required in the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity are undertaken expeditiously and that its implementation is facilitated without delay;

100. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to report on the state of progress in the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity, as provided for in paragraph 48 of the Plan of Action;

101. *Calls upon* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to regulate highly migratory species, urgently to address global fishing capacity for tunas, inter alia, in a way that recognizes the legitimate rights of developing States, in particular small island developing States, to participate in and benefit from such fisheries, taking into account the recommendations of the 2010 Joint Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations International Workshop on RFMO Management of Tuna Fisheries, held in Brisbane, Australia, and the recommendations of the 2011 third joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

102. *Encourages* those States which are cooperating to establish subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, taking into account the best scientific information available as well as ecosystem approaches and the precautionary approach, to exercise voluntary restraint of fishing effort levels in those areas that

will come under the regulation of the future organizations and arrangements until adequate regional conservation and management measures are adopted and implemented, taking into account the need to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the relevant fish stocks and to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

103. *Urges* States to eliminate subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity and to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including by accelerating work to complete World Trade Organization negotiations on fisheries subsidies in accordance with the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration to clarify and improve and the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration to strengthen disciplines on fisheries subsidies, taking into account the importance of the fisheries sector to developing countries;

104. *Recalls*, in this regard, that in "The future we want", States reaffirmed their commitment in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overcapacity, taking into account the importance of that sector to developing countries, reiterated their commitment to conclude multilateral disciplines on fisheries subsidies that would give effect to the mandates of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation, taking into account the importance of the sector to development priorities, poverty reduction and livelihood and food security concerns, and encouraged one another to further improve the transparency and reporting of existing fisheries subsidies programmes through the World Trade Organization and, given the state of fisheries resources, and without prejudicing the Doha and Hong Kong ministerial mandates on fisheries subsidies or the need to conclude those negotiations, to eliminate subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing and to refrain from introducing new such subsidies or from extending or enhancing existing ones;

VII

Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing

105. *Expresses concern* that, despite the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/215, the practice of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing still exists and remains a threat to living marine resources;

106. *Urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt effective measures, or strengthen existing measures, to implement and enforce the provisions of resolution 46/215 and subsequent resolutions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in order to eliminate the use of large-scale pelagic drift nets in all seas and oceans, which means that efforts to implement resolution 46/215 should not result in the transfer to other parts of the world of drift nets that contravene the resolution;

107. *Also urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt effective measures, or strengthen existing measures, to implement and enforce the present global

moratorium on the use of large-scale pelagic drift nets on the high seas, and calls upon States to ensure that vessels flying their flag that are duly authorized to use large-scale drift nets in waters under their national jurisdiction do not use such gear for fishing while on the high seas;

VIII

Fisheries by-catch and discards

108. *Urges* States, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant international organizations that have not done so to take action, including with consideration of the interests of developing coastal States and, as appropriate, subsistence fishing communities, to reduce or eliminate by-catch, catch by lost or abandoned gear, fish discards and post-harvest losses, including juvenile fish, consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code, and in particular to consider measures including, as appropriate, technical measures related to fish size, mesh size or gear, discards, closed seasons and areas and zones reserved for selected fisheries, particularly artisanal fisheries, the establishment of mechanisms for communicating information on areas of high concentration of juvenile fish, taking into account the importance of ensuring the confidentiality of such information, and support for studies and research that will reduce or eliminate by-catch of juvenile fish, and to ensure that these measures are implemented so as to optimize their effectiveness;

109. *Welcomes* the commitment of States in “The future we want” to enhance action to manage by-catch, discards and other adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries, including by eliminating destructive fishing practices, consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

110. *Calls upon* States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to further study, develop and adopt effective management measures, taking into account the best available scientific information on fishing methods, including fish aggregating devices, to minimize by-catch;

111. *Also calls upon* States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to collect the necessary data in order to evaluate and closely monitor the use of large-scale fish aggregating devices and other devices, as appropriate, and their effects on tuna resources and tuna behaviour and associated and dependent species, to improve management procedures to monitor the number, type and use of such devices and to mitigate possible negative effects on the ecosystem, including on juveniles and the incidental by-catch of non-target species, particularly sharks and turtles, and notes in this regard the measures adopted by different regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

112. *Urgently calls upon* States, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and, where appropriate, other relevant international organizations to develop and implement effective management measures to reduce the incidence of catch and discards of non-target species, including the utilization of selective fishing gear, where appropriate, and to take appropriate measures to minimize waste;

113. *Calls upon* States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to adopt or improve measures to assess the impact of their fisheries on species caught as by-catch and to improve the comprehensiveness and accuracy of information and reporting on incidental catch of species caught as by-catch, including through adequate observer coverage and the use of modern technologies, and to provide assistance to developing States to meet data-collection and reporting obligations;

114. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to strengthen or establish data-collection programmes to obtain reliable species-specific estimates of shark, marine turtle, fin-fish, marine mammal and seabird by-catch, and to promote further research on selective fishing gear and practices and on the use of appropriate by-catch mitigation measures;

115. *Encourages* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to coordinate in the development and implementation of clear and standardized by-catch data-collection and reporting protocols for non-target species, in particular endangered, threatened and protected species, taking into account best-practice advice from appropriate international organizations and arrangements, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels;

116. *Encourages* States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement to give due consideration to participation, as appropriate, in subregional and regional instruments and organizations with mandates to conserve non-target species taken incidentally in fishing operations;

117. *Encourages* States to strengthen, if necessary, the capacity of those subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate to ensure the adequate conservation of non-target species taken incidentally in fishing operations, taking into consideration best practices for non-target species management, and to expedite their ongoing efforts in this regard;

118. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements urgently to implement, as appropriate, the measures recommended in the 2004 Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations and the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in order to prevent the decline of sea turtles and seabird populations by minimizing by-catch and increasing post-release survival in their fisheries, including through research and development of gear and bait alternatives, promoting the use of available by-catch mitigation technology, and establishing and strengthening data-collection programmes to obtain standardized information to develop reliable estimates of the by-catch of these species;

119. *Urges* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to implement the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

120. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to continue to take urgent action to reduce the by-catch of seabirds, including

albatrosses and petrels, in fisheries by adopting and implementing conservation measures consistent with the 2009 best practices technical guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to support implementation of the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries and taking into account the work of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and of organizations such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

IX

Subregional and regional cooperation

121. *Urges* coastal States and States fishing on the high seas, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and other relevant instruments, to pursue cooperation in relation to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, either directly or through appropriate subregional or regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to ensure the effective conservation and management of such stocks;

122. *Urges* States fishing for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas, and relevant coastal States, where a subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement has the competence to establish conservation and management measures for such stocks, to give effect to their duty to cooperate by becoming members of such an organization or participants in such an arrangement, or by agreeing to apply the conservation and management measures established by such an organization or arrangement, or to otherwise ensure that no vessel flying their flag is authorized to access the fisheries resources to which regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements or conservation and management measures established by such organizations or arrangements apply;

123. *Invites*, in this regard, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that all States having a real interest in the fisheries concerned may become members of such organizations or participants in such arrangements, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and the Code;

124. *Encourages* relevant coastal States and States fishing on the high seas for a straddling fish stock or a highly migratory fish stock, where there is no subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement to establish conservation and management measures for such stocks, to cooperate to establish such an organization or enter into another appropriate arrangement to ensure the conservation and management of such stocks, and to participate in the work of the organization or arrangement;

125. *Welcomes in this regard* the convening of the second regional consultation on regional cooperation for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, in Cairo, from 22 to 24 June 2014;

126. *Notes* the adoption on 10 October 2014 of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, aimed at promoting cooperation and collaboration for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Caribbean region;

127. *Urges* signatory States and other States whose vessels fish within the area of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the

South-East Atlantic Ocean for fishery resources covered by that Convention to become parties to that Convention as a matter of priority and, in the interim, to ensure that vessels flying their flags fully comply with the measures adopted;

128. *Encourages* further ratifications of, accessions to, acceptances and approvals of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

129. *Also encourages* further ratifications of, accessions to, acceptances and approvals of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean;

130. *Welcomes* the recent signatures and ratification of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, and encourages further ratifications, accessions, acceptances and approvals of that Convention;

131. *Encourages* States that participated in the negotiation of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean to fully implement interim voluntary measures adopted in accordance with paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 117, 119, 120, 122 and 123 of resolution 64/72;

132. *Welcomes* the endorsement of the Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, as amended, by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session, held in Rome from 19 to 24 May 2014, and urges those Contracting Parties to the Commission that need to accept the amended Agreement to do so with a view to its early entry into force;

133. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to strengthen the functioning of the Commission so that it can more effectively discharge its mandate, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide members of the Commission with the necessary assistance to this end;

134. *Encourages* signatory States and States having a real interest to become parties to the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica;

135. *Urges* the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries that have not yet done so to approve the 2007 Amendment to that Convention with a view to its early entry into effect;

136. *Urges* further efforts by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as a matter of priority, in accordance with international law, to strengthen and modernize their mandates and the measures adopted by such organizations or arrangements, and to implement modern approaches to fisheries management, as reflected in the Agreement and other relevant international instruments, relying on the best scientific information available and application of the precautionary approach and incorporating an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and biodiversity considerations, including the conservation and management of ecologically related and dependent species and protection of their habitats, where these aspects are lacking, to ensure that they effectively contribute to long-term conservation and management and sustainable use of living marine resources, and welcomes those regional fisheries

management organizations and arrangements that have taken steps in this direction;

137. *Calls upon* regional fisheries management organizations with the competence to conserve and manage highly migratory fish stocks that have not yet adopted effective conservation and management measures in line with the best scientific information available to conserve and manage stocks falling under their mandate to do so urgently;

138. *Urges* States to strengthen and enhance cooperation among existing and developing regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate, including increased communication and further coordination of measures, such as through the holding of joint consultations, and to strengthen integration, coordination and cooperation by such regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with other relevant fisheries organizations, regional seas arrangements and other relevant international organizations;

139. *Urges* the five regional fisheries management organizations with competence to manage highly migratory species to continue to take measures to implement the Course of Actions adopted at the second joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and to consider the recommendations of the third joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

140. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to manage straddling fish stocks to share experiences and good practices, for example by considering organizing joint meetings, where appropriate;

141. *Urges* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to improve transparency and to ensure that their decision-making processes are fair and transparent, rely on the best scientific information available, incorporate the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, address participatory rights, including through, inter alia, the development of transparent criteria for allocating fishing opportunities which reflects, where appropriate, the relevant provisions of the Agreement, taking due account, inter alia, of the status of the relevant stocks and the respective interests in the fishery;

142. *Welcomes* the fact that a number of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have completed performance reviews, and encourages the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations of their respective reviews as a matter of priority;

143. *Urges* States, through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements that have not done so, to undertake, on an urgent basis, performance reviews of those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, initiated either by the organization or arrangement itself or with external partners, including in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, using transparent criteria based on the provisions of the Agreement and other relevant instruments, and taking into account the best practices of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and, as appropriate, any set of criteria developed by States or other regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, and encourages that such performance reviews include some element of independent evaluation and propose means for improv-

ing the functioning of the regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, as appropriate;

144. *Calls upon* States, through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to undertake performance reviews of those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements on a regular basis, and to make the results publicly available, to implement the recommendations of such reviews and to strengthen the comprehensiveness of those reviews over time, as necessary;

145. *Recalls* that in "The future we want", States recognized the need for transparency and accountability in fisheries management by regional fisheries management organizations and the efforts already made by those regional fisheries management organizations that had undertaken independent performance reviews, called upon all regional fisheries management organizations to regularly undertake such reviews and make the results publicly available, encouraged implementation of the recommendations of such reviews and recommended that the comprehensiveness of those reviews be strengthened over time, as necessary;

146. *Urges* States to cooperate, taking into account those performance reviews, to develop best-practice guidelines for regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and to apply, to the extent possible, those guidelines to organizations and arrangements in which they participate;

147. *Encourages* the development of regional guidelines for States to use in establishing sanctions for non-compliance by vessels flying their flag and by their nationals, to be applied in accordance with national law, that are adequate in severity for effectively securing compliance, deterring further violations and depriving offenders of the benefits deriving from their illegal activities, as well as in evaluating their systems of sanctions to ensure that they are effective in securing compliance and deterring violations;

148. *Recognizes* the importance of ensuring transparency of reporting of fishing activities within regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in order to facilitate efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as the importance of respecting the reporting obligations within those organizations and arrangements, notes in this regard the measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, and encourages other regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to consider establishing similar measures;

X

Responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem

149. *Urges* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to enhance their efforts to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries, taking into account paragraph 30 (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

150. *Encourages* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant international organizations, to work to ensure that fisheries and other ecosystem data collection is performed in a coordinated and integrated manner, facilitating incorporation into global observation initiatives, where appropriate;

151. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, working in cooperation

with other relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Meteorological Organization, to adopt, as appropriate, measures to protect ocean data buoy systems moored in areas beyond national jurisdiction from actions that impair their operation;

152. *Encourages* States to increase scientific research on the marine ecosystem in accordance with international law;

153. *Calls upon* States, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other specialized agencies, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, where appropriate, and other appropriate intergovernmental bodies to cooperate in achieving sustainable aquaculture, including through information exchange, developing equivalent standards on such issues as aquatic animal health and human health and safety concerns, assessing the potential positive and negative impacts of aquaculture, including socioeconomics, on the marine and coastal environment, including biodiversity, and adopting relevant methods and techniques to minimize and mitigate adverse effects, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the 2007 Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as a framework for the improvement and understanding of aquaculture status and trends;

154. *Calls upon* States to take action immediately, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and consistent with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, to continue to implement the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (the Guidelines) in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals, from destructive fishing practices, recognizing the immense importance and value of deep-sea ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain;

155. *Recalls* that in "The future we want", States committed to enhance actions to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts, including through the effective use of impact assessments, consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

156. *Reaffirms* the importance of paragraphs 80 to 90 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113 to 127 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121 to 136 of resolution 66/68 of 6 December 2011 addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the actions called for in those resolutions, and emphasizes the need for full implementation by all States and relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements of their commitments under those paragraphs on an urgent basis;

157. *Recalls* that nothing in the paragraphs of resolutions 61/105, 64/72 and 66/68 addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems prejudices the sovereign rights of coastal States over their continental shelf or the exercise of the jurisdiction of coastal States with respect to their continental shelf under international law as reflected in the Convention, in particular article 77 thereof;

158. *Notes in this regard* the adoption by coastal States of conservation measures regarding their continental shelf to address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, as well as their efforts to ensure compliance with those measures;

159. *Welcomes* the important progress made by States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and those States participating in negotiations in establishing a regional fisheries management organization or arrangement competent to regulate bottom fisheries to implement paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

160. *Also welcomes* the substantial ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and urges States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that their actions in sustainably managing deep-sea fisheries and implementing paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 are consistent with the Guidelines;

161. *Affirms* the importance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations continuing to undertake work pursuant to paragraphs 135 and 136 of resolution 66/68 as part of its ongoing programme for deep-sea fisheries, and notes in particular the support provided by that Organization to States in implementing the Guidelines and its development of a database on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

162. *Recalls* its decision in paragraph 137 of resolution 66/68 to conduct a further review of the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68, with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the measures therein and to make further recommendations, where necessary, recognizes the value of preceding such a review with a two-day workshop as in 2011, and decides to conduct such a review in 2016;

163. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, with full conference services, without prejudice to future arrangements, a two-day workshop in the second half of 2016 in order to discuss implementation of paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68, and to invite States, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, other fisheries bodies, other relevant intergovernmental bodies and relevant non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with United Nations practice, to attend the workshop;

164. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report similar in scope, length and detail to his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with the assistance of an expert consultant to be hired by the Division to provide information and analysis on

relevant technical and scientific issues to be covered in the report, for consideration by the Assembly at its seventy-first session, on the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68, and invites States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to consider making such information publicly available;

165. *Notes* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held a regional workshop on vulnerable marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean, in Tokyo, from 11 to 13 March 2014;

166. *Encourages* accelerated progress to establish criteria on the objectives and management of marine protected areas for fisheries purposes, and in this regard welcomes the development by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of technical guidelines on marine protected areas and fisheries, and urges coordination and cooperation among all relevant international organizations and bodies;

167. *Urges* all States to implement the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and to accelerate activity to safeguard the marine ecosystem, including fish stocks, against pollution and physical degradation, taking into account the increase in oceanic dead zones;

168. *Acknowledges* the serious environmental impacts on the marine environment caused by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, and encourages States to take action to reduce such gear, noting the recommendations of the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

169. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to paragraphs 77 to 81 of resolution 60/31 of 29 November 2005 concerning the issue of lost, abandoned or discarded fishing gear and related marine debris and the adverse impacts such debris and derelict fishing gear have on, inter alia, fish stocks, habitats and other marine species, and urges accelerated progress by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in implementing those paragraphs of the resolution;

170. *Encourages* further studies, including by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on the impacts of underwater noise on fish stocks and fishing catch rates, as well as associated socioeconomic effects;

171. *Calls upon* States, including through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to play an active role in global efforts to conserve and sustainably use living marine resources, so as to contribute to marine biological diversity;

172. *Encourages* States, either individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to identify any spawning and nursery areas for fish stocks under their jurisdiction or competence and, where required, to adopt science-based measures to conserve such stocks during these critical life stages;

173. *Recognizes* the wide range of impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems, and calls upon States to tackle the causes of ocean acidification and to further study its impacts, and in this regard notes the convening of a workshop on ocean acidification, held in parallel with the third International Conference on Small Island Developing

States, which focused on the ecological, biodiversity and fisheries impacts of ocean acidification;

174. *Emphasizes* the importance of developing adaptive marine resource management strategies and enhancing capacity-building to implement such strategies in order to enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems to minimize the wide range of impacts on marine organisms and threats to food security caused by ocean acidification, in particular the impacts on the ability of calciferous plankton, coral reefs, shellfish and crustaceans to build shells and skeletal structures and the threats this could pose to protein supply;

XI

Capacity-building

175. *Reiterates* the crucial importance of cooperation by States directly or, as appropriate, through the relevant subregional and regional organizations, and by other international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through its FishCode programme, including through financial and/or technical assistance, in accordance with the Agreement, the Compliance Agreement, the Code and its associated international plans of action, to increase the capacity of developing States to achieve the goals and implement the actions called for in the present resolution;

176. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in developing guidance on the strategies and measures required for the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable small-scale fisheries, and encourages studies for creating possible alternative livelihoods for coastal communities;

177. *Recalls* that in “The future we want”, States recognized the importance of building the capacity of developing countries to be able to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources, and in this regard emphasized the need for cooperation in marine scientific research to implement the provisions of the Convention and the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, as well as for the transfer of technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology;

178. *Also recalls* that in “The future we want”, States urged the identification and mainstreaming by 2014 of strategies that further assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries, including through improved market access for fish products from developing countries;

179. *Encourages* increased capacity-building and technical assistance by States, international financial institutions and relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies for fishers, in particular small-scale fishers, in developing countries, and in particular small island developing States, consistent with environmental sustainability, in recognition of the fact that food security and livelihoods may depend on fisheries;

180. *Encourages* States to cooperate closely, directly or through the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with a view to enhancing capacity-building of developing States, including coastal States, in particular small island

developing States, in the field of fisheries and aquaculture through education and training;

181. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the work of the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme in Iceland and its contribution to training for developing States, in particular small island developing States, and emphasizes the need for the continuation and strengthening of this training for developing States;

182. *Encourages* the international community to enhance the opportunities for sustainable development in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and coastal African States, by encouraging greater participation of those States in authorized fisheries activities being undertaken within areas under their national jurisdiction, in accordance with the Convention, by distant-water fishing nations in order to achieve better economic returns for developing countries from their fisheries resources within areas under their national jurisdiction and an enhanced role in regional fisheries management, as well as by enhancing the ability of developing countries to develop their own fisheries, as well as to participate in high seas fisheries, including access to such fisheries, in conformity with international law, in particular the Convention and the Agreement, and taking into account article 5 of the Code;

183. *Requests* distant-water fishing nations, when negotiating access agreements and arrangements with developing coastal States, to do so on an equitable and sustainable basis and to take into account their legitimate expectation to fully benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources of their exclusive economic zones, to ensure that vessels flying their flag comply with the laws and regulations of the developing coastal States adopted in accordance with international law and to give greater attention to fish processing and fish-processing facilities within the national jurisdiction of the developing coastal State to assist the realization of the benefits from the development of fisheries resources and also to the transfer of technology and assistance for monitoring, control and surveillance and compliance and enforcement within areas under the national jurisdiction of the developing coastal State providing fisheries access, taking into account the forms of cooperation set out in article 25 of the Agreement and article 5 of the Code;

184. *Encourages* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to provide greater assistance and to promote coherence in such assistance for developing States in designing, establishing and implementing relevant agreements, instruments and tools for the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks, including in designing and strengthening their domestic regulatory fisheries policies and those of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in their regions, and the enhancement of research and scientific capabilities through existing funds, such as the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement, bilateral assistance, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements assistance funds, the FishCode programme, the World Bank's global programme on fisheries and the Global Environment Facility;

185. *Encourages* States to provide technical and financial support to developing countries to address their special requirements and challenges in implementing the Guidelines;

186. *Calls upon* States to promote, through continuing dialogue and the assistance and cooperation provided in

accordance with articles 24 to 26 of the Agreement, further ratifications of or accessions to the Agreement by seeking to address, inter alia, the issue of lack of capacity and resources that might stand in the way of developing States becoming parties;

187. *Notes with appreciation* the compilation, prepared by the Secretariat and available on the website of the Division, of the needs of developing States for capacity-building and assistance in the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and the sources of available assistance for developing States to address such needs;

188. *Encourages* States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant bodies to assist developing States in the implementation of the actions called for in paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68;

189. *Urges* States and regional economic integration organizations, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to mainstream efforts to assist developing States, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, with other relevant international development strategies with a view to enhancing international coordination to enable them to develop their national capacity to exploit fishery resources, consistent with the duty to ensure the conservation and management of those resources, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to fully mobilize and coordinate the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including at the level of the regional economic commissions, within their respective mandates;

190. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations to develop strategies to further assist developing States, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, in fully realizing the benefits from the catch of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and in strengthening regional efforts to sustainably conserve and manage such stocks, and, in this regard, to make available such information;

XII

Cooperation within the United Nations system

191. *Requests* the relevant parts of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and donor agencies to support increased enforcement and compliance capabilities for regional fisheries management organizations and their member States;

192. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue its cooperative arrangements with United Nations agencies on the implementation of the international plans of action and to report to the Secretary-General, for inclusion in his annual report on sustainable fisheries, on priorities for cooperation and coordination in this work;

XIII

Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

193. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the activities of the Division, which reflect the high standard of assistance provided to Member States by the Division;

194. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities and functions entrusted to him by the Convention, the Agreement and the related resolutions of the General Assembly and to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to the Division for the performance of its activities under the approved budget for the Organization;

XIV

Seventieth session of the General Assembly

195. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, and, in connection with the report requested in paragraph 164 of the present resolution, to invite States and regional economic integration organizations and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to submit detailed information to the Secretary-General in a timely manner on actions taken pursuant to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68, to facilitate a further review of such actions;

196. *Notes* the desire to further improve the efficiency of and the effective participation of delegations in the informal consultations concerning the annual General Assembly resolution on sustainable fisheries, decides that the informal consultations on this resolution will be held in a single round of consultations in November for a period of six days, and invites States to submit proposals for inclusion in the text of the resolution to the Coordinator of the informal consultations no later than five weeks before the start of the consultations;

197. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", the sub-item entitled "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments", and to consider the possibility of including this sub-item in future provisional agendas on a biennial basis.

Institutions created by the Convention

International Seabed Authority

Through the International Seabed Authority, established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Implementation Agreement [YUN 1994, p. 1301], States organized and conducted exploration of the resources of the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. In 2014, the Authority, which had 166 members as at 25 May, held its twentieth session (Kingston, Jamaica, 14–25 July). Its subsidiary bodies, namely,

the Assembly, the Council, the Legal and Technical Commission and the Finance Committee, also met during the session.

The Assembly considered the annual report [ISBA/20/A/2] of the Authority's Secretary-General, which reviewed the Authority's work since the nineteenth session [YUN 2013, p. 1374] and outlined the progress that had been made in the implementation of its work programme for the period 2012–2014. The report also provided the development of the regulatory regime in the Area (the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil beyond the limits of national jurisdiction), the status of contracts and the relationship between the Authority and other relevant international organizations.

The Assembly held a one-day special event on 22 July to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the International Seabed Authority. On the basis of the recommendations of the Council, the Assembly adopted a decision [ISBA/20/A/12] on the Authority's budget for the financial period 2015–2016 in the amount of \$15,743,143. The Assembly also approved the revised regulation 21 of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area [ISBA/20/A/10] and the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area [ISBA/20/A/9], as adopted by the Council.

On 21 July, the Council [ISBA/20/C/32] approved seven plans of work for exploration in the Area, including two plans of work for exploration for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts [ISBA/20/C/24 & 30], three plans of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules [ISBA/20/C/25 & 27 & 29], and two plans of work for exploration for polymetallic sulphides [ISBA/20/C/26 & 28].

The Legal and Technical Commission [ISBA/20/C/20] considered seven applications for approval of plans of work for exploration, and reviewed and evaluated the annual reports submitted by contractors [ISBA/20/LTC/14]. The Commission decided to recommend to the Council that the Commission be requested to formulate draft procedures and criteria for applications for extensions of contracts for exploration. In accordance with the request of the Council [ISBA/17/C/21] [YUN 2011, p. 1324], the Commission continued its preparatory work on the formulation of regulations for the exploration in the Area. The Commission recommended to the Council the amendments to regulation 21 of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area [ISBA/20/C/9], and also recommended to the Council that the Nodules Regulations be aligned with the equivalent provision in the Sulphides and Crusts Regulations.

The Finance Committee [ISBA/20/A/5] took note of the balance of the Endowment Fund in the amount of \$3,493,257, and of the balance of the Voluntary Trust Fund in the amount of \$237,300, as at 30 June 2014. It also took note of the status of the Working Capital

Fund with advances of \$558,245 out of a ceiling of \$560,000, as at 30 June 2014. The Committee recommended that the Council and the Assembly of the Authority request the Secretary-General to take necessary steps to adopt the International Public Sector Accounting Standards in the forthcoming biennium. The Committee examined the proposed budget of the Authority for the financial period 2015–2016 [ISBA/20/A/3], and decided to recommend for approval the revised budget in the amount of \$15,743,143. It also recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to transfer between appropriation sections up to 20 per cent of the amount in each section for the financial period 2015–2016.

As at 31 December, the 1998 Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority [YUN 1998, p. 1226], which entered into force in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1353], had 28 signatories and 36 parties.

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea held its thirty-seventh (10–21 March) and thirty-eighth (29 September–10 October) sessions in Hamburg, Germany [SPLOS/278].

In the *M/V “Virginia G” Case (Panama/Guinea-Bissau)* [YUN 2011, p. 1325], the Tribunal delivered judgment on 14 April. The Tribunal found that it had jurisdiction over the dispute and rejected the objections raised by Guinea-Bissau to the admissibility of claims of Panama based on the alleged lack of genuine link between the *Virginia G* and Panama, the nationality of claims and the alleged failure to exhaust local remedies.

By an order dated 14 April, the President fixed 2 September as the date for the opening of the oral proceedings, with respect to the request for an advisory opinion submitted by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission [YUN 2013, p. 1375]. Prior to the opening of the oral proceedings, the Tribunal held initial deliberations on 29 August and 1 September. The hearing took place from 2 to 5 September, during which statements were made at four public sittings by the States Parties and international organizations.

As at 31 December, the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, which was adopted by the seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 1361] and entered into force in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 1235], had 21 signatories and 41 parties.

Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

In 2014, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, established in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 1362], held its thirty-fourth (27 January–14 March)

[CLCS/83], thirty-fifth (21 July–5 September) [CLCS/85] and thirty-sixth (20 October–28 November) [CLCS/86] sessions in New York.

At its thirty-fourth session, the Commission established subcommissions to consider the submissions made by South Africa in respect of the mainland of the territory of the Republic of South Africa; and by Mauritius in the region of Rodrigues Island. It also decided to establish subcommissions for the consideration of the joint submissions made by the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands concerning the Ontong Java Plateau; and by France and South Africa in the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands. The Commission received presentations of submission from Nicaragua in respect of the southwestern part of the Caribbean Sea, and from the Federated States of Micronesia in respect of the Eauripik Rise. It adopted the recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in regard to the partial revised submission made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Sea of Okhotsk on 28 February 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1376]; and the recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in regard to the partial submission made by the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark together with the Government of the Faroe Islands in respect of the continental shelf north of the Faroe Islands on 29 April 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1345].

The Commission decided to further defer the establishment of the relevant subcommissions for the consideration of the submissions made by Myanmar; Yemen in respect of south-east of Socotra Island; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of Hatton-Rockall Area; Ireland in respect of Hatton-Rockall Area; Fiji; Kenya; and Malaysia and Viet Nam in the Southern part of the South China Sea. Regarding the submissions by Ghana, and by Iceland in respect of the Ægir Basin area and the western and southern parts of Reykjanes Ridge, it deferred consideration of the draft recommendations prepared by the subcommissions to its next session in order to provide more time to examine them. The Commission deferred further consideration of the submission by Nicaragua in respect of the southwestern part of the Caribbean Sea. It also decided that the submission made by Federated States of Micronesia in respect of the Eauripik Rise would be addressed by way of a subcommission to be established as queued in the order in which it was received. The Subcommissions reported on the progress of its work, with consideration of the submissions made by the Russian Federation in respect of the Sea of Okhotsk; Uruguay; the Cook Islands in respect of the Manihiki Plateau; Argentina; Ghana; Iceland in respect of the Ægir Basin area and the western and southern parts of Reykjanes Ridge; Denmark in respect of the area north of the Faroe Islands; Pakistan; and Norway in respect of Bouvetøya and Dronning Maud Land.

At its thirty-fifth session, the Commission adopted the recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in regard to the submission made by Ghana on 28 April 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1346]. The Commission decided to continue the discussion of the draft recommendations during the forthcoming session, with consideration of the submission made by Iceland in respect of the Ægir Basin area and the western and southern parts of Reykjanes Ridge. The Commission received a presentation of the submission from Kenya, and decided to defer further consideration of the submission and communications from Kenya and Somalia.

The subcommissions decided to continue consideration of the submissions made by Uruguay; the Cook Islands in respect of the Manihiki Plateau; Argentina; Pakistan; Norway in respect of Bouvetøya and Dronning Maud Land; South Africa in respect of the mainland of the territory of the Republic of South Africa; Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in respect of the Ontong Java Plateau; France and South Africa in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands; and Mauritius in respect of the region of Rodrigues Island at the Commission's thirty-sixth session.

At its thirty-sixth session, the subcommissions decided to continue its consideration of the submissions made by Uruguay; Argentina; Norway in respect of Bouvetøya and Dronning Maud Land; South Africa in respect of the mainland of the territory of the Republic of South Africa; the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in respect of the Ontong Java Plateau; France and South Africa in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands; and Mauritius in the region of Rodrigues Island during the thirty-seventh session. Regarding the consideration of the submissions made by the Cook Islands in respect of the Manihiki Plateau and by Pakistan, the subcommissions decided to continue the preparation of its presentation to the Commission on the draft recommendations.

Other developments related to the Convention

Pursuant to resolution 68/70 [YUN 2013, p. 1379] and article 319 of the Convention [YUN 1982, p. 237], the Secretary-General in September submitted his annual report [A/69/71/Add.1] covering developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of the resolution. The report reviewed the Convention and its implementing agreements and bodies established thereunder; people at sea; supporting small island developing States and landlocked developing States; marine science and technology; and strengthening international coopera-

tion and coordination. The report further reviewed issues related to ensuring safety and security at sea, including international shipping and maritime security. It examined issues related to developing a sustainable ocean-based economy, including sustainable exploitation of non-living resources, conservation and management of marine living resources, conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, pressures on the marine environment, and management tools. The report covered issues related to addressing the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on oceans and their resources, including mitigating the impacts of climate change and adapting to the impacts of climate change; as well as building the capacity of States to implement the legal regime for oceans and seas, including trends in capacity-building and capacity-building activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (see p. 1568).

The Secretary-General continued to focus on strengthening system-wide coherence on ocean issues taking into account, in particular, the need for coordination and synergies in the delivery of the mandates entrusted to the Organization by Member States.

Assessment of global marine environment

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/70, the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects ("the Regular Process") held its fifth meeting (New York, 31 March) [A/69/77]. Representatives of 68 Member States, two non-member States, and six intergovernmental organizations and other bodies attended the meeting. The Working Group adopted the agenda and agreed on the organization of work, as proposed by the Co-Chairs. The Working Group considered the status of preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment and took note of the updated outline of the assessment. It also decided that the draft of the assessment would be sent to Member States and peer reviewers in two instalments, with the initial draft chapters being circulated at the end of June and the entire draft being circulated at the end of August. The Working Group considered and agreed on the draft recommendations to the General Assembly and guidance for the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process concerning the preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment. The Working Group recommended that the Assembly take note of the updated outline for the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process, as well as the summaries of the workshops held in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire (28–30 October 2013) and in Chennai, India (27–29 January 2014). The Working Group requested the Bureau to continue its oversight of the progress of work, in order to guide the process towards the completion of the

first global integrated marine assessment by 2014. It also recommended that the Assembly recognize the work of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process during the second phase of the first assessment cycle and urge regional groups that had not yet done so to appoint experts to the Group of Experts. The Working Group recommended that the Assembly continue its consideration of the need to ensure predictability and sustainability of financial resources to support the operations of the Regular Process.

Marine biological resources

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/24 [YUN 2004, p. 1333], held a meeting (New York, 1–4 April) [A/69/82] to provide the Co-Chairs' summary of discussion at the meeting, as requested in resolution 68/70 [YUN 2013, p. 1379]. The meeting was attended by representatives of 70 Member States, one non-member State, eight intergovernmental organizations and other bodies and eight non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Working Group considered issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The Working Group further considered scope and parameters of an international instrument under the Convention; marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; capacity-building and the transfer of technology; and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention.

Pursuant to resolution 68/70, the Working Group held its second meeting (New York, 16–19 June) [A/69/177], which was attended by representatives of 79 Member States, two non-member States, 11 intergovernmental organizations and other bodies and nine NGOs. The participants reviewed the importance of addressing the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The Working Group further considered overall objective and starting point; legal framework for an international instrument; relationship to other instruments; guiding principles and approaches; scope *ratione personae*; scope *ratione loci*; scope *ratione materiae*; and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention.

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/70 [YUN 2013, p. 1379], the fifteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process

on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (New York, 27–30 May) [A/69/90] discussed the role of seafood in global food security. The meeting was attended by representatives of 80 States, 15 intergovernmental organizations and other bodies and entities and nine NGOs.

Participants heard presentations from experts and plenary and panel discussions on the role of seafood in global food security, including understanding global food security and the role of seafood therein; the role of seafood in global food security in the context of the three pillars of sustainable development; and opportunities and challenges for the future role of seafood in global food security. Participants further considered inter-agency cooperation and coordination; a process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly; and issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea.

The meeting had before it a March report of the Secretary-General [A/69/71], in response to resolution 68/70, with a view to facilitating discussions on the role of seafood in global food security. It constituted the first part of the report of the Secretary-General on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea (see p. 1566). The report provided information on the role of seafood in global food security, including seafood as food, seafood and seafood products in food production, and seafood as a source of revenue. It reviewed pressures on the role of seafood in global food security, including unsustainable practices in the exploitation of seafood resources, and other pressures on the marine environment, such as habitat loss, pollution, climate change, ocean acidification and invasive alien species. It also examined activities and initiatives to ensure the continued role of seafood in global food security, as well as the future role of seafood in global food security. The continued contribution of seafood to global food security rested on the ability of States to address, in an effective, efficient and timely manner, pressures and challenges to seafood sustainability, including overexploitation and unsustainable practices in seafood exploitation, marine pollution, habitat destruction, climate change and ocean acidification. It was critical to maintain healthy, productive and resilient ecosystems to support the continued contribution of seafood to food security. It was important for States to take advantage of opportunities to optimize the role of seafood in global food security, including through sustainable aquaculture and small-scale fisheries, as well as responsible technological innovation.

Piracy

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), on 17 July [CL3366/Add.1], issued a formal reminder to all member States and associated members to submit information in relation to MSC-FAL.1/Circ.2

on questionnaire on information on port and coastal State requirements related to privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships. It adopted a resolution on prevention and suppression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea on 29 November 2013 [A28/Res.1069]. IMO also issued an annual report [MSC.4/Circ.208] on acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships in 2013, including a regional analysis. As reported to IMO, 298 acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships occurred or were attempted during 2013, compared to 341 such cases in 2012 [YUN 2013, p. 1378].

The Security Council addressed the issue of piracy in the sea off the coast of Somalia by **resolution 2184(2014)** of 12 November (see p. 358).

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

During 2014, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs continued to fulfil its role as the substantive unit of the UN Secretariat responsible for reviewing and monitoring all developments related to the law of the sea and ocean affairs, as well as for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and related General Assembly resolutions.

The Division continued to provide information, advice and assistance to States and intergovernmental organizations with a view to promoting better understanding of the Convention and the related agreements, their wider acceptance, uniform and consistent application and effective implementation. It also continued to administer several voluntary trust funds. The Division, in partnership with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, had been developing a training programme for developing coastal States and researching States responsible for and/or involved in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on marine scientific research. The Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia approved a proposal from the Division aimed at increasing the understanding of the Convention by Somali parliamentarians and government officials and undertaking a gap analysis of the Somali legislative and policy framework for oceans.

The Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, established in 1981 [YUN 1981, pp. 130 & 139], had enabled 26 individuals from 26 Member States to be trained. In 2014, Mariam Rita Fawole of Sao Tome and Principe was awarded the twenty-sixth fellowship for the period from April to December 2014. The year 2014 marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme. A meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the Fellowship Programme was hosted by the

Nippon Foundation of Japan in November 2014 in Tokyo, bringing together more than 80 alumni, as well as academic partners and high-level government and UN officials. The Programme had trained 100 individuals from 60 Member States since 2004.

UN-Oceans

As requested by the General Assembly resolution 67/78 [YUN 2012, p. 1353], UN-Oceans, an inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system which was established in 2003 by General Assembly resolution 57/141 [YUN 2002, p. 1322], following the approval by the General Assembly of the revised terms of reference for UN-Oceans [YUN 2013, p. 1379], adopted a biennial work programme for 2014–2015, including a major activity to develop an inventory of mandates and activities of the members of UN-Oceans to facilitate the identification of possible areas for collaboration and synergy.

The twelfth meeting (5 February) and the thirteenth meeting (27 May) of UN-Oceans were held in New York.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/245** [draft: A/69/L.29 & Add.1] by recorded vote (153-1-3) [agenda item 74 (a)].

Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its annual resolutions on the law of the sea and on oceans and the law of the sea, including resolution 68/70 of 9 December 2013, and other relevant resolutions concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention),

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the reports on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (the Regular Process), of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group), of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process) at its fifteenth meeting and on the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,

Noting with satisfaction that 16 November 2014 marked the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, and recognizing the pre-eminent contribution provided by the Convention to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set

forth in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Emphasizing the universal and unified character of the Convention, and reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Recognizing the important contribution of sustainable development and management of the resources and uses of the oceans and seas to the achievement of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Noting with satisfaction that, in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”, as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, States recognized that oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth’s ecosystem and are critical to sustaining it, and that international law, as reflected in the Convention, provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources, and stressed the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change,

Reiterating the importance of oceans and seas for sustainable development, noting that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established by the General Assembly considered the issue of oceans and seas and proposed a goal to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, and in this regard reaffirming that international law, as reflected in the Convention, provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources,

Recalling that in “The future we want”, States underscored that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings were essential to the promotion of sustainable development and that sustainable development required the meaningful involvement and active participation of regional, national and subnational legislatures and judiciaries, and all major groups, and, in this regard, that they agreed to work more closely with major groups and other stakeholders and encouraged their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach, and reaffirming the need to improve cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels, in accordance with the Convention, to support and supplement the efforts of each State in promoting the implementation and observance of the Convention and the integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Reiterating the essential need for cooperation, including through capacity-building and transfer of marine technology, to ensure that all States, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, are able both to implement the Convention and to benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, as well as to participate fully in global and regional forums and processes dealing with oceans and law of the sea issues,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the ability of competent international organizations to contribute, at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels, through cooperation programmes with Governments, to the development of national capacity in marine science and the sustainable management of the oceans and their resources,

Recalling that marine science is important for eradicating poverty, contributing to food security, conserving the world’s marine environment and resources, helping to understand, predict and respond to natural events and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, by improving knowledge, through sustained research efforts and the evaluation of monitoring results, and applying such knowledge to management and decision-making,

Reiterating its deep concern at the serious adverse impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity, in particular on vulnerable marine ecosystems and their physical and biogenic structure, including coral reefs, cold water habitats, hydrothermal vents and seamounts, of certain human activities,

Emphasizing the need for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships,

Expressing deep concern at the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of the physical alteration and destruction of marine habitats that may result from land-based and coastal development activities, in particular those land reclamation activities that are carried out in a manner that has a detrimental impact on the marine environment,

Reiterating its serious concern at the current and projected adverse effects of climate change and ocean acidification on the marine environment and marine biodiversity, and emphasizing the urgency of addressing these issues,

Expressing concern that climate change continues to increase the severity and incidence of coral bleaching throughout tropical seas and weakens the ability of reefs to withstand ocean acidification, which could have serious and irreversible negative effects on marine organisms, particularly corals, as well as to withstand other pressures, including overfishing and pollution,

Reiterating its deep concern at the vulnerability of the environment and the fragile ecosystems of the polar regions, including the Arctic Ocean and the Arctic ice cap, particularly affected by the projected adverse effects of climate change and ocean acidification,

Recognizing the need for a more integrated and ecosystem-based approach to, further study of and the promotion of measures for enhanced cooperation, coordination and collaboration relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction,

Recognizing also that the realization of the benefits of the Convention could be enhanced by international cooperation, technical assistance and advanced scientific knowledge, as well as by funding and capacity-building,

Recognizing further that hydrographic surveys and nautical charting are critical to the safety of navigation and life at sea, environmental protection, including the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and the economics of the global shipping industry, and encouraging further efforts towards electronic charting, which not only provides significantly increased benefits for safe navigation and management of ship movement, but also provides data and information that can be used for sustainable fisheries activities and other sectoral uses of the marine environment, the delimitation of maritime boundaries and environmental protection, and noting that under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, ships on international voyages are required to carry an electronic chart display and information system, in accordance with the implementation schedule as set out in that Convention,

Recognizing that ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law are critical for improving understanding of weather, climate and ecosystems, and that certain types of ocean data buoys contribute to saving lives by detecting tsunamis, and reiterating its serious concern at intentional and unintentional damage to such buoys,

Emphasizing that underwater archaeological, cultural and historical heritage, including shipwrecks and watercraft, holds essential information on the history of humankind and that such heritage is a resource that needs to be protected and preserved,

Noting with concern the continuing problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms, and threats to maritime safety and security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, and noting the deplorable loss of life and adverse impact on international trade, energy security and the global economy resulting from such activities,

Reiterating the importance of the fair treatment of crew members and its influence on maritime safety,

Recognizing that fibre-optic submarine cables transmit most of the world's data and communications and hence are vitally important to the global economy and the national security of all States, conscious that these cables are susceptible to intentional and accidental damage from shipping and other activities and that the maintenance, including the repair, of these cables is important, noting that these matters have been brought to the attention of States at various workshops and seminars, and conscious of the need for States to adopt national laws and regulations to protect submarine cables and render their wilful damage or damage by culpable negligence punishable offences,

Noting the importance of the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles

and that it is in the broader interest of the international community that coastal States with a continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles submit information on the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the Commission), and welcoming the submissions to the Commission by a considerable number of States Parties to the Convention on the outer limits of their continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, that the Commission has continued to fulfil its role, including of making recommendations to coastal States, and that the summaries of recommendations are being made publicly available,

Noting also that many coastal States Parties have submitted preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, as provided for in the decision of the eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention regarding the workload of the Commission and the ability of States, particularly developing States, to fulfil the requirements of article 4 of annex II to the Convention, as well as the decision contained in SPLOS/72, paragraph (a),

Noting further that some coastal States may continue to face particular challenges in relation to preparing and presenting submissions to the Commission,

Noting that financial and technical assistance may be sought by developing countries for activities in relation to preparing and presenting submissions to the Commission, including through the voluntary trust fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the Convention, as well as other accessible international assistance,

Recognizing the importance of the trust funds established pursuant to resolution 55/7 in facilitating the participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission and in fulfilling the requirements of article 4 of annex II to the Convention, while noting with appreciation the recent contributions made to them,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the Commission for coastal States and for the international community,

Recognizing that practical difficulties can arise when there is a considerable delay between the preparation of submissions and their consideration by the Commission, including in retaining expertise up to and during the consideration of the submissions by the Commission,

Recognizing also the significant workload of the Commission in view of the large number of submissions already received and a number of submissions yet to be received, which places additional demands and challenges on its members and the secretariat as provided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations through the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat (the Division), and welcoming the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention regarding the workload of the Commission,

Noting with concern the projected timetable of the work of the Commission on the submissions already received by it and those yet to be received, and in this regard noting with appreciation the continued implementation of the decision of the Commission at its thirtieth session concerning the

arrangements for its sessions and the meetings of its subcommittees, taking into account the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,

Recognizing the need to ensure that the Commission can perform its functions under the Convention expeditiously, efficiently and effectively and maintain its high level of quality and expertise,

Noting, in this regard, the decision of the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission,

Concerned about the implications of the workload of the Commission for the conditions of service of its members,

Recalling its decision, in resolutions 57/141 of 12 December 2002 and 58/240 of 23 December 2003, to establish a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments, as recommended by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and noting the need for cooperation among all States to this end,

Recalling also its decisions, in paragraphs 202, 203 and 209 of resolution 65/37 A of 7 December 2010, regarding the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations and accountable to the General Assembly,

Recalling further that the Division has been designated to provide secretariat support to the Regular Process, including its established institutions,

Recognizing the importance and the contribution of the work of the Informal Consultative Process established by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999 to facilitate the annual review of developments in ocean affairs by the Assembly,

Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 52/26 of 26 November 1997, 54/33, 65/37 A, 65/37 B of 4 April 2011, 66/231 of 24 December 2011, 67/78 of 11 December 2013 and 68/70, and in this context the substantial increase in activities of the Division, in particular in view of the growing number of requests to the Division for additional outputs and servicing of meetings, its increasing capacity-building activities, the need for enhanced support and assistance to the Commission and the role of the Division as the secretariat of the Regular Process and in relation to its functions as focal point for UN-Oceans,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the International Seabed Authority (the Authority) in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the Part XI Agreement),

Reaffirming also the importance of the work of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (the Tribunal) in accordance with the Convention,

I

Implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments

1. *Reaffirms* its annual resolutions on the law of the sea and on oceans and the law of the sea, including resolution 68/70, and other relevant resolutions concerning the Convention;

2. *Also reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention and the vital importance of preserving its integrity;

3. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to fully achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Part XI Agreement;

4. *Calls upon* States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Fish Stocks Agreement);

5. *Calls upon* States to harmonize their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention and, where applicable, relevant agreements and instruments, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention do not purport to exclude or to modify the legal effect of the provisions of the Convention in their application to the State concerned and to withdraw any such declarations or statements;

6. *Calls upon* States Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to deposit with the Secretary-General charts or lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention, preferably using the generally accepted and most recent geodetic datums;

7. *Urges* all States to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in taking measures to protect and preserve objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea, in conformity with the Convention, and calls upon States to work together on such diverse challenges and opportunities as the appropriate relationship between salvage law and scientific management and conservation of underwater cultural heritage, increasing technological abilities to discover and reach underwater sites, looting and growing underwater tourism;

8. *Acknowledges* the recent deposit of instruments of ratification of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to that Convention, and notes in particular the rules annexed to that Convention, which address the relationship between salvage law and scientific principles of management, conservation and protection of underwater cultural heritage among Parties, their nationals and vessels flying their flag;

II

Capacity-building

9. *Emphasizes* that capacity-building is essential to ensure that States, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, are able to fully implement the Convention, benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas and participate fully in global and regional forums on ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

10. *Recalls*, in this regard, that in "The future we want", States recognized the importance of building the capacity of developing countries to be able to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources, and in this regard emphasized the need for cooperation in marine scientific research to implement

the provisions of the Convention and the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, as well as for the transfer of technology, taking into account the Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-second session, in 2003;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for international cooperation for capacity-building, including cross-sectoral cooperation, at national, regional and global levels, to address, in particular, gaps in capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science;

12. *Calls for* capacity-building initiatives to take into account the needs of developing countries, and calls upon States, international organizations and donor agencies to make efforts to ensure the sustainability of such initiatives;

13. *Calls upon* donor agencies and international financial institutions to keep their programmes systematically under review to ensure the availability in all States, particularly in developing States, of the economic, legal, navigational, scientific and technical skills necessary for the full implementation of the Convention and the objectives of the present resolution, as well as the sustainable development of the oceans and seas nationally, regionally and globally, and in so doing to bear in mind the interests and needs of landlocked developing States;

14. *Encourages* intensified efforts to build capacity for developing countries, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to improve aids to navigation, hydrographic services and the production of nautical charts, including electronic charts, as well as the mobilization of resources and building of capacity with support from international financial institutions and the donor community;

15. *Calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to continue to support and strengthen capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries, in the field of marine scientific research by, inter alia, training personnel to develop and enhance relevant expertise, providing the necessary equipment, facilities and vessels and transferring environmentally sound technologies;

16. *Also calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to support and strengthen capacity-building activities in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to develop their maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities to promote effective compliance with and implementation and enforcement of their responsibilities under international law;

17. *Further calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to develop and strengthen capacity-building activities in and to transfer to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, on mutually agreed terms, and taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, en-

vironmentally sound technologies to study and minimize the impacts of ocean acidification;

18. *Emphasizes* the need to focus on strengthening South-South cooperation as an additional way to build capacity and as a cooperative mechanism to further enable countries to set their own priorities and needs and to foster actions to implement such cooperation;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of the work of the International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization, which celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2014, as a centre of education and training of government legal advisers, mainly from developing States, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute;

20. *Also recognizes* the importance of the World Maritime University of the International Maritime Organization as a centre of excellence for maritime education and research, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of maritime transportation, policy, administration, management, safety, security and environmental protection, as well as its role in the international exchange and transfer of knowledge, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and other bodies to make voluntary financial contributions to the University;

21. *Welcomes* ongoing activities for capacity-building so as to address maritime security and safety needs and the protection of the marine environment of developing States, and encourages States and international financial institutions to provide additional funding for capacity-building programmes, including for transfer of technology, including through the International Maritime Organization and other competent international organizations;

22. *Recognizes* the considerable need to provide sustained capacity-building assistance, including on financial and technical aspects, by relevant international organizations and donors to developing States, with a view to further strengthening their capacity to take effective measures against the multiple facets of international criminal activities at sea, in line with the relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;

23. *Also recognizes* the need to build the capacity of developing States to raise awareness of and support the implementation of improved waste management practices, noting the particular vulnerability of small island developing States to the impact of marine pollution from land-based sources and marine debris;

24. *Further recognizes* the importance of assisting developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, in implementing the Convention, urges States, intergovernmental organizations and agencies, national institutions, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions, as well as natural and juridical persons, to make voluntary financial or other contributions to the trust funds, as referred to in resolutions 55/7, 57/141 and 64/71 of 4 December 2009, established for this purpose, and expresses its appreciation to those that have contributed;

25. *Acknowledges* the importance of capacity-building for developing States, in particular the least developed

countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, for the protection of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources;

26. *Recognizes* that promoting the voluntary transfer of technology is an essential aspect of building capacity in marine science;

27. *Encourages* States to use the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, and recalls the important role of the secretariat of that Commission in the implementation and promotion of the Criteria and Guidelines;

28. *Also encourages* States to consider additional opportunities for capacity-building at the regional level;

29. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contribution of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to capacity-building through its Ocean Teacher Academy training system, which has provided training in ocean data and information management to more than 1,300 students and professionals from more than 120 countries, and takes note of the setting up of the Ocean Teacher Global Academy, operating through a network of regional training centres, which builds capacity and promotes expertise available in developing countries;

30. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the efforts of the Tribunal in holding regional workshops, including the latest workshop on the role of the Tribunal in the settlement of disputes relating to the law of the sea in Eastern and Southern Africa, held in Nairobi on 8 August 2014 in cooperation with the Korea Maritime Institute and with the assistance of the Government of Kenya;

31. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts of the Division to compile information on capacity-building initiatives, requests the Secretary-General to continue to regularly update such information provided by States, international organizations and donor agencies and include it in his annual report to the General Assembly, invites States, international organizations and donor agencies to submit such information to the Secretary-General for this purpose, and requests the Division to post the information on capacity-building initiatives from the annual report of the Secretary-General on the website of the Division in an easily accessible manner so as to facilitate the matching of capacity-building needs with opportunities;

32. *Calls upon* States to continue to assist developing States, and especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, at the bilateral and, where appropriate, multilateral levels, in the preparation of submissions to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, including the assessment of the nature and extent of the continental shelf of a coastal State, and recalls that coastal States can make requests to the Commission for scientific and technical advice in the preparation of data for their submissions, in accordance with article 3 of annex II to the Convention;

33. *Calls upon* the Division to continue to disseminate information on relevant procedures related to the trust fund established for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission and to continue its dialogue with potential beneficiaries with a view to providing financial support to developing countries for activities to

facilitate their submissions in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with States and relevant international organizations and institutions, to continue to support training and other activities to assist developing States in the preparation and presentation of their submissions to the Commission;

35. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Division to capacity-building activities at the national and regional levels;

36. *Invites* Member States and others in a position to do so to support the capacity-building activities of the Division, including, in particular, the training and other activities to assist developing States in the preparation of their submissions to the Commission, also invites Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of Legal Affairs to support the promotion of international law, and expresses its appreciation to those who have contributed;

37. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution to the capacity-building of developing countries and the promotion of the law of the sea made by the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, which was established by the General Assembly in 1981 in honour of the first President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and which, relying on its network of 17 host institutions, has awarded to date 29 fellowships to individuals from 25 Member States, welcomes the fact that the twenty-seventh award, in 2015, will be made possible thanks to the generous contributions of Member States, urges Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute generously to the further development of the Fellowship, and acknowledges the provisions of its resolution on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, in particular the request to the Secretary-General to include in the regular budget, for consideration by the Assembly, the necessary funding for the Fellowship with effect from the biennium 2016–2017, should voluntary contributions be insufficient for granting at least one fellowship a year;

38. *Also recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme, which celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2014 and has awarded 110 fellowships to individuals from 67 Member States since 2004, to human resources development for developing Member States in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea and related disciplines, as well as the fostering of global interlinkages through the alumni programme, which held its sixth meeting, hosted by the Nippon Foundation in Tokyo, from 28 November to 3 December 2014;

39. *Encourages* the competent international organizations, the United Nations Development Programme and international financial institutions and funds to consider expanding their programmes within their respective fields of competence for assistance to developing countries and to coordinate their efforts, and recognizes the funding available from the Global Environment Facility as well as other funds allocated for projects relating to oceans;

III

Meeting of States Parties

40. *Notes with satisfaction* that the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, on 9 June 2014, commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, welcomes the report on that Meeting, also welcomes the election of seven members of the Tribunal and one member of the Commission on 11 and 12 June 2014, respectively, and further welcomes the decisions taken by the twenty-fourth Meeting on budgetary matters and regarding conditions of service of members of the Commission;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the twenty-fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, in New York from 8 to 12 June 2015, and to provide full conference services, including documentation, as required;

IV

Peaceful settlement of disputes

42. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued and significant contribution of the Tribunal to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with Part XV of the Convention, and underlines the important role and authority of the Tribunal concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Part XI Agreement;

43. *Pays tribute* to the important and long-standing role of the International Court of Justice with regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes concerning the law of the sea;

44. *Notes* that States parties to an international agreement related to the purposes of the Convention may submit to, inter alia, the Tribunal or the International Court of Justice any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of that agreement submitted in accordance with that agreement, and also notes the possibility, provided for in the Statutes of the Tribunal and the Court, to submit disputes to a chamber;

45. *Encourages* States Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider making a written declaration, choosing from the means set out in article 287 of the Convention for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Part XI Agreement, bearing in mind the comprehensive character of the dispute settlement mechanism provided for in Part XV of the Convention;

V

The Area

46. *Reiterates* the importance of the ongoing elaboration and standardization by the Authority, pursuant to article 145 of the Convention, of rules, regulations and procedures to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment, for, inter alia, the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and for the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area;

47. *Notes* the decision taken at the twentieth session of the Authority to approve amendments to the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area and to the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area;

48. *Also notes* the increase in the number of contracts with the Authority for exploration for polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, and further notes the attention being given by the Council of the Authority to the drafting of a mining code;

49. *Recalls* the relevance of the advisory opinion on the responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area, issued by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the Tribunal on 1 February 2011;

50. *Notes* the importance of the responsibilities entrusted to the Authority by articles 143 and 145 of the Convention, which refer to marine scientific research and protection of the marine environment, respectively;

51. *Recalls* that the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, including the designation, on a provisional basis, of a network of areas of particular environmental interest, was approved in 2012, to be implemented over an initial three-year period so that it may be improved as more scientific, technical and environmental baseline and resource assessment data become available and that, for that purpose, the conduct of marine scientific research in those areas and the supply of available results to the Authority was encouraged, and invites the Authority to consider developing and approving environmental management plans in other international seabed area zones, in particular where there are currently exploration contracts;

52. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have made contributions to the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to the decision of the Authority at its eighth session for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Legal and Technical Commission from developing countries and the members of the Finance Committee from developing countries in the meetings of the Commission and of the Committee, and to States that have made contributions to the endowment fund for marine scientific research in the Area established by the Authority at its twelfth session, for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the conduct of collaborative marine scientific research in the Area, and encourages States to make additional contributions to these funds;

VI

Effective functioning of the Authority and the Tribunal

53. *Commends* the progress in the work of the Authority;

54. *Also commends* the work of the Tribunal since its establishment;

55. *Appeals* to all States Parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal in full and on time, and also appeals to States Parties in arrears with their contributions to fulfil their obligations without delay;

56. *Encourages* the Authority to continue to explore ways to manage the workload resulting from the increasing number of contracts and applications, and notes the decisions of the Council of the Authority to request the Secretary-General of the Authority to ensure that resources are allocated in line with the priorities set by the Council and the Assembly of the Authority;

57. *Notes* the decision of the Assembly of the Authority to call upon contractors with active exploration contracts with the Authority that are still considering their position to accept the annual overhead charge established by the Assembly at its nineteenth session, related to the administration and supervision of their contracts to ensure equitable burden-sharing among all contractors, and in this regard recognizes that a number of contractors have already accepted the annual overhead charge;

58. *Expresses concern* about the low attendance at the annual sessions of the Assembly of the Authority, noting also the concerns expressed with regard to the scheduling of annual sessions of the Authority and taking into consideration the great strides made by the Authority in adopting regulations for the prospecting and exploration of minerals in the Area, and invites the Authority to consider measures to improve the attendance at its annual sessions, including the holding of the sessions at an earlier time;

59. *Notes with satisfaction* that, at its twentieth annual session, the Authority commemorated the twentieth anniversary of its establishment;

60. *Recognizes* the ongoing efforts of the Authority to hold sensitization seminars to promote awareness of its work, notes in this regard the sensitization seminar on the environmental, legal and technical challenges of deep-sea mining for developing countries, which was held in Mexico City on 11 and 12 November 2013, welcomes the call to include landlocked and other geographically disadvantaged countries in the seminars, and calls upon other States and regions to consider inviting the Authority to organize such workshops in order to promote wider participation by the international community in the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the Area;

61. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Tribunal and to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority;

62. *Emphasizes* the importance of the rules and staff regulations of the Tribunal in promoting the recruitment of a geographically representative staff in the Professional and higher categories, and welcomes the actions taken by the Tribunal in observance of those rules and regulations;

VII

The continental shelf and the work of the Commission

63. *Recalls* that, in accordance with article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention, information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured shall be submitted by the coastal State to the Commission set up under annex II to the Convention on the basis of equitable geographical representation, that the Commission shall make recommendations to coastal States on matters related to the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf, and that the limits of the shelf established by a coastal State on the basis of these recommendations shall be final and binding;

64. *Also recalls* that, in accordance with article 77, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf do not depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclamation;

65. *Notes with satisfaction* that a considerable number of States Parties to the Convention have submitted information

to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, in conformity with article 76 of the Convention and article 4 of annex II to the Convention, taking into account the decision of the eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention contained in SPLOS/72, paragraph (a);

66. *Also notes with satisfaction* that a considerable number of States Parties to the Convention have submitted to the Secretary-General, pursuant to the decision of the eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and a description of the status of preparation and intended date of submission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission, and notes with satisfaction that additional submissions referred to in preliminary information have been filed with the Commission;

67. *Further notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the Commission and that it is giving current consideration to a number of submissions that have been made regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles;

68. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Commission, taking into account the decision of the eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, has compiled lists of websites of organizations, data/information portals and data holders where general information and publicly available scientific and technical data can be accessed that may be relevant to the preparation of submissions, and has made this information available on its website;

69. *Takes note* of the 21 recommendations made by the Commission on the submissions of a number of coastal States, and welcomes the fact that summaries of recommendations are being made publicly available in accordance with paragraph 11.3 of annex III to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission;

70. *Notes* that the consideration by the Commission of submissions by coastal States in accordance with article 76 of and annex II to the Convention is without prejudice to the application of other parts of the Convention by States Parties;

71. *Also notes* the considerable number of submissions yet to be considered by the Commission and the demands that this places on its members and the secretariat as provided by the Division, and emphasizes the need to ensure that the Commission can perform its functions expeditiously, efficiently and effectively and maintain its high level of quality and expertise;

72. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the Commission at its thirty-second session regarding the workload of the Commission, including to continue to extend the duration of its sessions for 2014 to three sessions of seven weeks each, including plenary meetings, and further notes the decision of the Commission at its thirty-second and thirty-fourth sessions to establish new subcommissions so that nine subcommissions would actively consider submissions;

73. *Notes* the decision of the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission, in which it reaffirmed the obligation of States under the Convention whose experts were serving on the Commission to defray the expenses of the experts they had nominated while in perfor-

mance of Commission duties, including the provision of medical coverage, and urged those States to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention;

74. *Also notes* the decision of the twenty-fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to continue the consideration of other conditions of service of the members of the Commission within the open-ended working group established by the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties;

75. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures, within overall existing resource levels, to further strengthen the capacity of the Division, serving as the secretariat of the Commission, in order to ensure enhanced support and assistance to the Commission and its subcommissions in their consideration of submissions, as required by paragraph 9 of annex III to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, in particular its human resources, taking into account the need for simultaneous work on several submissions;

76. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary secretariat services to the Commission in accordance with article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention;

77. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate and timely measures to ensure secretariat services for the Commission and its subcommissions for the extended duration of time requested in the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention;

78. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, consequently, to continue to allocate appropriate and sufficient resources to the Division to provide adequate services and assistance to the Commission in view of the increase in the number of its working weeks;

79. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have made contributions to the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission and to the voluntary trust fund also established pursuant to that resolution for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, encourages States to make additional contributions to these funds, and authorizes the use, as appropriate, of the latter trust fund, and in accordance with the purpose of its terms of reference, to defray the cost of the participation of the Chair of the Commission who is a member of the Commission nominated by a developing country in the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention;

80. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, as an interim measure and subject to the availability of funds in the trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for facilitating the participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, following the allocation of the required funds to cover the costs of travel and daily subsistence allowance of the members of the Commission from developing States for the sessions of the Commission in 2015, to reimburse those members for the costs of medical travel insurance from that trust fund on a session-by-session basis and subject to a reasonable limit that the Secretary-General shall determine, based on the information regarding medical travel insurance available to him;

81. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide written information on options for mechanisms to provide medical insurance coverage to members of the Commission, including costs;

82. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in this regard, when providing information on options for the provision of medical insurance coverage, to give due consideration to the exceptional character of the Commission, its working arrangements and the importance of its work for the international community;

83. *Expresses its intention* to further review the terms of reference for the trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of facilitating the participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission, after consideration of the information provided by the Secretary-General on options for mechanisms to provide medical insurance coverage to members of the Commission;

84. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in consultation with the Commission, written information on options for providing additional working space to the Division in order to ensure that the members of the Commission have sufficient working space during their work at the sessions of the Commission and its subcommissions, before the end of April 2015;

85. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of the Commission, in New York, from 2 February to 20 March 2015, from 20 July to 4 September 2015 and from 12 October to 27 November 2015, respectively, with full conference services, including documentation, for the plenary parts of these sessions, as well as any resumed sessions as may be required by the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to meet these requirements within overall existing resources;

86. *Expresses its firm conviction* about the importance of the work of the Commission, carried out in accordance with the Convention, including with respect to the participation of coastal States in relevant proceedings concerning their submissions, and recognizes the continued need for active interaction between coastal States and the Commission;

87. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have exchanged views in order to increase understanding of issues, including expenditures involved, arising from the application of article 76 of the Convention, thus facilitating the preparation of submissions by States, in particular developing States, to the Commission, and encourages States to continue to exchange views;

88. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with Member States, to continue to support workshops or symposiums on scientific and technical aspects of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, taking into account the need to strengthen capacity-building for developing countries in preparing their submissions;

VIII

Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation

89. *Encourages* States to ratify or accede to international agreements addressing the safety and security of navigation, as well as maritime labour, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with the Convention and

other relevant international instruments aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements, and emphasizes the need for capacity-building for and assistance to developing States;

90. *Recognizes* that the legal regimes governing maritime safety and maritime security may have common and mutually reinforcing objectives that may be interrelated and could benefit from synergies, and encourages States to take this into account in their implementation;

91. *Emphasizes* the need for further efforts to promote a culture of safety and security in the shipping industry and to address the shortage of adequately trained personnel, and urges the establishment of more centres to provide the required education and training;

92. *Also emphasizes* that safety and security measures should be implemented with minimal negative effects on seafarers and fishers, especially in relation to their working conditions, and welcomes the ongoing cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization on child labour in fisheries and aquaculture, particularly the publication in June 2013 of the Guidance on addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the work that has been conducted on the issue of trafficking in persons and forced labour on fishing vessels by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Labour Organization;

93. *Welcomes* the consideration by the International Maritime Organization of the fair treatment of seafarers, and notes the adoption by the Organization on 4 December 2013 of resolution A.1090(28) on the fair treatment of crew members in respect of shore leave and access to shore-side facilities;

94. *Notes* the theme for the 2014 World Maritime Day, "International Maritime Organization conventions: effective implementation", and also notes the recommendations of the Legal Committee of the International Maritime Organization regarding ratification and implementation of all relevant conventions of the Organization;

95. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended, and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995;

96. *Notes* the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 11 June 2014 of the amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, to protect abandoned seafarers and provide financial security for death or long-term disability of seafarers, invites States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Maritime Labour Convention, as amended, and also invites States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), of the International Labour Organization and to effectively implement all of those Conventions, and emphasizes the need to provide to States, at their request, technical cooperation and assistance in that regard;

97. *Invites* States to ratify or accede to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977;

98. *Welcomes* ongoing cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization relating to the safety of fishers and fishing vessels, and underlines the urgent need for continued work in that area;

99. *Recalls* that all actions taken to combat threats to maritime security must be in accordance with international law, including the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention;

100. *Recognizes* the crucial role of international cooperation at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels in combating, in accordance with international law, threats to maritime security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, through bilateral and multilateral instruments and mechanisms aimed at monitoring, preventing and responding to such threats, the enhanced sharing of information among States relevant to the detection, prevention and suppression of such threats, and the prosecution of offenders with due regard to national legislation, and the need for sustained capacity-building to support such objectives;

101. *Acknowledges* the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in promoting international cooperation and strengthening capacity to combat the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea;

102. *Notes* that piracy and armed robbery at sea affect a wide range of vessels engaged in maritime activities;

103. *Emphasizes* the importance of promptly reporting incidents to enable accurate information on the scope of the problem of piracy and armed robbery against ships and, in the case of armed robbery against ships, by affected vessels to the coastal State, underlines the importance of effective information-sharing with States potentially affected by incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships, and notes with appreciation the important role of the International Maritime Organization and the important contribution of the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia;

104. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, to actively combat piracy and armed robbery at sea by adopting measures, including those relating to assistance with capacity-building through training of seafarers, port staff and enforcement personnel in the prevention, reporting and investigation of incidents, by bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law, and by adopting national legislation, as well as by providing enforcement vessels and equipment and guarding against fraudulent ship registration;

105. *Encourages* States to ensure effective implementation of international law applicable to combating piracy, as reflected in the Convention, calls upon States to take appropriate steps under their national law to facilitate, in accordance with international law, the apprehension and prosecution of those who are alleged to have committed acts of piracy, including the financing or facilitation of such acts, also taking into account other relevant instruments that are consistent with the Convention, and encourages States to cooperate, as appropriate, with a view to developing their national legislation in this regard;

106. *Expresses grave concern* at the threats posed by piracy and armed robbery at sea to the safety and welfare of seafarers and other persons;

107. *Invites* all States, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant international organizations and agencies to adopt or recommend, as appropriate, measures to protect the interest and welfare of seafarers and fishers who are victims of pirates, after their release from captivity, including their post-incident care and reintegration into society;

108. *Notes* the ongoing cooperation between the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Division with respect to the compilation of national legislation on piracy, also notes that copies of national legislation received by the Secretariat have been placed on the website of the Division, and encourages the aforementioned bodies to further cooperate with the view to assisting Member States, upon request, in developing their national laws on piracy;

109. *Recognizes* continued national, bilateral and trilateral initiatives as well as regional cooperative mechanisms, in accordance with international law, to address piracy, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery at sea in the Asian region, and calls upon other States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level on combating piracy and armed robbery against ships;

110. *Expresses serious concern* at the inhuman conditions hostages taken at sea face in captivity and also the adverse impact on their families, calls for the immediate release of all hostages taken at sea, and stresses the importance of cooperation among Member States on the issue of hostage-taking at sea;

111. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the establishment of the Hostage Support Programme by the Board of the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia;

112. *Reiterates its serious concern* regarding continued incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, expresses alarm in particular at the hijacking of vessels, supports the recent efforts to address this problem at the global and regional levels, notes the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 1816(2008) of 2 June 2008, 1838(2008) of 7 October 2008, 1846(2008) of 2 December 2008, 1851(2008) of 16 December 2008, 1897(2009) of 30 November 2009, 1918(2010) of 27 April 2010, 1950(2010) of 23 November 2010, 1976(2011) of 11 April 2011, 2015(2011) of 24 October 2011, 2020(2011) of 22 November 2011, 2036(2012) of 22 February 2012, 2077(2012) of 21 November 2012, 2125(2013) of 18 November 2013 and 2184(2014) of 12 November 2014, as well as the statements by the President of the Security Council of 25 August 2010 and of 19 November 2012, also notes that the authorization in resolution 1816(2008) and the provisions in resolutions 1838(2008), 1846(2008), 1851(2008), 1897(2009), 1950(2010), 2020(2011), 2077(2012), 2125(2013) and 2184(2014) apply only to the situation in Somalia and do not affect the rights, obligations or responsibilities of Member States under international law, including any rights or obligations under the Convention, with respect to any other situation, and underscores, in particular, the fact that they are not to be considered as establishing customary international law;

113. *Welcomes* the significant decrease in reported incidents of piracy off the coast of Somalia, which are at the lowest level since 2006, continues to be gravely concerned by the ongoing threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea continue to pose to the region, and acknowledges Security Council resolution 2125(2013);

114. *Recognizes* the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for operationalizing a global piracy database designed to consolidate information about piracy off the coast of Somalia and facilitate the development of actionable analysis for law enforcement, and urges all States to share such information with INTERPOL for use in the database, through appropriate channels;

115. *Notes* the continued efforts within the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1851(2008), and commends the contributions of all States in the efforts to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia;

116. *Recognizes* the primary role of the Federal Government of Somalia in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia, acknowledges the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the situation in Somalia, and emphasizes the need to address the underlying causes of piracy and to assist Somalia and States in the region in strengthening institutional capacity to fight piracy, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia and to bring to justice those involved in such acts;

117. *Notes* the approval by the International Maritime Organization of the guidelines to assist in the investigation of the crimes of piracy and armed robbery against ships, revised interim guidance to shipowners, ship operators and shipmasters on the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area, revised interim recommendations for flag States regarding the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area, revised interim recommendations for port and coastal States regarding the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area, interim guidance to private maritime security companies providing privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high risk area, and interim guidance for flag States on measures to prevent and mitigate Somalia-based piracy;

118. *Encourages* States to ensure that ships flying their flag apply ship security measures approved in accordance with national and international law;

119. *Notes* the efforts made by the shipping industry to cooperate with the efforts by States regarding piracy off the coast of Somalia, in particular in assisting ships that navigate in that area, and recalls the adoption on 30 November 2011 by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization of resolution A.1044(27) on piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia;

120. *Also notes* the continued implementation of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (Djibouti Code of Conduct), adopted on 29 January 2009 under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, in the four thematic areas of information sharing, training, national legislation and capacity-building;

121. *Expresses its deep concern* at the high number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, in particular violence against innocent crew members of vessels, notes the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 2018(2011) of 31 October 2011 and 2039(2012) of 29 February 2012, supports the recent efforts to address this problem at the global and regional levels, recalls the primary role of States in the region to counter the threat and address the underlying causes of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, welcomes the adoption in Yaoundé on 25 June 2013 of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa, and calls upon States in the region to implement the Code of Conduct as soon as possible and consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

122. *Urges* States to ensure the full implementation of resolution A.1069(28) of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization on prevention and suppression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea;

123. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, notes the entry into force on 28 July 2010 of the 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and of the 2005 Protocol to the 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, invites States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to those Protocols, and urges States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments through the adoption of legislation, where appropriate;

124. *Calls upon* States to effectively implement the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code and the amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, and to work with the International Maritime Organization to promote safe and secure shipping while ensuring freedom of navigation;

125. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, to improve the protection of offshore installations by adopting measures related to the prevention, reporting and investigation of acts of violence against installations, in accordance with international law, and by implementing such measures through national legislation to ensure proper and adequate enforcement;

126. *Emphasizes* the progress in regional cooperation, including the efforts of littoral States, on the enhancement of safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and the effective functioning of the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environment Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (the Cooperative Mechanism) to promote dialogue and facilitate close cooperation between the littoral States, user States, shipping industries and other stakeholders in line with article 43 of the Convention, notes with appreciation the convening of the seventh Cooperation Forum, in Langkawi, Malaysia, on 22 and 23 September 2014, the seventh Project Coordination Committee Meeting, in Langkawi on 24 September 2014, the thirty-

ninth Tripartite Technical Experts Group Meeting, in Langkawi from 24 to 26 September 2014, and the twelfth and thirteenth Aids to Navigation Fund Committee Meetings, in Singapore on 16 and 17 April 2014 and 18 and 19 September 2014, respectively, the events being key pillars of the Cooperative Mechanism, also notes with appreciation the important role of the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, based in Singapore, and calls upon States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level;

127. *Recognizes* that some transnational organized criminal activities threaten legitimate uses of the oceans and endanger the lives of people at sea, as well as the livelihoods and security of coastal communities;

128. *Notes* that transnational organized criminal activities are diverse and may be interrelated in some cases and that criminal organizations are adaptive and take advantage of the vulnerabilities of States, in particular coastal and small island developing States in transit areas, and calls upon States and relevant intergovernmental organizations to increase cooperation and coordination at all levels to detect and suppress the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms, in accordance with international law;

129. *Recognizes* the importance of enhancing international cooperation at all levels to fight transnational organized criminal activities, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, within the scope of the United Nations instruments against illicit drug trafficking, as well as the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms and criminal activities at sea falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

130. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to take appropriate measures to ensure their effective implementation;

131. *Calls upon* States to ensure freedom of navigation, the safety of navigation and the rights of transit passage, archipelagic sea lanes passage and innocent passage in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention;

132. *Welcomes* the work of the International Maritime Organization relating to the protection of shipping lanes of strategic importance and significance, and in particular in enhancing safety, security and environmental protection in straits used for international navigation, and calls upon the International Maritime Organization, States bordering straits and user States to continue their cooperation to keep such straits safe, secure and environmentally protected and open to international navigation at all times, consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

133. *Calls upon* user States and States bordering straits used for international navigation to continue to cooperate by

agreement on matters relating to navigational safety, including safety aids for navigation, and the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from ships, and welcomes developments in this regard;

134. *Calls upon* States that have accepted the amendments to regulation XI-1/6 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, to implement the Code of International Standards and Recommended Practices for a Safety Investigation into a Marine Casualty or Marine Incident, which took effect on 1 January 2010, and, in particular, to comply with the mandatory submission of a marine safety investigation report to the International Maritime Organization for every marine safety investigation conducted into a very serious marine casualty to identify trends and develop knowledge and risk-based recommendations;

135. *Notes* the adoption by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization at its twenty-eighth session of the resolution on guidelines on the preservation and collection of evidence following an allegation of a serious crime having taken place on board a ship or following a report of a missing person from a ship, and pastoral and medical care of persons affected;

136. *Recognizes* the important work of the International Hydrographic Organization, calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider becoming members of that Organization, encourages all its members to actively consider, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures, applications of States that wish to become members of that Organization, and urges all States to work with that Organization to increase the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis to enhance capacity-building and technical assistance and to promote safe navigation, particularly through the production and use of accurate electronic navigational charts, especially in areas used for international navigation, in ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas;

137. *Also recognizes* the importance of navigational warning services based on marine meteorological data for the safety of ships and lives at sea and the optimization of navigation routes, and notes the collaboration between the World Meteorological Organization and the International Maritime Organization for the enhancement of these services and their extension to the Arctic region;

138. *Encourages* States to continue their efforts in the implementation of all areas of the Action Plan for the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material, approved by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in March 2004;

139. *Notes* that cessation of the transport of radioactive materials through the regions of small island developing States is an ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries, and recognizes the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law; that States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improved mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communication in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive materials; that States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns; and that these concerns include the further development and strengthening, within the ap-

propriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport;

140. *Acknowledges*, in the context of paragraph 139 above, the potential environmental and economic impacts of maritime incidents and accidents on coastal States, in particular those related to the transport of radioactive materials, and emphasizes the importance of effective liability regimes in that regard;

141. *Encourages* States to draw up plans and to establish procedures to implement the Guidelines on Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance adopted by the International Maritime Organization on 5 December 2003;

142. *Notes* that the conditions for the entry into force of the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007, have now been met and that the Convention will enter into force on 14 April 2015, and invites States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to this Convention;

143. *Requests* States to take appropriate measures with regard to ships flying their flag or of their registry to address hazards that may be caused by wrecks and drifting or sunken cargo to navigation or the marine environment;

144. *Calls upon* States to ensure that masters on ships flying their flag take the steps required by relevant instruments to provide assistance to persons in distress at sea, and urges States to cooperate and to take all measures necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the amendments to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue and to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea relating to the delivery of persons rescued at sea to a place of safety, as well as of the associated Guidelines on the Treatment of Persons Rescued at Sea;

145. *Notes* the entry into force on 1 July 2014 of International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea regulation III/17-1, as well as the adoption on 14 December 2012 of the related Guidelines for the development of plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water;

146. *Recognizes* that all States must fulfil their search and rescue responsibilities in accordance with international law, including the Convention, and the ongoing need for the International Maritime Organization and other relevant organizations to assist, in particular, developing States both to increase their search and rescue capabilities, including through the establishment of additional rescue coordination centres and regional sub-centres, and to take effective action to address, to the extent feasible, the issue of unseaworthy ships and small craft within their national jurisdiction, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of cooperation for these purposes, including within the framework of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979;

147. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant actors in relation to disembarkation of persons rescued at sea, and notes in this regard the need to implement all relevant and applicable international instruments and the importance of cooperation among States as provided for in those instruments;

148. *Also notes* that "Protection at sea" was the theme of the seventh Dialogue on Protection Challenges of the High Commissioner for Refugees, held in Geneva on 10 and 11 December 2014;

149. *Invites* States to implement the Revised Guidelines on the Prevention of Access by Stowaways and the Alloca-

tion of Responsibilities to Seek the Successful Resolution of Stowaway Cases adopted by the International Maritime Organization on 2 December 2010;

150. *Calls upon* States to continue to cooperate in developing comprehensive approaches to international migration and development, including through dialogue on all their aspects;

151. *Also calls upon* States to take measures to protect fibre-optic submarine cables and to fully address issues relating to these cables, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

152. *Encourages* greater dialogue and cooperation among States and the relevant regional and global organizations through workshops and seminars on the protection and maintenance of fibre-optic submarine cables to promote the security of such critical communications infrastructure;

153. *Also encourages* the adoption by States of laws and regulations addressing the breaking or injury of submarine cables or pipelines beneath the high seas done wilfully or through culpable negligence by a ship flying its flag or by a person subject to its jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

154. *Affirms* the importance of maintenance, including the repair, of submarine cables, undertaken in conformity with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

155. *Reaffirms* that flag, port and coastal States all bear responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation and enforcement of international instruments relating to maritime security and safety, in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention, and that flag States have primary responsibility that requires further strengthening, including through increased transparency of ownership of vessels;

156. *Urges* flag States without an effective maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities to ensure effective compliance with and implementation and enforcement of their responsibilities under international law, in particular the Convention, and, until such action is taken, to consider declining the granting of the right to fly their flag to new vessels, suspending their registry or not opening a registry, and calls upon flag and port States to take all measures consistent with international law necessary to prevent the operation of substandard vessels;

157. *Recognizes* that international shipping rules and standards adopted by the International Maritime Organization in respect of maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and the prevention and control of marine pollution, complemented by best practices of the shipping industry, have led to a significant reduction in maritime accidents and pollution incidents, encourages all States to participate in the Voluntary International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme, and notes the decision of the International Maritime Organization to institutionalize the Audit Scheme, with the expected mandatory use of the International Maritime Organization Instruments Implementation Code (III Code) from 1 January 2016;

158. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization to develop a mandatory code for ships operating in polar waters (the Polar Code), and encourages States and competent international organizations and bodies to support continued efforts to finalize the Polar

Code within the agreed framework, with an entry into force as soon as possible;

159. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization on matters related to passenger ship safety in light of recent accidents, and encourages States and competent international organizations and bodies to support continued efforts, including technical cooperation activities, to improve passenger ship safety;

160. *Recognizes* that maritime safety can also be improved through effective port State control, the strengthening of regional arrangements and increased coordination and cooperation among them and increased transparency and information-sharing, including among safety and security sectors;

161. *Encourages* flag States to take appropriate measures sufficient to achieve or maintain recognition by intergovernmental arrangements that recognize satisfactory flag State performance, including, as appropriate, satisfactory port State control examination results on a sustained basis, with a view to improving quality shipping and furthering flag State implementation of relevant instruments under the International Maritime Organization as well as relevant goals and objectives of the present resolution;

IX

Marine environment and marine resources

162. *Emphasizes once again* the importance of the implementation of Part XII of the Convention in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation, and calls upon all States to cooperate and take measures consistent with the Convention, directly or through competent international organizations, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

163. *Recalls* that in “The future we want”, States noted with concern that the health of oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine pollution, including marine debris, especially plastic, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and nitrogen-based compounds, from a number of marine and land-based sources, including shipping and land run-off, and that States committed to take action to reduce the incidence and impacts of such pollution on marine ecosystems, including through the effective implementation of relevant conventions adopted in the framework of the International Maritime Organization, and the follow-up of relevant initiatives such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as well as the adoption of coordinated strategies to this end, and that they further committed to take action, by 2025, based on collected scientific data, to achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment;

164. *Encourages* States, in accordance with the commitment expressed in “The future we want” and based on collected scientific data, to take action by 2025 to achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment;

165. *Notes* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, notes with concern its recent findings on the acidification of oceans and the impact thereon, as well as the findings of the World Meteorological Organization contained in its annual *Greenhouse Gas Bulletin*, and in this regard encourages States and competent international

organizations and other relevant institutions, individually and in cooperation, to urgently pursue further research on ocean acidification, especially programmes of observation and measurement, noting in particular the continued work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and paragraphs 6 to 10 of decision XII/23 on marine and coastal biodiversity, adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 17 October 2014, and to increase national, regional and global efforts to address levels of ocean acidity and the negative impact of such acidity on vulnerable marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs;

166. *Expresses concern*, in this regard, at the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the acidification of the oceans and the substantial risks to marine ecosystems, especially polar ecosystems and coral reefs, and the potentially detrimental consequences for fisheries and livelihoods;

167. *Recalls* that in “The future we want”, States called for support for initiatives that address ocean acidification and the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems and resources and, in this regard, reiterated the need to work collectively to prevent further ocean acidification, as well as to enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on them, and to support marine scientific research, monitoring and observation of ocean acidification and particularly vulnerable ecosystems, including through enhanced international cooperation in this regard;

168. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the holding of the International Workshop on Ocean Acidification: State-of-the-science considerations for small island developing States, whose communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of ocean acidification, on 28 and 29 August 2014 in Apia, notes the report of the co-chairs of the Workshop, and encourages the holding of similar workshops in the future;

169. *Notes with concern* the approximately 30 per cent increase in the acidity of ocean surface waters since the beginning of the industrial era and the wide range of impacts associated with the continuing and alarming acidification of the world’s oceans, and urges States to make significant efforts to tackle the causes of ocean acidification, recognizing countries’ national circumstances and respective capabilities, and to further study and minimize its impacts, to enhance local, national, regional and global cooperation in this regard, including the sharing of relevant information and the development of worldwide capacity, including in developing countries, to measure ocean acidification, and to take steps to make marine ecosystems healthier and, as a result, more resilient, to the extent possible, to the impacts of ocean acidification;

170. *Recognizes* the attention paid to ocean acidification at the fourteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, and commits itself to continue to pay attention to this important issue, including by taking into account the first global integrated marine assessment and the ongoing work of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

171. *Encourages* States, individually or in collaboration with relevant international organizations and bodies, to enhance their scientific activity to better understand the effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity and develop ways and means of adaptation, tak-

ing into account, as appropriate, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches;

172. *Notes with appreciation*, in this regard, the convening of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Lima from 1 to 12 December 2014, and recognizes the importance of raising awareness of the adverse impact of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity;

173. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to international agreements addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment and its living marine resources against the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens and marine pollution from all sources, including the dumping of wastes and other matter, and other forms of physical degradation, as well as agreements that provide for preparedness for, response to and cooperation on pollution incidents and that include provisions on liability and compensation for damage resulting from marine pollution, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with international law, including the Convention, aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements;

174. *Recalls* that in “The future we want”, States noted the significant threat that alien invasive species pose to marine ecosystems and resources and committed to implement measures to prevent the introduction and manage the adverse environmental impacts of alien invasive species, including, as appropriate, those adopted in the framework of the International Maritime Organization;

175. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, thereby facilitating its early entry into force;

176. *Encourages* States, directly or through competent international organizations, to consider the further development and application, as appropriate and consistent with international law, including the Convention, of environmental impact assessment processes covering planned activities under their jurisdiction or control that may cause substantial pollution of or significant and harmful changes to the marine environment, and also encourages the communication of the reports of the results of such assessments to the competent international organizations in accordance with the Convention;

177. *Notes with satisfaction* that 2014 marks the fortieth anniversary of the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, and encourages States that have not done so to become parties to regional seas conventions addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

178. *Encourages* States, in accordance with international law, including the Convention and other relevant instruments, either bilaterally or regionally, to jointly develop and promote contingency plans for responding to pollution incidents, as well as other incidents that are likely to have significant adverse effects on the marine environment and biodiversity;

179. *Recognizes* the importance of improving understanding of the impact of climate change on oceans and seas, and recalls that in “The future we want”, States noted that sea-level rise and coastal erosion are serious threats for many coastal regions and islands, particularly

in developing countries and, in this regard, called upon the international community to enhance its efforts to address these challenges;

180. *Notes with concern* the severe impacts on coastal communities of extreme weather events such as tropical cyclones and associated storm surges, and encourages cooperative actions by relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization, to assist States in improving forecasting of such events and its application in multi-hazard early warning systems and risk management;

181. *Also notes with concern* that the health of the oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine debris, especially plastic, from land-based and marine sources, and thus recognizes the need for better understanding of the sources, amounts, pathways, distribution trends, nature and impacts of marine debris, and in this regard invites States to implement resolution 1/6 on marine plastics debris and microplastics, adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session in June 2014;

182. *Welcomes* the activities of relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization and other intergovernmental organizations, to address the sources and impacts of marine debris, including through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, as well as actions relating to marine debris taken under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, in particular the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to that Convention at its tenth meeting of resolution 10.4 on marine debris, and notes the recent work of the International Whaling Commission on assessing the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans;

183. *Encourages* States to further develop partnerships with industry and civil society to raise awareness of the extent of the impact of marine debris on the health and productivity of the marine environment and consequent economic loss;

184. *Urges* States to integrate the issue of marine debris into national and, as appropriate, regional strategies dealing with waste management, especially in the coastal zone, ports and maritime industries, including recycling, reuse, reduction and disposal, to consider developing an integrated waste management infrastructure and to encourage the development of appropriate economic incentives with the aim of reducing marine debris to address this issue, including the development of cost-recovery systems that provide an incentive to use port reception facilities and discourage ships from discharging marine debris at sea, and support for measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution from any source, including land-based sources, such as community-based coastal and waterway clean-up and monitoring activities, and encourages States to cooperate regionally and subregionally to identify potential sources and coastal and oceanic locations where marine debris aggregates and to develop and implement joint prevention and recovery programmes for marine debris as well as to raise awareness of the issue of marine debris and the need to consider environmentally sound options for its removal;

185. *Notes* the work of the International Maritime Organization to prevent pollution from ships;

186. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Protocol of 1997 (annex VI—Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended;

187. *Also encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (the London Protocol);

188. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization and the resolution on International Maritime Organization policies and practices related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships;

189. *Urges* States to cooperate in correcting the shortfall in port waste reception facilities in accordance with the action plan to address the inadequacy of port waste reception facilities developed by the International Maritime Organization;

190. *Recognizes* that most of the pollution load of the oceans emanates from land-based activities and affects the most productive areas of the marine environment, and calls upon States, as a matter of priority, to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and to take all appropriate measures to fulfil the commitments of the international community embodied in the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

191. *Expresses its concern* regarding the spreading of hypoxic dead zones and harmful algal blooms in oceans as a result of eutrophication fuelled by riverine run-off of fertilizers, sewage outfall and reactive nitrogen resulting from the burning of fossil fuels and resulting in serious consequences for ecosystem functioning, and calls upon States to enhance their efforts to reduce eutrophication, particularly by reducing total nutrient pollution from land-based sources and, to this effect, to continue to cooperate within the framework of relevant international organizations, in particular the Global Programme of Action;

192. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that urban and coastal development projects and related land-reclamation activities are carried out in a responsible manner that protects the marine habitat and environment and mitigates the negative consequences of such activities;

193. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to take, as soon as possible, the domestic measures necessary to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

194. *Welcomes* the continued work of States, the United Nations Environment Programme and regional organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and encourages increased emphasis on the link between fresh water, the coastal zone and marine resources in the implementation of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and of the time-bound targets in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), in particular the target on sanitation, and

the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

195. *Recalls* the resolution of the thirtieth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (the London Convention) and the third Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, held from 27 to 31 October 2008, on the regulation of ocean fertilization, in which the Contracting Parties agreed, inter alia, that the scope of the London Convention and Protocol includes ocean fertilization activities and that, given the present state of knowledge, ocean fertilization activities other than for legitimate scientific research should not be allowed, and that scientific research proposals should be assessed on a case-by-case basis using an assessment framework to be developed by the scientific groups under the London Convention and Protocol, and also agreed that, to this end, such other activities should be considered as contrary to the aims of the London Convention and Protocol and should not currently qualify for any exemption from the definition of dumping in article III, paragraph 1 (b), of the London Convention and article 1, paragraph 4.2, of the London Protocol;

196. *Also recalls* the resolution of the thirty-second Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the fifth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, held from 11 to 15 October 2010, on the Assessment Framework for Scientific Research Involving Ocean Fertilization;

197. *Notes* the continued work of the Contracting Parties to the London Convention and Protocol towards a global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism for ocean fertilization activities and other activities that fall within the scope of the London Convention and Protocol and have the potential to cause harm to the marine environment, and notes the recent amendments to the Protocol on this matter;

198. *Recalls* decision IX/16 C, adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May 2008, in which the Conference of the Parties, inter alia, bearing in mind the ongoing scientific and legal analysis occurring under the auspices of the London Convention and Protocol, requested parties and urged other Governments, in accordance with the precautionary approach, to ensure that ocean fertilization activities were not carried out until there was an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities, including an assessment of associated risks, and that a global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism was in place for those activities, with the exception of small-scale scientific research studies within coastal waters, and stated that such studies should be authorized only if justified by the need to gather specific scientific data, should be subject to a thorough prior assessment of the potential impacts of the research studies on the marine environment, should be strictly controlled and should not be used for generating and selling carbon offsets or for any other commercial purposes, and takes note of decision X/29, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, in which the Conference of the Parties requested parties to implement decision IX/16 C;

199. *Also recalls* that in "The future we want", States stressed their concern about the potential environmental impacts of ocean fertilization, recalled in this regard the de-

cisions related to ocean fertilization adopted by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, and resolved to continue addressing ocean fertilization with utmost caution, consistent with the precautionary approach;

200. *Reaffirms* paragraph 119 of resolution 61/222 of 20 December 2006 regarding ecosystem approaches and oceans, including the proposed elements of an ecosystem approach, means to achieve implementation of an ecosystem approach and requirements for improved application of an ecosystem approach, and in this regard:

(a) Notes that continued environmental degradation in many parts of the world and increasing competing demands require an urgent response and the setting of priorities for management actions aimed at conserving ecosystem integrity;

(b) Also notes that ecosystem approaches to ocean management should be focused on managing human activities in order to maintain and, where needed, restore ecosystem health to sustain goods and environmental services, provide social and economic benefits for food security, sustain livelihoods in support of international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and conserve marine biodiversity;

(c) Recalls that States should be guided in the application of ecosystem approaches by a number of existing instruments, in particular the Convention, which sets out the legal framework for all activities in the oceans and seas, and its implementing Agreements, as well as other commitments, such as those contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Summit on Sustainable Development call for the application of an ecosystem approach by 2010, and in this context encourages States to enhance their efforts towards applying such an approach;

(d) Encourages States to cooperate and coordinate their efforts and take, individually or jointly, as appropriate, all measures, in conformity with international law, including the Convention and other applicable instruments, to address impacts on marine ecosystems within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction, taking into account the integrity of the ecosystems concerned;

201. *Recalls* that in "The future we want", States committed themselves to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development;

202. *Encourages* competent organizations and bodies that have not yet done so to incorporate an ecosystem approach into their mandates, as appropriate, in order to address impacts on marine ecosystems;

203. *Invites* States, in particular those States with advanced technology and marine capabilities, to explore prospects for improving cooperation with and assistance to developing States, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, with a view to better integrating into national policies and programmes sustainable and effective development in the marine sector;

204. *Notes* the information compiled by the Secretariat in relation to the assistance available to and measures that

may be taken by developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to realize the benefits of sustainable and effective development of marine resources and uses of the oceans, as provided by States and competent international organizations and global and regional funding agencies, and urges them to provide information for the annual report of the Secretary-General and for incorporation on the website of the Division;

205. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, to facilitate its early entry into force;

206. *Encourages* continued cooperation between the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the International Maritime Organization on regulations on the prevention of pollution from ships;

207. *Notes* the role of the Basel Convention in protecting the marine environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes;

208. *Notes with concern* the potential for serious environmental consequences resulting from oil spill incidents, urges States, consistent with international law, to cooperate, directly or through competent international organizations, and share best practices, in the fields of protection of the marine environment, human health and safety, prevention, emergency response and mitigation, and in this regard encourages the undertaking of and collaboration on scientific research, including marine scientific research, to better understand the consequences of marine oil spills;

209. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990, and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000, of the International Maritime Organization, and in this regard to consider developing and joining regional arrangements to enhance international cooperation for combating major oil and hazardous substances pollution incidents;

210. *Encourages* States to consider becoming parties to the 2010 Protocol to the 1996 International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea;

X

Marine biodiversity

211. *Reaffirms* its central role relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, notes the work of States and relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies on those issues, and invites them to contribute, within the areas of their respective competence, to the consideration of these issues within the process initiated by the General Assembly in resolution 66/231;

212. *Welcomes* the holding of the first and second meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention, convened in New York from 1 to 4 April 2014 and from 16 to 19 June 2014, in accordance with paragraphs 198 to 200 of resolution 68/70,

within the process initiated by the General Assembly in resolution 66/231, with a view to ensuring that the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction effectively addresses those issues by identifying gaps and ways forward, including through the implementation of existing instruments and the possible development of a multilateral agreement under the Convention, and takes note of the exchange of views and progress made at those meetings;

213. *Reaffirms* the commitment made by States in "The future we want" to address, on an urgent basis, building on the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group and before the end of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the issue of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including by taking a decision on the development of an international instrument under the Convention, and recalls its decision, in resolution 68/70, to establish a process within the Working Group to prepare for such action;

214. *Reaffirms its request*, in resolution 68/70, for the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, within its mandate established by resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78, and in order to prepare for the decision on the development of an international instrument under the Convention to be taken at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to make recommendations to the Assembly at the Working Group meeting to be held from 20 to 23 January 2015 on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention;

215. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 68/70, to that end, that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group should meet for three meetings of four days each, with the possibility of the General Assembly deciding that additional meetings would be held, if needed, within existing resources;

216. *Recalls its request* to the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, in order to inform the deliberations of the Working Group, to invite Member States to submit their views on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention, for circulation by the Division to Member States as an informal working document compiling the views of States no later than three weeks before the first meeting of the Working Group, and decides that this informal working document will be updated and circulated prior to subsequent meetings;

217. *Recognizes* the abundance and diversity of marine genetic resources and their value in terms of the benefits, goods and services they can provide;

218. *Also recognizes* the importance of research on marine genetic resources for the purpose of enhancing the scientific understanding, potential use and application, and enhanced management of marine ecosystems;

219. *Encourages* States and international organizations, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes and partnerships, to continue in a sustainable and comprehensive way to support, promote and strengthen capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries, in the field of marine scientific research, taking into account, in particular, the need to create greater taxonomic capabilities;

220. *Notes* the work under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity and the

Convention on Biological Diversity elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, and, while reiterating the central role of the General Assembly relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, notes with appreciation the complementary technical and scientific work done by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

221. *Reaffirms* the need for States, individually or through competent international organizations, to urgently consider ways to integrate and improve, based on the best available scientific information and the precautionary approach and in accordance with the Convention and related agreements and instruments, the management of risks to the marine biodiversity of seamounts, cold water corals, hydrothermal vents and certain other underwater features;

222. *Calls upon* States and international organizations to urgently take further action to address, in accordance with international law, destructive practices that have adverse impacts on marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals;

223. *Calls upon* States to strengthen, in a manner consistent with international law, in particular the Convention, the conservation and management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and national policies in relation to marine protected areas;

224. *Recalls* that in “The future we want”, States reaffirmed the importance of area-based conservation measures, including marine protected areas, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information, as a tool for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components, and noted decision X/2 of the tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, that by 2020, 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are to be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

225. *Encourages* States, in this regard, to further progress towards the establishment of marine protected areas, including representative networks, and calls upon States to further consider options to identify and protect ecologically or biologically significant areas, consistent with international law and on the basis of the best available scientific information;

226. *Reaffirms* the need for States to continue and intensify their efforts, directly and through competent international organizations, to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools for conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the possible establishment of marine protected areas, consistent with international law, as reflected in the Convention, and based on the best scientific information available;

227. *Notes* the work of States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the assessment of scientific information on and compilation of ecological criteria for the identification of marine areas that may require protection, in the light of the objective of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, such as ecosystem approaches and the establishment of marine protected

areas consistent with international law, as reflected in the Convention, and based on scientific information, including representative networks;

228. *Recalls* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its ninth meeting, adopted scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats and scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas, including in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats, notes the ongoing work under the Convention on Biological Diversity on the application of the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through the organization of a series of regional workshops, and also recalls that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has developed guidance for the identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems through the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas;

229. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization to identify and designate as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas marine areas which are recognized for their significance in terms of ecological, socioeconomic or scientific criteria and are vulnerable to damage by international shipping activities;

230. *Acknowledges* the Micronesia Challenge, the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape project, the Caribbean challenge and the Coral Triangle Initiative, which in particular seek to create and link domestic marine protected areas to better facilitate ecosystem approaches, and reaffirms the need for further international cooperation, coordination and collaboration in support of such initiatives;

231. *Notes* the efforts of the Sargasso Sea Alliance, led by the Government of Bermuda, to raise awareness of the ecological significance of the Sargasso Sea;

232. *Reiterates its support* for the International Coral Reef Initiative, notes the International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting held in Okinawa, Japan, from 20 to 23 October 2014, and supports the elaborated programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on marine and coastal biological diversity related to coral reefs under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity;

233. *Recalls* that in “The future we want”, States recognized the significant economic, social and environmental contributions of coral reefs, in particular to islands and other coastal States, as well as the significant vulnerability of coral reefs and mangroves to impacts, including from climate change, ocean acidification, overfishing, destructive fishing practices and pollution, and supported international cooperation with a view to conserving coral reef and mangrove ecosystems and realizing their social, economic and environmental benefits, as well as facilitating technical collaboration and voluntary information-sharing;

234. *Encourages* States and relevant international institutions to improve efforts to address coral bleaching by, inter alia, improving monitoring to predict and identify bleaching events, supporting and strengthening action taken during such events and improving strategies to manage reefs to support their natural resilience and enhance their ability to withstand other pressures, including ocean acidification, and in this regard also encourages States to implement the priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems,

adopted by the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

235. *Encourages* States to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in exchanging information in the event of accidents involving vessels on coral reefs and in promoting the development of economic assessment techniques for both restoration and non-use values of coral reef systems;

236. *Emphasizes* the need to mainstream sustainable coral reef management and integrated watershed management into national development strategies, as well as into the activities of relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, international financial institutions and the donor community;

237. *Notes* that ocean noise has potential significant adverse impacts on living marine resources, affirms the importance of sound scientific studies in addressing this matter, encourages further research, studies and consideration of the impacts of ocean noise on living marine resources, notes the work of States and competent international organizations in that regard, and requests the Division to continue to compile the peer-reviewed scientific studies it receives from Member States and intergovernmental organizations pursuant to paragraph 107 of resolution 61/222 and, as appropriate, to make them, or references and links to them, available on its website;

238. *Notes* the approval of the International Maritime Organization Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life;

XI

Marine science

239. *Calls upon* States, individually or in collaboration with each other or with competent international organizations and bodies, to continue to strive to improve understanding and knowledge of the oceans and the deep sea, including, in particular, the extent and vulnerability of deep sea biodiversity and ecosystems, by increasing their marine scientific research activities in accordance with the Convention;

240. *Encourages*, in that regard, relevant international organizations and other donors to consider supporting the Endowment Fund of the International Seabed Authority in order to promote the conduct of collaborative marine scientific research in the international seabed area by supporting the participation of qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries in relevant programmes, initiatives and activities;

241. *Notes* the partnership between the Division and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on a training programme on marine scientific research under the Convention, and encourages States, relevant international organizations and other donors to consider supporting the initiative;

242. *Invites* all relevant organizations, funds, programmes and bodies within the United Nations system, in consultation with interested States, to coordinate relevant activities with regional and national marine scientific and technological centres in small island developing States, as appropriate, to ensure the more effective achievement of their objectives in accordance with relevant United Nations small island developing States development programmes and strategies;

243. *Notes* the resolution adopted by the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its forty-seventh session, held in Paris from 1 to 4 July 2014, regarding the adoption of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition, and invites States to participate in this initiative;

244. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, with the advice of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea, on the development of procedures for the implementation of Parts XIII and XIV of the Convention;

245. *Also notes with appreciation* the work of the Advisory Body of Experts, including its work in cooperation with the Division, on the practice of member States related to marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology within the framework of the Convention, and welcomes the decision by the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, at its forty-fifth session, held in Paris from 26 to 28 June 2012, that the Advisory Body will continue its work focused on priorities as tasked by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission governing bodies in line with the terms of reference, mobilizing extrabudgetary resources when necessary;

246. *Recalls* the issuance of the revised publication entitled *Marine Scientific Research: A guide to the implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* in December 2010, and requests the Secretariat to continue to make efforts to publish the guide in all official languages of the United Nations;

247. *Notes* the contribution of the Census of Marine Life to marine biodiversity research, including through its report entitled "First Census of Marine Life 2010: Highlights of a Decade of Discovery" and its related open-access data holding and sharing facility, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System, hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

248. *Welcomes* the increasing attention being focused on oceans as a potential source of renewable energy, and notes in this regard the summary of discussions of the Informal Consultative Process at its thirteenth meeting;

249. *Stresses* the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans-atmosphere interface, including through participation in ocean observing programmes and geographic information systems, such as the Global Ocean Observing System, sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council for Science, particularly considering their role in monitoring and forecasting climate change and variability and in the establishment and operation of tsunami warning systems;

250. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Member States towards the establishment and operation of regional and national tsunami warning and mitigation systems, also welcomes the continued collaboration of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in this effort, further welcomes the development and recent dissemination of the new Enhanced Tsunami Products, which will assist countries in the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System to assess tsunami threats and issue warnings, and encourages Member States to establish and sustain their national warning and mitigation systems, within a global, ocean-related multi-hazard approach, as necessary, to reduce

loss of life and damage to national economies and strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to natural disasters;

251. *Stresses* the need for continued efforts in developing mitigation and preparedness measures for natural disasters, particularly following tsunami events caused by earthquakes, such as the 11 March 2011 event in Japan;

252. *Urges* States to take necessary action and to cooperate in relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Meteorological Organization, to address damage to ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law, including through education and outreach about the importance and purpose of these buoys, and by strengthening these buoys against such damage, and increasing reporting of such damage;

XII

Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

253. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking;

254. *Welcomes* the holding of the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, convened in New York on 31 March 2014 in accordance with paragraph 243 of resolution 68/70;

255. *Endorses* the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its fifth meeting;

256. *Reaffirms* the principles guiding the Regular Process and the objective and scope of its first cycle (2010–2014) as agreed upon at the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in 2009;

257. *Notes* that the members of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process have continued serving on the Group of Experts during the second phase of the first assessment cycle pursuant to paragraph 209 of resolution 65/37 A, and requests them to continue serving on the Group of Experts until the completion of the first cycle of the Regular Process;

258. *Recognizes* the work of the Group of Experts during the second phase of the first assessment cycle and the work of the individual members of the pool of experts involved in the preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment;

259. *Welcomes* the development and operation of the website of the Regular Process, under the auspices of the United Nations, recognizes the contributions made to the establishment of the website, and invites consultations between the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, with the participation of the Joint Coordinators of the Group of Experts, as appropriate, and the secretariat of the Regular Process regarding the content of the website;

260. *Takes note* of the guidance for the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and the updated outline for the first global integrated marine assessment;

261. *Expresses its appreciation* for the eight workshops held in support of the Regular Process, and welcomes the holding of the workshop in Chennai, India, from 27 to 29 January 2014 and takes note of the summary thereof;

262. *Welcomes* the technical workshops on capacity-building for integrated assessments, held in Bangkok and Maputo in 2012, as well as in Abidjan and Freetown in 2013;

263. *Recognizes* the important role of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in putting into practice the decisions and guidance of the Working Group during the intersessional period, and requests the Bureau to continue oversight of the progress of work in order to guide the process towards the completion of the first global integrated marine assessment;

264. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole from 8 to 11 September 2015, with a view to making recommendations to the General Assembly, in particular in light of paragraph 267 of the present resolution;

265. *Recalls* that the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations, is accountable to the General Assembly and is an intergovernmental process guided by international law, including the Convention and other applicable international instruments, and takes into account relevant Assembly resolutions;

266. *Also recalls* that in “The future we want”, States expressed their support for the Regular Process, looked forward to the completion of its first global integrated assessment of the state of the marine environment by 2014 and its subsequent consideration by the General Assembly, and encouraged consideration by States of the assessment findings at appropriate levels;

267. *Further recalls* its decision that, with the approval of the Bureau, the draft assessment should be transmitted for consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, that the assessment should be available on the website of the Regular Process in the working language of the Group of Experts, that the Secretary-General should endeavour to translate the assessment into all other official languages, subject to the availability of resources in the voluntary trust fund for the purposes of supporting the operations of the first five-year cycle of the Regular Process, and also recalls its decision that the summary of the first global integrated marine assessment should be submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, to be issued as a document of the General Assembly for its final approval by the Assembly at its seventieth session;

268. *Notes with appreciation* the nominations received to date to the pool of experts of the Regular Process, urges States to continue to appoint individuals to the pool of experts through the regional groups, in accordance with the criteria for the appointment of experts, and to provide support for the work of the Group of Experts in the preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment, and requests the members of the Bureau to engage States in their regional groups and urge them to nominate individuals to the pool of experts as soon as possible;

269. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other competent United Nations specialized agencies, as appropriate, to continue to provide technical and scientific support to the Regular Process;

270. *Notes* the work of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and recognizes the importance of ensuring that the assessments prepared

under that Platform and the Regular Process support each other and avoid unnecessary duplication;

271. *Requests* the secretariat of the Regular Process to convene meetings of the Group of Experts in accordance with the revised draft timetable for the first global integrated marine assessment, subject to the availability of resources;

272. *Notes with appreciation* the support provided by the Division as the secretariat of the Regular Process, while also recognizing its already significant resource constraints;

273. *Also notes with appreciation* the technical and logistical support of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to the Regular Process and of their support, and the support of other organizations, for the workshops of the Regular Process and to the technical workshops on capacity-building for the conduct of integrated assessments;

274. *Recognizes* that United Nations specialized agencies can play an important role in promoting the Regular Process, and invites those agencies to continue to promote the Regular Process in consultation and coordination with the secretariat of the Regular Process;

275. *Encourages* additional opportunities for the Group of Experts to have access to information relevant to the first global integrated marine assessment and capacity-building;

276. *Notes* the recommendation made by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and decides to continue its consideration of any need to strengthen the capacity of the Division, as the secretariat of the Regular Process;

277. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of supporting the operations of the first five-year cycle of the Regular Process, established pursuant to paragraph 183 of resolution 64/71, expresses its serious concern regarding the limited resources available in the trust fund, urges Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund and to make other contributions to the Regular Process, and, in the light of the limited resources available in the trust fund, recalls its decision pursuant to paragraph 255 of resolution 68/70 to review the need for sustainability in the activities of the Regular Process and to continue its consideration of the need to ensure predictability and sustainability of financial resources to support the operations of the Regular Process;

278. *Requests* the Secretary-General to administer the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to paragraph 183 of resolution 64/71 beyond the first five-year cycle and for the duration of the operations of the Regular Process;

XIII

Regional cooperation

279. *Notes* that there have been a number of initiatives at the regional level, in various regions, to further the implementation of the Convention, also notes in that context the Caribbean-focused Assistance Fund, which is intended to facilitate, mainly through technical assistance, the voluntary undertaking of maritime delimitation negotiations between Caribbean States, notes once again the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes, established by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in 2000 as a primary mechanism, given its broader regional scope, for the prevention and resolution

of pending territorial, land border and maritime boundary disputes, and calls upon States and others in a position to do so to contribute to these funds;

280. *Notes with appreciation* efforts at the regional level to further the implementation of the Convention and respond, including through capacity-building, to issues related to maritime safety and security, the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity;

281. *Welcomes* the adoption of the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway” (Samoa Pathway) and the new modalities set forth for strengthened action on a range of small island developing States challenges and priorities, including challenges related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, and the preservation of the marine environment, and reaffirms its commitment to work with small island developing States towards full implementation of the Samoa Pathway to ensure its success;

282. *Invites* States and international organizations to enhance their cooperation to better protect the marine environment, and in this respect welcomes the memorandum of understanding for enhanced cooperation, concluded between the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the International Seabed Authority and the International Maritime Organization;

283. *Recognizes* the results of the International Polar Year, 2007–2008, with particular emphasis on new knowledge about the linkages between environmental change in the polar regions and global climate systems, and encourages States and scientific communities to strengthen their cooperation in this respect;

284. *Welcomes* regional cooperation, and in this regard notes the Pacific Oceanscape Framework as an initiative to enhance cooperation among coastal States in the Pacific island region to foster marine conservation and sustainable development;

285. *Notes with appreciation* the various cooperative efforts displayed by States at the regional and subregional levels, and in this regard welcomes initiatives such as the Integrated Assessment and Management of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem;

286. *Acknowledges* relevant cooperation among the members of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic;

287. *Notes* the decision of the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-second ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2014, to adopt the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy and to retain 2015 to 2025 as the “Decade of African Seas and Oceans”;

288. *Also notes* the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, following the comprehensive 10-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and also notes the need for coopera-

tion to address the development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries associated with, inter alia, their lack of direct territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets, in line with the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action;

XIV

Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

289. *Welcomes* the report of the Co-Chairs on the work of the Informal Consultative Process at its fifteenth meeting, which focused on the role of seafood in global food security;

290. *Recognizes* the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the Convention and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics;

291. *Welcomes* the work of the Informal Consultative Process and its contribution to improving coordination and cooperation between States and strengthening the annual debate of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea by effectively drawing attention to key issues and current trends;

292. *Also welcomes* efforts to improve and focus the work of the Informal Consultative Process, and in that respect recognizes the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development, and recommends that the Informal Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea;

293. *Recalls* the need to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the Informal Consultative Process, and encourages States, intergovernmental organizations and programmes to provide guidance to the Co-Chairs to this effect, particularly before and during the preparatory meeting for the Informal Consultative Process;

294. *Decides* to continue the Informal Consultative Process for the next two years, in accordance with resolution 54/33, with a further review of its effectiveness and utility by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

295. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 54/33, the sixteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, in New York from 6 to 10 April 2015, to provide it with the facilities necessary for the performance of its work and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, as appropriate;

296. *Expresses its continued serious concern* regarding the lack of resources available in the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending the meetings of the Infor-

mal Consultative Process, and urges States to make additional contributions to the trust fund;

297. *Decides* that those representatives from developing countries who are invited by the Co-Chairs, in consultation with Governments, to make presentations during the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process shall receive priority consideration in the disbursement of funds from the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 in order to cover the costs of their travel, and shall also be eligible to receive daily subsistence allowance subject to the availability of funds after the travel costs of all other eligible representatives from those countries mentioned in paragraph 296 above have been covered;

298. *Also decides* that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the Informal Consultative Process shall focus its discussions at its sixteenth meeting, in 2015, on the theme "Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic" and at its seventeenth meeting, in 2016, on the theme "Marine debris, plastics and microplastics";

XV

Coordination and cooperation

299. *Encourages* States to work closely with and through international organizations, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant international conventions, to identify emerging areas of focus for improved coordination and cooperation and how best to address these issues;

300. *Encourages* bodies established by the Convention to strengthen coordination and cooperation, as appropriate, in fulfilling their respective mandates;

301. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of heads of intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, as well as funding institutions, and underlines the importance of their constructive and timely input for the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and of their participation in relevant meetings and processes;

302. *Welcomes* the work done by the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions to enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation on ocean issues, including, where appropriate, through UN-Oceans, the inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system;

303. *Recognizes* the work undertaken by UN-Oceans, under the revised terms of reference for the work of UN-Oceans, and with the United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea as the focal point of UN-Oceans, as an interim measure, in this regard, invites Member States and others in a position to do so to make financial earmarked contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of Legal Affairs to support the promotion of international law, and authorizes the Secretary-General to disburse funds from such contributions to that trust fund for the purposes of the development and maintenance of an online searchable database for an inventory of the

mandates of UN-Oceans members and priorities approved by the respective governing bodies of the participating organizations of UN-Oceans, with a view to identifying possible areas of collaboration and synergy, as well as for travel associated with the performance of the functions of the focal point;

304. *Reaffirms* its decision to review the terms of reference for the work of UN-Oceans at its seventy-second session in the light of the work of UN-Oceans;

XVI

Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

305. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual report on oceans and the law of the sea, prepared by the Division, as well as for the other activities of the Division, which reflect the high standard of assistance provided to Member States by the Division;

306. *Notes with satisfaction* the sixth observance by the United Nations of World Oceans Day in 2014, recognizes with appreciation the efforts deployed by the Division in organizing its celebration, and invites the Division to continue to promote and facilitate international cooperation on the law of the sea and ocean affairs in the context of the future observance of World Oceans Day, as well as through its participation in other events;

307. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities and functions entrusted to him in the Convention and in the related resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to the Division for the performance of its activities under the approved budget for the Organization;

308. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue the publication activities of the Division, in particular through the publication of *The Law of the Sea: A Select Bibliography* and the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*;

XVII

Seventieth session of the General Assembly

309. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventieth session on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with resolutions 49/28, 52/26 and 54/33, and to prepare a separate section of the report on the topic that is the focus of the sixteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process;

310. *Emphasizes* the critical role of the annual report of the Secretary-General, which integrates information on developments relating to the implementation of the Convention and the work of the Organization, its specialized agencies and other institutions in the field of ocean

affairs and the law of the sea at the global and regional levels, and as a result constitutes the basis for the annual consideration and review of developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea by the General Assembly as the global institution having the competence to undertake such a review;

311. *Notes* that the report referred to in paragraph 309 above will also be submitted to States Parties pursuant to article 319 of the Convention regarding issues of a general nature that have arisen with respect to the Convention;

312. *Also notes* the desire to further improve the efficiency of and effective participation of delegations in the informal consultations concerning the annual General Assembly resolution on oceans and the law of the sea, decides that the period of the informal consultations on that resolution should not exceed a maximum of two weeks in total and that the consultations should be scheduled in such a way that the Division has sufficient time to produce the report referred to in paragraph 309 above, and invites States to submit text proposals for inclusion in the resolution to the Coordinator of the informal consultations at the earliest possible date;

313. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/245:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Turkey.

Abstaining: Colombia, El Salvador, Venezuela.

PART FIVE

Institutional, administrative and budgetary questions

United Nations restructuring and institutional matters

In 2014, the General Assembly continued efforts to strengthen the accountability architecture throughout the UN system. The Secretary-General submitted his third progress report on the accountability system in the UN Secretariat. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly focused on the Assembly's working methods and authority, and the selection and appointment of the UN system's leadership.

The General Assembly resumed its sixty-eighth session in January and opened its sixty-ninth session on 16 September. It held high-level meetings on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. It also held a special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. The Assembly granted observer status to two regional organizations to participate in its work.

The Security Council held 263 formal meetings and considered 49 questions dealing with regional conflicts, peacekeeping operations and other issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security. In October, the Council held an open debate on its working methods.

In addition to its organizational and substantive sessions, the Economic and Social Council held a high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund), the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination—the main instrument for strengthening the coordination role of the UN intergovernmental bodies on social, economic and related matters—met in two regular sessions, promoting exchanges with Member States and seeking to enhance the effectiveness of the UN system by fostering coherence and coordination.

The Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the programme performance of the United Nations for 2012–2013 and the proposed strategic framework for 2016–2017, as well as questions related to evaluation and coordination.

Cooperation between the United Nations and 25 regional and other organizations was highlighted in a consolidated report of the Secretary-General.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the

Economic and Social Council granted consultative status to 383 NGOs, providing them with access to various UN bodies.

Restructuring matters

Programme of reform

Accountability architecture

Report of Secretary-General. In January, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/253 [YUN 2013, p. 1404], the Secretary-General submitted the third progress report [A/68/697] on the accountability system in the UN Secretariat. The report reviewed the implementation of enterprise risk management, described progress made in a number of areas and included an action plan for implementing results-based management. Issues reviewed included results-based management; enterprise risk management and internal control framework; personal accountability, including senior managers' compacts; ethics and accountability, including strengthening accountability in field missions and in procurement, as well as for mismanagement and improper decisions. Two annexes described actions taken to address the root causes of the recurring issues identified by the Board of Auditors in its reports on UN peacekeeping operations and on UN non-peacekeeping areas. The Secretary-General requested the General Assembly to take note of the progress of the Secretariat in strengthening its accountability system, as described in the report.

ACABQ report. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) noted in March [A/68/783] that, in implementing the organizational resilience management system, an operational risk management model for emergency management had been developed, which could provide an example for enterprise risk management. It stressed that the senior managers' compacts were an instrument for accountability; emphasized the importance of full implementation of the zero-tolerance policy of the Organization against sexual exploitation or abuse in field missions; underlined the importance of taking timely action to impose appropriate measures in all cases of non-compliance with the financial disclosure programme; and recommended strengthening for all UN staff the link between performance in appraisals and rewards or sanctions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 April [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee, adopted **resolution 68/264** [draft: A/68/691/Add.1] without vote [agenda item 132].

**Progress towards an accountability system
in the United Nations Secretariat**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 59/272 of 23 December 2004 and 60/254 of 8 May 2006, section I of its resolution 60/260 of 8 May 2006 and its resolutions 60/283 of 7 July 2006, 61/245 of 22 December 2006, 63/276 of 7 April 2009, 64/259 of 29 March 2010, 66/257 of 9 April 2012 and 67/253 of 12 April 2013,

Having considered the third progress report of the Secretary-General on the accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening accountability in the United Nations Secretariat and the accountability of the Secretary-General for the performance of the Secretariat to all Member States,

Emphasizing that accountability is a central pillar of effective and efficient management that requires attention and strong commitment at all levels of the Secretariat, especially at the highest level,

Recognizing and reaffirming the important role of the oversight bodies in the development of an accountability system that is relevant to the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the third progress report of the Secretary-General on the accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat;

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

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting a culture of accountability, results-based management, enterprise risk management and internal control at all levels in the Secretariat through the continued leadership and commitment of senior managers, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General take appropriate measures to that end, including the training of relevant staff;

4. *Reiterates* the provisions of paragraphs 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 19 of section I of its resolution 66/257;

5. *Stresses* the role and responsibility of the Management Committee in promoting and advancing the accountability system as a whole;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue strengthening and improving the accountability framework by taking advantage of the benefits related to the deployment of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Umoja, and requests him to report thereon in the context of the next progress report on accountability;

7. *Reaffirms* that results-based management and performance reporting are essential pillars of a comprehensive accountability framework;

8. *Reiterates* that results-based management will require the Organization to create a sustained focus on results, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take concrete measures to achieve a cultural change throughout the Organization;

9. *Also reiterates* the provisions of paragraph 29 of section I of its resolution 66/257 and paragraph 6 (b) of its resolution 67/253;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Secretary-General to implement the results-based management framework at the United Nations in a phased manner, and requests him to implement the recommendations of the results-based-management working group, taking into account the lessons learned and challenges related to the implementation, as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General;

11. *Recalls* the recommendations contained in paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/259, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General in this regard;

12. *Also recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 64/259, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General identify appropriate methods and tools to portray the efficiency with which the Secretariat undertakes its work;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote a culture of self-evaluation throughout the Organization, to continue to mainstream the use of relevant monitoring and evaluation tools in programme planning and implementation, to continue to provide staff with adequate training, as appropriate, and to include in his report on the implementation of the present resolution information on measures taken in this regard;

14. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of its resolution 67/253, notes the progress made by the Secretary-General towards the implementation of enterprise risk management, and urges him to complete the current Secretariat-wide risk assessment as a matter of priority;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include the outcome of the Secretariat-wide risk assessment in the next progress report on accountability, including information on the development of risk registers, response plans and a comprehensive risk treatment plan;

16. *Reiterates* that compacts and end-of-year assessments are unique accountability tools for senior managers and contribute to transparency in the Organization;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the inclusion in the senior managers' compacts of a new standard managerial indicator related to the issuance of official documentation to intergovernmental bodies and General Assembly committees and to report thereon in the context of the next progress report on accountability;

18. *Reiterates its requests* to the Secretary-General to take further concrete measures to ensure that the compacts system becomes a meaningful and powerful instrument of accountability, to take actions to address systemic issues that prevent managers from meeting their targets and to report to the General Assembly on the progress achieved in this regard in the context of the next progress report on accountability;

19. *Recalls* paragraph 20 of its resolution 66/257 and paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and notes with concern that the current appraisal system lacks credibility;

20. *Also recalls* paragraphs 5 and 7 of section I of its resolution 68/252 of 27 December 2013, and looks forward to considering the comprehensive performance management proposal of the Secretary-General under the agenda item on human resources management at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

21. *Further recalls* paragraph 15 of the report of the Advisory Committee, encourages the Secretary-General to

ensure the full implementation of the zero-tolerance policy of the Organization regarding any kind of sexual exploitation or abuse, and looks forward to its consideration of this matter in the context of the next report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of establishing and fully implementing real, effective and efficient mechanisms that foster institutional and personal accountability at all levels;

23. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts and recent initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat to strengthen ethics in the Organization, and urges the timely implementation of the proposed action plan;

24. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhancing the processes and responses of the Organization to ensure that it encourages the reporting of serious misconduct, protects whistle-blowers from retaliation and intervenes to prevent retaliation from occurring;

25. *Looks forward* to the results and outcomes of the comprehensive review of the regulatory framework for the updating of the Secretary-General's bulletin on protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits or investigations;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, and reaffirms the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, which provide the basis for the guidance of the Secretary-General in this regard;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to hold all staff, in particular senior managers, accountable for mismanagement and wrongful or improper decisions and to report cases handled by the Secretary-General and the types of disciplinary measures that have been imposed;

28. *Stresses* the need also to address poor decision-making in an effective manner, in particular to reduce such instances by sharing lessons learned and best practices;

29. *Emphasizes* that the timely submission of documents is an important aspect of the Secretariat's accountability to Member States;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to keep under review the frequency of future progress reports.

Strengthening of UN system

On 29 December, the Assembly decided that the item on strengthening the UN system would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Institutional matters

General Assembly

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Reports of Secretary-General. In February [A/68/774], the Secretary-General recalled that the General Assembly, by resolution 67/297 [YUN 2013,

p. 1407], had established an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, also requesting the Secretary-General to submit to the Working Group an update on the provisions of the Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat that had not been implemented. The Secretary-General informed the Assembly that all such provisions had been fully implemented.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/316 [YUN 2004, p. 1374], the Secretary-General in June submitted a report [A/68/852] on the revitalization of the work of the Assembly, which contained the draft programme of work of the plenary for the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly. An addendum issued in September [A/68/852/Add.1] presented the status of documentation for that session as at 3 September.

Ad Hoc Working Group report. As requested in Assembly resolution 67/297, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly in July reported [A/68/951] on its activities and made recommendations for further progress. The Working Group held six meetings, addressing the role and authority of the Assembly, the Assembly's working methods, the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads of the UN system and the strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the Assembly President. The Working Group presented recommendations, which were adopted by the Assembly in resolution 68/307 (see below).

Communication. In a letter dated 29 October [A/69/562], Finland transmitted to the Secretary-General the summary and programme of action of the high-level retreat it had organized, entitled "Towards a stronger General Assembly" (Manhasset, New York, 26–27 June), with the aim of contributing to the revitalization of the work of the Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 September [meeting 108], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/307** [draft: A/68/951] without vote [agenda item 122].

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 67/297 of 29 August 2013 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

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

Reiterating that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the overall reform of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,

Reaffirming also the role and authority of the General Assembly in global matters of concern to the international community, including in global governance, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinvigorate the revitalization of the work of the Assembly during its sixty-eighth session,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly and the updated inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed thereto;

2. *Also welcomes* the establishment of a multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, accessible directly from the United Nations website, and invites the Secretariat to continue updating that web page and its substantive content;

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

(a) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on the progress achieved in past sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation;

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

4. *Also decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall continue its review of the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the sixty-eighth session, and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to be submitted at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-ninth session;

Role and authority of the General Assembly

6. *Reaffirms* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

7. *Recognizes* that implementation of General Assembly resolutions, including those related to the revitalization of its work, enhances the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, and underlines the important role and responsibility of Member States in their full implementation;

8. *Reaffirms* that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and com-

petencies as enshrined in the Charter, and in this regard stresses the importance of further ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the principal organs and also with the Secretariat of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary-General;

9. *Also reaffirms* the importance and benefit of continuing interaction between the General Assembly and international or regional forums and organizations dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, as well as with civil society, where appropriate, and encourages the exploration of appropriate actions or measures, while fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly, in conformity with its relevant rules of procedure;

10. *Recognizes* the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and encourages the President of the General Assembly to continue this practice in close consultation with the General Committee and the Member States, including with regard to the preliminary programme of such debates, in order to enable an adequate level of participation and an appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion to facilitate, where appropriate, results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates, and in this context welcomes the initiative of the President of the Assembly at the sixty-eighth session to select "The post-2015 development agenda: setting the stage" as the theme of the general debate;

11. *Welcomes* the improvement in the quality of the annual reports of the Security Council to the General Assembly, and encourages the Council to make further improvement as necessary;

12. *Invites* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, while carrying out its activities, as mandated by the General Assembly, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the Assembly and to enhance, in the light of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, world public and media awareness of the contribution made by the Assembly to the fulfilment of the goals of the Organization, as set out in the Charter;

Working methods

13. *Appreciates* the briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group about the working methods of their respective Committees during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, and in this regard encourages the Main Committees:

(a) To ensure adequate coordination in their work while avoiding overlap and duplication;

(b) To elect the bureau of each Committee at least three months in advance of the session for better coordination and for smoother handover of their work;

(c) To benefit from their respective intranet and other online services to facilitate the smooth organization and timely conclusion of their work;

(d) To share experiences, best practices and lessons learned concerning their respective working methods;

(e) To further enhance sharing of information on the work and activities of the Main Committees within each Main Committee;

14. *Requests* each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and

in this regard invites the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group during the sixty-ninth session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate;

15. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the role of the General Committee to support the work of the General Assembly;

16. *Emphasizes* that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the sixty-ninth session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

17. *Decides* to conduct the elections of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of the Economic and Social Council about six months before the elected members assume their responsibilities, beginning at the seventieth session;

18. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates with a view to optimizing the number, especially during the general debate, and distribution of such events throughout the session;

19. *Reaffirms* resolution 57/301 of 13 March 2003, by which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided that the general debate shall be held without interruption, and encourages the scheduling of future high-level meetings during the first half of the year, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences and without prejudice to the current practice of convening one high-level meeting in September at the beginning of each session of the Assembly;

20. *Encourages* Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents;

21. *Decides* to reiterate the interim arrangement adopted in General Assembly decision 68/505 of 1 October 2013 recommending the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming five sessions, namely from the sixty-ninth to seventy-third sessions, as well as the guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees contained in the annex to the present resolution;

22. *Requests*, in this regard, that the Ad Hoc Working Group prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and that it submit them to the Assembly no later than at the seventy-second session, and in this regard invites Member States to present proposals and begin early on to give attention to the matter of concluding a future arrangement, which would come into effect at the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, with the annex to the present resolution containing an option to be considered in this context;

23. *Encourages* Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of Chairs of the Main Committees and in the position of the President of the General Assembly;

24. *Underlines* the need to fully implement and observe rule 55 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which provides that, during the sessions of the Assembly, the *Journal of the United Nations* shall be published in the languages of the Assembly, from within existing resources;

Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

25. *Reaffirms* its commitment to continue, in the Ad Hoc Working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its consideration of the revitalization of the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, and calls for the full implementation of all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (I) of 24 January 1946, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 60/286 of 8 September 2006, in particular paragraphs 17 to 22 of the annex thereto, and 64/301 of 13 September 2010, keeping in mind the applicable procedures in the rules of procedure, including rule 141, while acknowledging existing relevant Assembly practices;

26. *Reiterates* that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to other executive heads in the organizations of the United Nations system, given the roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter, and re-emphasizes the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be transparent and inclusive of all Member States;

27. *Notes* that the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General is expected to take place in 2016, and as a result encourages, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, the President of the General Assembly to actively support this process in accordance with the role accorded to him or her by relevant resolutions;

28. *Stresses* the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender and geographical balance, while meeting the highest possible requirements on the appointment of executive heads of the Organization;

29. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the organizations of the United Nations system, proposing that the General Assembly conduct hearings or meetings with candidates running for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

30. *Notes with appreciation* the views expressed by the Office of the President of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the Assembly and its relationship with the Secretariat and measures already undertaken in this regard, while continuing to explore additional measures where feasible, and notes the support provided by the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to the Office of the President of the Assembly;

31. *Encourages* the Presidents of the General Assembly to continue with the practice of periodically briefing Member States on their activities, including official travel;

32. *Commends* the initiative of convening a retreat on the strengthening of the General Assembly, which brings together the incoming and outgoing presidencies of each session of the Assembly, and in this regard takes note of the summary of the proceedings of the retreat held on 11 and 12 July 2013;

33. *Encourages* exchanges between the President-elect of the General Assembly and the Council of Presidents so that Presidents-elect may benefit from the experiences of former Presidents in terms of best practices and lessons learned, as part of strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the Assembly;

34. *Encourages* Presidents-elect to continue to ensure respect for balanced gender and geographical representation in the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly on sources of the funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the Assembly, including on any technical, logistical, protocol-related or financial questions, and for more clarification on the budgetary basis for the provision of such support by the Secretariat;

36. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure, from within agreed resources, that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is allocated dedicated Secretariat staff, with responsibility for coordinating the transition between Presidents, managing interactions between the President and the Secretary-General and the preservation of institutional memory;

37. *Notes* that the activities of the President of the General Assembly have increased markedly in recent years, recalls provisions regarding support for the Office of the

President of the Assembly in previous resolutions, and expresses continued interest in seeking ways to further support the Office, in accordance with existing procedures, in particular rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, proposals to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with existing procedures;

39. *Stresses* the importance of the contributions of Member States to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and in this regard notes with appreciation contributions that have been made to the Fund and encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the Fund;

40. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly on the role, mandate and activities of the President.

ANNEX

Guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly

1. The allocation of chairmanships of the Main Committees for the next session of the General Assembly, in case there is an intention to switch or waive chairmanship, shall be determined by the regional groups involved with facilitation and coordination by the President of the Assembly as soon as possible before the opening of that session of the Assembly.

2. Member States and regional groups might wish to consider the following pattern of regional rotation of chairmanships for the Main Committees starting at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly:

Session	First Committee	Fourth Committee	Second Committee	Third Committee	Fifth Committee	Sixth Committee
Seventy-fourth	Latin American and Caribbean States	Asia-Pacific States ^{a, b}	African States	Western European and other States	Asia-Pacific States ^a	Eastern European States
Seventy-fifth	Western European and other States	African States ^{a, b}	Asia-Pacific States ^b	Eastern European States	African States ^{a, b}	Latin American and Caribbean States ^b
Seventy-sixth	African States ^b	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	Asia-Pacific States ^a	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States ^a
Seventy-seventh	Asia-Pacific States	African States ^{a, b}	Eastern European States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	African States ^a
Seventy-eighth	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States ^b	Latin American and Caribbean States ^a	Western European and other States ^b	African States ^b	Latin American and Caribbean States ^{a, b}
Seventy-ninth	African States ^{a, b}	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States ^b	African States ^a	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States

^a Regional group holding two chairmanships during the session.

^b Regional group holding two chairmanships in this Committee during the period from the seventy-fourth to the seventy-ninth sessions.

3. The decision on switching or waiving the chairmanship of a Main Committee shall be taken by the regional groups involved in coordination with the President of the General Assembly. Such a decision shall not affect the general pattern of allocation of chairmanships of the

Main Committees among the regional groups in consecutive sessions.

4. The Rapporteur of a Main Committee should be elected from the regional group that held the chairmanship of the Committee at the previous session.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the General Assembly retained the agenda item on revitalization of the Assembly's work for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session. Also on the same date, by **decision 69/554**, the General Assembly decided that the item on the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Assembly sessions and meetings

The General Assembly met throughout 2014. It resumed and concluded its sixty-eighth session and held the major part of its sixty-ninth session. The sixty-eighth session resumed in plenary meetings on 29 January and continued until its suspension on 15 September. The sixty-ninth session opened on 16 September and continued until its suspension on 29 December.

The Assembly held high-level meetings on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (22–23 September) (see p. 888) and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (20 November) (see p. 763). It held a special session (its twenty-ninth) on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (22 September) (see p. 1207).

Agenda

Resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session

During the resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session, the General Assembly, by **decision 68/504 B**, decided to include additional items in the agenda of that session to be considered directly in plenary and to reopen consideration of a number of items and sub-items.

On 15 September, the Assembly deferred consideration of the item entitled “The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” to its sixty-ninth session (**decision 68/660**). On the proposal of the Comoros, it deferred consideration of the item entitled “Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte” to that session (**decision 68/661**).

Sixty-ninth (2014) session

By **decision 69/501** of 16 September, the General Assembly authorized a number of subsidiary bodies to meet during the main part of the Assembly's sixty-ninth session.

On 19 September, by **decision 69/502**, the Assembly adopted a number of provisions concerning the organization of the sixty-ninth session, as recommended by the General Committee [A/69/250]. By **decision 69/503** of the same date, the Assembly decided that the general debate would begin on 24 September and would continue on 27 September, 29 September, 30 September and 1 October.

The Assembly took a number of actions in respect of its sixty-eighth session agenda, as listed in **decision 69/504 A**. On 19 September, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/69/250], it adopted the agenda [A/69/251] and the allocation of agenda items [A/69/252]; included in the agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte”; and deferred consideration to its seventieth (2015) session the item entitled “Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India”. On 10 December, it reopened consideration of the agenda item “Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions”; and on 12 December, decided to consider directly in plenary meeting the agenda item entitled “Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries” and to proceed immediately with the consideration of a draft resolution [A/69/L.28] (see p. 1014).

On 2 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/69/434], included in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled “Maintenance of international security—good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe” (**decision 69/514**).

On 5 December, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/69/463], decided that the rotation of the post of rapporteur of the Fourth Committee for the next four sessions of the Assembly would be as set out as follows: Seventieth session (2015) Western European and other States; seventy-first session (2016) African States; seventy-second session (2017) Asia-Pacific States; seventy-third session (2018) Eastern European States (**decision 69/524**).

On 29 December, the Assembly decided that the following items would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session: the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization; United Nations reform: measures and proposals; and the armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (**decision 69/554**).

Programme of work for 2015 Assembly Committees

In December, the General Assembly adopted decisions on the programme of work of its Main Committees for the seventieth (2015) session. On 2 December, the Assembly approved the provisional programme of work and timetable of the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee [A/69/449/Rev.1] (**decision 69/520 A**) and took note of the Committee

report [A/69/450] (**decision 69/521**). On 5 December, it approved the proposed programme of work and timetable of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/69/463] (**decision 69/525 A**) and took note of the Committee report [A/69/464] (**decision 69/526**). On 10 December, the Assembly noted the provisional programme of work adopted by the Sixth (Legal) Committee [A/69/507] (**decision 69/529**) and took note of the Committee's report [A/69/508] (**decision 69/530**). On 18 and 19 December, respectively, it approved the programme of work of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/491] (**decision 69/539**) and of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/476] (**decision 69/548**).

Credentials

The Credentials Committee [A/69/617], at its meeting on 25 November, had before it a memorandum from the Secretary-General stating that 116 Member States had submitted formal credentials of representatives to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and 77 had submitted credentials by facsimile, letter or note verbale. The Committee adopted a draft resolution proposed by the Chair accepting the credentials of the Member States concerned without a vote and recommended to the Assembly a draft resolution (see below) on the credentials of representatives to the sixty-ninth session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 15 December [meeting 72], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/138** [draft: A/69/617] without vote [agenda item 3 (b)].

Credentials of representatives to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

Security Council

Security Council session

During 2014, the Security Council held 263 formal meetings, of which 241 were public meetings (among them eight high-level meetings, two of which dealt with terrorism) while 22 were private meetings (15 of which were meetings with police- and troop-contributing countries) and 167 were consultations. It considered 49 agenda items (see APPENDIX III); adopted 63 resolutions; and issued 28 presidential statements and 15 notes of the President who also made 138 press statements on behalf of the Council members. The Council also sent two missions, to Mali (see p. 283) and to Africa and Europe, visiting Belgium and the Netherlands as well as Kenya, Somalia (see p. 355) and South Sudan (see p. 341).

Monthly assessments of the Council's work in 2014 were issued by successive Council Presidents [S/2014/592, S/2014/392, S/2014/575, S/2014/446, S/2014/593, S/2014/594, S/2014/595, S/2015/121, S/2014/935, S/2014/929, S/2014/477]. The Council held an open debate on its working methods on 23 October [S/PV.7285].

On 14 August [A/69/300], the Secretary-General, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2, of the UN Charter and with the consent of the Council, notified the General Assembly of 75 matters relative to the maintenance of peace and security that were being dealt with by the Council since his previous annual notification [YUN 2013, p. 1411]. Items which the Council had ceased to deal with since the previous notification had been deleted and recorded in a summary statement of 3 March by the Secretary-General [S/2014/10/Add.9], as were items subject to deletion in 2014, which would remain on the list of items of which the Council was seized for one additional year. The Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's notification on 21 November (**decision 69/511**).

The General Assembly on 15 September took note of the Council's report [A/68/2] on the period from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013 (**decision 68/559**) and on 21 November took note of the report [A/69/2] on the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014 (**decision 69/512**). On 29 December the Assembly decided that the item on the Council's report would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Review of Security Council membership and related matters

On 8 September, by **decision 68/557**, the General Assembly decided to continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary at its sixty-ninth (2014) session, building on the informal meetings held during its sixty-eighth session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States; decided to convene the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council during its sixty-ninth (2014) session if Member States so decided; and included in the agenda of that session an item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council".

The Assembly on 29 December decided that the agenda item on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Economic and Social Council

Council sessions and meetings

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/1 [YUN 2013, p. 1413] the programme of work of the Economic and Social Council was adjusted to a July-to-July cycle. The Council [A/69/3/Rev.1] held its organizational session for 2014 in New York on 14 and 30 January, 18 March, 23 and 25 April, and 13 and 27 June. The substantive session, held in New York, included the operational activities for development segment (24–26 February and 14 July); the integration segment (27–29 May); the humanitarian affairs segment (23–25 June); the high-level segment (7–11 and 25 July); and the coordination and management meetings (23 and 25 April; 12–13 June; 14–16 and 25 July; and 17–18 November).

On 14 and 30 January, the Council elected its Bureau (a President and four Vice-Presidents) for 2014 (see APPENDIX II). On 30 January, the Council decided on a number of organizational matters, including its working arrangements, programme of work and provisional agenda [E/2014/1/Rev.1] for its 2014 session (**decision 2014/202**), special responsibilities of its Bureau (**decision 2014/203**) and documentation for its provisional programme of work for 2014 [E/2014/2] (**decision 2014/206**). On 23 April (**decision 2014/201 A**) and 17 November (**decision 2014/201 B**), the Council took action with regard to vacancies in its subsidiary and related bodies.

The Council held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (14–15 April) and its annual special meeting on international cooperation in tax matters (5 June) (**decision 2014/202**).

During the year, the Council adopted 38 resolutions and 57 decisions [E/2014/99].

The General Assembly on 29 December decided that the agenda item on the report of the Economic and Social Council would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Themes of Council segments and meetings

On 30 January, the Economic and Social Council decided that the focus of the operational activities segment of its 2014 session would be “The changing landscape of development cooperation: What does it mean for the United Nations system?” (**decision 2014/204**). On the same day, it also decided that the focus of the integration segment of that session would be sustainable urbanization (**decision 2014/205**).

The Council on 18 March decided that the theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development for 2014 would be “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda

(see p. 960), including the sustainable development goals” (**decision 2014/208**) and the theme for the thematic discussion item of its 2014 session would be “Effective governance, policymaking and planning for sustainable urbanization” (**decision 2014/209**). The Council on 23 April decided that the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of that session would be “The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness” (**decision 2014/211**) and on 25 April that the title of the event to discuss the transition from relief to development would be “Supporting the process of transition from relief to development: funding and risk management” (**decision 2014/215**).

Coordination, monitoring and cooperation

Institutional mechanisms

CEB activities

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the main instrument for strengthening the coordination role of the UN intergovernmental bodies on social, economic and related matters, held two regular sessions in 2014: the first in Rome (8 May) [CEB/2014/1] and the second in Washington, D.C. (20–21 November) [CEB/2014/2]. Its principal subsidiary bodies met as follows: the High-level Committee on Management held its twenty-seventh (Venice, Italy, 3–4 April) [CEB/2014/3] and twenty-eighth (New York, 8 October) [CEB/2014/5] sessions; and the High-level Committee on Programmes held its twenty-seventh (Santiago, Chile, 17–18 March) [CEB/2014/4] and twenty-eighth (New York, 10 October) [CEB/2014/6] sessions.

In its annual overview report for 2014 [E/2015/71], CEB highlighted its activities in fostering a coherent approach on policy, operations and management to enhance UN system-wide coordination in support of intergovernmental mandates. It also reviewed efforts to enhance coherence and coordination on system-wide preparation and follow-up to UN conferences and summits. CEB continued its efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and coordinated system-wide support in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda. Through its High-level Committee on Programmes, the Board contributed to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (see p. 995); preparations for the 2016 United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development; the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 [YUN 2011, p. 826]; and the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see p. 1181). The report also highlighted co-ordination activities between CEB and other jointly financed bodies.

CEB also pursued initiatives for advancing policy coherence and coordination, in particular in the areas of youth employment, cybercrime and cybersecurity, and climate change.

Seeking to increase the effectiveness and impact of operational activities of the UN system, CEB, through the United Nations Development Group, accorded priority to the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations throughout the system. With regard to administrative and management issues, CEB, through its High-level Committee on Management, focused on improving common procurement practices, modernizing human resources management and improving business practices.

CEB report

CPC Consideration. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) [A/69/16] considered the CEB annual overview report for 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1417] during its fifty-fourth session (New York, 2–27 June).

The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request CEB to provide information on the implementation of a coordinated approach on multilingualism within the UN system, in line with Assembly resolution 67/292 [YUN 2013, p. 1513]. It recommended that the Assembly bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need to continue addressing the issue of the harmonization and simplification of business practices; request the Secretary-General to share examples of good experiences and lessons learned in implementing good practices in performance management with the human resources directors of member organizations; and request the Secretary-General to promote within the UN system the integration of support for South-South cooperation into the country-level programming of operational activities for development.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the annual overview report of CEB for 2013 on 16 July (**decision 2014/238**).

Programme coordination

CPC held its organizational meeting (24 April) and its fifty-fourth session (2–27 June) in New York [A/69/16].

CPC considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2012–2013 (see p. 1653); the proposed strategic framework for 2016–2017 (see p. 1652); and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its

fifty-first session [YUN 2011, p. 1361] on the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Under coordination questions, it dealt with the annual overview report of CEB for 2013 and with the Secretary-General's report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (see p. 1085).

The Economic and Social Council took note of the report of CPC on its fifty-fourth session on 16 July (**decision 2014/238**).

Other matters

Follow-up to international conferences

On 29 December, by **decision 69/554**, the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UN and other organizations

Cooperation with organizations

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/316 [YUN 2004, p. 1374] and Security Council resolution 1809(2008) [YUN 2008, p. 109], the Secretary-General in August submitted a consolidated report [A/69/228-S/2014/560] on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, covering the period since his previous report [YUN 2012, p. 1394]. The report dealt with the following organizations: the African Union (see below), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (see below), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (see below), the Caribbean Community (see below), the Central European Initiative (see below), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (see below), the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (see below), the Council of Europe (see below), the Economic Community of Central African States (see below), the Economic Cooperation Organization (see below), the Eurasian Economic Community (see below), the International Organization of la Francophonie (see below), the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (see below), the League of Arab States (see below), the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development—GUAM (see below), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (see below), the Organization of American States (see below), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see below), the Pacific Islands Forum (see below), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (see below), the Southern African Development Community (see below), the Organization for the Prohibition of

Chemical Weapons (see p. 662) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (see p. 627).

The activities and achievements described in the report, the Secretary-General said, demonstrated the depth of cooperation between the United Nations and its regional partners across the full range of mandate areas, from the maintenance of international peace and security and humanitarian assistance to development and the protection of human rights. A common principle across all of those partnerships was the recognition that more interaction and coordination were beneficial for the international community at large—that had translated into strategic coordination across a breadth of mandates.

African Union

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council held their seventh and eighth annual consultative meetings in 2013 and 2014. The United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security continued to meet twice a year, contributing to the efforts of both organizations to develop a common understanding of the causes and drivers of conflict in Africa and to promote joint approaches to resolving them. During the reporting period, the African Union (AU), supported by the United Nations, deployed two new peace support operations: the African-led International Support Mission in Mali and the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic. The United Nations Office to the African Union provided critical support for those missions.

UN-system wide cooperation with the AU continued in areas including electoral assistance, economic development, peacebuilding, control of small arms and light weapons, human rights, drug control and crime prevention, children and armed conflict, international trade statistics, energy planning, agriculture and food security, trade, anti-corruption in public service, and the environment.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations continued in areas including conflict prevention, genocide prevention, disarmament, statistics, trade facilitation, disaster management, the environment, health, and food security.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/110** [draft: A/69/L.31 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 123 (e)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling the aims and purposes of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as enshrined in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967, in particular the maintenance of close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes,

Noting the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which came into force on 15 December 2008, particularly on upholding the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

Noting with satisfaction that the activities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling all previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Welcoming the participation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the high-level meetings between the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the collaboration between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to promote dialogue and cooperation among regional organizations in Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming also the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an observer in the General Assembly,

Recalling the First to Fifth Summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations, held in Bangkok on 12 February 2000, at United Nations Headquarters on 13 September 2005, in Hanoi on 29 October 2010, in Bali, Indonesia, on 19 November 2011, and in Bandar Seri Begawan, on 10 October 2013, respectively, and the commitment of the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to further deepen and broaden cooperation between the two organizations,

Welcoming the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the Realization of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community by 2015, issued at the twenty-fourth Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit, held in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 May 2014, in which the Association reiterated its strong commitment to the realization of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible,

Recognizing the efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to strengthen its institutions as well as to set its post-2015 vision for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community that will ensure the credibility and centrality of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in changing circumstances as well as support the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard welcoming the adoption of the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community's Post-2015 Vision, issued at the twenty-fifth Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2014,

1. *Welcomes* the progress in the implementation of the Road Map for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community (2009–2015), which will ensure lasting peace and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress in the region;

2. *Also welcomes* the progress of the implementation of the Bali Declaration on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) Plan of Action (2013–2017), which will enhance the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in addressing global challenges and seizing the opportunities of the twenty-first century;

3. *Recognizes* the commitment of the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to develop the partnership between the two organizations, as described in the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 27 September 2007;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations to further intensify and strengthen the level of and framework for cooperation between the two organizations through the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations issued at the Fourth Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations Summit on 19 November 2011 in Bali;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to work closely with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to achieve the common goals as set out in the Joint Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to support the Association of Southeast Asian Nations community-building, including the successful implementation of the Road Map for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community (2009–2015) and the Master Plan on Association of Southeast Asian Nations Connectivity;

6. *Commends* the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for their efforts to hold annual meetings during the regular sessions of the General Assembly, with a view to further enhancing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations partnership, including overseeing, directing and reviewing the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Continues to encourage* the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to convene regular summits, welcomes the holding of the Sixth Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations Summit on 12 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, and in this regard also welcomes the adoption of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations Work Plan for 2015;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations to provide strengthened support, including through exchanges of best practices and capacity-building, for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Mine Action Centre;

9. *Reaffirms* the importance of enhancing regional security and cooperation and the peaceful settlement of disputes to promote peace, stability and prosperity, both regionally and globally, in accordance with the purposes

and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law;

10. *Also reaffirms* the positive initiative of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the Global Movement of Moderates in shaping global development and advancing global peace, particularly in efforts to fight against violence, extremism and radicalism, and also welcomes the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations regional dialogue on the political-security cooperation pillar on “Conflict prevention and maintenance of peace and stability in multicultural and pluralistic societies”, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 June 2014;

11. *Encourages* cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the field of human rights, particularly through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, as well as the rights of migrant workers in accordance with national laws, regulations and policies of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Human Rights Declaration and Phnom Penh leaders’ statement on the adoption of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Human Rights Declaration, and welcomes in this regard the efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to finalize an Association of Southeast Asian Nations instrument on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers and to support the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence against Children in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations adopted at the twenty-third Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit, held in Bandar Seri Begawan in October 2013;

12. *Acknowledges* the contribution of maritime cooperation, including maritime security cooperation, to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations community-building, such as in the form of exchange of information and experiences to further promote the rule of law and implementation of relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other international instruments, and underscores the need to further strengthen such cooperation in order to address related issues and challenges;

13. *Also acknowledges* the continued participation of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the intergovernmental process to establish the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, and recognizes the importance of ensuring synergies between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community’s post-2015 vision, which is now under deliberation, and the post-2015 development agenda, for their effective implementation in supporting the efforts to eradicate poverty and implement an inclusive and sustainable development agenda beyond 2015;

14. *Reiterates* the importance of regional integration in the Southeast Asia region and its potential contribution to regional and global prosperity, stability and development, and encourages cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations to nar-

row development gaps through poverty alleviation and rural development measures, to promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and to enhance Association of Southeast Asian Nations connectivity;

15. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the implementation of the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and welcomes the development of the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, adopted at the twenty-third Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit on 9 October 2013;

16. *Reaffirms* the adoption by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders of the Declaration for a Drug-Free Association of Southeast Asian Nations 2015, and encourages the continued support of the United Nations for the efforts to achieve this goal;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to finalize the draft Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention on Trafficking in Persons and the Regional Plan of Action by the end of 2014 and its intention to submit them for adoption at the twenty-sixth Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in 2015;

18. *Encourages* cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in order to ensure an effective response and management of natural disasters, through the implementation of the second phase of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations Strategic Plan of Cooperation on Disaster Management, and to enhance the capacity and technical support to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management;

19. *Encourages* the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations to explore measures to further the effective and timely implementation of joint activities between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations".

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization continued in areas ranging from transportation and environmental governance to agricultural development, food security and consumer protection.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 November [meeting 48], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/13** [draft: A/69/L.14 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 123 (d)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/5 of 8 October 1999, by which it granted observer status to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, as well as its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, including resolution 67/13 of 19 November 2012,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social or humanitarian nature,

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

Recalling its Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security of 9 December 1994,

Recognizing that any dispute or conflict in the region impedes cooperation, and stressing the need to solve such a dispute or conflict on the basis of the norms and principles of international law,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 67/13,

1. *Recalls* the Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization on the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary Summit of the Organization, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 26 June 2012;

2. *Reiterates* the conviction that multilateral economic cooperation contributes to enhancing peace, stability and security to the benefit of the wider Black Sea area;

3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the States members of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to the implementation of its economic agenda, "Towards an enhanced Black Sea Economic Cooperation Partnership", endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the States members of the Organization at its Twentieth Anniversary Summit, in which the member States reiterated their commitment to enhancing the economic mission and the project-oriented character of the Organization;

4. *Values* the activities of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in such fields as energy, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, transport, institutional renewal and good governance, trade and economic development, banking and finance, environmental protection, sustainable development and entrepreneurship, communications, agriculture and agro-industry, health care and pharmaceuticals, culture, education, youth and sports, tourism, science and technology, exchange of statistical data and economic information, collaboration among customs authorities and combating organized crime and trafficking in drugs, weapons and radioactive material, acts of terrorism and illegal migration and in other related spheres;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to elaborate and realize concrete joint regional projects, particularly in the field of transport, which will contribute to the development of Euro-Asian transport links, and recalls, within this framework, the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Motorways of the Sea in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization region, which entered into force in late 2008;

6. *Appeals* for greater cooperation between international financial institutions and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in co-financing feasibility and pre-feasibility studies for projects in the wider Black Sea area, where economically prudent and within their respective mandates;

7. *Notes* the contributions of the bodies related to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, namely, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Business Council, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies, to the strengthening of multifaceted regional cooperation in the region;

8. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to promoting fruitful cooperation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in particular to developing practical and results-oriented projects, in areas of common interest, as reiterated in the Declaration and the new economic agenda endorsed at the Twentieth Anniversary Summit of the Organization;

9. *Also welcomes* the increased cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Tourism Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the working contacts of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization with the World Bank aimed at promoting sustainable development in the Black Sea region;

10. *Acknowledges* the interest of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in contributing to the post-2015 development agenda;

11. *Welcomes* efforts to increase capacity-building in the Permanent International Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization by establishing a project management unit to support projects for the sustainable development of the Black Sea region, in turn contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the wider Black Sea area;

12. *Notes* the willingness of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to continue to implement sustainable development strategies based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activities and environmental protection;

13. *Also notes* the efforts of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to take measures to rehabilitate, protect and preserve the environment in the Black Sea region, and in this regard welcomes its cooperation with the World Wide Fund for Nature;

14. *Further notes* the increased cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and within this framework welcomes the positive results of the ongoing joint project to strengthen the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons in the Black Sea region, launched on 1 September 2007;

15. *Welcomes* the multifaceted and fruitful cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe, especially in the area of transport, within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed by the two organizations on 2 July 2001;

16. *Encourages* the full implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme of 20 February 2002 and the Relationship Agreement between the Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization of 8 September 1997;

17. *Notes* that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization became a member of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in 2009 in order to contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Alliance by promoting projects aimed at building bridges between diverse cultures and communities and fostering cross-cultural exchange and cooperation, and welcomes the intention of the secretariats of the two organizations to sign a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the near future;

18. *Also notes* the potential for cooperation between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the European Union in the interest of realizing the Organization's goals beneficial to both sides;

19. *Further notes* the cooperation established between the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and other regional organizations and initiatives;

20. *Invites* the Secretary-General to strengthen dialogue with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization with a view to promoting cooperation and co-ordination between the secretariats of the two organizations;

21. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in order to continue programmes with the Organization and its associated institutions for the achievement of their objectives;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization".

Caribbean Community

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), the seventh general meeting between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the UN system (New York, July 2013) attended by both Secretaries-General, discussed climate

change, small island developing States, the post-2015 development agenda, citizen security and transnational organized crime, agricultural development and non-communicable diseases. UN-system wide cooperation with CARICOM continued in areas including crime and security, statistics, the environment and sustainable development, human security, food safety and commemoration of the victims of slavery and the Transatlantic slave trade.

Central European Initiative

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Central European Initiative continued in areas ranging from trade development and facilitation to renewable energy, rural development, and food and nutrition security.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 November [meeting 48], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/8** [draft: A/69/L.8 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 123 (f)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/111 of 9 December 2011, by which it granted observer status to the Central European Initiative,

Recalling also its resolution 67/7 of 19 November 2012, in which it invited the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Initiative in order to continue joint activities for the achievement of common objectives,

Recalling further the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation to promote the goals and objectives of the United Nations,

Appreciating the efforts made by the Initiative to strengthen its relations with the United Nations system and relevant international and regional organizations with the ultimate goal of achieving a concrete positive impact on the political and socioeconomic development of the region through the implementation of projects and programmes in all priority areas,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 67/7,

1. *Notes* the celebration, in November 2014, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Central European Initiative, initially known as the Quadragonale, the establishment of which coincided with the end of the cold war, which led to complex transition processes in Central and Eastern Europe;

2. *Values* the continuing contribution of the Initiative to the political dialogue and its project management support, providing its member States with a flexible and pragmatic platform for regional cooperation;

3. *Welcomes* the Central European Initiative Plan of Action 2014–2016 aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in fields such as transport, energy, with a fo-

cus on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, environment, small and medium-sized enterprises, business development, research, education, the information society, culture and media;

4. *Notes* the efforts of the Initiative to support, elaborate and realize concrete joint regional projects in strategic areas;

5. *Acknowledges*, in this context, the fruitful cooperation between the Initiative and the European Union, as one of the main co-funders of such projects, and supports the efforts of the Initiative to take concrete steps for the establishment of other mutual beneficial partnerships with the European Union;

6. *Welcomes* the financing of projects by the Central European Initiative Trust Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, financed entirely by Italy, which provides mainly grant-type assistance for specific components of technical cooperation projects, linked to large operations of the Bank in Initiative member States not part of the European Union, in a number of areas, including agriculture, transport, energy, assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises, municipal infrastructure and services, banking, insurance, institution-building and capacity-building;

7. *Also welcomes* the financing of small-scale multilateral projects in the priority areas by the Central European Initiative Cooperation Fund, to which all member States contribute, and of projects related to capacity-building and the sharing of good practices with Initiative member States not part of the European Union through the Know-how Exchange Programme, financed by Austria and Italy;

8. *Notes* the contributions made by the Parliamentary and Business Dimensions of the Initiative to strengthening multifaceted regional cooperation;

9. *Appeals* for greater cooperation between the Initiative and international organizations and international financial institutions in co-financing important projects in the region;

10. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Initiative and other regional organizations and initiatives;

11. *Also welcomes* the commitment of the Initiative to promoting fruitful cooperation with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular mutual participation in events and meetings of common interest, and to developing practical and results-oriented joint projects;

12. *Further welcomes* the cooperation between the Initiative and the Economic Commission for Europe in the area of enterprise development, with the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of the environment, with the World Tourism Organization in the area of tourism, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the area of agriculture, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the area of culture and with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the areas of science and technology;

13. *Notes* the enhanced cooperation between the Initiative and the Economic Commission for Europe, within the framework of the memorandum of understanding signed in 1998, through the more recent participation of the Initiative in activities of the Commission in Geneva;

14. *Also notes* the commitment of the Initiative to contributing to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals at the regional and global levels;

15. *Acknowledges* the interest of the Initiative in the adoption by the General Assembly of a comprehensive post-2015 development agenda at its seventieth session;

16. *Invites* the Secretary-General to strengthen dialogue with the Initiative with a view to promoting cooperation and coordination between the secretariats;

17. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to cooperate with the Initiative in order to continue joint activities for the achievement of common objectives;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative".

Collective Security Treaty Organization

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Collective Security Treaty Organization continued in areas ranging from peacekeeping, mediation and counter-terrorism to conflict prevention, early warning and capacity-building.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 November [meeting 48], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/12** [draft: A/69/L.13] without vote [agenda item 123 (g)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization

The General Assembly,

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

Referring to the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage measures for regional cooperation to advance the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Referring also to its resolution 59/50 of 2 December 2004, in which it granted the Collective Security Treaty Organization observer status in the General Assembly,

Referring further to its resolutions 64/256 of 2 March 2010, 65/122 of 13 December 2010 and 67/6 of 19 November 2012 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization and to its Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security,

Referring to all previous relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 1631(2005) of 17 October 2005, and the relevant statements by its President, including those of 13 January 2010 and 6 August 2013, which underline the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant statutes of regional and subregional organizations,

Noting with satisfaction that, during its existence, the Collective Security Treaty Organization has transformed into a multifunctional structure with the potential to provide an adequate response to a wide range of threats and challenges within the area of its responsibility,

Welcoming the efforts of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to attain objectives consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Welcoming also the practical steps taken by the Collective Security Treaty Organization to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular through the joint plan of action for the implementation of the Strategy in Central Asia, adopted in Ashgabat on 30 November 2011,

Acknowledging the importance of the efforts of the regional anti-drug operation of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, "Kanal", to combat the smuggling of Afghan opiates and the cannabis group of drugs, cocaine and synthetic substances into the territory of the Eurasian region and to counter the activities of organized drug groups and their leaders,

Welcoming the practical contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to implementing, during the period from 2009 to 2019, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session,

Welcoming also the progress in enhancing practical cooperation between the two secretariats with the recent launch of the dialogue between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the finalization of the memorandum of understanding between the secretariat of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat aimed at promoting more extensive and intensive cooperation in the maintenance of peace, including by encouraging the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to make contributions to the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations,

Noting the progress in developing the potential of the collective rapid reaction forces and the formation of peacekeeping forces of the Collective Security Treaty Organization,

Noting also the firm intention of both organizations to further strengthen existing cooperation by developing specific proposals in the priority areas of cooperation,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, and acknowledges the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the significant practical contribution and efforts of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to strengthen the system of regional security and stability, to counter terrorism and transnational organized crime, illegal trafficking in drugs and weapons, and illegal migration and human trafficking, to combat natural and man-made disasters and to strengthen its peacekeeping capacities, which contribute to the attainment of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the secretariats of the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization to enhance coordination and cooperation in the areas of mutual interest and to develop concrete modalities for such cooperation, and encourages them to continue their collaboration, including the exchange of information;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue regular consultations with the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, utilizing the appropriate inter-institutional forums and formats, including the consultations between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the heads of regional organizations;

5. *Invites* the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization to continue their cooperation in the interest of the consistent and comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

6. *Invites* increased cooperation and coordination among the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the development of their direct contacts in areas of mutual interest;

7. *Encourages* both organizations to continue to examine possible ways to further enhance their cooperation in the area of peacekeeping;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization".

Commonwealth of Independent States

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), established in 1991, brought together 11 States parties. In accordance with resolution 48/237 [YUN 1994, p. 255], CIS was granted observer status in the General Assembly. CIS had established cooperation with a number of United Nations specialized agencies and had accumulated experience in multilevel cooperation with the United Nations to deal with common challenges of a social, economic and humanitarian nature.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 November [meeting 48], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/10** [draft: A/69/L.10] without vote [agenda item 123 (y)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States

The General Assembly,

Referring to the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage measures for regional cooperation to advance the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Referring also to its resolution 48/237 of 24 March 1994, by which it granted the Commonwealth of Independent States observer status in the General Assembly,

Welcoming the efforts of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to attain objectives consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character is one of the purposes of the United Nations,

Referring to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 1631(2005) of 17 October 2005, as well as statements by the President of the Council, including the statement of 13 January 2010, in which the Council emphasized the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the Charter,

Welcoming the commitment of the Commonwealth of Independent States to intensify and deepen its cooperation with the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States will advance the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

1. *Notes* the activities of the Commonwealth of Independent States to strengthen regional cooperation in such areas as trade and economic development; exchange of statistical data and economic information; culture; education; health care; sports; tourism; science and innovation; environmental protection and response to natural and man-made disasters; combating organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, terrorist acts, manifestations of extremism and illegal migration; and other related areas;

2. *Also notes* the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and invites the Secretary-General to hold for that purpose regular consultations with the Chair of the Executive Committee and Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth, making use of appropriate inter-agency forums and formats, including consultations between the Secretary-General and the heads of regional organizations;

3. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions, to develop their cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States".

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, in partnership with the AU, maintained close cooperation with the

Community of Portuguese-speaking countries to support international efforts to assist Guinea-Bissau in addressing political challenges and carrying out a peaceful political transition. Other areas of cooperation included corruption, trafficking in persons, drug control, and public information.

Council of Europe

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Council of Europe continued in areas ranging from further strengthening cooperation on democracy, discussing developments in the Middle East and North Africa and the situation of the Roma, minorities and migrants in Europe to statistics, human rights, and ageing.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 3 December [meeting 63], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/83** [draft: A/69/L.27 & Add.1.] without vote [agenda item 123 (j)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Agreement between the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the United Nations signed on 15 December 1951 and the Arrangement on Cooperation and Liaison between the Secretariats of the United Nations and the Council of Europe of 19 November 1971,

Recalling also its resolution 44/6 of 17 October 1989, in which it granted the Council of Europe a standing invitation to participate as an observer in its sessions and work, as well as its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe,

Acknowledging the contribution of the Council of Europe to the protection and strengthening of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law through its standards, principles and monitoring mechanisms, as well as to the effective implementation of relevant international legal instruments of the United Nations,

Acknowledging also the contribution of the Council of Europe to the development of international law, and noting the openness of the Council of Europe to the participation of States of other regions in its legal instruments,

Welcoming the role of the Council of Europe in building a united Europe without dividing lines, and the contribution of the Council of Europe to cohesion, stability and security in Europe,

Commending the increasing contribution of the Council of Europe, including at the parliamentary level, to democratic transition in its neighbouring regions aimed at promoting democratic institutions and procedures, and welcoming the readiness of the Council of Europe to further share its experience in democracy-building with interested countries on the basis of a demand-driven approach,

Welcoming the increasingly close relations between the United Nations and the Council of Europe, and commending the contribution of the Permanent Delegations of the Council of Europe to the United Nations Offices at Geneva

and at Vienna to the enhancement of cooperation and the achievement of greater synergy between the United Nations and the Council of Europe,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe,

1. *Reiterates its call* for the reinforcement of cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe regarding the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the promotion of democracy and the rule of law and good governance at all levels, inter alia, the prevention of torture, the fight against terrorism and trafficking in human beings, the fight against all forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, the promotion of freedom of expression and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, the protection of the rights and dignity of all members of society without discrimination on any grounds and the promotion of human rights education;

2. *Confirms its recognition* of the key role of the European Court of Human Rights in ensuring effective human rights protection under the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for the 800 million citizens in the 47 States members of the Council of Europe, and notes with interest the efforts to guarantee the long-term effectiveness of the Court system and to ensure the rapid and effective execution of Court judgments, as well as the ongoing work aiming at accession of the European Union to the Convention;

3. *Recognizes* the important role of the Council of Europe in upholding the rule of law and fighting impunity, including by strengthening the capacity of the national judiciaries of its member States to carry out their work consistent with the relevant international obligations of the member States in particular, and where applicable, those defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

4. *Also recognizes* the role of the revised European Social Charter and of the European Committee of Social Rights in protecting economic and social rights, notes the complementarities of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006–2015, and confirms its support for cooperation between the two organizations with respect to the eradication of poverty, the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, the fight against maternal and child mortality, encouraging the integration of migrants and refugees, strengthening social cohesion and intergenerational solidarity and ensuring the protection of economic, social and cultural rights for all;

5. *Notes* the signature of a joint declaration on the reinforcement of cooperation between the secretariat of the Council of Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this respect encourages further cooperation between the United Nations, including the Human Rights Council, its special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Office of the High Commissioner and the human rights treaty bodies, and the Council of Europe, including its Commissioner for Human Rights, with regard to promoting respect for human rights;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Council of Europe to the enhancement of cooperation between international and regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, and in this context

welcomes, in particular, the contribution of the Council of Europe to the universal periodic review regarding the situation of human rights in States members of the Council of Europe and the adoption of a declaration supporting the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework;

7. *Encourages* further cooperation, where appropriate, between the United Nations and the Council of Europe through their mechanisms on the prevention of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and supports the development of cooperation in the penitentiary field, namely with regard to consideration by Member States of updating the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and in combating prison overcrowding;

8. *Encourages* the Council of Europe to continue cooperation with the United Nations in the fight against trafficking in persons, recalls that the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is open for accession by all States, and notes with interest the results of the monitoring activities carried out by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and by the Committee of the Parties to the Convention;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the elaboration by the Council of Europe of its Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs, as a follow-up to the joint Council of Europe/United Nations study on trafficking in organs, tissues and cells and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of the removal of organs, and encourages further cooperation in this field;

10. *Welcomes and encourages* the close collaboration between the United Nations Children’s Fund, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Council of Europe to protect and promote the rights of the child, takes note of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012–2015) promoting the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in its member States, recalls in this context that the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse is open for accession by all States, and supports the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE campaign to stop sexual violence against children and the establishment of a European Day on the Fight against Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children, as stated in the Strategy;

11. *Welcomes* the reinforced action of the Council of Europe to promote the social inclusion and respect for human rights of the Roma, and encourages further cooperation between the two organizations in this field;

12. *Also welcomes* the regular and active contribution of the Council of Europe to the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the agreed and specified cooperation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), which includes support to member States, upon their request, in implementing commitments on gender equality and women’s rights, in particular access to justice and women’s political participation, and the promotion of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which is open for accession by all States and was referred to in resolution 68/191 of 18 De-

cember 2013 on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls, and in this context encourages those bodies to continue to develop a fruitful collaboration in eliminating violence against women and the achievement of de facto gender equality and recognizes the important contribution that the entry into force of the Convention will make in eradicating this scourge;

13. *Encourages* continuing cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Council of Europe, including the Council of Europe Development Bank, in particular in the protection and promotion of the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, and in the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and recognizes the importance of the interface offered by the presence at the Council of Europe of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg, as well as by the Permanent Delegation of the Council of Europe to the United Nations Office at Geneva;

14. *Recognizes and encourages* the continuing close liaison and fruitful cooperation between United Nations missions and the Council of Europe offices in the field;

15. *Encourages* further cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe in the area of democracy and good governance, including through active participation in the Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy and engagement with youth representatives and civil society, as appropriate, and the strengthening of the links between the World Programme for Human Rights Education and the Council of Europe Programme on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights, and in this context welcomes the contribution to the activities of the International Contact Group on citizenship and human rights education;

16. *Notes* the important role of the United Nations Development Programme and the Council of Europe in supporting good local democratic governance, as well as the fruitful cooperation between them, encourages further deepening of the cooperation following the signature in February 2010 of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Council of Europe in this field, and calls for enhanced cooperation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in the field of sustainable urban governance;

17. *Also notes* the contribution of the Council of Europe in protecting and promoting all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression and opinion and the freedom of the media, and encourages further cooperation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations in this regard, in particular with regard to the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity;

18. *Reaffirms* that, as the information society and the Internet develop, freedom of expression, as well as the right to privacy, as set out in article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, must be protected and respected, including as they relate to data protection, while recognizing lawful restrictions as set out in national legislation in accordance with international human rights law, acknowledges the importance of the work of the Council of Europe in protecting those rights, takes note of its Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to

Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which is open for accession by all States, encourages further cooperation in these areas between relevant United Nations agencies and the Council of Europe, and recalls General Assembly resolution 68/167 of 18 December 2013;

19. *Welcomes and encourages* the close cooperation between the two organizations in the fight against transnational organized crime, cybercrime, terrorism and money-laundering, as well as in the protection of the rights of victims of such crimes, and recalls that the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime and the Additional Protocol thereto, and the Council of Europe Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health, as well as several other relevant Council of Europe conventions, are open for accession by all States;

20. *Welcomes and supports* the cooperation between the respective mechanisms concerning the prevention of and the fight against corruption, notably by reviewing and mutually reinforcing the implementation of international anti-corruption standards;

21. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Council of Europe to the promotion of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the collaboration between their respective mechanisms regarding the fight against terrorism, including the financing of terrorism, in full respect of human rights and the rule of law, and recalls that the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism are open for accession by all States;

22. *Also welcomes* the continued cooperation of the Council of Europe, where appropriate and in accordance with international drug control conventions, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board in the fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking, and notes the role played by the Pompidou Group in this regard;

23. *Further welcomes* the contribution of the Council of Europe to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly and the International Law Commission;

24. *Notes* the cooperation established between the Alliance of Civilizations and the Council of Europe following their signature of a memorandum of understanding on 29 September 2008 and the accession of the Alliance of Civilizations to the Faro Platform, and encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Alliance of Civilizations on the one hand, and the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre on the other, to pursue their developing and fruitful collaboration in the field of intercultural dialogue;

25. *Also notes* the cooperation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of education, encourages the extension of this cooperation, which should continue to focus on the role of education in developing just and humane societies characterized by the participation of individuals and the ability of individuals and societies to conduct intercultural dialogue, as well as on the encouragement of the diversity of cultural expressions, and welcomes the contribution of the Council of Europe in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

26. *Invites* the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Council of Europe to combine their efforts in seeking answers to global challenges, within their respective mandates, including in relation to the post-2015 development agenda, and calls upon all relevant United Nations bodies to support the enhancement of cooperation with the Council of Europe, as set out in relevant resolutions;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe in the implementation of the present resolution.

Economic Community of Central African States

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States continued in areas ranging from political governance, mediation support, the fight against the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, and a regional anti-piracy strategy to agricultural development.

Economic Cooperation Organization

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization continued in areas ranging from national accounts and integrated economic statistics to transport and sustainable forest management.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/111** [draft: A/69/L.11/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 123 (k)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993, by which it granted observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization in which it invited various specialized agencies, as well as other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and relevant financial institutions, to join in the efforts towards realizing its goals and the objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Appreciating the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to strengthen its relations with the United Nations system and with relevant international and regional organizations for the development and implementation of projects and programmes in areas of common interest,

Noting the efforts made by the United Nations system and the relevant international and regional organizations in extending technical and financial assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization for the development and implementation of programmes and projects pertaining to socioeconomic progress, and encouraging them to continue their support,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 67/14 of 19 November 2012, and acknowledges the growing cooperation between the two organizations;

2. *Takes note* of the Baku Declaration, issued at the twelfth Economic Cooperation Organization summit meeting of Heads of State and/or Government of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held on 16 October 2012 in Baku;

3. *Appreciates* the continuing efforts to strengthen the existing cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Cooperation Organization, especially in the field of trade capacity-building of member States, notes with satisfaction the signing of the project document between the two organizations on 18 March 2014 for the implementation of the third phase of their joint programme, aimed at enhancing the capacity of member States to strengthen their standards, metrology, testing and quality infrastructure, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies to consider supporting the implementation of the project;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre to develop strategies for the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization for trade liberalization and the promotion of foreign direct investment to facilitate the global and regional integration of their economies;

5. *Notes* the progress made on the trade facilitation programme of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies, especially the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, to support the Organization in developing its trade facilitation agreement, single windows in the member States, the TradeNet web portal and a unified visa system for facilitating the work of the region's businesspeople and enhancing regional trade;

6. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to implement its Trade Agreement for the enhancement of intraregional trade, and invites the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre to consider extending technical assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization for the implementation of the Trade Agreement and the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to assist the States members of the Organization in the trade facilitation process, leading to the regional and global integration of their economies;

7. *Notes* the basic development needs of landlocked countries, including their need to overcome the limitations arising from their geographical positions, the lack of access to open seas and seaport facilities and other challenges hindering their promotion of transit transport cooperation,

and invites the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and other relevant international and regional bodies to assist and cooperate with the Economic Cooperation Organization on the proposed study project of the Office and the Organization on the possibility of providing concessional services for landlocked countries in selected ports of transit countries of the region, within existing resources;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the approval of the railway network development plan of the Economic Cooperation Organization at the eleventh meeting of heads of railway authorities of the member States, held in Ankara in June 2012, and of the road network development plan at the sixth meeting of the Road Committee of the Transit Transport Coordination Council, held in Tehran in December 2013, and invites all the relevant international financial and specialized institutions to consider participating in the implementation of the plans, taking into account the key role played by the railway and road networks of the region as land bridges between Asia and Europe;

9. *Notes* the recommendations of the joint workshop of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe on a unified railway law, held in Ankara in June 2012, regarding the formulation of a unified law on international freight and passenger traffic by rail with a view to the facilitation of transport by rail in the region, and invites the relevant United Nations agencies to consider implementing the recommendations;

10. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe and other institutions for the reactivation of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) in Afghanistan and the accession of Pakistan in 2013 to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail, and expresses its satisfaction with the support of the Economic Commission for Europe for the implementation of the TIR pilot project along the corridor between Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey;

11. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to develop two road transport corridors, between Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, and between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, invites the relevant international and regional organizations, notably the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Islamic Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Europe, to consider participating in the fields of study, demonstration caravans and other activities envisaged in the project of the Economic Cooperation Organization to develop these corridors, within their respective mandates, and, noting the progress on development of the two road transport corridors, invites the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe to conduct a study on road safety along these corridors and to organize capacity-building programmes and training courses on road safety and security with the support of the relevant institutions, as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization that have not done so to accede to the Convention on the Contract for the International

Carriage of Goods by Road, the TIR Convention, the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road and the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies and other international bodies to provide the necessary support to the States members of the Organization, particularly for capacity-building activities and the holding of workshops;

13. *Invites* the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to cooperate with the Economic Cooperation Organization for the facilitation of transit trade among the member States of the Organization and the modernization of their border crossing points;

14. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Economic Cooperation Organization to conduct a feasibility study on the need for the development of information and communications technology, infrastructure connectivity and services in the region, and invites all relevant United Nations institutions and agencies, especially the International Telecommunication Union, to consider providing, where appropriate, capacity-building and technical assistance to the Organization for the conduct and follow-up of the aforementioned study;

15. *Notes* the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization to prepare a technical assistance project proposal on the implementation of the regional programmes for food security of the Economic Cooperation Organization under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme administered by the World Bank, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies, especially the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to consider providing technical and financial assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization for preparing and implementing detailed project proposals under the programme components suitable to the needs of the member States;

16. *Recognizes* the growing importance of tourism in the sustainable development of the region and its potential in the promotion of a sustainable economy, and invites the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies and other organizations, especially the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, to consider extending financial and technical support to the Economic Cooperation Organization for the development of regional projects related to tourism promotion and to support its programmes;

17. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recent efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization aimed at underlining the special and increasing role of renewable energy in complementing conventional energy in order to support sustainable energy development, and requests the relevant United Nations agencies to consider rendering financial and technical support, as appropriate, for regional projects in the fields of energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy;

18. *Welcomes* the idea of the development of a joint programme by the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization for sustainable energy and, as

its outcome, the establishment of a regional energy centre, and calls upon the relevant United Nations agencies and international financial institutions to consider extending their financial and technical support for the development and implementation stages of this programme;

19. *Recognizes* the significance of mutual cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization in addressing the global challenges referred to in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled "The future we want", and emphasizes the necessity of regular cooperation between the two organizations for achieving the goals envisaged in that resolution;

20. *Appreciates* the success of the consultative ministerial meeting on environment of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held in Nairobi in June 2014 on the sidelines of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and invites all donor-designated agencies and the United Nations Environment Programme to consider extending financial and technical assistance for regional projects, workshops and high-level group meetings in the field of the environment;

21. *Notes with satisfaction* the success of the workshop held jointly by the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Economic Cooperation Organization in Tehran from 29 April to 1 May 2014 on harnessing climate financing for sustainable forest management in the region, and highly appreciates the key recommendation of the workshop to establish an inter-agency coordination group with the involvement of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Global Environment Facility, as well as the possibility of granting observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization for the meetings of the United Nations Forum on Forests to enhance interregional coordination on climate change issues, including sustainable forest management;

22. *Highlights* the importance of enhanced cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system concerning the health-related Millennium Development Goals, and encourages the relevant United Nations entities, especially the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, to consider extending technical and financial support to the Economic Cooperation Organization in this regard, as appropriate;

23. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization to enhance cooperation in the field of health in the region in collaboration with international organizations and specialized agencies, especially the World Health Organization, the International Society of Blood Transfusion, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund, and encourages their continued support for the activities of the Economic Cooperation Organization in the field of health;

24. *Notes* the vulnerability of the member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization to natural disasters, and urges the relevant United Nations institutions and agencies, including the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),

the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Development Programme, to consider expanding their cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization in the area of natural and man-made disaster risk reduction and also to consider extending their technical and financial support for the activities of the Organization in the field of natural disaster risk management in the region for the development of special programmes for financing risk reduction projects for tangible outputs in the region;

25. *Appreciates* the joint cooperation of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat in conducting the training workshop on supporting statistics for member countries of the Organization in September 2013, and invites the Division to consider extending technical and financial support for the design and implementation of a programme for the development of statistics in the region;

26. *Highlights* the importance of high-quality statistics as a tool for the implementation of development goals and the importance of future cooperation and partnership between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Statistics Division in this regard, and encourages the Division to consider extending technical and financial support to the Organization in the field of statistics, as appropriate;

27. *Appreciates* the joint cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in conducting, in October 2013, the first training course on the development of a CountrySTAT programme for implementation of the project on support for the implementation and development of the CountrySTAT framework in the Economic Cooperation Organization countries, acknowledges the progress made in the implementation of the first phase of the project in Afghanistan, and supports the efforts made by the two sides for the implementation of the project across the region;

28. *Welcomes* the joint cooperation of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in conducting, in December 2013, a training workshop on science, technology and innovation indicators for member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and invites the Institute to consider extending technical assistance for the development of statistical activities in the area of research and development and innovation statistics in the region;

29. *Appreciates* the efforts and activities of the Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit of the Economic Cooperation Organization in compiling and disseminating drug-related data, especially for publishing the report on the regional drug situation for the period 2008–2012, in organizing workshops and training programmes aimed at enhancing the technical and professional expertise of the officials working in the relevant anti-narcotics forces and agencies of its member States, in taking measures to harmonize the policies and drug-related laws and regulations of three member States, namely Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in contributing to the alternative development policies and programmes in Afghanistan, welcomes the extension of the European Union-funded project in the member countries of the Organization, and encourages the donor agencies, such as

the European Commission and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to consider providing technical and financial assistance to the Unit in its efforts against drug-related and other related crimes;

30. *Also appreciates* the contributions made by the Economic Cooperation Organization towards reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, recommends its active participation in and constructive contributions to various regional and international initiatives on Afghanistan, and especially appreciates its support for the high-level Core Group of Regional Forum Secretaries-General, established at the meeting of the regional bodies on 19 July 2010, the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan and the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan;

31. *Notes with appreciation* the activities of the Cultural Institute, the Science Foundation and the Educational Institute of the Economic Cooperation Organization as specialized arms of the Organization to foster regional cooperation among its member States in the fields of culture, science and education, respectively, and encourages the relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to cooperate with these bodies, within the scope of their mandate and existing resources, in order to develop and implement appropriate projects for the promotion of science and education in the region;

32. *Stresses* that all technical and financial support should be considered in line with the relevant mandates and as appropriate;

33. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization as an affiliated body of the Organization, and encourages the Assembly to contribute to the strengthening of multifaceted regional cooperation in the region;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

35. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”, the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization”.

Eurasian Economic Community

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Community continued in areas such as trade facilitation, water, energy, and food security.

International Organization of la Francophonie

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie coordinated their good offices and mediation efforts in several countries, including the Central African Republic

and Mali. The two organizations also cooperated on issues such as human rights and the commemoration of the victims of slavery and the Transatlantic slave trade.

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System continued in areas including trade, debt burden and fiscal sustainability, and regional food security.

League of Arab States

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the League of Arab States continued in areas including conflict prevention and resolution, mediation, elections, counter-terrorism regional nuclear disarmament, transnational organized crime, transboundary waters, human rights, combating counterfeit drugs, and meteorological and hydrological services.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 November [meeting 48], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/9** [draft: A/69/L.9] without vote [agenda item 123 (o)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also article 3 of the Pact of the League of Arab States, which entrusts the Council of the League with the function of determining the means whereby the League will collaborate with international organizations to guarantee peace and security, organize social, economic, cultural, administrative, technical and media relations, and enhance and strengthen the League's capacity in those areas,

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

Welcoming the convening of the Security Council meeting on 6 August 2013, and welcoming also the previous presidential statement in which the Council expressed its intention to consider further cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the fields of early warning, prevention of conflicts, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding,

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

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,

Welcoming the measures taken by the United Nations and the League of Arab States to review the existing cooperation mechanisms, recommendations and proposals, and requesting the United Nations to continue to lend its support in this regard,

Welcoming also the general decisions and recommendations of the twelfth general meeting on cooperation between representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, held in 2014, at which relevant challenges to international peace and stability, sustainable development and the protection of human rights were addressed,

Recalling the eleventh sectoral meeting between the United Nations and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, held in 2013, which addressed cooperation in civilian capacity-building in the aftermath of conflict,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to further intensify bilateral consultations, improve the exchange of information at all levels and advance cooperation in the political, social, economic, cultural, disarmament, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacemaking, and mediation areas;

2. *Calls for* the continuation of periodic consultations between representatives of both the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in order to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating the implementation of mutually agreed projects and recommendations;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to accelerate the review of the 1989 agreement of cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, in line with their priorities and emerging challenges;

4. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system:

(a) To maintain and increase contacts and improve the mechanism of consultation with the counterpart programmes, organizations and agencies of the League of Arab States in order to facilitate the implementation of mutually agreed projects and programmes;

(b) To make the greatest possible use of Arab institutions and technical expertise in projects undertaken in the Arab region;

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

(d) To inform the Secretary-General, no later than January 2016, of the progress made in their cooperation with the League of Arab States and, in particular, in the implementation of multilateral and bilateral proposals adopted at the twelfth general meeting on cooperation between representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, held in June 2014, and at the forthcoming sectoral meeting on human rights in 2015;

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

6. *Also reaffirms* the importance of holding the twelfth sectoral meeting between the United Nations and the League of Arab States and its specialized agencies in Cairo during the first six months of 2015 on the theme “The repercussions of understanding human rights: towards a comprehensive regional cooperation approach”;

7. *Further reaffirms* the importance of holding the thirteenth general meeting on cooperation between representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations during 2016, for which the dates and venue will be agreed upon in due course;

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

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”, the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States”.

Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM)

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development—GUAM continued in areas such as political affairs and the development of a simplified customs transit data exchange.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation cooperated closely in South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, as well as in Central Asia. The two organizations also worked together in areas such as counter-terrorism, human rights, and training in staff reconciliation skills and border management.

Organization of American States

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Organization of American States ranged from election-related activities to counter-terrorism and security issues, legal training in prevention of genocide and drug abuse control.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation included the areas of peace and security, including mediation, election monitoring, health, including cancer control through radiation medicine and control of mosquito-borne diseases, and human rights.

Pacific Islands Forum

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum ranged from climate change, sustainable development to national disability policies to tourism.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization continued in areas including counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics, international road transport, the Asian Information Superhighway and regional connectivity.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 November [meeting 48], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/11** [draft: A/69/L.12] without vote [agenda item 123 (w)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

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

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

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

Recalling its resolutions 64/183 of 18 December 2009, 65/124 of 13 December 2010 and 67/15 of 19 November 2012 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also the Joint Declaration on Cooperation between the secretariats of the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, dated 5 April 2010,

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

Recognizing the efforts of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to build the region of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization into a region of lasting peace, friendship, prosperity and harmony,

Noting the aspiration of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to promote stability and security based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development and to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, and taking note in this regard of the declaration of the Heads of State of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization signed in Dushanbe on 12 September 2014,

Welcoming the efforts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to support the building of a world free of nuclear weapons, including in Central Asia, in strict compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recognizing the efforts of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to promote counter-terrorism cooperation, including through the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, and welcoming in this regard the protocols on cooperation between the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, signed on 22 July 2012, and between the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, signed on 27 September 2012,

Taking note of the revised version of the Regulations on Political and Diplomatic Measures and Mechanism of Response to Events Jeopardizing Regional Peace, Security and Stability of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the programme of cooperation in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism for 2013–2015, which broadened the basis for security cooperation among the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of the 2011–2016 Anti-Drug Strategy and Action Plan of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as an effective mechanism for regional cooperation in combating drugs,

Welcoming the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in June 2011 with a view to effectively addressing, in cooperation with relevant international and regional actors, the production of and trade and trafficking in drugs,

Noting the efforts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to address international information security, taking note of the initiatives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in this regard, and recognizing the need for further discussions in relevant forums,

Recognizing the efforts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to promote cooperation with other regional organizations, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia and the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Taking into consideration the fact that countries with economies in transition are among the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and in this regard recalling its resolution 61/210 of 20 December 2006, in which it proposed that the United Nations system en-

hance dialogue with regional and subregional cooperation organizations whose membership includes countries with economies in transition and increase support provided to them,

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

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

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

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

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

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”, the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”.

Southern African Development Community

As noted by the Secretary-General in his consolidated report (see above), UN-system wide cooperation with the Southern African Development Community was carried out in areas including electoral support, conflict prevention and mediation, eradicating illegal armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, development of a regional counter-terrorism strategy, crime and drugs, statistics, and food security.

National parliaments and Inter-Parliamentary Union

Note by General Assembly President. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/123 [YUN 2010, p. 1417], the General Assembly President in March submitted a note [A/68/790-E/2014/52] summarizing the 2013 parliamentary hearing (New York 14–15 November 2013). The hearing, organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Assembly President and the President of the Economic and Social Council, brought together nearly 200 parliamentarians from a range of countries to discuss the theme “Rethinking sustainable development: the quest for a ‘transformational’ global agenda in 2015”.

Report of Secretary-General. In a report issued in April [A/68/827], the Secretary General recalled the General Assembly’s adoption of resolution 66/261 [YUN 2012, p. 1419] on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU. The report documented the past two years of interaction between the two organizations and the world of parliaments as a whole, providing examples of the political and operational results achieved. It identified ways for the two organizations to better work together within the context of institutional reforms and a changing policy landscape. An annex listed joint activities carried out since April 2012 to illustrate the day-to-day interaction between the two organizations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 May [meeting 86], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/272** [draft: A/68/L.44 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 126].

Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

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

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

Noting the outcomes of the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005 and 2010, which affirm the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to support the work of the United Nations and continue efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

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

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen

further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, as well as resolutions 57/47 of 21 November 2002, 59/19 of 8 November 2004, 61/6 of 20 October 2006 and 63/24 of 18 November 2008,

Recalling and further endorsing its resolutions 65/123 of 13 December 2010 and 66/261 of 29 May 2012, in which the General Assembly, *inter alia*, decided to pursue a more systematic engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments,

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

Welcoming in particular the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015, as well as in bringing a parliamentary contribution to the design of the next generation of global development goals,

Recognizing the growing role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs in providing a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and United Nations officials, reviewing implementation of international commitments, facilitating closer ties between United Nations country teams and national parliaments and helping shape a parliamentary input to major United Nations processes,

Recognizing also the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of gender equality, the empowerment of women and combating violence against women, and the close cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at both national and global levels,

1. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to pursue a more systematic engagement with the United Nations;

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

3. *Encourages* the continued active involvement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and

to provide input to the design of the post-2015 development agenda, and emphasizes the importance of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union continuing to work closely together with a view to promoting the enhanced contribution of parliaments at the national level and the Inter-Parliamentary Union at the global level in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen cooperation on issues related to the dialogue between civilizations, culture, education and information and communication technologies;

5. *Welcomes* the preparations currently under way for the organization of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, in 2015, and encourages the conduct of these preparations in close cooperation with the United Nations, with a view to holding the Conference at United Nations Headquarters in New York as part of the series of high-level meetings in 2015, and maximizing political support for the outcome of the summit on the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Also welcomes* the practice of including legislators as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, including new forums, such as the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development and the youth forum of the Economic and Social Council, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;

7. *Invites* Member States to further consider ways to work regularly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in facilitating a parliamentary component to major United Nations conferences and in more closely linking the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations to the main United Nations processes, so as to help to inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective;

8. *Encourages* Member States to consider applying the practice of the joint United Nations-Inter-Parliamentary Union parliamentary hearing to other parliamentary meetings convened in conjunction with major United Nations conferences and processes, such as the parliamentary meeting organized on the occasion of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with a view to including the outcome of these parliamentary meetings as a formal contribution to the respective United Nations processes;

9. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the Human Rights Council, notably by providing a more robust parliamentary contribution to the universal periodic review and to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies along the lines of the cooperation developed in recent years between the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and national parliaments whose countries are under review;

10. *Invites* UN-Women to work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in such areas as the empowerment of women, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, increasing the representation of women in parliaments, combating violence against women and the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions;

11. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to further assist in developing closer cooperation between the United

Nations and parliaments at the national level, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments;

12. *Calls upon* United Nations country teams to develop a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, inter alia, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness;

13. *Encourages* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to avail themselves more systematically of the unique expertise of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its member parliaments in strengthening parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in transition to democracy;

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

15. *Recommends* that a new cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union be drawn up, so as to reflect progress and developments over past years and to place the institutional relationship between the two organizations on a strong footing;

16. *Decides*, in recognition of the unique role of national parliaments in support of the work of the United Nations, to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report under this item.

Participation in UN work

Observer status

Developing Eight Countries Organizations for Economic Cooperation

By a letter of 13 March [A/69/142], Pakistan requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Developing Eight Countries Organization for Economic Cooperation in the General Assembly". An annexed memorandum stated that the Organization, established in 1997 and made up of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey, aimed at improving the positions of developing countries in the world economy, creating new opportunities in trade relations, enhancing participation in international decision-making and providing a better standard of living. By obtaining observer status in the Assembly, the Organization would strengthen its public visibility, benefit from worldwide experience, including the opportunity to enhance its capacity-building process, and share a platform with the international community. Also annexed to the report was a draft resolution (see below).

The Sixth Committee on 6 November [A/69/513] recommended adopting the draft resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/513], adopted **resolution 69/129** without vote [agenda item 171].

Observer status for the Developing Eight Countries Organization for Economic Cooperation in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Developing Eight Countries Organization for Economic Cooperation,

1. *Decides* to invite the Developing Eight Countries Organization for Economic Cooperation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

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

Pacific Community

By a letter of 25 March [A/69/143] to the Secretary-General, Fiji requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled “Observer status for the Pacific Community in the General Assembly”. An annexed explanatory memorandum noted that the Community, established in 1947, comprised 26 sovereign States and non-sovereign territories as equal members (American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna). Created as a vehicle for fostering cooperation, integration and development in the Pacific region in the aftermath of the Second World War, the Community had evolved into a scientific and technical knowledge-based development organization. Observer status in the Assembly would both consolidate links between the United Nations and the Community and facilitate opportunities for greater mutually beneficial cooperation. Also annexed to the report was a draft resolution (see below).

The Sixth Committee on 5 November [A/69/514] recommended adoption of the draft resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/514], adopted **resolution 69/130** without vote [agenda item 172].

Observer status for the Pacific Community in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Community,

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

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

Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States

Pursuant to General Assembly decision 68/528 [YUN 2013, p. 1431], the item on observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States was included in the Assembly’s sixty-ninth session.

On 10 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/511], deferred a decision on the request for observer status until its seventieth session (**decision 69/527**).

International Chamber of Commerce

Pursuant to General Assembly decision 68/530 [YUN 2013, p. 1431], the item on observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce was included in the Assembly’s sixty-ninth session. In a November report [A/69/512], the Sixth Committee considered the item without taking action. The Assembly took note of the Committee’s report on 10 December (**decision 69/528**).

Non-governmental organizations

Committee on NGOs

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) held its 2014 regular session (21–30 January and 7 February) [E/2014/32 (Part I)] and its resumed session (19–28 May and 6 June) [E/2014/32 (Part II)] in New York.

Regular session

At its regular session, the Committee on NGOs considered 439 applications for consultative status, including 219 applications deferred from previous sessions. It recommended 225 applications for consultative status, deferred consideration of 192 to its resumed session and closed consideration without prejudice of 22 applications (Part I) of organizations which had not responded to the Committee’s questions despite three reminders. The Committee also had before it three requests for reclassification of consultative status, of which it recommended granting two. It took note of three requests for change of name and deferred consideration of two. The Committee also took note of 279 quadrennial reports and deferred 11. It heard 15 representatives from the 41 NGOs attending

the session and recommended three draft decisions for action by the Council.

Economic and Social Council action. On 23 April, the Council granted consultative status to 225 NGOs and reclassified two from special to general consultative status. It took note of the request of three NGOs for change of name, and of the quadrennial reports submitted by 279 NGOs for the reporting period 2009–2012 and earlier. It noted that the Committee had closed consideration of 22 applications after failure to respond to queries by Committee members (**decision 2014/212**).

On the same day, the Council withdrew the consultative status of one NGO (**decision 2014/213**) and took note of the Committee's report on its 2014 regular session (**decision 2014/214**).

Resumed session

At its resumed session, the Committee considered 343 applications for consultative status. It recommended 158 applications, deferred 153 for further consideration, closed consideration without prejudice of 29 applications and took note of two NGOs that had withdrawn their applications. The Committee recommended granting one request for reclassification and deferring consideration of two. It took note of five requests and deferred two for change of name, also taking note of 129 quadrennial reports. The Committee recommended reinstating the consultative status of 21 NGOs that had submitted their outstanding quadrennial reports, and recommended suspending for a year the consultative status of 106

NGOs that had failed to submit such reports. The Committee heard 13 representatives of the 40 NGOs attending the session and recommended six draft decisions for action by the Council.

Economic and Social Council action. On 14 July, the Council granted consultative status to 158 NGOs; reclassified one from special to general consultative status; took note of the change of name for three NGOs; noted the quadrennial reports of 129 organizations for the period 2009–2012 and earlier; closed without prejudice consideration of the requests for consultative status made by 29 NGOs after those had failed—after three reminders—to respond to queries posed by Committee members; noted the withdrawal of the applications of two NGOs and decided not to grant consultative status to one NGO (**decision 2014/222**).

On the same day, the Council suspended for one year the consultative status of 106 NGOs with outstanding quadrennial reports (**decision 2014/223**), reinstated the consultative status of 21 NGOs that had submitted their outstanding quadrennial reports (**decision 2014/224**) and withdrew the consultative status of 129 NGOs that had failed to submit outstanding quadrennial reports after suspension (**decision 2014/225**).

The Council decided that the Committee's 2015 regular session would be held from 26 January to 3 February and on 13 February 2015, and its resumed session from 26 May to 3 June and on 12 June. It further approved the provisional agenda for that session (**decision 2014/226**) and took note of the Committee's report on its 2014 resumed session (**decision 2014/227**).

United Nations financing and programming

During 2014, the financial situation of the United Nations was generally sound. Assessments for the regular budget reflected a slight increase, \$6 million more than in 2013, while levels for peacekeeping operations and the international tribunals decreased. There were no new assessments issued for the capital master plan in 2014. By year's end, unpaid assessments were lower than at the end of 2013 in all categories, except the regular budget, despite the reduction of those assessments from \$1 billion to \$535 million during the last quarter. For peacekeeping operations, unpaid assessments amounted to \$1.3 billion, a decrease of \$916 million compared to the previous year. Cash balances were positive for peacekeeping operations and the tribunals, while a cash shortfall of \$81 million for the regular budget was covered by the Working Capital Fund. Debt owed to Member States for troops, formed police units and contingent-owned equipment totalled \$779 millions. At the end of 2014, a total of 144 Member States had paid their regular budget assessments in full—two less than the number in 2013.

In December, the General Assembly adopted revised budget appropriations for the 2014–2015 biennium of \$5,653,823,300, representing an increase of \$115,271,900 over the revised appropriation of \$5,538,551,400 approved in April and June. It also endorsed the proposed strategic framework for the 2016–2017 biennium, invited the Secretary-General to prepare the proposed programme budget for that biennium on the basis of a preliminary estimate of \$5,558,395,600, and affirmed its commitment to consider and decide on the report of the High-level Panel of Experts on the independent study on recosting and options for the Organization in dealing with fluctuations in exchange rates and inflation.

The Committee on Contributions continued to review the elements of the methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments of Member States' contributions to the budget and to encourage the payment of arrears through multi-year payment plans. The Assembly granted five Member States exemptions under Article 19 of the UN Charter so that they could be permitted to vote in the Assembly until the end of the sixty-ninth session.

Implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards throughout the UN system continued.

Financial situation

In an October report [A/69/520], on improving the financial situation of the United Nations, the Secretary-General provided an update on the financial strength of the Organization on the basis of four main financial indicators: assessments issued, unpaid assessments, available cash resources and the Organization's outstanding payments to Member States. Overall, the financial indicators for 2014 were positive, but the level of cash available for the regular budget, \$35 million, was low and the situation, which was expected to tighten further towards the end of the year, would depend on contributions in those final months.

As at 2 October 2014, assessments for the regular budget were higher than those for 2013, by \$6 million; assessments decreased for peacekeeping operations and the tribunals; and no new assessments were made for the capital master plan (CMP). A total of \$5.8 billion was assessed in 2014 for peacekeeping operations. Unpaid assessments for the regular budget, peacekeeping and the tribunals totalled \$3.7 billion, which included \$2.6 billion for peacekeeping (compared to \$3.4 billion at 1 October 2013); \$1,037 million for the regular budget (\$92 million higher than in 2013); and \$60 million for the tribunals (the same as in 2013). Member States that had paid their regular budget assessments in full as at 2 October 2014, numbered 125, nine less than at 1 October 2013. Cash available for peacekeeping operations was approximately \$4.3 billion and cash available for the regular budget, taking into account the reserves, totalled \$419 million.

The level of outstanding payments to Member States was projected to decrease considerably. In addition, the approved commitment authority for the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) approved by General Assembly **resolution 69/3** (see p. 1361) would draw on regular budget cash, adding pressure to the overall cash position of the General Fund.

At 3 October, a total of some \$1.3 billion was owed to Member States: \$585 million for troops and formed police units, \$602 million for contingent-owned equipment claims for active missions and \$86 million for closed missions.

In his end-of-year review of the Organization's financial situation [A/69/520/Add.1 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General reported that it was gener-

ally sound. Unpaid assessments were lower than at the end of 2013 in all categories, except the regular budget. As at 31 December 2014, unpaid assessments for peacekeeping operations were lower at \$1.3 billion, down from \$2.2 billion at 31 December 2013; and \$40 million for the tribunals, down from \$54 million in December 2013. Despite a significant reduction in the level of unpaid regular budget assessments in the last quarter of 2014 (from \$1 billion to \$535 million), it was necessary to draw on the regular budget cash reserves, both the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account, for the regular budget and CMP during those months.

The cash balances at 31 December were positive for peacekeeping operations and the tribunals. Total cash available for peacekeeping was approximately \$4.3 billion, comprising \$3.8 billion in the accounts of active missions, \$294 million in the accounts of closed missions and \$138 million in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. The final cash position for the regular budget reflected a shortfall of \$81 million, which was covered by the Working Capital Fund. Debt owed to Member States for troops, formed police units and contingent-owned equipment totalled \$779 million at 31 December.

On 29 December, (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on improving the financial situation of the United Nations remained for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UN Budget

Budget for 2014–2015

Revised appropriations

In the first performance report on the 2014–2015 programme budget [A/69/612], the Secretary-General identified adjustments to the level of appropriations as a result of variations in the rates of inflation and exchange, adjustments to standard costs, unforeseen and extraordinary items, as well as additional mandates approved by the General Assembly and the Security Council. The adjustments yielded revised estimates of \$5,573.3 million under the expenditure sections of the budget, an increase of \$34.7 million over the ap-

propriation level approved by the General Assembly in resolutions 68/247 B (see p. 1639), 68/248 A–C [YUN 2013, p. 1446], **68/268** (see p. 756) and **68/279** (see p. 1116). The revised estimates under the income sections increased by \$9.1 million resulting in a revised income estimate of \$533 million.

In December [A/69/661], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters (ACABQ) noted that the income estimates in connection with income section 3 (Political affairs) required downward revision over the past three bienniums, calling into question the validity of the initial budget assumptions for the related income-generating activities. The Committee intended to keep that matter under review in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the 2016–2017 biennium. It further noted, with concern, that the \$8 million limit specified under Assembly resolution 68/249 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the 2014–2015 biennium [YUN 2013, p. 1461] was exceeded by \$905,000 during 2014 and recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to observe those limits and provisions. ACABQ recommended that the Assembly approve the revised estimates contained in the Secretary-General's report, subject to such adjustments as might be necessary as a result of the Assembly's consideration of matters before it, including the consolidated statement of revised estimates and programme budget implications.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/422/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/263 A, B and C** without vote [agenda item 132].

Programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

A

REVISED BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014–2015

The General Assembly

1. *Resolves* that, for the biennium 2014–2015, the amount of 5,538,551,400 United States dollars appropriated by it in its resolutions 68/248 A of 27 December 2013 and 68/247 B of 9 April 2014, and approved in resolutions 68/268 of 9 April 2014 and 68/279 of 30 June 2014, shall be adjusted by budget appropriations of 115,271,900 dollars, as follows:

Section	Amount approved in resolutions 68/248 A to C and 68/247 B ^a	Increase/ (decrease)	Revised appropriation
(United States dollars)			
Part I. Overall policymaking, direction and coordination			
1. Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	117,599,800	1,629,500	119,229,300
2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	664,211,700	9,298,500	673,510,200
Subtotal, part I	781,811,500	10,928,000	792,739,500

Section	Amount approved in resolutions 68/248 A to C and 68/247 B ^a	Increase/ (decrease)	Revised appropriation
(United States dollars)			
Part II. Political affairs			
3. Political affairs	1,197,957,200	34,702,500	1,232,659,700
4. Disarmament	24,729,600	650,100	25,379,700
5. Peacekeeping operations	113,454,400	(498,200)	112,956,200
6. Peaceful uses of outer space	8,160,600	(1,000)	8,159,600
Subtotal, part II	1,344,301,800	34,853,400	1,379,155,200
Part III. International justice and law			
7. International Court of Justice	52,344,800	(941,700)	51,403,100
8. Legal affairs	47,809,200	177,700	47,986,900
Subtotal, part III	100,154,000	(764,000)	99,390,000
Part IV. International cooperation for development			
9. Economic and social affairs	163,049,600	739,400	163,789,000
10. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	11,579,100	–	11,579,100
11. United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	17,000,300	10,100	17,010,400
12. Trade and development	147,132,500	782,800	147,915,300
13. International Trade Centre	39,913,900	(459,000)	39,454,900
14. Environment	34,963,500	(452,800)	34,510,700
15. Human settlements	23,260,700	(130,400)	23,130,300
16. International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	43,883,000	55,300	43,938,300
17. UN-Women	15,328,500	28,000	15,356,500
Subtotal, part IV	496,111,100	573,400	496,684,500
Part V. Regional cooperation for development			
18. Economic and social development in Africa	151,633,600	(681,700)	150,951,900
19. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	103,764,400	(1,248,700)	102,515,700
20. Economic development in Europe	71,706,300	8,26,300	72,532,600
21. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	116,669,900	(2,619,900)	114,050,000
22. Economic and social development in Western Asia	70,471,300	1,602,500	72,073,800
23. Regular programme of technical cooperation	58,449,700	(657,500)	57,792,200
Subtotal, part V	572,695,200	(2,779,000)	569,916,200
Part VI. Human rights and humanitarian affairs			
24. Human rights	184,640,800	23,740,900	208,381,700
25. International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees	91,496,800	(627,900)	90,868,900
26. Palestine refugees	55,227,500	74,900	55,302,400
27. Humanitarian assistance	31,581,400	3,656,800	35,238,200
Subtotal, part VI	362,946,500	26,844,700	389,791,200
Part VII. Public information			
28. Public information	188,771,300	1,308,600	190,079,900
Subtotal, part VII	188,771,300	1,308,600	190,079,900
Part VIII. Common support services			
29A. Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management	51,138,200	59,800	51,198,000
29B. Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	36,762,900	266,400	37,029,300
29C. Office of Human Resources Management	76,236,000	348,200	76,584,200
29D. Office of Central Support Services	19,202,000	1,015,800	19,027,800
29E. Office of Information and Communications Technology	74,255,300	197,800	74,453,100
29F. Administration, Geneva	154,692,200	1,110,500	155,802,700
29G. Administration, Vienna	40,974,400	(44,600)	40,929,800
29H. Administration, Nairobi	32,013,500	(545,600)	31,467,900
Subtotal, part VIII	658,099,500	2,408,300	660,507,800
Part IX. Internal oversight			
30. Internal oversight	40,552,300	79,800	40,632,100
Subtotal, part IX	40,552,300	79,800	40,632,100
Part X. Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses			
31. Jointly financed administrative activities	11,357,800	53,600	11,411,400
32. Special expenses	143,660,200	–	143,660,200
Subtotal, part X	155,018,000	53,600	155,071,600

Section	Amount approved in resolutions 68/248 A to C and 68/247 B ^a	Increase/ (decrease)	Revised appropriation
(United States dollars)			
Part XI. Capital expenditures			
33. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	80,709,300	29,155,200	109,864,500
Subtotal, part XI	80,709,300	29,155,200	109,864,500
Part XII. Safety and security			
34. Safety and security	241,370,100	2,381,100	243,751,200
Subtotal, part XII	241,370,100	2,381,100	243,751,200
Part XIII. Development Account			
35. Development Account	28,398,800	–	28,398,800
Subtotal, part XIII	28,398,800	–	28,398,800
Part XIV. Staff assessment			
36. Staff assessment	487,612,000	10,228,800	497,840,800
Subtotal, part XIV	487,612,000	10,228,800	497,840,800
Total	5,538,551,400	115,271,900	5,653,823,300

^a Including additional programme budget implications (see reports of the Fifth Committee A/68/820 and A/68/917).

2. *Decides* to authorize, in addition to the appropriations approved under paragraph 1 above, a commitment authority of 104,582,400 dollars for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response to be apportioned among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessment as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012.

B

REVISED INCOME ESTIMATES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014–2015

The General Assembly

1. *Resolves* that, for the biennium 2014–2015, the estimates of income of 523,925,200 United States dollars approved by it in its resolutions 68/248 B of 27 December 2013, 68/247 B and 68/268 of 9 April 2014 and 68/279 of 30 June 2014 shall be increased by 11,320,700 dollars, as follows:

Income section	Amount approved in resolutions 68/248 A to C and 68/247 B ^a	Increase/ (decrease)	Revised estimates
(United States dollars)			
1. Income from staff assessment	491,965,800	10,337,500	502,303,300
Subtotal, income section 1	491,965,800	10,337,500	502,303,300
2. General income	31,228,200	6,668,900	37,897,100
3. Services to the public	731,200	(5,685,700)	(4,954,500)
Subtotal, income sections 2 and 3	31,959,400	983,200	32,942,600
Total	523,925,200	11,320,700	535,245,900

^a Including additional programme budget implications (see reports of the Fifth Committee A/68/820 and A/68/917).

2. *Also resolves* that, for the biennium 2014–2015, the estimates of income for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response in an amount total-

ling 2,176,000 dollars shall be credited to the Tax Equalization Fund in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955.

C

FINANCING OF THE APPROPRIATIONS AND COMMITMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 2015

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the year 2015:

1. Budget appropriations and commitments totaling 2,993,230,800 United States dollars and consisting of 2,765,174,900 dollars, being half of the appropriation initially approved for the biennium 2014–2015 by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/248 A of 27 December 2013, the additional amount of 8,201,600 dollars for the biennium appropriated in its resolution 68/247 B of 9 April 2014 and approved in its resolutions 68/268 of 9 April 2014 and 68/279 of 30 June 2014, 115,271,900 dollars, being the increase approved in paragraph 1 of resolution A above, and the commitment authority of 104,582,400 dollars for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, shall be financed in accordance with regulations 3.1 and 3.2 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, as follows:

- (a) 16,962,900 dollars consisting of:
 - (i) 15,979,700 dollars, being half of the estimated income other than staff assessment income approved for the biennium in its resolutions 68/248 B of 27 December 2013, 68/247 B, 68/268 and 68/279;
 - (ii) 983,200 dollars, being the increase in income other than staff assessment income approved for the biennium in paragraph 1 of resolution B above;
- (b) 2,976,267,900 dollars, being the assessment on Member States in accordance with its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

2. There shall be set off against the assessment on Member States, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the total amount of 262,703,300 dollars, consisting of:

(a) 245,592,800 dollars, being half of the estimated staff assessment income approved by the Assembly in its resolution 68/248 B;

(b) 780,200 dollars, being the estimated increase in income for staff assessment approved by the Assembly in its resolutions 68/247 B, 68/268 and 68/279;

(c) 12,513,500 dollars, being the estimated increase in income from staff assessment approved by the Assembly in paragraph 1 of resolution B above, inclusive of the income estimates for the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response;

(d) 3,816,800 dollars, being the increase in income from staff assessment for the biennium 2012–2013, compared with the revised estimates approved by the Assembly in its resolution 68/245 B of 27 December 2013.

On the same date (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the programme budget for the 2014–2015 biennium would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Questions relating to the 2014–2015 programme budget

The Fifth Committee considered a number of questions related to the 2014–2015 programme budget, including estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions by the Economic and Social Council and by the Human Rights Council, the first performance report on the 2014–2015 programme budget, and the contingency fund.

Other subjects covered concerned the International Public Sector Accounting Standards adopted by the United Nations (see p. 1650); information and communication technology in the United Nations (see p. 1672); the strategic heritage plan of the UN Office at Geneva (see p. 1680); progress in construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and proposals for the renovation of conference facilities, including Africa Hall (see p. 1681); the study on the long-term accommodation needs at UN Headquarters from 2014 to 2034 (see p. 1679); revised estimates resulting from the requests in the “Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples” (see p. 888); revised estimates for the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (see p. 1366); and financial implications relating to the administration of justice at the United Nations (see p. 1701).

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives

Reports of Secretary-General. In March [A/68/327/Add.10], the Secretary-General submitted additional

resource requirements for 2014 for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSM) (see p. 374) in the amount of \$22,156,200 net (\$22,205,100 gross). In April [A/68/327/Add.11], he submitted additional resource requirements for 2014 for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, and for the newly established Panel of Experts on Yemen (see p. 480) in an amount totaling \$3,940,500 net (\$4,148,000 gross), as well as for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) in an amount totaling \$22,793,200 net (\$23,204,400 gross) [A/68/327/Add.12].

ACABQ, in a May report [A/68/7/Add.26] on UNSOM, recommended that the General Assembly approve additional resources in the amount of \$21,972,400 net (\$22,016,500 gross).

Also in May, ACABQ recommended approval of additional resources of \$3,265,100 net (\$3,377,900 gross) for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen and the Panel of Experts on Yemen [A/68/7/Add.27], and total resources of \$22,732,700 for UNSMIL [A/68/7/Add.28].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/689/Add.2], adopted **resolution 68/280** without vote [agenda item 134].

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling section VI of its resolution 68/247 A of 27 December 2013, its resolution 68/248 A of 27 December 2013 and section II of its resolution 68/247 B of 9 April 2014,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council concerning the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, the Panel of Experts on Yemen, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strictly abide by all relevant General Assembly resolutions and related internal guidance on the standard of accommodation for air travel in the preparation of future budgets;
4. *Takes note* of paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report of the Advisory Committee;
5. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and notes that the guard unit of the United

Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia will provide “inner-ring” static protection within Mogadishu International Airport and that the associated costs are included in the resources for the Mission;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-ninth session detailed information on support requirements for the Mission provided by the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia;

7. *Decides* to adjust the resource requirements for military and police personnel relating to the guard unit to reflect the delayed deployment of personnel;

8. *Takes note* of paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to apply a vacancy rate of 25 per cent for the period from May to December 2014 in respect of the additional posts in the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen;

9. *Encourages* close collaboration between the security and close protection operations of the Office of the Special Adviser and the Panel of Experts on Yemen, in order to avoid, to the extent possible, any duplication;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard decides to defer consideration of this matter to the main part of its sixty-ninth session;

11. *Also recalls* paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee, decides to consider the question of temporary duty assignments at its sixty-ninth session, while maintaining existing arrangements in the interim, and emphasizes that such assignments are intended to meet temporary requirements for up to 90 days;

12. *Takes note* of paragraph 15 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish one Local level position in the Transport and Movement Control Section of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya;

13. *Decides* to approve the total amount of 47,693,200 United States dollars net for the budgets of the five special political missions authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council included in the reports of the Secretary-General;

14. *Also decides* to approve a charge totalling 47,693,200 dollars net against the provision appropriated for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015.

In October [A/69/363 & Corr.1–3 & Add.1–5], the Secretary General submitted proposed resource requirements for 2015 for 35 special political missions, which amounted to \$485,160,800 net (\$513,182,600 gross). Of that requirement, \$435,094,000 (net of staff assessment) would be charged against the balance of \$435,094,000 remaining in the provision of \$1,081,089,900 for special political missions appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the 2014–2015 programme budget, after taking into account the underexpenditure of \$11,966,000 (net of staff assessment) in 2014. The General Assembly was requested to approve the remaining amount of \$38,100,800, net of staff assessment (\$40,314,500 gross), in additional appropriations for the 2014–2015 biennium.

ACABQ, in a December report [A/69/628], recommended that the Assembly approve the resources

requested by the Secretary-General for the 35 special political missions for the period until 31 December 2015, subject to its observations and recommendations, and requested that the adjusted amount be provided to the Assembly at the time of its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals. In that regard, the Assembly was recommended to approve a charge totaling \$435,094,000 net, corresponding to the undistributed balance in the provision for special political missions for the 2014–2015 biennium.

Revised estimates resulting from Economic and Social Council action

In an October report [A/69/535], the Secretary-General submitted additional requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2014 session in the amount of \$56,300, of which \$5,400 could be absorbed within resources approved for the biennium. The remaining requirements of \$50,900 would be subject to the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 [YUN 1986, p. 1024] and 42/211 [YUN 1987, p. 1098].

ACABQ, in a November report [A/69/609], recommended that additional requirements of up to \$35,100 relating to the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax matters (see p. 1120) be absorbed by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The Committee stressed that the General Assembly had not yet considered the cost-sharing arrangement for the resident coordinator system and the related UN contribution. The Committee expected that any additional resource requirements relating to the UN share of the resident coordinator system would be submitted alongside the proposed cost-sharing arrangement for consideration and approval by the Assembly.

Revised estimates resulting from Human Rights Council action

In November [A/69/615], the Secretary-General submitted additional requirements totalling \$52,073,200, resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 2014 sessions. Of those requirements, the amount of \$25,048,800 relating to activities of a perennial nature was already included in the 2014–2015 programme budget, while the amount of \$10,097,400 relating to commitment authorities approved by ACABQ in 2014, and the related appropriations, was being sought in the context of the first performance report on the 2014–2015 programme budget. Of the balance of the requirements in the amount of \$12,460,200, it was proposed that \$158,300 be accommodated within the existing appropriations for the 2014–2015 biennium, and that the remaining \$12,301,900 be appropriated, representing a charge against the contingency fund for 2014–2015.

ACABQ, in December [A/69/670], recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposals, subject to its observations and recommendations.

Recosting and fluctuations in exchange rates and inflation

Report of the High-level Panel of Experts. In September [A/69/381], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the High-level Panel of Experts, established by resolution 68/246 [YUN 2013, p. 1448], to conduct the independent study on recosting and options for the Organization in dealing with fluctuations in exchange rates and inflation, drawing on the experience of other international organizations. According to the report, given the biennial nature of the UN budget, the Secretariat frequently revised, or "recosted" budget estimates within a biennium to adjust for variation in currency exchange rates; actual inflation experience; changes in standard staff costs, including payroll and common staff costs; and vacancy rates previously approved by the Assembly. Since the 2004–2005 budget year, the total realized final appropriations submitted to Member States were higher than initial appropriation estimates, owing in part to recosting, and on average, had resulted in upward revisions of \$71.5 million per biennium. The study focused on the regular UN programme budget, excluding the peacekeeping budget; presented options for addressing additional expenditures arising from inflation and currency exchange rate fluctuations; and included recommendations to help the Assembly and the Secretariat update the regular budget process and manage uncertainty over the two-year budget period while meeting the Organization's objectives.

The experts recommended an integrated and complementary set of proposals, addressing both external pressures, such as currency exchange rate fluctuations, and internal challenges. Recommendations included actions to increase the accuracy of budget forecasts, improve visibility and flow of information of risk exposures, reduce frequency of recosting moments, manage recosting risk through hedging, and other potential actions such as authorizing the Secretariat to formulate additional cost-management solution. Some proposals could be implemented immediately, while others, such as implementing an effective hedging programme, would take time and had prerequisite actions that required the Secretariat to be able to measure its relevant exposures. The Panel of Experts recommended that the Assembly could decide on a package of actions in 2014 and the Secretariat could update processes in 2015 in time to shape the 2016–2017 regular budget. A road map for the implementation of the package of actions was proposed and set out in table 4 of the Panel's report.

ACABQ, in its December report [A/69/640], was of the view that the analysis conducted by the Panel of Experts contained several limitations, which had a detrimental effect on the overall quality of the report

and the utility of its findings and recommendations, such as the exclusion of special political missions from the Panel's review; the need for analysis of the different budget sections within the regular budget and the variable effects of inflation and currency movements between different budget sections, analysis of the experiences and practices of other organizations in budgeting different cost factors and their applicability to the United Nations and more detail on the unique nature of the United Nations, including the particularity of its budget processes and sources of funding; as well as limitations with Umoja, the Organization's enterprise resource planning project [YUN 2008, p. 1591], to satisfy the Secretariat's need for timely, detailed information concerning currency exposures. Other concerns included, whether the reduction in the frequency of recosting would necessarily impact the predictability of the budget; the need for the Assembly to determine whether any changes to the recosting methodology were required and, if so, to set its own parameters for implementation; the technical merit and programmatic implications of a decision to impose a recosting cap; and the need to fully analyze the impact of reserve funds, including whether their establishment would lead to higher initial assessments for Member States in respect of the UN programme budget. The Committee also believed that every effort should have been made to form a Panel with as wide a geographic representation as possible, which could have benefited from the relevant expertise available in all regional groups.

The Assembly, in section XII of its resolution 69/262 of 29 December (see p. 1638), affirmed its commitment to consider and decide on the independent study of the High-level Panel of Experts and the recommendations contained therein at the first part of its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session, without precluding other options.

Contingency fund

The contingency fund, established by General Assembly resolution 41/213 [YUN 1986, p. 1024], accommodated additional expenditures relating to each biennium that derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget or from revised estimates. Guidelines for its use were annexed to Assembly resolution 42/211 [YUN 1987, p. 1098].

In a December report [A/C.5/69/16] on the contingency fund, the Secretary-General submitted the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates for the fund, which included potential new charges amounting to \$25,422,100 that exceeded the remaining balance of the fund by \$11,586,100.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the report of the Fifth Committee [A/69/422/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/262** without vote [agenda item 132].

Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

The General Assembly,

I

International Public Sector Accounting Standards

Recalling section IV of its resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006, section V of its resolution 63/262 of 24 December 2008, its resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009, its resolution 65/243 A and section II.B of its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010, section I of its resolution 66/232 B of 21 June 2012, its resolution 66/246 and sections II and V of its resolution 66/247 of 24 December 2011, section IV of its resolution 67/246 of 24 December 2012 and section II of its resolution 68/247 A of 27 December 2013,

Having considered the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations, the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the fourth progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the Standards and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the fourth progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the Standards;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Accepts* the fourth progress report of the Board of Auditors;

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report;

5. *Welcomes* the progress made in the development of the benefits realization plan, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in the context of future progress reports, to include information related to capturing the quantitative and qualitative benefits across 15 key categories relating to the 5 key strategic benefits originally envisaged as resulting from the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

II

Information and communications technology in the United Nations

Recalling section II of its resolution 60/283, its resolutions 63/262, 63/269 of 7 April 2009 and 64/243, section XVII of its resolution 65/259, its resolution 66/246 and section I of its resolution 67/254 A of 12 April 2013,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

Stressing the need to harness the potential of information and communications technology to support the work of the United Nations in the areas of peace and security, development, human rights and international law,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the conclusions and recommendations contained in the present resolution;

3. *Underlines* the importance of information and communications technology in meeting the growing demands of the Organization as it becomes increasingly reliant on its information and communications technology infrastructure;

4. *Also underlines* the importance of information and communications technology in strengthening oversight and accountability and in increasing the availability of accurate and timely information to support decision-making;

5. *Recognizes* the important role played by information and communications technology in facilitating efficient and effective deliberations within intergovernmental bodies, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to entrust to the Office of Information and Communications Technology its continuing collaboration with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat in order that they may continue their efforts to address relevant issues, as appropriate;

6. *Welcomes* the new information and communications technology strategy for the United Nations, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Recalls* paragraphs 22 and 64 of the report of the Advisory Committee, endorses all the elements of the proposed information and communications technology strategy, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure its implementation, taking into account the comments, observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors and of the Advisory Committee, subject to future decisions of the General Assembly;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, at its seventieth session, detailed information on the implementation of all the elements of the proposed new strategy, including an implementation plan, with a clear timeline, a list of strategic information and communications technology goals linked to the overall goals of the Organization and a list of ongoing and future strategic information and communications technology initiatives supporting those goals and their costs, benchmarks and deliverables to measure their performance, expected benefits and risks, as well as an indicative five-year overall information and communications technology budget projection for the Secretariat;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 34 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to reduce the level of fragmentation of the current information and communications technology environment across the Secretariat and at all duty stations and field missions;

10. *Notes* the ongoing reform and initiatives by the Office of Information and Communications Technology that aim to support the work of the Organization, and in this regard emphasizes the need for the Office to continue its efforts, with the aim of facilitating the work of the Organization and its support to Member States, including through the provision of relevant services to delegates at all main duty stations, as appropriate;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to invite the heads of United Nations entities to consider the possible harmonization and sharing of services as well as the related costs of information and communications technology, as appropriate, in particular at field locations, and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

12. *Underlines* the importance of strong and accountable management of information security, and recognizes the need to ensure central control of information security and the Chief Information Technology Officer as the central authority for information security;

13. *Recalls* paragraph 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a progress report on the status of the 10-point action plan to strengthen information security, as well as the actions taken to fully address the mandates specified in its resolution 68/247 A;

14. *Acknowledges* that the lack of effective governance and leadership in the area of information and communications technology has resulted in a high level of duplication and fragmentation of the information and communications technology functions within the Secretariat;

15. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to foster deeper coordination and collaboration within the Organization, and emphasizes that the full support and commitment of senior management, as well as close and continuous engagement with all stakeholders, keeping in mind the need to address all operational requirements, are integral to the successful implementation of the information and communications technology strategy;

16. *Recalls* its resolution 63/262, acknowledges the responsibilities and the importance of the strong central leadership of the Chief Information Technology Officer for the overall direction and performance of information and communications technology activities within the Organization, and in this regard emphasizes the need for appropriate delegation of authority and procedures for ensuring compliance with the revised information and communications technology strategy guidelines on, inter alia, operations, security, investment and oversight at United Nations offices, in particular those related to the field;

17. *Requests* the Advisory Committee to request the Board of Auditors to expand coverage of its audit of the information and communications technology expenditures of all entities of the Secretariat, main duty stations, peacekeeping operations and other field-based offices and to report thereon in the context of future reports of the Board;

18. *Recalls* paragraph 43 of the report of the Advisory Committee, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that all entities of the Secretariat report to the Chief Information Technology Officer on all issues relating to information and communications technology activities, resource management, standards, security, architecture, policies and guidance, and also requests the Secretary-General to provide, at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, a progress report on lessons learned in this regard, for its consideration;

III

Strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Recalling part XI of its resolution 64/243, section VII of its resolution 66/247 and section V of its resolution 68/247 A,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Welcomes* the continued support of the Government of Switzerland for the construction project in Geneva;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly at its seventieth session detailed information on measures to expedite the commencement of construction work related to the strategic heritage plan;

5. *Reiterates* paragraph 8, section V, of its resolution 68/247 A;

6. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and reaffirms paragraphs 5 and 6 of section V of its resolution 68/247 A;

7. *Welcomes* the loan package offered by the Government of Switzerland, and notes that both the loan package and other alternative funding mechanisms will be discussed in the context of the financing scheme at the main part of its seventieth session;

8. *Recalls* paragraph 29 of section V of its resolution 68/247 A and paragraph 63 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to negotiate with the host country on the most preferential terms and modalities for the loan arrangements for both the renovation and the construction portions of the strategic heritage plan and to report thereon at the main part of its seventieth session;

9. *Also recalls* paragraph 69 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible alternative funding mechanisms in order to reduce the overall assessment on Member States and to report on concrete steps taken in this regard at the main part of its seventieth session;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of attracting additional United Nations entities to be accommodated at the renovated Palais des Nations and to report thereon in his next progress report;

11. *Recalls* paragraph 78 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility and ways of factoring future rental income into a comprehensive plan for the financing of the strategic heritage plan;

12. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring effective governance and oversight with respect to the implementation of the strategic heritage plan at the earliest stages of the project;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present revised proposals with regard to the governance and oversight framework, with a view to ensuring effective oversight at the earliest stages of the project, and to include more detailed information on the scope, composition, technical expertise and decision-making mechanisms as well as the functional arrangements of the Steering Committee and the Advisory Board in the context of his next progress report;

14. *Emphasizes* that the Advisory Board shall be independent and impartial, with its membership reflecting a wide geographical representation while ensuring that the required expertise is ensured;

15. *Also emphasizes* the importance of ensuring integrated and independent project assurance for the strategic heritage plan;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a proposal for the donation policy for the consideration of the General Assembly no later than at the main part of its seventieth session;

17. *Stresses* that the proposal for the donation policy should not be restrictive and that it should be in full conformity with the international and intergovernmental character of the Organization, as well as with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and without prejudice to the scope, specifications and design of the project;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that works of art, masterpieces and other gifts are handled appropriately during the design and renovation stages of the strategic heritage plan at the Palais des Nations, and also requests him to cooperate with those Member States that wish to take care of their gifts of works of art, masterpieces and other items;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that implementation of the strategic heritage plan takes into account measures to eliminate physical, communications and technical barriers to persons with disabilities, in particular regarding improvement of the conference facilities, with full respect for the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to report on this subject in future annual progress reports;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to follow up with the relevant authorities in the host country on the application of construction standards, including the revision of earthquake safety codes, and to report thereon in the context of his next progress report;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any revision to earthquake safety codes does not lead to cost escalation of the project;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of achieving all the key objectives of the strategic heritage plan, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to preserve the heritage and architectural integrity of the Palais des Nations throughout all phases of the project;

23. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to assess the potential for flexible workplace strategies in the context of the strategic heritage plan, subject to a decision by the General Assembly on this matter;

24. *Also encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to explore the possibilities for the re-use of the existing furniture and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

25. *Decides* to establish seven positions comprising three project team positions and four operational experts, effective 1 January 2015;

26. *Reaffirms* that the project team is a time-limited and mission-specific endeavour and that the team should therefore not be a permanent addition to the existing structure of the Organization;

27. *Decides* to appropriate an additional amount of 26,112,600 Swiss francs, or 28,199,400 United States dollars, at initial 2014–2015 appropriation rates, under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

28. *Also decides* to revert to the establishment of the multi-year special account for the strategic heritage plan at the main part of the seventieth session of the General Assembly;

IV

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Recalling section VI of its resolution 68/247 A, its resolutions 68/248 A and C of 27 December 2013, section II of its resolution 68/247 B of 9 April 2014 and its resolution 68/280 of 30 June 2014,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Takes note* of recommendation (b) of paragraph 18 and paragraphs 80, 93, 142 (a) and (d) and 211 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 132 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish the post of Medical Officer (United Nations Volunteer) at the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia;

5. *Takes note* of paragraph 142 (f) of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides on a vacancy rate of 25 per cent for the international staff, National Professional Officer, Local level and United Nations Volunteer categories for the United Nations Electoral Observer Mission in Burundi;

6. *Also takes note* of paragraph 153 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides on a reduction in the resources proposed by the Secretary-General for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission from eight civilian observers to seven;

7. *Further takes note* of paragraph 91 (a) of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides on a vacancy rate of 40 per cent for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria;

8. *Recalls* paragraph 53 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and emphasizes the importance of alignment between the current arrangements being deployed under the global field support strategy and the pending global service delivery model being presented to the General Assembly for its consideration;

9. *Also recalls* paragraph 38 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and expresses support for the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel and premises;

10. *Further recalls* paragraph 48 of the report of the Advisory Committee, underlines the importance of United Nations mediation activities and the need to maintain the operational readiness of the Organization to implement and support mediation efforts, including the flexible use of the rapid response capacity, and requests the Secretary-General to consider all funding options, including the existing ones;

11. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan are separate entities with dedicated responsibilities, notes that the current joint leadership arrangement needs to be reviewed, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to appoint expeditiously the Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union and Special Representative to

the African Union and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventieth session;

12. *Recalls* paragraph 10 of its resolution 68/280, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the leadership arrangement of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel under review and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventieth session;

13. *Takes note* of paragraph 109 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to approve the establishment of the two positions at the P-4 and P-3 levels in the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the reclassification of the P-2 position to the P-3 level;

14. *Recalls* paragraph 138 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and notes that proficiency in the Russian language is desirable for the post of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia;

15. *Takes note* of paragraphs 146 and 148 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to approve 808,400 dollars for consultants at the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia;

16. *Also takes note* of paragraph 158 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to apply a 50 per cent reduction in the level of resources proposed under official travel to workshops and training for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia;

17. *Recalls* paragraph 197 of the report of the Advisory Committee, encourages the Secretary-General to undertake more robust efforts to strengthen the national staffing component, whenever appropriate, by nationalizing positions, considering the availability of qualified individuals in the local labour market, and requests the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq to nationalize eight international positions;

18. *Approves* budgets totalling 480,262,600 dollars for the 35 special political missions authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council listed in table 6 of the report of the Secretary-General;

19. *Also approves* a charge totalling 435,094,000 dollars net, corresponding to the undistributed balance in the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2014–2015;

20. *Decides* to appropriate, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, an amount of 31,501,300 dollars under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, after taking into account the unspent balance of 11,966,000 dollars against the amounts approved for 2014;

21. *Also decides* to appropriate an amount of 1,797,800 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

V

Progress in the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa and proposals for the renovation of conference facilities, including Africa Hall

Recalling its resolution 56/270 of 27 March 2002, section IV of its resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003,

sections IX and X of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007, section I of its resolution 63/263 of 24 December 2008, its resolution 64/243, section III of its resolution 65/259, section VII of its resolution 66/247, section II of its resolution 67/246 and section III of its resolution 68/247 A,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, proposals for the renovation of conference facilities, including Africa Hall, and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 under section 18, Economic and social development in Africa, section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, and section 34, Safety and security, as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the continued efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, as the host country, in facilitating the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa;

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to include local knowledge and capacity throughout the implementation of the construction projects, as appropriate;

5. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of section VII of resolution 66/247 and paragraph 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts to bring this matter to a swift conclusion and to provide an update in his next progress report;

6. *Acknowledges* the successful substantial completion of the construction of additional office facilities, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the completion of the remaining ancillary work by June 2015;

7. *Notes with concern* the continued deterioration of Africa Hall at the Economic Commission for Africa, as presented in the report of the Secretary-General;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure robust internal project control mechanisms in the context of the scope, cost, schedule and quality of the Africa Hall renovation project;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to mitigate potential risks and to monitor closely the Africa Hall renovation project in order to avoid any further delay;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full accountability for the delays in the Africa Hall renovation project at the Economic Commission for Africa and to include that information in his next annual progress report;

11. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of guidance, interaction and coordination between the United Nations Secretariat in New York, on the one hand, and the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, on the other, with clear reporting lines;

12. *Recalls* paragraphs 20, 34 and 35 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly detailed information on expenditure and total cost estimates of the Africa Hall renovation project;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to seek voluntary contributions for the Africa Hall renovation project and to

report to the General Assembly on the progress at the main part of its seventieth session;

14. *Recalls* paragraph 37 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard looks forward to receiving updates on the study in the next progress report;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional means to increase the utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa, including with its partners, such as the African Union, and to report thereon, including on the impact of the initiatives of the Commission, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

16. *Takes note* of paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

17. *Decides* to make a final decision on the establishment of a separate and multi-year account for the renovation of Africa Hall at the Economic Commission for Africa at its seventieth session in the context of its consideration of the budget proposal;

18. *Also decides* to appropriate an additional amount of 2,610,000 dollars net, before recosting, comprising 125,200 dollars under section 18, Economic and social development in Africa, 2,184,000 dollars under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, 300,800 dollars under section 34, Safety and security, and 46,200 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

19. *Emphasizes* the need for the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat to continue to provide oversight of the construction projects at the Economic Commission for Africa, in particular the renovation of Africa Hall, and to continue to include information on key findings in the context of the annual reports of the Office on its activities;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the annual progress report on the construction projects at the Economic Commission for Africa, to include information on progress related to the implementation of the Africa Hall renovation project;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to update Member States, through the Office of Central Support Services of the Secretariat, on the progress of the construction projects;

VI

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2014 session

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee, notes the consideration of the cost-sharing arrangement by the General Assembly, and looks forward to receiving all relevant information on the resource requirements for the United Nations share in the arrangement in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

VII

Study on the long-term accommodation needs at United Nations Headquarters for the period from 2014 to 2034

Recalling its resolution 60/282 of 30 June 2006, section III of its resolution 67/254 A and its decision 68/549 B of 9 April 2014,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Recognizes* the need to resolve the long-term accommodation needs of the Organization, and identifies four viable options, namely options 1, 2, 3 and 4 presented in the report of the Secretary-General, or a combination of any of those options;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 10 of section III of its resolution 67/254 A, and requests the Secretary-General to present, at the main part of its seventieth session, comprehensive information on all aspects pertinent to option 3, which, subject to additional information to be provided, appears to be a very feasible and serious option;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure equal treatment of all viable options identified in the present resolution and to work towards securing the most favourable terms for the Organization in addressing its long-term accommodation needs;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to conduct high-level dialogue with all relevant entities regarding the long-term accommodation needs for United Nations Headquarters, and decides that these consultations on all options shall not represent a commitment by the Organization and shall be without prejudice to any future decision by the General Assembly;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of section III of its resolution 67/254 A, and requests the Secretary-General to provide updated comprehensive information on the four viable options identified in the present resolution at its seventieth session, in particular:

(a) Financial costs and accurate cost projections related to a building on the North Lawn, funded through a special assessment, including the projected United Nations space accommodation and design requirements;

(b) Financial costs, availability of third-party financing and accurate cost projections related to a building on the North Lawn, including the projected United Nations space accommodation and design requirements;

(c) Financial costs on the basis of a preliminary credit rating issuance, proposed lease terms and accurate cost projections related to the United Nations Consolidation Building, including projected United Nations space accommodation and design requirements;

(d) Financial costs and accurate cost projections related to continuing commercial lease arrangements;

(e) Any other relevant issues, including the cost of exploring each option;

8. *Affirms* that nothing in the present resolution shall incur financial or legal obligations for the United Nations in relation to the United Nations Consolidation Building or

any other option for the long-term accommodation needs of the Organization;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure effective oversight and audit coverage in all phases of the project;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and, without prejudice to a decision the General Assembly may take on the implementation of a flexible workplace strategy, requests the Secretary-General to pursue further analysis in order to obtain statistically substantiated estimations of the impact that the implementation of a flexible workplace strategy would have on the projection of the office space requirements;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, without prejudice to any decision it may take on the new global service delivery model, to inform the General Assembly of the possible impact that the implementation of Umoja and the new global service delivery model could have in terms of the number, skills and location of staff, as this can be of capital importance for the planning of future office space requirements;

12. *Recalls* paragraph 4 of section III of its resolution 67/254 A, and underlines the need to respect the architectural integrity of the United Nations complex and of the original design of the Board of Design Consultants in considering the long-term accommodation needs at United Nations Headquarters;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, as appropriate and within the scope of his reports on the strategic capital review and the global service delivery model, information concerning the long-term accommodation needs for United Nations offices away from Headquarters, including in Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna and for the regional commissions;

VIII

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions and its twenty-first and twenty-second special sessions

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

3. *Approves* an additional appropriation in the amount of 11,705,800 dollars net, including 3,308,700 dollars under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, 8,383,900 dollars under section 24, Human rights, 2,000 dollars under section 28, Public information, and 11,200 dollars under section 29F, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015; in addition, an amount of 174,100 dollars will be required under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

4. *Also approves* the establishment, as from 1 January 2015, of nine posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 7 P-3) under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

IX

Revised estimates resulting from the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 69/2, entitled “Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples”

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

3. *Decides* to appropriate resources in the amount of 101,800 dollars under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, representing a charge against the contingency fund;

X

Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates relating to section 5, Peacekeeping operations, section 8, Legal affairs, section 27, Humanitarian assistance, section 29B, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, section 29C, Office of Human Resources Management, section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, section 34, Safety and security, and section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Expresses gratitude* for the efforts of the Secretary-General and other actors in tackling the crisis caused by the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease and for the dedicated service and commitment of the personnel of the United Nations system who are engaged in the effort to combat the spread of Ebola;

4. *Encourages* greater emphasis on reallocating resources and activities from the headquarters of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response to the front line in order to achieve maximum impact on the ground;

5. *Also encourages* the Mission to make maximum use of existing United Nations assets and capabilities in the region;

6. *Regrets* that the proposed staffing structure appears to be large, with a number of positions at high levels, and requests the Secretary-General to review, in the context of the next budget proposal, the staffing requirements of both the Mission and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola, with a view to ensuring that the staffing structure is commensurate with their mandates and that the financial resources are concentrated on operational activities;

7. *Takes note* of paragraphs 60 to 62 and 68 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

8. *Recalls* paragraph 36 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on the coordination role of the Mission with regard to the United Nations system-wide response effort to the Ebola virus disease in the context of his next budget report;

9. *Also recalls* paragraph 64 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to provide the requested information in the context of his next budget report;

10. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of 104,582,400 dollars, inclusive of the amount of 49,943,600 dollars authorized by its resolution 69/3 of 9 October 2014 for the biennium 2014–2015, to provide for the requirements of the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response for the period from 19 September 2014 to 30 June 2015, pending the submission of a detailed budget at the second part of the resumed sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and decides to assess the amount of 104,582,400 dollars;

XI

Financial implications relating to the administration of justice at the United Nations

Recalling its resolution 69/203 of 18 December 2014 on the administration of justice at the United Nations,

Decides to approve an additional amount of 2,591,400 dollars gross (2,461,100 dollars net), before recosting, reflecting an increase of 2,413,400 dollars under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, 47,700 dollars under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and 130,300 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

XII

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

Having considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

Recalling its resolutions 68/248 A and B, 68/247 B and 68/280,

1. *Reaffirms* the budgetary process as approved in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987 and reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the first performance report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that information is provided in a timely manner and as required, with regard to potential programme budget implications arising from resolutions of the Main Committees or the plenary of the Assembly, as well as from initiatives discussed in subsidiary organs, in order to enable a fully informed decision-making process;

5. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that oral statements detailing resource requirements are presented to the General Assembly in a timely manner before the adoption of substantive resolutions, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and to provide information on the full scope of additional resources needed;

6. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests that the Secretary-General provide a comprehensive assessment of the experience of forward purchasing of foreign currencies in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the recent experience of the utilization of the contingency fund in all its relevant aspects and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

8. *Affirms its commitment* to consider and decide on the independent study on recosting and options for the Organization in dealing with fluctuations in exchange rates and inflation and the recommendations contained therein at the first part of its resumed sixty-ninth session, without precluding other options;

9. *Approves* a net increase of 34,715,300 dollars in the appropriation approved for the biennium 2014–2015 and a net increase of 9,103,200 dollars in the estimates of income for the biennium, to be apportioned among expenditure and income sections as indicated in the first performance report of the Secretary-General;

XIII

Contingency fund

Notes that a balance of 248,900 dollars remains in the contingency fund.

Special subjects relating to the 2014–2015 programme budget

In March, the Fifth Committee considered a number of special subjects relating to the 2014–2015 programme budget: the subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (see p. 480); the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic (see p. 232); progress in the implementation of the organizational resilience management system and of the recommendations from the after-action review of storm Sandy (see p. 1674); implementation of a flexible workplace at UN Headquarters (see p. 1679); the strategic capital review (*ibid.*); revised estimates under section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia, and section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance (see p. 1154); the capital master plan (see p. 1677); and the terms of reference for the representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (see p. 1706).

Revised estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives

In February [A/68/327/Add.9 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General submitted proposed additional net requirements

for 2014 for the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic, amounting to \$1,476,100 (see p. 233).

In March [A/68/7/Add.25], ACABQ recommended approval of the Secretary-General's request.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 April [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/689/add.1], adopted **resolution 68/247 B** without vote [agenda item 134].

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

B

The General Assembly,

I

Subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Affirms* the high priority accorded to the work of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia;
4. *Notes with concern* the adverse cash position of the Extraordinary Chambers and its difficult financial situation;
5. *Recalls* article 15 of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia concerning the Prosecution under Cambodian Law of Crimes Committed during the Period of Democratic Kampuchea of 6 June 2003;
6. *Takes note* of paragraphs 33, 34 (a) and 35 of the report of the Advisory Committee;
7. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, as an exceptional measure, to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed 15,540,000 United States dollars to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014;
8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-ninth session a report on the use of the commitment authority as well as information on a comprehensive examination of the future financing of the Extraordinary Chambers for 2015 and beyond;
9. *Encourages* all Member States to provide voluntary support for both the international and national components of the Extraordinary Chambers, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to obtain additional voluntary contributions, including by broadening the donor base, for funding the future activities of the Extraordinary Chambers;
10. *Recalls* paragraph 36 (e) of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Extraordinary Chambers, in consultation with the key actors, prepare a completion strategy with a clear

road map and to report to the General Assembly thereon by no later than at the main part of its sixty-ninth session;

II

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: thematic cluster II—Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic

Recalling section VI of its resolution 68/247 A and its resolution 68/248 A both of 27 December 2013,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Takes note* of paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee;
4. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Secretary-General to improve efficiency under thematic cluster II (sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels) of the special political missions, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts to improve the efficiency of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic;
5. *Approves* the budget for the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic in the amount of 1,476,100 dollars net, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report;
6. *Also approves* a charge totalling 1,476,100 dollars net against the provision appropriated for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

III

Progress in the implementation of the organizational resilience management system and of the recommendations from the after-action review of storm Sandy

Recalling section II of its resolution 64/260 of 29 March 2010, section I of its resolution 66/247 of 24 December 2011 and sections II and IV of its resolution 67/254 A of 12 April 2013,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the organizational resilience management system and on progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the after-action review of storm Sandy, as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

A. Progress in the implementation of the organizational resilience management system

3. *Welcomes* the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the organizational resilience management system, and looks forward to receiving information on the next phases of implementation;

4. *Underlines* the importance of the full implementation of the organizational resilience management system in the offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions, field missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the participating specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the next step of its implementation;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the organizational resilience management system in managing operational risks to the United Nations under an all-hazards approach;

6. *Recalls* paragraphs 19 and 46 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide a detailed accounting of the cost of the organizational resilience management system initiative in the context of future progress reports;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, not later than at its seventieth session, a progress report on the implementation of the organizational resilience management system, including information on the steps taken to expand the system to include offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions, field missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs and the participating specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system;

B. Progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the after-action review of storm Sandy

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the after-action review of storm Sandy, to finalize the global information technology disaster recovery plan and assessment and to comprehensively address the weaknesses identified in the area of business continuity during the storm and to report thereon in the context of the next progress report;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General with respect to the tracking, monitoring and settlement of insurance claims for work related to the storm that was covered by insurance policies;

10. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to ensure that the post-storm remediation and mitigation work is completed in a timely manner;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, during the main part of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, a comprehensive briefing to Member States on the status of the remediation and mitigation work undertaken as a result of the damage caused by the storm, including a full accounting of the related expenditures and infrastructure recovered;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consider all means of risk mitigation, including through the insurance market and/or self-insurance mechanisms, with a view to securing adequate coverage at a reasonable cost for all United Nations installations and premises exposed to natural hazards and emergencies and to report thereon in the next progress report;

IV

Implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters

Recalling section V of its resolution 67/246 of 24 December 2012 and section III of its resolution 67/254 A,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters, as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Notes* that flexible workplace strategies in the United Nations should be aimed at improving the overall productivity and efficiency of the Organization, as well as the staff workplace environment;

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to keep under review the functioning of the interdisciplinary working group on flexible workplace strategies to ensure that all relevant stakeholders, including staff representatives, are appropriately engaged;

5. *Takes note* of paragraph 5 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly no later than at its sixty-ninth session a report containing a comprehensive business case for the application of flexible workplace strategies at the United Nations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the comprehensive business case includes linkages to ongoing reform initiatives, such as the Umoja enterprise resource planning project;

V

Strategic capital review

Recalling section III of its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the strategic capital review and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Emphasizes* the technical nature of the subject matter and the need for a shared understanding and consistent application of terms, moving towards the development of a long-term capital programme and a prioritization strategy for the global premises of the United Nations Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to set out precise definitions and to provide additional information on the scope, content and nature of the strategic capital review;

4. *Also emphasizes* the importance of ensuring the compliance of all United Nations premises with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and considers that this should be given due weight in the prioritization strategy;

5. *Takes note* of paragraphs 15 to 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee, decides that the review should include all premises owned and managed by the United Nations that are managed by the Office of Central Support Services of the Department of Management of the Secretariat, and further decides to assess the feasibility of disseminating the best practices learned from this process to all locations owned and/or managed by the Organization that have permanent long-term capital requirements;

6. *Recalls* paragraph 22 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and further recalls that any potential proposals

stemming from the strategic capital review with budgetary implications should follow the procedure set out in the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

VI

Revised estimates, under section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia, and section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates, under section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia, and section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Decides* to appropriate an additional non-recurrent amount of 5,722,400 dollars, representing a charge against the contingency fund, comprising, under section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia, 281,800 dollars, section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, 5,440,600 dollars and the amount of 29,000 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

VII

Capital master plan

Recalling its resolutions 54/249 of 23 December 1999, 55/238 of 23 December 2000, 56/234 and 56/236 of 24 December 2001, 56/286 of 27 June 2002, section II of its resolution 57/292 of 20 December 2002, its resolution 59/295 of 22 June 2005, section II of its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005, its resolutions 60/256 of 8 May 2006, 60/282 of 30 June 2006, 61/251 of 22 December 2006, 62/87 of 10 December 2007, 63/270 of 7 April 2009, 64/228 of 22 December 2009, 65/269 of 4 April 2011, section III of its resolution 66/258 of 9 April 2012, section V of its resolution 67/246 and section IV of its resolution 68/247 A and its decisions 58/566 of 8 April 2004, 65/543 of 24 December 2010 and 66/555 of 24 December 2011,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the update of the eleventh annual progress report on the implementation of the capital master plan and on updated information on final expenditure for associated costs for the period from 2008 to 2013 and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

A. Update of the eleventh annual progress report

3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the donations from Member States that are contributing to the capital master plan project;

4. *Notes* that as at 28 March 2014 an amount of 678,214 dollars in assessments remained unpaid to the

capital master plan for 2013 and prior periods, and urges the Member States concerned to arrange for the disbursement of those contributions expeditiously;

5. *Stresses* the special role of the host country Government with regard to support for United Nations Headquarters in New York;

6. *Notes* the benefits, including economic ones, accruing to host countries from the presence of the United Nations, and the costs incurred;

7. *Recalls* paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and urges the Secretary-General to make every effort to reduce the delay in the schedule for the completion of the project, to confirm the timing of the closure for the Office of the Capital Master Plan and to report, in the context of the twelfth annual progress report on the implementation of the capital master plan, on the plans for the management and supervision of the work remaining after the closure of the Office, including the accountability mechanisms that will be put in place;

8. *Also recalls* paragraphs 7 and 12 of section IV of its resolution 68/247 A, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon in the context of the twelfth annual progress report;

9. *Reaffirms* the scope of the capital master plan project in accordance with paragraph 10 of its resolution 61/251 and as affirmed in subsequent resolutions;

10. *Notes* that the Secretary-General refers in his report to the funding shortfall as an unfunded portion of the project scope, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take fully into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of section IV of its resolution 68/247 A in the context of the twelfth annual progress report;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to provide, from within existing resources, adequate office space for the Group of 77 and China in the Secretariat Building, with at least the same square footage as it had before the initiation of the capital master plan project and with due regard paid to its functional needs;

B. Funding of the project

12. *Recognizes* the need to fund the budget shortfalls, including those related to associated costs, on the basis of project costs provided by the Secretary-General in the twelfth annual progress report and that a decision on the final appropriation will be required at the main part of the sixty-ninth session;

13. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, on an exceptional basis, to make use of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account established by the General Assembly in its resolution 3049 A(XXVII) of 19 December 1972 as a bridging mechanism to address possible cash flow challenges of the project during the time remaining until its completion, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at the main part of its sixty-ninth session;

14. *Decides*, in this context, that the bridging mechanism will be replenished at the main part of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly through the established budget assessment in order to maintain the robust liquidity of the Organization;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep Member States informed with regard to the liquidity of the Organization, as appropriate;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to find savings to offset the budget shortfall, including through value engineering and other exercises;

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to solicit additional voluntary contributions to help finance the budget shortfall;

VIII

Terms of reference for the representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Recalling paragraphs 7 and 8 of section VII of its resolution 68/247 A,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on proposed terms of reference for the representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and the related report of the Advisory Committee,

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

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Decides* to establish the post of a full-time representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund at the Assistant Secretary-General level;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure broad dissemination of the vacancy announcement for the post of his representative for the investment of the assets of the Fund, including by circulating notes verbales to Member States and targeting industry publications and relevant institutions to allow for a competitive pool of candidates, and to report thereon in the context of the report on the investments of the Fund;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the process of the recruitment of his representative for the investment of the assets of the Fund is undertaken in strict adherence to the relevant provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations, subject to the terms of reference annexed to the present resolution;

6. *Decides* that the terms of reference for the representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the Fund shall be as annexed to the present resolution;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of future reports on the investments of the Fund, to provide information on the performance of his representative in discharging his or her responsibilities.

Annex

Terms of reference of the representative of the Secretary-General (Assistant Secretary-General) for the investment of the assets of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

1. Article 19 (a) of the regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides that the investment of the assets of the Fund shall be decided upon by the Secretary-General after consultation with an Investments Committee and in the light of observations and suggestions made from time to time by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the investments policy. The General Assembly, in its resolution 35/216 B of 17 December 1980, reaffirmed the fiduciary responsibility of

the Secretary-General for the interests of the participants and beneficiaries of the Fund under the Regulations and Rules of the Fund. In addition, on numerous occasions, the Assembly has emphasized that the Secretary-General's decisions concerning the investment of the assets of the Fund should be guided by the key criteria of safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility.

2. In order to assist the Secretary-General in carrying out the fiduciary responsibilities for the investment of the assets of the Fund, the Secretary-General shall appoint a representative for the investment of the assets of the Fund. The representative shall oversee the Investment Management Division of the Fund.

Responsibilities

3. The representative of the Secretary-General, reporting to the Secretary-General and in consultation with the Investments Committee of the Fund and in the light of observations and suggestions made from time to time by the Board on investments policy, will exercise discretionary authority over the investment of the assets of the Fund and will be responsible for the overall investment policy and for oversight and management of the investments of the Fund.

4. The representative of the Secretary-General will lead the investment operations in terms of strategy and policy analysis, asset allocation, portfolio management and investment decision-making; risk management and compliance and monitoring; and back-office accounting, trade settlement, cash management and systems and information technology requirements. The representative, supervising the Director of the Investment Management Division, will ensure that all the operations and functions of the Division are properly coordinated and coherent, are aligned to safeguard fiduciary responsibilities, support the goals of the office and enhance the long-term sustainability of the Fund. He or she will work closely with the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund. The representative is responsible for investment policy, strategic and tactical asset allocation and the appropriate investment strategy in consultation with the Investments Committee and in the light of observations and suggestions made from time to time by the Board on investment policy. He or she will oversee the implementation of investment decisions and ensure that the approved investment policy and asset allocation are followed. He or she will be responsible for carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under article 19 (b) of the regulations of the Fund, including to ensure that detailed accounts of all investments and other transactions relating to the Fund are maintained and to report to the Board, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly on the Fund's investments.

5. Within delegated authority, the representative of the Secretary-General will provide overall oversight and management of the investment of the Fund, involving the following:

(a) *Investments.* In consultation with the Investments Committee established in accordance with article 20 of the regulations of the Fund, and in the light of observations and suggestions made from time to time by the Board on investment policy, the representative will be responsible for an investment strategy and a coherent framework of investment operations aimed at meeting and exceeding the long-term real rate of return goal. In consultation with the Investments Committee,

he or she will define the Investment Management Division's globally diversified portfolio and the strategic and tactical asset allocation of the Fund; define the main investment strategies for diversified portfolios to generate investment returns corresponding to the long-term real rate of return issued in the Fund's actuarial assumptions to meet its long-term obligations of maintaining the solvency of the Fund; ensure adherence to the investment criteria established by the General Assembly (i.e., safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility) and to the objectives of preserving the principal of the Fund and of obtaining optimal investment return without undue risk; ensure consistency between investments and overall established risk tolerance; ensure the implementation of the established investment strategy and asset allocation; and conduct general monitoring and management of the investments and portfolio management;

(b) *Risk and compliance.* The representative will ensure the establishment and maintenance of appropriate internal controls and risk management systems;

(c) *Operations.* The representative will ensure the alignment of the operations and information systems technology with the Fund's investment strategy and policy;

(d) *Accounting.* The representative will be responsible for carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under article 19 (b) of the regulations of the Fund to maintain detailed accounts of all investments and other transactions relating to the Fund and ensure the integrity and reliability of investment data reflected in the financial statements of the Fund, as well as to implement risk management and adequate financial controls on investments;

(e) *Intergovernmental bodies.* The representative will liaise with the Board, the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly on the performance of the Fund's investments, providing answers and explanations to questions on performance, structure of the portfolio, investment policies and strategies, custodial arrangements, global economic and market conditions, investment forecast/outlook and requirements for the financing of operations; present proposals on the financing and servicing of the Investment Management Division; and liaise and work closely with the Board and its committees;

(f) *Oversight bodies.* The representative will liaise and consult with the Fund's oversight bodies (the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Audit Committee of the Fund and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat) and ensure the implementation of the accepted recommendations of such oversight bodies as appropriate.

6. The representative of the Secretary-General must also work closely and effectively with the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund with regard to the performance of their respective functions. The representative must collaborate closely with the Chief Executive Officer to ensure optimum results with respect to the Fund's asset/liability management.

Competencies

7. The competencies are as follows:

(a) *Professionalism.* Demonstrated competence in and adherence to the standards of conduct of the profession and in the application of best practices; strong conceptual and analytical skills; proven conscientiousness and efficiency in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; ability to direct, review and guide the work of others, particularly in terms of substantive soundness;

(b) *Vision.* Demonstrated ability to identify strategic issues, opportunities and risks and to generate and communicate broad and compelling organizational direction and objectives to all stakeholders;

(c) *Leadership.* Proven track record of excellent management and technical leadership skills; proven ability to develop clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies and to establish good relationships and build team spirit with a broad range of people; demonstrated competence for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work; demonstrated knowledge of strategies and commitment to the goal of gender balance in staffing;

(d) *Planning and organizing.* Demonstrated excellence in successful planning with strong managerial skills; proven ability to plan and establish priorities and to ensure effective work structure to maximize productivity and achieve goals;

(e) *Judgement/decision-making.* Mature judgement and initiative, imagination and resourcefulness, energy and tact; demonstrated ability to provide strategic direction; proven ability to identify key issues in complex situations and to take adequate decisions while being aware of their impact on others and on the Organization;

(f) *Communication.* Excellent oral and written communication and negotiation skills with proven ability to defend and explain difficult issues with respect to key decisions and positions to intergovernmental bodies, senior officials and staff; proven ability to communicate complex concepts orally; ability to prepare written reports that are clear, concise and meaningful;

(g) *Teamwork.* Good interpersonal skills; demonstrated ability to work in a multicultural, multi-ethnic environment and to maintain effective working relations; ability to lead and gain the assistance of others in a team endeavour.

Qualifications

8. The qualifications are as follows:

(a) *Education.* Advanced university degree (master's degree or equivalent) in business management, economics, finance, banking and portfolio investment management or related fields;

(b) *Work experience.* Over 20 years of proven progressively responsible experience in the management of economic, social security and/or financial policies and activities for governmental or intergovernmental organizations or for substantial private concerns, including a proven track record of extensive relevant experience in the management of the investment of complex portfolios of assets of various classes, such as pension funds, including their risk management, and in financial markets. Demonstrated direct knowledge of and experience in managing financial, economic and investment policies, including:

(i) Defining and overseeing investment policy for substantial and diversified investment portfolios having long-term return objectives, including policies for investment objectives, risk appetite and tolerance, the risk framework, the investment milieu, restrictions on investments and social responsibility considerations;

(ii) Developing strategic asset allocation for portfolios aiming for long-term rates of return, particularly for defined-benefit pension or other similar long-term

social security and similar benefit schemes where long-term asset/liability management considerations are paramount;

- (iii) Developing, implementing and monitoring investment strategies and overseeing research on economic and other trends affecting financial markets;
- (iv) Managing interdisciplinary and internationally diverse teams of financial professionals;
- (v) Reporting to and coordinating with governing organs (e.g., legislative bodies, boards and committees) on investment, financial and/or technical matters;
- (c) *Appointments and terms of service:*
 - (i) The representative of the Secretary-General shall be appointed for a term of up to 5 years, with the possibility of reappointment(s) up to a total maximum service of 10 years;
 - (ii) The representative may be removed by the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing procedures, for unsatisfactory performance in discharging his or her responsibilities;

(d) *Languages.* English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the post, fluency in oral and written English is required. Knowledge of other official languages is desirable.

Programme budget outline for 2016–2017

Report of Secretary-General. In October [A/69/416], the Secretary-General presented the proposed programme budget outline for the 2016–2017 biennium, including a preliminary estimate of \$5,698.5 million. The amount was subject to revision based on supplementary information to be provided to the General Assembly during its sixty-ninth (2014) session. The Secretary-General recommended that the level of the contingency fund for the 2016–2017 biennium be maintained at 0.75 per cent of the overall budget.

In establishing the preliminary estimate of resources for the 2016–2017 biennium, the approved level of resources appropriated by the Assembly in resolutions 68/247 B (see p. 1639), 68/248 A–C [YUN 2013, p. 1446], **68/268** (see p. 756) and **68/279** (see p. 1116) amounting to \$5,538.6 million was taken as the starting point.

ACABQ report. With regard to the preliminary estimate of \$5,698.5 million for the 2016–2017 budget outline, ACABQ, in November [A/69/556], noted that the amount included initiatives that were under consideration by the General Assembly and could further affect the level of the 2016–2017 proposed programme budget. The Committee was of the view that the latest approved level of resources for the current mandates should be used as the basis for determining preliminary estimates in the budget outline, including for special political missions. In that regard, the Committee recalled that the preliminary estimate of \$5,645.2 million for the 2016–2017 programme budget did not include provisions for the implementation of those requirements under consid-

eration by the Assembly. Subject to approval by the Assembly, those requirements would be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the 2016–2017 biennium. The Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposal that the level of the contingency fund be maintained at 0.75 per cent of the overall budget level for the 2016–2017 biennium.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/702], adopted **resolution 69/264** without vote [agenda item 131].

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2016–2017

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit, in off-budget years, an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling also section XII of its resolution 69/262 of 29 December 2014,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2016–2017 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the recommendations contained therein,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
3. *Reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;
4. *Also reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:
 - (a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;
 - (b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;
 - (c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;
 - (d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;
5. *Stresses* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;
6. *Decides* that the preliminary estimate of resources for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 should therefore include a provision for special political missions, in the amount of 1,130,400,000 United States dollars, which should be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017, and that additional

requirements shall continue to be treated in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 5,558,395,600 dollars at revised 2014–2015 rates;

8. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 shall contain provisions for re-costing on the basis of the existing methodology;

9. *Also decides* that the priorities for the biennium 2016–2017 shall be the following:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 9 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

11. *Reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

12. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to propose, in future budget submissions, measures to offset budget increases, wherever possible, in particular through more efficient back-office activities, services, functions and structures, without undermining the implementation of mandated programme activities;

13. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely, at 41,687,967 dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

Contributions

According to the Secretary-General's report [A/69/520/Add.1 & Corr.1] on improving the financial situation of the United Nations, unpaid assessments at the end of 2014 were lower than in 2013 in all categories, except the UN regular budget, which totalled \$535 million (compared to \$461 in 2013); outstanding peacekeeping arrears were \$1.3 billion (compared to 2.2 billion in 2013); and total unpaid assessments for the international tribunals decreased to \$40 million (compared to \$54 million in 2013).

The number of Member States paying their regular budget assessments in full decreased slightly to 144 (compared to 146 in 2013).

Assessments

The Committee on Contributions, at its seventy-fourth session (New York, 2–20 June) [A/69/11 & Add.1], considered the review of the methodology for preparing the scale of assessments, multi-year payment plans, the application of Article 19 of the UN Charter and other matters. Annexes to the session report included, the outline of the methodology used for preparing the scale of assessments for the 2013–2015 period; a summary of the main changes between the 1968 System of National Accounts (SNA), the 1993 SNA and the 2008 SNA having an impact on the level of gross domestic product; and the systematic criteria to identify Member States for which market exchange rates may be reviewed for possible replacement.

The General Assembly took action on the Committee's recommendations in October (see p. 1646).

Application of Article 19

Committee on Contributions. The Committee on Contributions [A/69/11] reviewed requests for exemptions under Article 19 of the UN Charter, whereby a Member State would lose its vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears should equal or exceed the amount of contributions due from it for the preceding two full years.

The Committee considered requests for exemption from five Member States: Central African Republic, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia. Recognizing the continued difficult situation of those States and efforts in some cases to make some payments, the Committee recommended that they be allowed to vote until the end of the Assembly's sixty-ninth session. At the conclusion of the Committee's session on 20 June, only one Member, Yemen, was in arrears in the payment of its assessed contributions under Article 19 and had no vote. The Committee encouraged the Member States concerned to address the growth in arrears by making annual payments exceeding current assessments in order to avoid further accumulation of debt, as well as the submission of a multi-year payment plan and to consult with the Secretariat as required.

In September [A/69/11/Add.1], the Committee reported that the number of Member States seeking Article 19 exemptions was reduced to four, as the Secretary-General had advised that the Central African Republic had made payment in sufficient amount to reduce its arrears below the limit prescribed by Article 19 of the Charter. Yemen had also done so.

Reports of Secretary-General. During the year, the Secretary-General reported to the Assembly on payments made by certain Member States to reduce the level of their arrears below that specified in Article 19, so that they could vote in the Assembly. As at 24 January [A/68/716], 18 Member States were below the gross amount assessed for the preceding two full

years (2012–2013). By a series of letters from January to August [A/68/716/Add.1–11], that number was reduced to five.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 October [meeting 22], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/428], adopted **resolution 69/4** without vote [agenda item 136].

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: requests under Article 19 of the Charter

The General Assembly,

Having considered chapter V of the report of the Committee on Contributions on its seventy-fourth session,

Reaffirming the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Also reaffirms* its resolution 54/237 C of 23 December 1999;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to bring to the attention of Member States the deadline specified in resolution 54/237 C, including through an early announcement in the *Journal of the United Nations* and through direct communication;

4. *Urges* all Member States requesting exemption under Article 19 of the Charter to submit as much information as possible in support of their requests and to consider submitting such information in advance of the deadline specified in resolution 54/237 C so as to enable the collation of any additional detailed information that may be necessary;

5. *Agrees* that the failure of the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia to pay the full minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 of the Charter was due to conditions beyond their control;

6. *Decides* that the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia shall be permitted to vote in the General Assembly until the end of its sixty-ninth session.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Multi-year payment plans

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 57/4 B [YUN 2002, p. 1385] and 67/238 [YUN 2012, p. 1450], the Secretary-General, in March [A/69/70], reported on multi-year payment plans, under which, each year a Member State would pay for the current year's assessment and a part of its arrears, so as to

eliminate the arrears within six years. The report provided information on the status of implementation of the plan submitted by Sao Tome and Principe as at 31 December 2013. The plan, which had a duration of eight years (2002–2009) would involve payments of \$694,411, if fully implemented. Payments by Sao Tome and Principe, however, had fallen below the level foreseen for that period in its schedule of payments, with only \$34,254 in payments and credits being applied for those years. During the period from 2010 to 2013, credits amounting to \$3,536 were applied. The outstanding assessed contributions at 31 December 2013 amounted to \$900,062.

The Committee on Contributions, at its June session [A/69/11], welcomed the payment made by Sao Tome and Principe in May 2014 and encouraged the country to review the plan and revise its terms, when possible. The Committee noted that no new multi-year payment plans had been submitted. It recalled the past experience of the successful implementation of plans by several Member States and recommended that the Assembly encourage those Member States in arrears under Article 19 of the Charter to consider submitting multi-year payment plans.

Other matters related to payment of assessed contributions

Collection of contributions

The Committee on Contribution [A/69/11] noted that, at the conclusion of its session on 20 June, only one Member State, Yemen, was in arrears in the payment of its assessed contributions to the United Nations under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter and had no vote in the General Assembly. In addition, five Member States (Central African Republic, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia) were in arrears in the payment of their assessed contributions under the terms of Article 19, but had been permitted to vote in the Assembly until the end of the sixty-eighth session, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/5 [YUN 2013, p. 1463]. The Committee decided to authorize its Chair to issue an addendum to the report, if necessary. That addendum [A/69/11/Add.1] was issued in September.

The Committee noted that, as at 31 May, \$2.6 billion was owed to the Organization for the regular budget, peacekeeping operations, the international tribunals and the capital master plan, reflecting a slight increase compared with the amounts of \$2.4 billion and \$2.5 billion outstanding as at 31 May 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Payment in currencies other than the United States dollar

Under the provisions of paragraph 16 (a) of its resolution 67/238 [YUN 2012, 1450], the General Assembly

authorized the Secretary-General to accept, at his discretion and after consultation with the Chair of the Committee on Contributions, a portion of the contributions of Member States for the calendar years 2013, 2014 and 2015 in currencies other than the United States dollar. The Committee on Contributions noted that, in 2013, the Secretary-General had accepted the equivalent of \$3,556,449.61 from Cyprus, Ethiopia, Morocco and the Sudan in non-United States dollar currencies acceptable to the Organization.

Accounts and auditing

The General Assembly, at its resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session, considered the report of the Board of Auditors on UN peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/5 (Vol. II)] and the related ACABQ report [A/68/843], together with the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the financial period ended 30 June 2013 [A/68/751]. The Assembly, in June, accepted the financial reports and audited financial statements of UN peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, and requested the Secretary-General to provide, in his next report on the implementation of the Board's recommendations on UN peacekeeping operations, a full explanation for the delays in implementing all outstanding recommendations, the root causes of the recurring issues and the measures to be taken.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/610/Add.1], adopted **resolution 68/19 B** without vote [agenda item 131].

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 67/235 B of 28 June 2013 and 68/19 A of 4 December 2013,

Having considered the financial report and audited financial statements for the 12-month period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and the report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations, the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2013 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Accepts* the financial report and audited financial statements of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

2. *Takes note* of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Board of Auditors;

3. *Also takes note* of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of the report of the Board of Auditors and paragraph 36 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to consider the question of the authority to move staff within the area of an individual mission during the second part of its resumed sixty-ninth session, while maintaining existing arrangements in the interim;

5. *Commends* the Board of Auditors for the quality of its report and the streamlined format thereof;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2013;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee in a prompt and timely manner;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to improve asset management across peacekeeping missions, including by holding mission management accountable for checking stock levels before undertaking any acquisition activity in order to ensure compliance with established asset management policies, taking into account the importance of the full implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to indicate an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the priorities for their implementation, including the office holders to be held accountable and measures taken in that regard;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in his next report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations, a full explanation for the delays in the implementation of all outstanding recommendations of the Board, the root causes of the recurring issues and the measures to be taken.

Board of Auditors reports. The Chairman of the Board of Auditors transmitted to the Secretary-General the financial reports and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 2013 on the United Nations [A/69/5 (Vol. I) & Corr.1], and on the following entities: the International Trade Centre [A/69/5 (Vol. III)]; the United Nations University [A/69/5 (Vol. IV)]; the Capital master plan [A/69/5 (Vol. V)]; the United Nations Development Programme [A/69/5/Add.1 & Corr.1]; the United Nations Capital Development Fund [A/69/5/Add.2]; the United Nations Children's Fund [A/69/5/Add.3]; the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East [A/69/5/Add.4]; the United Nations Institute for Training and Research [A/69/5/Add.5]; the Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [A/69/5/Add.6]; the Fund

for the United Nations Environment Programme [A/69/5/Add.7]; the United Nations Population Fund [A/69/5/Add.8]; the United Nations Human Settlement Programme [A/69/5/Add.9 & Corr.1]; the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [A/69/5/Add.10]; the United Nations Office for Project Services [A/69/5/Add.11 & Corr.1]; the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women [A/69/5/Add.12]; the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 [A/69/5/Add.13]; the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 [A/69/5/Add.14]; and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals [A/69/5/Add.15].

In a July 2014 note [A/69/178 & Corr.1-7], the Secretary-General presented a concise summary of the principal findings and conclusions contained in those reports, and in August [A/69/353 & Add.1] he reported on the implementation of the Board's recommendations contained in its reports for the biennium ended 31 December 2013, as well as on the capital master plan for 2013.

Commenting on the financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board, ACABQ, in October 2014 [A/69/386], noted that all entities had received unmodified audit opinions from the Board. The Advisory Committee noted that there were no explicit guidelines concerning appropriate standards for the level of reserves across UN entities, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to invite the heads of UN entities to develop appropriate guidance with regard to reserves, clearly specifying the minimum and maximum levels, taking into consideration the distinct funding models and operational requirements for different UN entities.

JIU report. In a September note [A/69/378], the Secretary-General transmitted a report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Review of the management of implementing partners in United Nations system organizations". According to the report, partnerships with public and non-public entities had become essential for most UN system organizations in pursuing their mandates, many of which assigned implementation of programme activities to those implementing partners (IPs), and allocated resources to enable programme delivery. Overall, the volume of UN resources entrusted to IPs was significant, with some organizations expending over half their annual budgets via IPs. In transferring funds to third parties, UN system organizations were expected to establish governance structures and other

measures of accountability to ensure that funds were used efficiently, for intended purposes, and with minimum risk of fraud, corruption and mismanagement. Against that standard, the UN internal and external auditors had repeatedly raised concerns over IPs performance and oversight. Member States, reflecting those concerns, were demanding greater accountability on resources allocated to IPs. JIU reviewed the methods used by those organizations to select and manage IPs and attempts to find common elements and challenges, and identified good practices. The report also included observations and suggestions addressed to executive management.

JIU found that a number of UN system organizations lacked a strategic approach to partnering and had ad hoc and incoherent efforts in engaging IPs. There were, however, on-going efforts in some organizations to improve or develop institutional frameworks (policies, procedures and guidelines) for managing IPs. JIU made 12 formal recommendations (two to the legislative organs, and ten to executive heads of organizations). Among them, JIU recommended that executive heads of UN system organizations should ensure that their respective partnership arrangements involving the transfer of UN resources to third parties, notably IPs, were clearly defined as being distinct from other types of partnerships not receiving UN funding, as well as from commercial contracts, in order to make sure that appropriate rules and regulations applied in the different cases; ensure also that key information on IPs, such as expenditures by purpose, modality, and evaluation of their performance were readily available in their organizations and reported regularly to legislative bodies; establish rigorous IP assessment and selection processes to establish their capacity and potential weaknesses and risks and ensure their capability to fulfil programme delivery requirements; establish risk-based monitoring frameworks; and institute training in fraud awareness and prevention, with emphasis on fraud related to third parties, for staff engaged with IPs.

The Secretary-General, in a September note [A/69/378/Add.1], transmitted to the Assembly his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the JIU report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/688], adopted **resolution 69/249 A** without vote [agenda item 130].

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/212 B of 31 March 1998 and its decision 57/573 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also its resolutions 68/19 A of 4 December 2013 and 68/19 B of 30 June 2014,

Having considered, for the period ended 31 December 2013, the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concise summary of the principal findings and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2012–2013 and annual financial periods 2012 and 2013, the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 2013 and on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2013 and on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board contained in its reports on the United Nations funds and programmes for the financial period ended 31 December 2013 and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Having also considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review of the management of implementing partners in United Nations system organizations" and his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,

1. *Accepts* the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors for the above-mentioned organizations;

2. *Approves* the recommendations and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors;

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

4. *Reaffirms* that the Board of Auditors shall be completely independent and solely responsible for the conduct of audits;

5. *Affirms* that nothing in the present resolution presents a change to the intergovernmental budgetary process of the Organization;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General not to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 85 and 89, in chapter II.F, of volume I of the report of the Board of Auditors;

7. *Decides* to consider further the reports of the Board of Auditors on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals under the respective agenda items relating to the Tribunals and the Mechanism;

8. *Commends* the Board of Auditors for the continued high quality of its reports and the streamlined format thereof;

9. *Reaffirms* its resolution 62/224 of 22 December 2007;

10. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

11. *Further reaffirms* the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

12. *Reaffirms* the established budgetary procedures and methodologies, based on resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

13. *Requests* the Advisory Committee to request the Board of Auditors to continue to report on the cross-entity issues in its future reports;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to invite the executive heads of the participating organizations to report on the ratios of programme delivery and overhead costs to help to drive cost-effective delivery of mandates;

15. *Notes with concern* general deficiencies identified by the Board of Auditors in control and fraud prevention, which are particularly necessary given the high-risk environments in which the United Nations operates, and requests the Secretary-General to take measures to address those deficiencies, such as through the issuance of standard operating procedures for addressing fraud prevention;

16. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 2013 and on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2013 and on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board contained in its reports on the United Nations funds and programmes for the financial period ended 31 December 2013;

17. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to ensure full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee in a prompt and timely manner, to continue to hold programme managers accountable for the non-implementation of recommendations and to effectively address the root causes of the problems highlighted by the Board;

18. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide in his reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors a full explanation for

the delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the Board, in particular those recommendations not yet fully implemented that are two or more years old;

19. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to indicate in future reports an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, as well as the priorities for their implementation and the office holders to be held accountable;

20. *Welcomes* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review of the management of implementing partners in United Nations system organizations", and requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to invite the executive heads of the participating organizations to consider implementing the recommendations contained in the report.

Also on 29 December (**decision 69/553 A**), the Assembly decided to defer consideration of the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 2013, and on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2013 and the related ACABQ report until its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

On the same date (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the financial reports and audited financial statements of and reports of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations; United Nations peacekeeping operations; the International Trade Centre; the capital master plan; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Capital Development Fund; the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the fund of the United Nations Environment Programme; the United Nations Population Fund; the United Nations Human Settlements Programme; the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the United Nations Office for Project Services; the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994; the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991; and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Financial management practices

International Public Sector Accounting Standards

In August [A/69/367], the Secretary-General transmitted the seventh progress report on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which were approved by General Assembly resolution 60/238 [YUN 2006, p. 1580]. The report reviewed the progress of IPSAS implementation at the United Nations and throughout the UN system from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014. The Secretary-General noted that during the period 2008–2012, of 24 UN organizations, 21 had successfully migrated to IPSAS and produced IPSAS-compliant financial statements for 2013, attesting to the capability of UN system organizations to sustain compliance with the standards. Implementation was on schedule for the remaining three organizations which, with an adoption date of 2014, were on schedule to produce their first IPSAS-compliant financial statements.

The achievement of key IPSAS project milestones during the reporting period, in particular for peacekeeping operations, included the finalization of IPSAS opening balances, and their review by the Board of Auditors, as well as the preparation of IPSAS dry run financial statements as at 31 December 2013. For the other operations of the United Nations, opening balances, as at 1 January 2014, were submitted by offices and were vetted and consolidated; and the process of preparing dry run financial statements as at 30 June 2014 was launched. Another significant achievement was the agreement with the Board of Auditors on the definition and treatment of inventories in peacekeeping operations, including the methodology for estimating the value of non-financial inventory that would be presented in the IPSAS-compliant financial statements. The Assembly was requested to take note of the report, including the status of the IPSAS benefits realization plan and the proposed framework for IPSAS sustainability.

Board of Auditors report. By a July note [A/69/155], the Secretary-General transmitted the fourth and final progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of IPSAS as at 30 June 2014. The report presented findings on the extent to which entities were realizing benefits from the adoption of IPSAS, the state of progress in its implementation in the United Nations and its peacekeeping operations and progress in the remaining entities going live in 2014. The Board also followed up on progress in implementing its previous recommendations. According to the report, there was tangible progress on benefits realization within UN entities that had already implemented IPSAS, with evidence of the new information under IPSAS being used as an enabler for improved financial reporting to management and

for improved financial management capability and processes. That was laying the foundations for greater transparency in relation to the costs of operations and supporting improved decision-making at all levels of management. Nonetheless, the real test would be whether the entities could translate the new information into measurable improvements in operations and the cost-effective delivery of mandates—that was where more progress was needed and where the Board would focus in its future audits at the entity level. By the end of 2014 all UN system entities, including the United Nations and its funds and programmes, would have implemented IPSAS. The level of progress reflected the commitment and energy of the entities concerned and represented a major step towards the modernization of the UN system. All entities that went live in 2012 received a second unqualified audit opinion, and the remaining entities that would go live in 2014 had made significant progress. Given the complexities of a highly federated organization and the challenges of a parallel roll-out of a new global enterprise resource planning system, the implementation of IPSAS in the United Nations and its peacekeeping operations was inherently risky. Nevertheless, the Board was confident that it saw strong managerial resolve to secure first-time IPSAS-compliant financial statements.

The Board recommended that entities take stock of their investments in improved financial management capacity and capability and consider whether there was need for a more structured and formalized approach; and consider how the new information from the accounting framework could be used to drive improved longer-term and more strategic planning in important business functions. The Board also recommended that the Secretary-General should encourage the development of plans to transform the role of finance functions as leaders in driving forward the quality of financial management across the UN system. The Board further recommended that for peacekeeping operations, the Administration should prepare dry run financial statements for the first six months to 31 December 2013, as far in advance as possible of the full audit of the first set of IPSAS statements in the third quarter of 2014, and for the United Nations, Volume I opening balances by 1 September 2014. It should also complete the consolidation of all information for plant and equipment in relation to offices away from Headquarters, and verify that items were consistently capitalized and records were complete and accurate, and confirm that the reporting capability in Umoja, the UN resource enterprise system, could support the accurate allocation of cash and investments among cash pool participants.

In terms of mitigating the risk of using multiple legacy systems, the Administration should assure the completeness and reliability of accounting data for

the United Nations and its peacekeeping operations financial statements, by 1 September 2014: document the consolidation process, showing the data flows between the different systems and the IPSAS Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) ledgers, and document and test the internal controls to check the accuracy and completeness of the data transferred between systems and posted to the IPSAS IMIS ledger. For the remaining entities going live in 2014, the Board's recommendations were set out in the report for each entity.

ACABQ report. In its October report [A/69/414], ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to report on the status of IPSAS implementation projects in the UN Secretariat and throughout the UN system.

In resolution 69/262 (see p. 1631), the General Assembly took note of the reports, endorsed the ACABQ conclusions and recommendations, and approved the recommendations of the Board of Auditors. It welcomed the progress made in the development of the benefits realization plan, and in that regard requested the Secretary-General, in the context of future progress reports, to include information related to capturing the quantitative and qualitative benefits across 15 key categories relating to the five key strategic benefits originally envisaged as resulting from the adoption of IPSAS.

Review of UN administrative and financial functioning

In 2014, the General Assembly continued its consideration of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. To that end, the Secretary-General issued a report on the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (see below).

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the item “Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations” remained for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Administrative and budgetary coordination

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item “Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency” remained for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth session.

CEB report. In an August note [A/69/305], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the UN system Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) statistical report on the budgetary and financial situation of UN system organizations, prepared in accordance with Assembly resolution

63/311 [YUN 2009, p. 1368] and decision 67/553 B [YUN 2013, p. 1418] requesting the Secretary-General to create a central repository of information on operational activities for development, and to coordinate the annual compilation and analysis relating to the financial situation of those organizations. The CEB secretariat had worked to enhance the structure and content of the report. In particular, each new release of the survey included more comprehensive data on revenue and expenses relating to extrabudgetary resources from Governments and from non-State donors. The report followed the structure as the previous report, with a transparent presentation of revenue, expenses and approved budgets, in line with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, as well as a table on total expenses for 2012–2013 by major programme category. Those categories allowed CEB to collect the financial data used by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in its report on operational activities for development, thereby reducing the reporting burden on organizations.

On 29 December (**decision 69/551**), the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's note transmitting the CEB statistical report on the budgetary and financial situation of UN system organizations, and decided to revert to the issue of the composition of the report.

Independent Audit Advisory Committee

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/258 [YUN 2013, p. 1471], the Independent Audit Advisory Committee submitted its seventh annual report [A/69/304] covering the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014. The report contained an overview of the Committee's activities, the status of its recommendations, and its plans for 2015. It set out also the Committee's detailed comments, including in response to the Assembly's specific request for comments regarding a planned mandate review of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and on the pilot project for the public disclosure of internal audit reports.

During the reporting period, the Advisory Committee held four sessions and submitted two reports to the Assembly: its annual report to the Assembly for the period from 1 August 2012–31 July 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1467]; and a report, through ACABQ, on the budget of OIOS under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

In **resolution 69/253** (see p. 1660) of 29 December, the Assembly requested the Advisory Committee to continue to keep under review the practice of the publication of audit and evaluation reports, including those on the relationship of OIOS with management, the reputation of the Organization and the effectiveness of the new report format, and to provide relevant

comments and observations in the context of its future reports.

In **resolution 69/252** of the same date, the Assembly reaffirmed the terms of reference of the Committee as contained in resolution 61/275 [YUN 2007, p. 1471], and endorsed the observations and recommendations contained in its report.

Programme planning

Strategic framework for 2016–2017

The Secretary-General submitted the proposed strategic framework for 2016–2017 [A/69/6 (Part one & Corr.1)]. The framework comprised two parts: the plan outline reflecting the Organization's long-term objectives and priorities (Part one) and the biennial programme plan (Part two), covering 28 programmes, to be carried out by the respective departments. The framework constituted the principal policy directive of the United Nations and served as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.

The nine programme areas for the 2016–2017 biennium were: promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and UN conferences; maintenance of international peace and security; development of Africa; promotion of human rights; effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts; promotion of justice and international law; disarmament; drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and effective functioning of the Organization.

The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), at its fifty-fourth session (New York, 2–27 June) [A/69/16], examined the proposed framework and recommended that the General Assembly approve the eight priorities for the 2016–2017 biennium, as set out in paragraph 34 of the plan outline. In view of the differences among Member States on some aspects of the plan outline, the Committee recommended that the Assembly review the plan outline at its sixty-ninth session, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".

On 2, 5, 10, 18 and 19 December, the General Assembly took note of the reports on the item "Programme planning" of the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee [A/69/450] (**decision 69/521**); the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/69/464] (**decision 69/526**); the Sixth (Legal) Committee [A/69/508] (**decision 69/530**); the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/492] (**decision 69/540**); and the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/477] (**decision 69/549**).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 November [meeting 55], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/539], adopted **resolution 69/17** without vote [agenda item 133].

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002, 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003, 59/275 of 23 December 2004, 60/257 of 8 May 2006, 61/235 of 22 December 2006, 62/224 of 22 December 2007, 63/247 of 24 December 2008, 64/229 of 22 December 2009, 65/244 of 24 December 2010, 66/8 of 11 November 2011, 67/236 of 24 December 2012 and 68/20 of 4 December 2013,

Recalling also the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008(LX) of 14 May 1976,

Recalling further the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, by which the relevant programmes and subprogrammes of the proposed strategic framework shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its fifty-fourth session, the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017: part one: plan outline and part two: biennial programme plan and the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2012–2013,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2012–2013, contained in chapter II, section A, of its report on the work of its fifty-fourth session, and on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017, contained in chapter II, section B;

4. *Decides* that the priorities of the United Nations for the period 2016–2017 shall be the following:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

5. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;

6. *Also stresses* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 on the basis of the above priorities and the strategic framework as adopted in the present resolution;

8. *Decides* not to take a decision on the content of part one: plan outline of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, when preparing future plan outlines, that the proposed strategic frameworks take fully into account the guidelines provided by the General Assembly in its resolutions 59/275, 61/235, 62/224, 63/247 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

10. *Emphasizes* the need for the Secretary-General to strictly adhere to the concepts, terms and mandates approved in the strategic frameworks, while preparing the related programme performance reports;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to improve the logical framework, and in this regard encourages programme managers to further improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievement in order to enable better evaluation of results, bearing in mind the importance of defining the indicators in a way that ensures their clear measurability;

12. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on evaluation, contained in chapter II, section C, of its report, on the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2013, contained in chapter III, section A, and on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, contained in chapter III, section B, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the timely implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on programming planning remained for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Programme performance

Reporting in March [A/69/144] on the programme performance of the United Nations for the 2012–2013 biennium, the Secretary-General provided a comprehensive overview of the major developments and the work performed by the UN Secretariat during that period. Specifically, it included information on the results achieved by the Organization in terms

of expected accomplishments and the achievement of outputs. The key results achieved by the Organization under its 10 programme elements gave Member States a high-level overview of the Secretariat's performance. The analysis of programme performance in regard to 33,696 mandated and additional outputs indicated an increase in implementation rates, from 90 to 91 per cent for mandated outputs and from 90 to 92 per cent for all outputs, compared with the previous biennium. The report also included a detailed recounting of the results obtained by each individual budget section on 876 expected accomplishments implemented under the 36 sections of the programme budget, as well as a brief summary of the main challenges encountered in the implementation of each programme and lessons learned to improve performance.

CPC consideration. Following consideration of the Secretary-General's report, CPC, at its fifty-fourth session (New York, 2–27 June) [A/69/16], stressed the importance of the Secretariat using programme performance reports as a management tool in the strategic framework planning process, in line with the principles of results-based management, including by regularly reviewing programme performance. It recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to provide information on the strains on some programme budgets and their impact on programme implementation. CPC noted the absence of information requested by the Assembly in resolution 67/236 [YUN 2012, p. 1459] on the impact of the reduction in the number of printed documents on the intergovernmental decision-making process in UN conferences and meetings, and therefore recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to pursue full implementation of the decision in future programme performance reports. With a view to improving the presentation of the report, it stated that the Secretary-General should also be

requested to include in future reports, under each section of the programme, a comparison with the previous biennium of the rate of implementation of mandated outputs, a comparison with the previous biennium of additional outputs implemented at the initiative of the Secretariat, and information on the main factors affecting the implementation of mandated outputs, when the rate of implementation for the biennium was below 90 per cent.

Programme evaluation

CPC considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-first session on the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) [E/AC.51/2014/2].

Support was expressed for the efforts made by DESA to successfully develop an implementation matrix to organize system-wide efforts to implement conference outcomes; the view was expressed that that initiative could be used as a best practice. CPC was of the view that the overall reduction by DESA in its report titles and printed copies should not adversely affect Member States' access to information or access to reports in those countries with poor Internet access. Further, the paper-smart initiative had been approved only as a pilot and should not be seen as a means to increase the use of technology; there should be assurance, however, that the target audience was being reached. The view was also expressed that the paper-smart concept was a good one since it helped to reduce, among other things, the carbon footprint.

CPC recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to entrust OIOS to include in its future recommendations indicators that make the impact/result of implementing such recommendations measurable.

Administrative and staff matters

In 2014, the United Nations continued to strengthen its organizational and administrative functioning, with a view to better implementing the decisions and mandates of its legislative bodies more efficiently. The General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services, which celebrated its twentieth anniversary, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee and the Joint Inspection Unit, examined issues of managerial reform and external and internal oversight. The Assembly approved the recommendations of those bodies for improving internal controls, accountability mechanisms and organizational efficiency.

Progress was made on the organizational resilience management system (ORMS), a comprehensive emergency management system, linking actors and activities across preparedness, prevention, response and recovery to enhance resilience in order to improve the capacity of the Organization to manage the risks of disruptive events. ORMS policy was endorsed by the Secretary-General, approved by the High-level Committee on Management on 8 October and subsequently by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at its 20 November session. Following implementation of ORMS at Headquarters, the focus of implementation shifted to the offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions, field missions of the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Political Affairs, and specialized agencies, funds and programmes.

Progress was also achieved in implementing the UN enterprise resource planning system (Umoja). A milestone was reached with Umoja Foundation having been deployed and being fully operational in all peacekeeping operations, special political missions and offices at UN Headquarters involved in the support and oversight of those missions.

With the completion and occupancy of the General Assembly Building in September, the Capital Master Plan (CMP) drew closer to completion. The renovation of the Library Building and the South Annex Building, however, were suspended because of security concerns. The construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa was completed in August. Planning moved forward on the strategic heritage plan project, which aimed to renovate the facilities at the Palais des Nations in Geneva and to construct a new building on the premises.

The International Civil Service Commission considered the conditions of service applicable to Professional and General Service categories of staff, locally

recruited staff and staff in the field by, among others, continuing its review of the common system compensation package. The Commission followed up on its 2013 recommendation that the mandatory age of separation for current staff members be raised to age 65, with effect from 1 January 2016.

Reform of human resources management continued as well, encompassing issues such as preparations for the new mobility and career development framework, the assessment of the system of desirable ranges, performance management, the young professionals programme and other matters. The General Assembly approved a refined managed mobility framework and preparations continued for its implementation. Promotion of multilingualism and the use of new communications platforms were the focus of discussion at the Committee on Information.

The number of global staff of the UN Secretariat totalled 41,426 as at 30 June, comprising all categories of staff holding permanent/continuing, fixed-term and temporary contracts, recruited both internationally and locally from 188 Member States. As the global security environment was far from improving and the United Nations conducted and expanded its operations in countries and areas with unprecedented security challenges, including armed conflict and volatile post-conflict environments, UN personnel and premises were targets of attacks. Their safety and security being of increasing concern, the Secretary-General outlined measures to strengthen the UN security management system, in order to enable the Organization to “stay and deliver” critical programmes in high-risk areas while upholding the “duty of care” towards UN personnel.

Despite a general downward trend in the number of allegations, instances of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel persisted, and sustained efforts were made to implement the policy of zero-tolerance and strengthen inter-agency activities to prevent such acts. A risk management framework for sexual exploitation and abuse was developed, along with a draft action plan, for application in field missions.

The UN system of justice served approximately 74,000 staff in the Secretariat and the separately administered funds and programmes. The system offered an informal (Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services) and a formal (Management Evaluation Unit, Dispute Tribunal, Appeals Tribunal, Office of Staff Legal Assistance) option to address grievances and solve staff-management disputes.

Reacting to new evidence regarding the death in 1961 of Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint an independent panel of experts to examine the new information and assess its value.

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund recorded 122,759 active participants at the end of 2014.

Administrative matters

Managerial reform and oversight

Procurement

Report of Secretary-General. In December [A/69/710], the Secretary-General provided an update on United Nations procurement activities since his previous report [YUN 2012, p. 1461]. The report outlined achievements and progress made in major areas of procurement in the Secretariat, also describing initiatives undertaken by the Procurement Division towards increasing transparency and accountability while enhancing the delivery of services to clients globally.

The procurement volume for the Secretariat increased to \$3,230,502,384 in 2013, 55 per cent of which coming from developing or transitioning countries and 45 per cent from industrialized countries. Air transportation services, fuel and petroleum products, and food rations were the major commodities. The Procurement Division enhanced the acquisition processes for all three commodity areas in order to ensure best value for money. Air chartering services, with expenditure of more than \$670 million, represented 21 per cent of total procurement value.

The Regional Procurement Office in Entebbe, Uganda, which serviced missions in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur and Abyei (the Sudan), had established 43 regional system contracts under joint acquisition plans and 134 mission-specific contracts. As at September, the UN Secretariat had registered through the Office 2,051 vendors in 25 African countries.

Review of long-term agreements

JIU report. In April [A/69/73-JIU/REP/2013/1], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Review of long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system", which covered a variety of issues related to long-term agreements (LTAs).

The review suggested that the use of such agreements was relevant and, to some extent, efficient and effective. The JIU Inspectors collected numerous examples of monetary and non-monetary benefits being

realized by different UN organizations. Most prevalent were examples of how LTAs created administrative efficiencies for goods and services required on a regular basis by consolidating recurrent procurements into a single one. In addition, they allowed opportunities for greater volume leverage and best value for money through demand aggregation across each organization and the UN system.

The Inspectors, however, identified several potential risks associated with policies and practices in the use of LTAs. Many organizations lacked LTA-specific policies, adequate procurement planning, strategy development, contract management and monitoring and data collection capabilities. The inability of organizations to strategically establish and manage LTAs, and monitor and assess their outcomes, could reduce their capacity to realize the potential benefits of those contracts. Due to their relatively long duration and demand aggregation, those contracts had a significant monetary value, which entailed higher risks. Therefore, the Inspectors suggested that the use of LTAs be planned and strategized as a whole process, which included managing the procurement process, aggregating demand, conducting market analysis, reaching out to a greater pool of vendors, ensuring competition, assessing and managing risks and effectively managing the contracts. Every LTA should have a contract management plan that clearly defined the contract work breakdown structure, roles and responsibilities of all parties involved, and control and accountability mechanisms. Unless the establishment and use of LTAs were based on proper LTA policies, there was the possibility of missed opportunities, inefficiencies or misuse. Proper planning, strategy development and contract management enabled UN organizations to identify opportunities for collaboration through joint LTAs, piggy-backing and information sharing. Collaboration across the UN system through LTAs served to reduce duplications and increase volume leverage and synergies.

The Inspectors noted that, in the UN system, procurement was generally viewed as a transactional, back-office function instead of a strategic one. Yet, given the importance and amount spent on procurement in the UN system (\$14.3 billion in 2011), making procurement more strategic would better assist organizations in achieving their objectives. Procurement should be an integral part of overall corporate planning and strategy development. The procurement function needed to evolve from a transactional and reactive administrative function to a proactive strategic function.

The Inspectors further noted that among multi-organization or system-wide collaboration modalities, joint procurement was the most advantageous. It allowed organizations to aggregate demand system-wide and use greater volume leverage to achieve better prices, terms and conditions. The report identified

good examples of joint procurement activities in some locations. In order to increase procurement collaboration in the system, organizations should integrate collaboration-specific provisions into their procurement regulations and harmonize their procurement policies and documents. The Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management should play a greater role in harmonization and collaborative procurement.

The Inspectors concluded that procurement, as one of the highest expenditure items, and a strategic tool that contributed to achieving organizational goals, required the close oversight of legislative/governing bodies. To that end, executive heads should periodically report to legislative/governing bodies on procurement function and activities, including procurement planning and strategies.

The JIU report included five recommendations, four of which were addressed to the executive heads of the organizations (see below), while the fifth was addressed to the legislative/governing bodies of the organizations, which should exercise their oversight role to ensure that the procurement function fulfilled its strategic role and that procurement activities, including LTAs, were based on sound procurement plans and strategies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 April [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/68/691/Add.1], adopted **resolution 68/263** without vote [agenda item 132].

Procurement

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on United Nations procurement activities, the pilot project on the independent procurement challenge system, the response to the comprehensive report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on United Nations procurement activities, the procurement governance arrangements within the United Nations and sustainable procurement, the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of procurement management in the Secretariat,

Having also considered the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on offshoring in United Nations system organizations and the environmental profile of the United Nations system organizations, as well as the related notes by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,

Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on United Nations procurement activities for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Note of Secretary-General. In May [A/69/73/Add.1], the Secretary-General transmitted his comments, as well as those of the United Nations System

Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), on the recommendations provided in the JIU report. He said that UN organizations found the report informative, with many entities generally supportive of its analysis and conclusions. Organizations supported the assessment of JIU that moving procurement to a more strategic function would assist organizations in achieving their objectives. They agreed that the issue of sharing long-term agreements among UN system entities should remain a key focus of UN system procurement harmonization activities, although they noted that the use of LTAs in the UN system was, to some extent, already efficient and effective, with variations in specifications between organizations possibly being the single biggest limiting factor. Common specifications, organizations suggested, would allow for greater volume leveraging and best value for money through demand aggregation across the UN system. Organizations also agreed with the assessment of JIU that the Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management should play a greater role in harmonization and collaborative procurement.

Making specific comments on the recommendations of JIU, agencies supported the call in recommendation 1 for the development of policies and guidelines for the strategic use of LTAs. While agencies generally supported the concepts presented in recommendation 2, calling for executive heads to ensure that contract management plans were in place for LTAs, some agencies indicated that not all issues had been fully taken into account in the report. Some of the measures mentioned in the report required resources that might not be available, especially in smaller organizations, and the net benefits-losses between resource expenses (staff or software) and cost savings (through better contract monitoring) might not justify sophisticated contract management.

Many agencies indicated their support for recommendation 3, which called for executive heads to pursue long-term agreement opportunities. In some cases, agencies had implemented policy changes that allowed for the use of LTAs negotiated by other agencies. The General Assembly, however, had not rendered a formal decision on the lead organization concept, and the UN Secretariat was limited in its ability to pursue collaboration apart from making its systems contracts available to other UN organizations.

Agencies concurred with recommendation 4 calling for executive heads to support the efforts of the Procurement Network as it proceeded with the harmonization of procurement documents and other areas. Several agencies, however, expressed concerns regarding the emphasis on the harmonization of general terms and conditions. The experience of some agencies with collaborative procurement indicated that differences in the general terms and conditions did not unduly hamper joint procurement activities, and the resources, time and effort required to obtain

harmonized general terms and conditions might be better spent identifying areas of collaboration even in the absence of harmonized documents.

While recommendation 5 was directed at legislative bodies, agencies noted progress in recent years on improving procurement rules, policies and procedures to harmonize practices across UN organizations.

Oversight

Internal oversight

OIOS activities

On 29 July, OIOS marked the twentieth anniversary since its inception through the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 48/218 B [YUN 1994, p. 1362]. Various events and publications during the year celebrated the anniversary.

OIOS report. In August [A/69/308 (Part I)], in conformity with General Assembly resolution 64/263 [YUN 2010, p. 1449] and previous resolutions, OIOS submitted a report on its activities from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. The oversight of peacekeeping activities was covered in a separate report [A/69/308 (Part II)].

During the reporting period, OIOS issued 326 oversight reports, including 5 reports to the General Assembly and 92 closure reports. The reports included 936 recommendations to improve internal controls, accountability mechanisms and organizational efficiency and effectiveness, of which 45 were classified as critical to the Organization. A number of reports focused on areas of strategic interest to the Organization, including Umoja (see p. 1631) and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) (see p. 1650). Others represented significant advancements in the investigation of fraud committed against the Organization by external parties.

The financial implications of OIOS recommendations during the period amounted to approximately \$13.8 million. The recommendations were aimed at cost savings, recovery of overpayments, efficiency gains and other improvements. The financial implications of recommendations issued in prior periods that were implemented during the reporting period totalled approximately \$2.4 million.

An addendum [A/69/308 (Part I/Add.1)] provided an analysis of the status of implementation of the recommendations, a breakdown of recommendations with financial implications and a list of all reports issued for all areas of OIOS work between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014.

Independent Audit Advisory Committee report.

Reporting in August [A/69/304] on its activities from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, as per General Assembly resolution 68/21 [YUN 2013, p. 1473], also dealt with the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the audit activities

and other functions of OIOS. The Committee focused its assessment on three areas: strategic planning, OIOS effectiveness and performance management; OIOS internal management and efficiency; and coordination and collaboration of audit, evaluation and investigations across the UN Secretariat.

The Committee found that OIOS did not have a long-term strategic plan other than the two-year plan. It recommended that OIOS establish a fully integrated long-term strategic plan, which would address goals and strategies that were aligned with key UN risks and the latest transformational initiatives of the Secretariat, including mobility, IPSAS, Umoja and the capital master plan; a focus on challenges, such as procurement fraud, which were apparent in the financial statements of the oversight bodies; and annual goals for each division that were consistent with the strategic plan.

The Committee examined how OIOS measured its effectiveness and performance both overall and within its divisions. OIOS informed the Committee that in 2013 it had established programme impact pathways for each division and for OIOS as a whole, which it intended to make a management tool that would integrate the work of the respective divisions and assist in breaking down the silos that existed in the Office. The Committee viewed the development of the programme impact pathways as positive developments. It recommended that OIOS should establish specific goals, with associated performance measures, for its divisions and for OIOS as a whole; and that would provide OIOS as well as stakeholders with a clear view of where the organization was headed, what results were achieved and what opportunities for improvement existed.

In response to its request to be provided with the results of surveys from its clients, the Committee received surveys from the OIOS Internal Audit Division and the Inspection and Evaluation Division. Noting that no surveys had been done for the Investigations Division or for OIOS as a whole, the Committee noted that well-designed and frequent surveys were useful tools to measure performance and improve effectiveness. It recommended that all divisions and OIOS as a whole conduct surveys; for divisions, not only should surveys be conducted annually, but where practical, after each engagement.

Concerning its operational and budgetary independence, OIOS informed the Committee of some concerns, including the fragmentation of funding sources; internal inconsistency in seeking funding for its activities; inflexibility of resources between internal oversight functions; timing and governance arrangements for a client's budget cycles; and lack of financial independence, especially with respect to extrabudgetary sources. OIOS had developed a list of options for possible improvements in the funding ar-

range that it felt would address those concerns. The Committee recommended that OIOS formalize those options into a set of proposals, develop business cases for recommended options and submit them to the General Assembly in the context of the long-awaited report on the funding arrangement requested pursuant to resolution 61/275 [YUN 2007, p. 1471].

The Committee remained concerned about the persistently high vacancy rate in the Investigations Division, especially in the field, which in turn called into question the ability of OIOS to fulfil its mandate. It reiterated its recommendation that OIOS address the issue.

With regard to OIOS workplans, the Committee's observations and recommendations were contained in its report on the OIOS budget under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/773] (see p. 161) and its report on the proposed OIOS programme budget for the 2014–2015 biennium [YUN 2013, p. 1474].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/689], adopted **resolution 69/252** without vote [agenda item 142].

Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

The General Assembly,

I

Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 59/272 of 23 December 2004, 60/259 of 8 May 2006, 63/265 of 24 December 2008, 64/232 of 22 December 2009, 64/263 of 29 March 2010, 65/250 of 24 December 2010, 66/236 of 24 December 2011, 67/258 of 12 April 2013 and 68/21 of 4 December 2013,

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014,

1. *Reaffirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action taken on reports submitted to it;
2. *Also reaffirms* its oversight role and the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;
3. *Further reaffirms* the independence and the separate and distinct roles of the internal and external oversight mechanisms;
4. *Recalls* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat shall exercise operational independence relating to the performance of its internal oversight functions, under the authority of the Secretary-General, in accordance with the relevant resolutions;
5. *Encourages* United Nations internal and external oversight bodies to further enhance the level of cooperation with one another, such as through joint work-planning sessions, without prejudice to the independence of each;
6. *Takes note* of the report of the Office;

7. *Reaffirms* that the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit shall continue to be provided with copies of all reports produced by the Office, requests that those reports be made available within one month of their finalization, and emphasizes the need for comments by the Board and the Unit, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the full implementation of the accepted recommendations of the Office, including those relating to cost avoidance, recovery of overpayments, efficiency gains and other improvements, in a prompt and timely manner, and to provide detailed justifications in cases in which recommendations of the Office are not accepted;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for the Office to continue to refine its risk-based workplan in order to ensure that it fully captures high-risk areas such as those relating to procurement activities at the mission level as well as those related to fraud, including by contractors and implementing partners;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of its resolution 62/247 of 3 April 2008, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventieth session the report on terms of reference to strengthen the investigations function in the United Nations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the annual reports of the Office continue to include a brief description of any impairment of its independence;

12. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of its resolution 68/21, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly by no later than the main part of its seventieth session on the proposal set out therein;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions pertaining to the work of the Office are brought to the attention of the relevant managers;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions, including those of a cross-cutting nature, are brought to the attention of relevant managers and that the Office also takes those resolutions into account in the conduct of its activities;

15. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to fill the remaining vacant posts, particularly in the Investigations Division and in the field, in accordance with the relevant provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations;

II

Activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee

Recalling its resolutions 61/275 of 29 June 2007, 64/263, section II of its resolution 66/236, section II of its resolution 67/258 and section II of its resolution 68/21,

Having considered the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;
2. *Reaffirms* the terms of reference of the Committee, as contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 61/275;
3. *Endorses* the observations, comments and recommendations contained in paragraphs 16, 22, 26, 30, 31, 34, 40, 46, 48, 54, 57, 59, 62, 66, 70, 73, 75, 76, 88, 94 and 95 of the report of the Committee.

Also on 29 December [meeting 77], also on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/690], the Assembly adopted **resolution 69/253** without vote [agenda item 143].

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244, 59/272 and 64/263

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the relevant Articles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 59/272 of 23 December 2004 and 64/263 of 29 March 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 61/275 of 29 June 2007,

Reaffirming that the purpose of the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat is to assist the Secretary-General in fulfilling his internal oversight responsibilities in respect of the resources and staff of the Organization,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244, 59/272 and 64/263;

2. *Also reaffirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action on reports submitted to it;

3. *Further reaffirms* its oversight role and the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;

4. *Reaffirms* the independence and the separate and distinct roles of internal and external oversight mechanisms;

5. *Recalls* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services shall exercise operational independence under the authority of the Secretary-General relating to the performance of its internal oversight functions, in accordance with the relevant resolutions;

6. *Reaffirms* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services is an internal body under the authority of the Secretary-General, and that, as such, it shall comply with all relevant regulations, rules, policies and procedures of the United Nations;

7. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit as external oversight bodies, and in this regard affirms that any external review, audit, inspection, monitoring, evaluation or investigation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services can be undertaken only by such bodies or those mandated to do so by the General Assembly;

8. *Further reaffirms* the existing mandates of relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies of the General Assembly in the field of administration, budgetary and management matters;

9. *Emphasizes* that the recruitment and promotion of staff of the Office of Internal Oversight Services shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Staff Regulations and Rules of the Organization, taking into account Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter;

10. *Recalls* section III of its resolution 67/258 of 12 April 2013, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with publishing audit and evaluation reports on the website of the Office as from 1 January 2015;

11. *Requests* the Independent Audit Advisory Committee to continue to keep under review the practice

of the publication of audit and evaluation reports, including those on the relationship of the Office of Internal Oversight Services with management, the reputation of the Organization and the effectiveness of the new report format, and to provide relevant comments and observations in the context of its future reports, as appropriate;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all measures necessary to ensure that the credibility of the Organization and its staff is protected;

13. *Notes* the role of the Management Committee in monitoring closely the implementation of the recommendations of oversight bodies, and stresses the importance of follow-up with programme managers to ensure the full implementation of those recommendations in a prompt and timely manner;

14. *Reaffirms* that the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, following consultations with Member States, and shall be approved by the General Assembly, and for this purpose the Secretary-General shall appoint the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services with due regard for geographic rotation, and in so doing shall be guided by the provisions of paragraph 3 (e) of Assembly resolution 46/232 of 2 March 1992, whereby the Assembly decided in particular that, as a general rule, no national of a Member State should succeed a national of that State in a senior post and that there should be no monopoly on senior posts by nationals of any State or group of States;

15. *Notes* that the five-year non-renewable term of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services will expire in July 2015, and in this regard urges the Secretary-General to ensure that timely arrangements are made to find a successor in full conformity with the provisions of paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 48/218 B;

16. *Decides* to evaluate and review at its seventy-fourth session the functions and reporting procedures of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and any other matter which it deems appropriate, and to that end to include in the provisional agenda of that session an item entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244, 59/272, 64/263 and 69/253".

On the same date (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the review of the implementation of resolutions 48/218 B [YUN 1994, p. 1362], 54/244 [YUN 1999, p. 1274], 59/272 [YUN 2004, p. 1370] and 64/263 [YUN 2010, p. 1449], would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session, as would the item on the report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight.

External oversight

Joint Inspection Unit

At its resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session, the General Assembly had before it the annual report [A/68/34] of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) for 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1474], including its programme of work for 2014.

Note of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 65/270 [YUN 2011, p. 1409], the Secretary-General, in February, submitted

a note [A/68/739] on support provided by CEB member organizations in the preparation and circulation of JIU reports, notes and confidential letters. In 2013, CEB secretariat prepared comments for seven JIU system-wide reports and collected and collated responses from UN system organizations. In addition, CEB continued to work closely with JIU on the preparation of its annual work programme.

CEB maintained a constant dialogue with JIU to ensure a smooth report preparation process and to identify methods for enhancing the value of its reports. During 2013, the Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management of CEB provided input into the JIU report on long-term agreements in procurement in the UN system (see p. 1656); the Information and Communication Technology Network supported the preparation of the report on enterprise resource planning systems (see p. 1631); and the Human Resources Network provided input into reports that concerned human resource issues.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 April [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/819], adopted **resolution 68/266** without vote [agenda item 140].

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006, 61/238 of 22 December 2006, 61/260 of 4 April 2007, 62/226 of 22 December 2007, 62/246 of 3 April 2008, 64/262 of 29 March 2010, 65/270 of 4 April 2011, 66/259 of 9 April 2012 and 67/256 of 12 April 2013,

Reaffirming the statute of the Unit and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Unit for 2013 and programme of work for 2014 and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2013,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013 and programme of work for 2014;

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2013;

3. *Reaffirms* that oversight is a shared responsibility of Member States, the organizations and the internal and external oversight bodies;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the oversight functions of the Unit in identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions within the participating organizations and providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations to improve and strengthen the governance of the United Nations as a whole;

5. *Recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the impact of the Unit on the management efficiency and

transparency of the participating organizations within the United Nations system;

6. *Notes* the need to enhance the effectiveness of the Unit and its system-wide oversight capability;

7. *Welcomes* the reform efforts undertaken by the Unit to better serve the interests of the participating organizations and Member States, including a self-evaluation, a peer review and the completion of norms and standards, in this regard encourages the Unit to continue its efforts, including on selection of the subjects for its programme of work, and looks forward to receiving updates in the context of the annual reports of the Unit;

8. *Recalls* section II of its resolution 61/238 and section II of its resolution 64/262, and in this regard reaffirms the existing procedure for the appointment of the inspectors in accordance with article 3 of the statute of the Unit;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the recommendations of the Unit, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to consider optimizing the number of projects in its programme of work through prioritization;

12. *Also reiterates its request* to the Unit to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized in their deliberations;

13. *Reaffirms* article 20 of the statute of the Unit, in which it is stipulated that the Unit shall be invited to be represented at meetings when its budget estimates are being discussed;

14. *Requests* the heads of participating organizations to make full use of the web-based system of the Unit and to provide an in-depth analysis of how the recommendations of the Unit are being implemented;

15. *Welcomes* the benefit and utility of the web-based system for tracking recommendations.

JIU activities. In its annual report to the General Assembly [A/69/34], JIU reviewed its activities in 2014, during which it issued six system-wide reports and one note, addressing policies for coherence, management and risk issues in the areas of resource mobilization [A/69/737-JIU/REP/2014/1]; capital refurbishment and construction [JIU/REP/2014/3]; environmental governance within the UN system [A/69/763-JIU/REP/2014/4]; the evaluation function [JIU/REP/2014/6]; the use of non-staff personnel and related contractual modalities [JIU/REP/2014/8]; contract management and administration [JIU/REP/2014/9]; and the use of retirees [JIU/NOTE/2014/1]. Reviews of individual organizations were completed for the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights [JIU/REP/2014/7], the World Tourism Organization [JIU/REP/2014/5] and the World Intellectual Property Organization [JIU/REP/2014/2].

During the year, JIU continued its reform process by making improvements in the areas under its purview, including strategic planning and priority-setting; adopting new approaches in the ways it worked; enhancing the professional and technical rigour of its work; and engaging in partnerships and global platforms to share knowledge and perspectives about the UN system and new changes and challenges.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/266 (see p. 1661), JIU sought to improve the process of selection of subjects for its programme of work. The consultation process in the identification of topics was expanded to include not only the management of the Unit's participating organizations, but also the oversight and evaluation community, including the United Nations Evaluation Group, representatives of internal audit services of the UN organizations and multilateral financial institutions and the members of the external oversight committees of the participating organizations.

JIU assumed a lead role in establishing the independent system-wide evaluation mechanism requested by Assembly resolution 67/226 [YUN 2012, p. 859] on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development.

The lack of budgetary independence and the stagnation in the regular budget had prevented JIU from achieving its full potential, the Chair noted. The budget submission process was not in full conformity with articles 17 and 20 of the JIU statute, which hampered the Unit's independence. The statute required that the original budget proposal of JIU be incorporated into the Secretary-General's overall budget estimates.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the Joint Inspection Unit would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Conference management

Committee on Conferences

The Committee on Conferences held its organizational session on 23 April (reconvened on 20 June) and its substantive session from 2 to 8 September [A/69/32]. At its organizational session, the Committee elected its officers to serve in 2014 and adopted its provisional agenda.

At the same session, the Committee reviewed the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017, programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. The Chair, by a letter of 20 May, trans-

mitted the Committee's recommendations to the Chair of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

On 3 September, the Committee adopted the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2015 [A/AC.172/2014/L.2]. Following approval by the General Assembly in resolution 68/251 [YUN 2013, p. 1478], the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2014 and 2015 was issued in February as a Committee document [A/AC/172/2014/2 & Corr.1].

Also on 3 September, the Committee had before it a letter from 32 Member States addressed to the Chair [A/AC.172/2014/3] urging that the United Nations recognize the holiest day of the Jewish faith, Yom Kippur. On 8 September, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to report to the Fifth Committee on the modalities and criteria for approving additional official UN holidays.

At its substantive session, the Committee also discussed meetings management, including the utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities and impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach) [YUN 2005, p. 1555] on meetings held at UN Headquarters; integrated global management; matters related to documentation and publications; and matters related to translation and interpretation. The Committee considered those issues based on information contained in a report by the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences [A/69/120 & Corr.1], submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 68/251 [YUN 2013, p. 1478] and 32/72 [YUN 1977, p. 1039]. In October [A/69/527], the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) commented on the Secretary-General's report and made recommendations.

The Committee approved requests from several bodies for additional meetings and extended meeting hours, as well as a request for a change of venue. It recommended that the General Assembly authorize 11 bodies to meet in New York during the main part of its sixty-ninth session, on the understanding that all such meetings would be allocated conference services on an "as available" basis, in such a way that the work of the Assembly and its Main Committees would not be impeded. Those bodies were listed in a letter of 2 September [A/69/370] from the Chair of the Committee to the President of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly, on 16 September (**decision 69/501**), authorized those subsidiary organs to meet as requested. On 19 September (**decision 69/502**), the Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee [A/69/250], included in the agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and allocated it to the Fifth Committee.

Meetings management

In his July report [A/69/120 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General noted that the overall utilization factor for

meetings at all four duty stations (New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi) in 2013 was 83 per cent which, although above the established benchmark of 80 per cent, showed a decrease of 2 per cent from 84 per cent in 2012. The percentage of unassigned cancelled meetings in New York had increased to 9 per cent in 2013 from 8 per cent in 2012. Overall, the time lost as a result of late starts and early endings increased to 13 per cent in 2013 compared to 12 per cent in 2012. Globally, the number of cancellations in 2013 reached a historical high, a trend especially prevalent in New York where 225 meetings were cancelled. The number of meetings added at all four duty stations was also at its highest in the past three years.

Since the start of 2014, the Secretariat had addressed the situation by working closely with the calendar bodies to identify and address any issues that might affect their utilization of conference servicing resources. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/251 [YUN 2013, p. 1478], the Secretariat identified the following four core sample bodies, all meeting in New York, as having a utilization factor below 80 per cent for the previous three consecutive years: the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Committee on Contributions, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group, and the Committee on Information. The 10-year averages of those bodies were also below the 80 per cent benchmark.

In 2013, there were no bodies in the core sample at the Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi duty stations whose utilization factor fell below the 80 per cent benchmark for each of the previous three consecutive years. The UN Conference Centre at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in 2013 hosted and serviced 3,644 meetings, representing an occupancy rate of 67.4 per cent. A new marketing strategy had enabled the Conference Centre to gradually improve its monthly occupancy and to secure new conference commitments for 2014 and 2015. There had been an increase in partnerships with the Ethiopian tourism agency, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, major airlines and key tour operators, which would assist the Conference Centre in becoming a more efficient and effective one-stop service provider.

As to the impact of the implementation of the capital master plan (see p. 1662) on meetings held at UN Headquarters, it was expected that meeting capacity would be temporarily reduced until the reopening of the General Assembly Hall and the conference rooms in the General Assembly Building. To minimize the impact of CMP on meetings management, the Secretariat had made alternative arrangements for programmed meetings and limited the scheduling of additional new meetings.

The Advisory Committee, in an October report on pattern of conferences [A/69/527], noted that the

overall utilization rate for the four duty stations was approaching the 80 per cent benchmark; the rate, however, should be monitored closely considering the drop in utilization by 3 percentage points, from 85 per cent in 2011 to 82 per cent in 2013. The Committee reiterated its concern over the rates of utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities. For budgetary purposes, the Committee believed that information concerning the utilization rates showing actual occupancy against existing full capacity for all Secretariat conference facilities should be provided to it in future budget submissions.

Integrated management

As indicated by the Secretary-General [A/69/120 & Corr.1], the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Directors General of the UN Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna had agreed to clearly delineate their responsibilities concerning conference management policies, operations and resource utilization, and accordingly revise the bulletins of the Secretary-General that defined the organization of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Offices.

Work was progressing on the development of single information technology systems. The meetings management system, gMeets, was operational at UN Headquarters and in Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna. The documents planning and processing system, gDoc, was launched in Geneva and New York in May. The computer-assisted translation and text processing system, gText, which included computer-assisted translation, machine translation, referencing and access to the terminology databases, was being prepared for a phased roll-out at all four duty stations. The information warehouse, gData, captured conference management-related budget and finance data from the four duty stations for statistical reporting and performance management. Data on meetings and documentation would be provided through gDoc and gMeets.

The term "proximity role", previously used to describe the practice of using the conference servicing resources of the four duty stations and the regional commissions to assemble in a cost-effective manner a team for servicing meetings held away from the four duty stations, was replaced by the term "integrated global management rule", or "IGM rule". In 2013, the application of the rule was estimated to have led to savings of over \$1 million, which generally accrued to the host countries or the substantive departments, rather than to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM). The four duty stations were moving towards systematic document sharing through joint workload forecasting and capacity planning.

A global e-survey measuring the level of satisfaction with conference services was conducted (15 April–15 May), during which time it was accessed 1,201 times. The overall quality at all four duty stations was rated as “good”.

The Advisory Committee in October [A/69/527] welcomed the successful conclusion of the process of defining the delineation of responsibilities as well as the efficiencies achieved under the IGM rule.

Documentation and publications

As reported by the Secretary-General [A/69/120 & Corr.1], progress was achieved at all four duty stations in the timely submission by authoring entities of documents for processing by the conference services. The overall timely submission rate in New York reached 92 per cent, although only 84 per cent of the submitters met the 90 per cent timely submission benchmark. New York conference services were able to process 98 per cent of documents in a timely manner, namely, taking no more than 28 calendar days to turn around submitted documents on time and within word limits. Of all pre-session documents issued in New York, 71 per cent met the mandated timely issuance benchmarks. At the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), the timely submission rate reached 87 per cent. Owing to capacity constraints, however, the timely processing rate fell to 50 per cent for Secretariat reports and 22 per cent for non-Secretariat reports. At the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), the timely submission rate reached 98 per cent. At the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), timely submission in 2013 stood at 22 per cent; although up in comparison to 2012 and 2011, the figure left much room for improvement. The Office ensured 100 per cent timely processing.

The General Assembly, in resolution 68/251 [YUN 2013, p. 1478], acknowledged that a multipronged approach was required to find a solution to the perennial difficulties related to the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee. DGACM and the secretariats of the Fifth Committee and ACABQ had intensified their efforts in analysing the situation and seeking solutions. Despite improvements in timeliness achieved in recent years, late submission by authoring entities remained a problem, often compounded by the excessive length of documents and heavy editing needs. Remedial actions, however, were being taken by authors and conference managers by building on those improvements.

In accordance with the principle of simultaneous distribution, all official documents were only distributed when they became available in all of the official languages, both as electronic versions on the Official Documents System and in hard copy.

The Department of Public Information and DGACM were working together to increase online

access to historical UN documents. An estimated 17 million paper documents existed in UN repositories, mostly from the pre-digital era before 1993. Around 3 million such documents had been identified as particularly important and in need of digitalization, of which around 300,000 had been digitized. The complementary skills and resources of both Departments had been molded into a single team to address that challenge. The initial estimated output was 6,000 finished documents per month.

The Advisory Committee, in its October report [A/69/527], welcomed the joint effort to digitize UN documents and trusted that the two Departments would report on the resources designated for that exercise, including any voluntary contribution.

Translation and interpretation

The Secretary-General described [A/69/120 & Corr.1] outreach efforts and succession planning covering the six official languages, including support to the pan-African project and the use of language rosters. Agreements with the International Association of Conference Interpreters and the International Association of Conference Translators that came into force in 2012 and 2013 rationalized the recruitment of qualified freelance professionals needed to supplement in-house capacity, by aligning the remuneration of short-term interpreters and translators with that of regular staff. The new mechanisms enhanced the predictability, transparency and ease of administration of temporary staff recruitment at all duty stations, thereby improving the competitiveness of the United Nations. Other measures included reviewing the conditions of recruitment of language staff, offering language staff increased opportunities for enhancing their skills and interacting with language training institutions. The conference services at all four duty stations enhanced their collaboration with such academic institutions. Remote learning tools had been leveraged and good practices continued to be exchanged with leading specialists in the field. In 2013, the language internship programme hosted 107 interns.

All language services made use of temporary assistance through the recruitment of freelance staff, including retirees, to help handle the workload during peak periods. While the recruitment of local freelancers was strongly preferred for economic reasons, DGACM recruited internationally for certain language combinations if adequate local expertise was not available.

To find a long-term solution to high vacancy rates in the language services at UNON, the Department had taken a number of steps, including lateral transfers from other conference-servicing duty stations. The Office also provided on-the-job training to young freelance translators and interpreters and assisted in the training and testing of students.

A broad range of measures to enhance the quality, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of editorial and related Secretariat services was being implemented, including updated and strengthened application standards for all UN documents; enhanced author outreach; enhanced global document management, including standardized editorial guidelines and practices at all duty stations; consolidated terminology production and maintenance through UNTERM; and enhanced dissemination of UN documents to web-based media and mobile devices. The Advisory Committee, in its October report [A/69/527], noted that a projected 114, or 13 per cent, of 887 professional-level language staff across all language groups were forecast to retire between 1 July 2014 and 31 December 2017. The Committee believed that succession planning merited the development of a comprehensive long-term plan, taking into consideration the various factors influencing current and future vacancies. In addition, the outreach programme should be expanded and consideration should be given to approaching universities in all Member States that offered high-quality language programmes in any of the six official languages.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/695], adopted **resolution 69/250** without vote [agenda item 135].

Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 51/211 A to E of 18 December 1996, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 53/208 A to E of 18 December 1998, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002, 57/283 A of 20 December 2002, 57/283 B of 15 April 2003, 58/250 of 23 December 2003, 59/265 of 23 December 2004, 60/236 A of 23 December 2005, 60/236 B of 8 May 2006, 61/236 of 22 December 2006, 62/225 of 22 December 2007, 63/248 of 24 December 2008, 63/284 of 30 June 2009, 64/230 of 22 December 2009, 65/245 of 24 December 2010, 66/233 of 24 December 2011, 67/237 of 24 December 2012 and 68/251 of 27 December 2013,

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2014 and the relevant report of the Secretary-General,

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Reaffirming the provisions relating to conference services in its resolutions on multilingualism, in particular resolution 67/292 of 24 July 2013,

Reaffirming also the role of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in administrative and budgetary matters,

Recalling its resolution 14(I) of 13 February 1946 and the role of the Advisory Committee as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly,

I

Calendar of conferences and meetings

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2014;

2. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2015, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences, taking into account the observations of the Committee and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2015 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions 53/208 A, 54/248, 55/222, 56/242, 57/283 B, 58/250, 59/265, 60/236 A, 61/236, 62/225, 63/248, 64/230, 65/245, 66/233, 67/237 and 68/251 concerning Orthodox Good Friday and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;

5. *Acknowledges* that Yom Kippur is a significant local holiday which is observed in the host city of the Headquarters of the United Nations, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on Yom Kippur, and in this regard encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

6. *Acknowledges* the significance of the Day of Vesak, which is observed in many Member States, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on the Day of Vesak, and in this regard encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

7. *Acknowledges* the significance of Diwali, which is observed in many Member States, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on Diwali, and in this regard encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

8. *Acknowledges* the significance of Gurpurab, which is observed in many Member States, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on Gurpurab, and encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

9. *Acknowledges* the significance of Orthodox Christmas, which is observed in many Member States, invites United Nations bodies at Headquarters and other duty stations where observed to avoid holding meetings on the day of Orthodox Christmas, and encourages this arrangement be taken into account when drafting future calendars of conferences and meetings;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings is implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

11. *Invites* Member States to include in new legislative mandates adequate information on the modalities for the organization of conferences or meetings;

12. *Recalls* rule 153 of its rules of procedure, and, for resolutions involving expenditure, requests the Secretary-General to include the modalities of conferences, taking into account the trends of similar meetings, with a view to mobilizing conference services and documentation in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to address the issue of duplications and redundancies in conference servicing, and notes in this regard that the Economic and Social Council decided in its resolution 2013/13 of 22 July 2013 to consider at a later date the necessity of reviewing its provisional biennial calendar of conferences and meetings in the light of the ongoing intergovernmental consultations on the further strengthening of the Council;

II

A. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

14. *Reaffirms* the practice that, in the use of conference rooms, priority must be given to meetings of Member States;

15. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and Member States to adhere to the guidelines and procedures contained in the administrative instruction for the authorization of the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits;

16. *Emphasizes* that such meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

17. *Notes* that the overall utilization factor at the four main duty stations in 2013 was 82 per cent, that in 2012 it was 84 per cent and that in 2011 it was 85 per cent, which is above the established benchmark of 80 per cent;

18. *Welcomes* the steps taken by those bodies that have adjusted their programmes of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and requests the Committee on Conferences to intensify consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources;

19. *Also welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to increase the utilization rates of conference-servicing resources, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to enhance the efficiency of conference servicing and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

20. *Urges* those intergovernmental bodies whose average utilization factor has for the past 10 years been below the benchmark of 80 per cent to take that factor into account when planning their future sessions in order to achieve that benchmark;

21. *Recognizes* that late starts and unplanned early endings seriously affect the utilization factor of the bodies owing to the amount of time lost, and invites the secretariats and bureaux of bodies to pay adequate attention to avoiding late starts and unplanned early endings;

22. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by the bodies entitled to meet "as required" that were pro-

vided with interpretation services in New York in 2013 was 98 per cent, and that in 2012 it was 97 per cent, as compared with 96 per cent in 2011, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to impress upon such bodies the need to continue to improve the utilization of the conference services provided and to report on the provision of conference services to those bodies through the Committee on Conferences;

23. *Reiterates its request* to intergovernmental bodies to review their meeting entitlements and to plan and adjust their programmes of work on the basis of their actual utilization of conference-servicing resources in order to improve their efficient use of conference services;

24. *Recognizes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met, and requests the Secretariat to inform the requesters as early as possible about the availability of conference services, including interpretation, as well as about any changes that might occur before the holding of meetings;

25. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States that were provided with interpretation services at the four main duty stations was 93 per cent in 2013, as compared with 91 per cent in 2012, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to employ innovative means to address the difficulties experienced by Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

26. *Once again urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

27. *Welcomes* the efforts of all users of conference services to inform the Secretariat as early as possible of any cancellation of service requests so as to allow for such services to be smoothly redeployed to other meetings;

28. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with several resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 68/251, section II.A, paragraph 22, in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies were held in Nairobi in 2013, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session through the Committee on Conferences;

29. *Notes with concern* the recurring underutilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, specifically given the ongoing renovation of its facilities, recognizes the continuing promotional efforts and initiatives of the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session through the Committee on Conferences;

30. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to improve the conference facilities at the Economic Commission for

Africa, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to ensure that the ongoing work on the improvement of the remaining facilities, in particular Africa Hall, is completed in a timely manner;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional means to increase the utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, including with its partners such as the African Union, and to report thereon, including on the impact of the initiatives of the Commission, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

32. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the heads of entities of the United Nations system to use as a matter of priority, when applicable, the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure greater utilization of the conference facilities;

33. *Recalls* section II.A, paragraph 26, of its resolution 68/251, reiterates its request that the Secretary-General formulate a competitive pricing structure and an appropriate marketing strategy for the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

34. *Recognizes* the proactive efforts of the Secretary-General to identify ways to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in conference services;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose, at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, a comprehensive review of conference servicing, highlighting any duplication or redundancy, with a view to identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-saving measures, without compromising the quality of the services;

36. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee on Conferences that it consult those bodies that have consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark of their allocated resources for the past three years, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and urges the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources to work more closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat and to consider changes to their programmes of work, as appropriate, including adjustments based on previous patterns of recurring agenda items, with a view to making improvements in their utilization factors;

37. *Requests* the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to address a letter to the presiding officers of intergovernmental bodies based at duty stations other than New York if their utilization factor falls below the benchmark of 80 per cent;

B. Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of the capital master plan, including the reassignment of conference-servicing staff to swing spaces, will not compromise the quality of conference services provided to Member States in the six official languages and the equal treatment of the language services, which should be provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to receiving the maximum quality of services;

39. *Requests* all meeting requesters and organizers to liaise closely with the Department on all matters relating to the scheduling of meetings to allow maximum predictability in coordinating activities at Headquarters during the construction period;

40. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to keep the matter under constant review, and requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Committee on matters pertaining to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations during the construction period;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate information technology support for conference services, within the existing resources of the Department, in order to ensure their seamless operation throughout the implementation of the capital master plan;

42. *Emphasizes* the need to continue to improve all conference facilities, including the videoconferencing infrastructure, in all four main duty stations and in the regional commissions, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to report thereon no later than at the seventieth session of the General Assembly;

43. *Notes* that, for the duration of the implementation of the capital master plan, a part of the conference-servicing staff and information technology resources of the Department has been temporarily relocated to swing spaces, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate support, within the existing resources of the Department, to ensure continued maintenance of the information technology facilities of the Department, implementation of the global information technology initiative and delivery of high-quality conference services;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States on initiatives that affect the utilization of conference services and conference facilities;

45. *Welcomes* the measures taken to ensure access to and use of conference services and conference facilities for persons with disabilities, including the establishment of the Accessibility Centre, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue further efforts in this regard and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to address issues related to the accessibility of conference facilities as a matter of priority and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

III

Integrated global management

47. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Secretary-General in the context of the integrated global management initiative to establish and implement in the four main duty stations common performance indicators and single information technology systems (such as gData, gDoc, gMeets and gText), and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

48. *Reiterates with concern its request* that the Secretary-General complete the internal reviews concerning accountability mechanisms and the clear delineation of responsibility between the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Directors General of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna for conference management policies, operations and resource utilization, requests the Secretary-

General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, and in this regard recalls section III, paragraph 15, of its resolution 66/233, section III, paragraph 2, of its resolution 67/237 and section III, paragraph 38, of its resolution 68/251;

49. *Notes* the initiatives undertaken in the context of integrated global management aimed at streamlining procedures, achieving economies of scale and improving the quality of conference services, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring the equal treatment of conference-servicing staff, as well as the principle of equal grade for equal work at the four main duty stations;

50. *Also notes* that the effects of workload-sharing in the context of global document management remain minimal, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek ways to promote workload-sharing among the four main duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

51. *Emphasizes* that the major goals of the Department are to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages, in accordance with established regulations, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

52. *Notes* that the pool of language professionals at duty stations is uneven in terms of language combinations, and requests the Secretary-General to develop recruitment, subcontracting and outreach policies that take full account of these imbalances and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving the maximum quality of services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

54. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure the compatibility of technologies used in all duty stations and to ensure that they are user-friendly in all official languages;

55. *Takes note* of the progress made in the development and implementation of the conference management software gData, gDoc, gMeets and gText, and requests the Secretary-General to include all relevant information on their operation, maintenance and harmonization with existing systems, as appropriate, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

56. *Notes* the development of an experimental statistical machine translation system (Tapta4UN) to accelerate translation services for some categories of documents, and requests the Secretary-General to report on updates, including cost-benefit analysis and quality preservation and control, about this system to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Committee on Conferences;

57. *Reiterates* that the satisfaction of Member States is a key performance indicator in conference management and conference services;

58. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that measures taken by the Department to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key perfor-

mance indicator of the Department, provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on progress made in this regard;

59. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore best practices and techniques in client satisfaction evaluations and to report regularly to the General Assembly on the results achieved;

60. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Department to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, taking into consideration comments and complaints raised by Member States either in writing or during meetings, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his exploration of innovative ways to systematically capture and analyse feedback from Member States and Chairs and Secretaries of committees on the quality of conference services and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

61. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, including through the language-specific informational meetings held once a year, ahead of the substantive session of the Committee on Conferences, or any necessary meeting scheduled upon the request of Member States, not to exceed two meetings per year, and to ensure that such measures provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and that they are in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

62. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly and its Committee on Conferences apprised of progress made in achieving integrated global management and to provide accurate and up-to-date information on new initiatives falling under the purview of the Committee;

63. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General provide in his next report on the pattern of conferences information about the financial savings achieved through the implementation of the integrated global management projects, as requested in section III, paragraph 4, of its resolution 63/248, in section III, paragraph 12, of its resolution 64/230, in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 65/245, in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 66/233, in section III, paragraph 15, of its resolution 67/237 and in section III, paragraph 51, of its resolution 68/251;

64. *Notes* the Flextime pilot project initiated by the United Nations Office at Vienna, stresses that the rules and regulations of the United Nations governing human resources issues should be applied uniformly during the implementation of the pilot project, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the evaluation of the pilot project, including a recommendation on whether the project should be continued at the United Nations Office at Vienna and further implemented at other duty stations;

65. *Welcomes* the integrated global management rule as an efficient approach, where feasible, to servicing meetings away from duty stations, and in this regard requests

the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to realize further savings by rigorously applying the integrated global management rule to applicable meetings without jeopardizing the quality of services and to report thereon to the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session in 2015;

IV

Matters related to documentation and publications

66. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

67. *Underlines* that all the initiatives on the evolution of the working methods, including those introduced on a trial basis, shall comply with the principle of parity among the official languages of the Organization, with a view to preserving or enhancing the quality and scope of the services provided by the Secretariat;

68. *Emphasizes* the importance of multilingualism in the activities of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to ensure full parity among the six official languages in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/292 on multilingualism and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session;

69. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management as a new Coordinator for Multilingualism responsible for the overall implementation of multilingualism Secretariat-wide and to instruct the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information to continue to inform the public about the importance of this principle;

70. *Reaffirms* its decision in section IV of its resolution 64/230 that all reports adopted by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council shall be issued as documents in all official languages of the United Nations in a timely manner before their consideration by the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/117 A of 10 December 1981, 51/211 A to E, 52/214, 53/208 A to E and 59/265, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the support necessary to that effect and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its seventieth session;

71. *Recalls* section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/222, and reiterates with concern its request that the Secretary-General ensure strict respect for the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all six official languages as regards both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and the United Nations website;

72. *Stresses* that matters related to conference management, including documentation, fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee;

73. *Reiterates* the importance of the timely issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

74. *Acknowledges* that a multipronged approach is required to find a solution to the perennial difficulties related to the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

75. *Notes with concern* the perennial difficulties related to the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure the timely presentation of these official documents to the Committee and to find a lasting and sustainable solution to the problem so as to guarantee the quality of the intergovernmental process;

76. *Takes note* of the work done by the interdepartmental task force on documentation chaired by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in positively addressing the problem of issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

77. *Encourages* the Chairs of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee to continue to promote cooperation between the two bodies in the sphere of documentation;

78. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the task force to shepherd the submission of documents by the author departments of the Secretariat;

79. *Notes* that accurate, timely and consistent information provided by the Secretariat to the Fifth Committee during its informal consultations facilitates the decision-making process in the Committee;

80. *Notes with deep concern* that the increased number of cases of the late submission of documents by author departments for translation into all official languages has resulted in serious difficulties for Member States in participating in the discussion and in taking decisions in a timely manner;

81. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhancing accountability within the Secretariat for the timely production and delivery of documents by ensuring that managers are fully informed of their responsibilities;

82. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the senior managers' compacts a new standard managerial indicator related to the timely issuance of official documentation to intergovernmental bodies and General Assembly committees and to report thereon in the context of the next progress report on accountability;

83. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in each section of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 and all future budget proposals, under executive direction and management, an expected accomplishment of the Secretariat related to the timely submission of documentation needed for meetings of relevant intergovernmental bodies;

84. *Notes with satisfaction* that all documents submitted on time and within the word limit were processed by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management within four weeks, and encourages the Secretary-General to sustain that level of performance;

85. *Reaffirms* its decision in section III, paragraph 9, of its resolution 59/265 that the issuance of documents in all six official languages on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

86. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General direct all departments of the Secretariat to include the following elements in their reports:

(a) A summary of the report;

(b) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(c) Relevant background information;

87. *Also reiterates its request* that all documents submitted to legislative organs, including the Committee on Conferences, by the Secretariat and intergovernmental and expert bodies for consideration and action have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

88. *Notes with concern* that only 84 per cent of the author departments reached the compliance rate of 90 per cent

in the timely submission of their reports to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General enforce the slotting system more rigorously through a dedicated focus, such as the interdepartmental task force on documentation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

89. *Urges* author departments to fully adhere to deadlines in meeting the goal of 90 per cent submission compliance, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documents submitted late do not adversely affect the issuance of documents submitted on time and in compliance with set guidelines;

90. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on concrete measures taken by author departments and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to improve the predictability of document delivery and ensure accountability for the meeting of deadlines in order to ensure the timely issuance of documentation;

91. *Reiterates its request* in section IV, paragraph 72, of its resolution 68/251 that the Secretary-General provide information on the waiver process for documents that are submitted over the word limit;

92. *Welcomes* the interactions between the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the author departments on waiver management, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure continuous efforts in this regard and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

93. *Emphasizes* the role of Member States and their intergovernmental bodies in determining the policies on conference management;

94. *Stresses* that proposals to change such policies are to be approved by Member States in their relevant intergovernmental bodies;

95. *Notes* that the Official Document System is the official digital repository of the United Nations;

96. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis so that these archives will also be available to Member States through that medium;

97. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all measures necessary to ensure that the digitization of key documents in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and in the main duty stations is completed in a timely manner, as appropriate;

98. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on a detailed time frame for the digitization of all important older United Nations documents, including parliamentary documents, and on options for expediting this process within existing resources;

99. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretariat on the digitization of important older United Nations documents, and requests the Secretary-General to propose ways to accelerate the implementation of this work and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

100. *Expresses concern* that the anticipated lengthy digitization project may jeopardize the retention of historical knowledge and information in view of the delicate state and risk of breakage of many of the related documents;

101. *Requests* the Secretary-General to expedite the process of the digitization of important older United Nations documents, in particular those that have been identified as particularly important and in urgent need of digitization;

102. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to seek additional voluntary contributions for the digitization of important older United Nations documents;

103. *Welcomes with appreciation* the donations from China and Qatar to the digitization project;

104. *Recalls* the pilot project undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the United Nations Office at Vienna to make a transition to digital recordings of meetings in the six official languages of the Organization as a cost-saving measure;

105. *Emphasizes* that the further expansion of this measure would require consideration, including of its legal, financial and human resources implications, by the General Assembly and full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and requests that the Secretary-General report thereon and on the evaluation of the pilot project referred to in paragraph 104 above to the Assembly at its seventieth session;

106. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of its resolution 49/221 B of 23 December 1994, and stresses that the timely issuance of verbatim records constitutes an important part of the services provided to Member States;

V

Matters related to translation and interpretation

107. *Requests* the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all six official languages;

108. *Underlines* that the translation of official documents of the Organization must be provided in all required languages and in due time, in full compliance with the rules of procedure of the respective legislative bodies;

109. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General ensure that the terminology used in the translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality, and in this regard welcomes the development, within existing resources, of a global terminology portal that will be equally accessible to United Nations staff, Member States and civil society;

110. *Reaffirms* section V, paragraph 85, of its resolution 68/251, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in the language services, including through the use of international or local contracts, as appropriate, ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of each of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

111. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General consider further measures aimed at decreasing the vacancy rates at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

112. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold competitive examinations for the recruitment of language staff sufficiently in advance in order to fill current and future

vacancies in the language services in a timely manner and to inform the General Assembly at its seventieth session of efforts in this regard;

113. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to enhance access to competitive examinations for applicants in all regions by bringing, to the extent possible, examination sites closer to their locations in order to allow the greatest number of potentially qualified candidates to participate in them, and to report to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventieth session on progress made in this regard;

114. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the quality of translation of documents into the six official languages, giving particular significance to the accuracy of translation;

115. *Reiterates* paragraph 8 of the annex to resolution 2(I) of 1 February 1946 on the rules of procedure concerning languages, whereby all resolutions and other important documents shall be made available in the official languages and, upon the request of any representative, any other document shall be made available in any or all of the official languages;

116. *Stresses* the need to ensure the highest possible quality of contractual and in-house translation, and requests the Secretary-General to report on measures to be taken in this regard;

117. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General provide, at all duty stations, adequate staff at the appropriate level, with a view to ensuring appropriate quality control for external translation, with due consideration of the principle of equal grade for equal work;

118. *Requests* the Secretary-General to apply common standards for the quality control of documents processed by external translators in all four duty stations, within existing resources, in order to ensure high-quality translations in the six official languages of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

119. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the experience, lessons learned and best practices of the main duty stations in performing quality control of contractual and in-house translations, including on requirements relating to the number and appropriate level of staff needed to carry out this function;

120. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to establish globally standardized performance indicators and costing models aimed at a more cost-effective strategy for the in-house processing of documents, and requests the Secretary-General to submit such information to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

121. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolutions, to address, among other things, the issue of the replacement of retiring staff in the language services, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and intensify those efforts, including the strengthening of cooperation with institutions that train language specialists, in order to meet the needs in the six official languages of the United Nations;

122. *Notes* the need for energetic measures to avoid a disruptive shortage of applicants and a high turnover rate in the language career fields, particularly where rare language combinations are involved, and requests the Secretary-General to use the appropriate means to improve

the internship programme, including through partnerships with organizations that promote the official languages of the United Nations;

123. *Also notes*, in this regard, that recent efforts have led to the signing of memorandums of understanding and collaboration agreements with two universities in Africa and that a memorandum of understanding has been signed with a Latin American institution;

124. *Welcomes* the existing memorandums of understanding between the Organization and 22 universities as a way to strengthen the training of language professionals in order to improve the recruitment of qualified language staff, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to assess the appropriate number of memorandums of understanding in order to fulfil the needs of the Organization;

125. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make further concerted efforts to promote outreach programmes, such as traineeships and internships, and to introduce innovative methods to increase awareness of the programmes, including through partnerships with Member States, relevant international organizations and language institutions in all regions, in particular to close the wide gap in Africa and Latin America, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

126. *Notes* that the "African project" has the aim of establishing postgraduate university programmes in translation, conference interpreting and public service interpreting through centres of excellence on the African continent, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on the achievements of this project;

127. *Also notes* the current difficulties in recruiting translators at headquarters duty stations, particularly in New York, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat, continues its efforts to raise awareness among all Member States about opportunities for employment and internships in the language services at the four main duty stations and to report to the Assembly at its seventieth session on efforts to identify and select qualified applicants;

128. *Notes with appreciation* the positive experience with traineeships at Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Vienna in training young professionals in and attracting them to the translation and interpretation services of the United Nations, while enhancing the pool of qualified language professionals in language combinations that are critical for succession-planning purposes, and requests the Secretary-General to develop the initiative further, to extend it to all duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

129. *Notes* the difficulties in identifying and retaining qualified language professionals and the need to replenish the pool of language experts in order to prevent further negative impact on the capacity of the Secretariat to provide services in the six official languages of the United Nations;

130. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve and strengthen his initiatives related to training and to replenishing the language capacity of the Organization, including through the outreach programmes, to ensure sufficient capacity to address the interpretation and translation requirements of the Organization;

131. *Recalls* paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to approach permanent missions to identify outreach opportunities with universities, educational institutions and language learning centres located worldwide, in order to ensure the continued availability of high-quality professional language services in the six official languages of the United Nations;

132. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Department, to improve and expand the list of universities having memorandums of understanding with the United Nations, ensuring the inclusion of universities, educational institutions and language learning centres located in all geographical regions, whenever possible;

133. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to refrain from making any change of a substantive nature to agreed texts of both draft and adopted resolutions and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, including on measures to enhance the quality, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of editing services within existing resources.

Also on 29 December, the Assembly retained the agenda item on patterns of conferences for consideration at its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

UN information systems

Information and communications technology

Report of Board of Auditors. In its financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2013 [A/69/5 (Vol. I)], the Board of Auditors noted that the Administration had accepted all of its 16 recommendations contained in its 2012 report on the handling of information and communications technology (ICT) affairs in the Secretariat [YUN 2012, p. 1472], and that all of them were under implementation as they were linked to the new ICT strategy that the Administration presented to Member States.

Report of Secretary-General. In October [A/69/517], in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/254 A [YUN 2013, p. 1439], the Secretary-General submitted a report on a revised ICT strategy. The objectives of the proposed strategy were to set the direction of ICT in support of organizational priorities; harmonize infrastructure and processes; and place greater emphasis on innovation to support the work of the United Nations. He proposed a road map for achieving the objectives of the revised strategy over a five-year period, which was summarized in annex I to his report. The key measures and activities proposed to achieve the strategy's objectives included the modernization of enterprise solutions and infrastructure in support of organizational priorities, including technical support for Umoja, as well as other enterprise applications, such as Inspira; implementation of a standardized approach to designing, managing and monitoring the perfor-

mance of local area networks and the corporate-wide area network; the establishment of a comprehensive information security framework for the Secretariat; and the implementation of disaster recovery and business continuity arrangements for all the critical applications of the Secretariat.

Also included was the transformation of the enterprise delivery framework of the United Nations and restructuring of the delivery of ICT across the Organization through the merging of many large processing environments into a few highly interconnected enterprise environments, as well as through the use of enterprise applications instead of locally developed applications, and of enterprise data centres or technology centres rather than local data centres. In particular, it was proposed that five enterprise service desks be established at Headquarters, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Global Service Centre at Brindisi, Italy, and the UN Offices at Geneva and Nairobi; four regional technology centres be established at Headquarters, the UN Offices at Geneva and Nairobi and ESCAP, building on existing capacity; and three enterprise applications centres be established in New York, Bangkok and Vienna by strengthening existing capacities. That would allow the restructuring of ICT delivery across the Organization, the streamlining of ICT systems and the harmonization of technology units, with a reduction in the fragmentation of ICT environment. The Secretary-General expected, in particular, to reduce the existing 2,000 applications to approximately 100 key applications and 300 websites; over 131 existing service desks to 5; and the number of data centres from 44 to the two existing enterprise data centres at Valencia, Spain and Brindisi, Italy.

The revised strategy was designed to build the right architecture and structure and mainstream ICT in support of Umoja as well as other critical initiatives, the Secretary-General concluded. The proposals to harmonize functions in regional ICT units, data centres and application centres would bring about a better balance between central control and operational freedom and at the same time reduce fragmentation, inefficiencies and the carbon footprint. The Organization's service-desk help needed to become more dependable; a proposed unified enterprise service desk would provide around-the-clock coverage and would be tightened to ensure that it could handle the responsibilities arising from the implementation of Umoja.

The Secretary-General indicated that most of the proposals, if approved, would be implemented on a cost-neutral basis during the biennium 2014–2015, and that he would put forward detailed resource requirements in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2016–2017, estimated on an indicative basis at an additional \$3 million. He requested the General Assembly to endorse the strategy.

ACABQ report. Commenting in November [A/69/610] on the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee observed that the United Nations was implementing a number of major ICT-enabled business transformation and change management initiatives, including Umoja, IPSAS and the global field support strategy, as well as ongoing human resources management reforms. ACABQ was informed that ICT was already implementing some of the activities in the proposed revised ICT strategy, including planning and preparation for the mainstreaming of Umoja ICT-related activities. In addition, ICT continued to implement projects to rationalize its organization and improve its enterprise management, which were approved by the General Assembly in resolutions 65/259 [YUN 2010, p. 1429] and 66/249 [YUN 2011, p. 1398]. Noting that those initiatives were interrelated and interdependent, ACABQ emphasized the need to harmonize their implementation and ensure coherence.

Regarding the 2,000 existing applications mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide in his next report updated information on the total number of applications and those that could be decommissioned, including details on the total number of systems to be replaced by Umoja.

ACABQ believed that the proposed strategy constituted a good basis for the future development of ICT at the United Nations and supported the strategy's overall direction. It considered that the strategy proposed a pragmatic approach to reducing the fragmentation of ICT capacities by building on the existing strengths of ICT units across the Secretariat while taking into account the decentralized nature of the United Nations and its complex organizational structures. At the same time, the Committee considered that the distribution of responsibility for ICT delivery across multiple centres in numerous geographically dispersed centres could present management challenges.

ACABQ also believed that a more detailed analysis should be carried out. It recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to develop and refine his proposal for consideration and endorsement by the Assembly at its seventieth session. He should also be requested to elaborate a plan for implementing the strategy and to establish baseline information to assess progress.

In conclusion, ACABQ recommended that, subject to its comments and recommendations, the General Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's report and request him to submit at its seventieth session a refined ICT strategy proposal.

In **resolution 69/262** (Section II) of 29 December (see p. 1632), the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report and endorsed the Advisory

Committee's conclusions and recommendations, subject to the resolution's conclusions and recommendations. It welcomed the new ICT strategy, endorsed all its elements and requested the Secretary-General to ensure its implementation and provide to the Assembly's seventieth session detailed information on such implementation.

Organizational resilience management system

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/254 [YUN 2013, p. 1439], the Secretary-General in January [A/68/715] reported on progress in the implementation of the organizational resilience management system, including information on the steps taken to expand the system to include the specialized agencies, funds and programmes. The report described the vision of the system and summarized the expected impact on the ability of the Organization to prevent and prepare for, respond to and recover from crisis events. It also described the status of implementation of the system at UN Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions, field missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and the participating specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the next steps in implementation.

The elements of the system—crisis management, security management, business continuity, information technology disaster recovery, mass casualty incident response, crisis communications and support to staff, survivors and families—shared a common basis and objective, namely, to enhance the management of risks that could disrupt the Organization's operations, the Secretary-General said. The system contributed to operational risk management by prioritizing threats through a joint risk assessment and then aligning efforts to jointly prevent and mitigate them under a common governance structure, which in turn mitigated unintentional internal risk transfer. A common framework also reduced the burden on offices, especially smaller field offices, to implement emergency management.

The system consisted of the following processes: policy and plan development; risk assessment and mitigation; situational awareness; crisis management decision-making, operational execution and coordination; recovery of people and assets and reconstitution of business practices; reviewing actions and identifying lessons to improve processes; execution and training; and implementation of lessons learned.

Turning to progress in implementation, the Secretary-General reported that under the oversight of the senior emergency policy team, the Under-Secretary-General for Management had been appointed the organizational resilience management system project owner. The Under-Secretaries-General

for Peacekeeping Operations, Political Affairs and Field Support were responsible for implementing that policy in peacekeeping operations, special political missions and logistic facilities, respectively. An interdepartmental and inter-agency working group, overseen by the senior emergency policy team, had developed the implementation strategy and key deliverables. Each Secretariat duty station had been requested to appoint a project manager to lead the local implementation of the organizational resilience management system and the harmonization of emergency management plans. The United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, located at Headquarters, became operational on 28 January 2013 and would provide support to senior leaders across the system to enable decision-making and strategic engagement. The organizational resilience management system had been fully implemented at UN Headquarters.

UN Headquarters had an approved crisis management plan, business continuity plan, information technology disaster recovery plan and pandemic preparedness plan. To operationalize those policy documents and offer guidance to managers during a crisis response, Headquarters had produced an organizational resilience management system playbook that consolidated essential crisis management, business continuity, information technology disaster recovery, crisis communications, medical response information and contact lists.

At UNOG, a crisis management team, which included representatives of all Secretariat entities based in Geneva and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), was in place. Progress towards implementing the system had also been made in the specialized agencies, funds and programmes.

Building staff capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from critical incidents remained an ongoing priority, the Secretary-General noted. The focus of implementation would now shift to offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions, DPKO and DPA field missions, and specialized agencies, funds and programmes.

Implementation of recommendations from the after-action review of storm Sandy

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/254 A [YUN 2013, p. 1439], the Secretary-General submitted, in February [A/68/732], a report on progress in the implementation of the recommendation from the after-action review of storm Sandy. The review, conducted by the Secretariat, focused on the areas of governance of the crisis management programme, information and communications technology, physical infrastructure, communications and support to staff. The report provided a description of the steps taken in preparation for the arrival of the storm, the impact of the storm on Headquarters, and the main recommen-

dations and action taken. It also provided a description of enhancements in emergency management resulting from the after-action review process, the recommendations of which were being mainstreamed into the Headquarters emergency management programme. Specifically, since the issuance of the Secretary-General's 2013 report on the subject [YUN 2013, p. 1439], offices of the Department of Management worked closely with the Organization's consultants and insurers to implement the remediation activities covered by the insurance programmes and to receive or plan for financial compensation for the damage. As at January, the Organization had recovered \$64.169 million in costs incurred for works relating to the storm and anticipated further recoveries. Since the Secretary-General had utilized \$62.140 million of the \$131.421 million authorized by resolution 67/254 [YUN 2013, p. 1439] for the 2012–2013 biennium, no further commitment authority was necessary as the Organization could finance recoverable work relating to the storm for the reimbursed money already received. Expenditure for mitigation measures in 2013 amounted to \$6,063,200 million out of the \$6,0563,400 million appropriated by the Assembly. As at January 2014, approximately 81 per cent of the contracted remediation work had been completed, with full completion expected by the end of May. Construction remediation works planned but not yet under contract included: modifications to the building management system required for the chiller plant and modular chiller system; third basement level of the Conference, Secretariat and South Annex Buildings, including repairs to the security system; raising of air handling units; replacement of electrical equipment; repairs to plumbing systems; replacement of the coiling doors for the service drive; electrical work associated with elevators; restoration of doors, walls and floor finishes; and emergency and temporary work: removal of temporary chillers for the service drive. In terms of risk mitigation, a Secretariat team of risk management professionals located in the Insurance and Disbursement Service of the Accounts Division, was tasked with ensuring that the Secretariat's insurance requirements were efficiently and optimally fulfilled. It was continually engaged to ensure that it provided comprehensive coverage at the best value for money for the Organization, while also attentively monitoring outstanding claims.

ACABQ in its March report [A/68/780], recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to complete implementation of the recommendations of the after-action review, finalize the global information technology disaster recovery plan and assessment, and address the weaknesses identified in the area of business continuity during the storm. The Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring that the information technology infrastructure, business continuity and disaster recovery arrangements put into place were sufficiently robust and effective to

ensure the continuation or restarting of operations in the event of a disruption. It recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to report on progress made in his report on the revised information and communications technology strategy to be submitted for consideration by the Assembly no later than at its sixty-ninth (2014) session.

ACABQ noted the Secretary-General's statement that no further commitment authority beyond the amount utilized in 2013 was required. It recommended, however, that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide, in the context of the first performance report for the 2014–2015 biennium, comprehensive information on the remedial work undertaken, as well as a detailed accounting of the related expenditures and insurance recoveries. The Secretary-General should include the costs of the establishment and operations of the emergency operations centre in the consolidated presentation, and continue to closely monitor the insurance market with a view to securing adequate coverage at a reasonable cost for all UN installations. ACABQ recommended that the Assembly note the Secretary-General's report.

ACABQ report. Commenting in March on the Secretary-General's report [A/68/780], ACABQ stated that the governance arrangements of the organizational resilience management system initiative appeared to be satisfactory. ACABQ noted that the report of the Secretary-General did not consolidate details of the full cost of the initiative, which were included under the individual budgets of various offices and departments involved in the initiative and presented a fragmented picture of the overall cost. It emphasized the importance of tracking the resources dedicated for the system in various departments and offices and of providing the General Assembly with a consolidated view of the actual overall costs, as well as the costs related to emergency management and emergency preparedness activities. ACABQ recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide henceforth in the proposed programme budget a consolidated presentation of the full cost under all sources of funding.

It also recommended that, subject to its observations and recommendations, the General Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's report.

In **resolution 68/247 B** (Section III) of 9 April (see p. 1639), the General Assembly endorsed the Advisory Committee's conclusions and recommendations, subject to the resolution. It welcomed the progress achieved in implementing the organizational resilience management system and underlined the importance of full implementation in the offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions, DPKO and DPA field missions, and the UN agencies, funds and programmes. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide a detailed accounting of the cost of the initiative in the context of future progress reports,

and to submit to the Assembly's seventieth session a progress report on the implementation of the system.

Enterprise resource planning

Report of Secretary-General. In September [A/69/385 & Corr.1], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/243 [YUN 2009, p. 1395], the Secretary-General issued his sixth annual progress report on the enterprise resource planning project, Umoja. Since his fifth progress report [YUN 2013, p. 1486], steady progress had been made. After considering the lessons learned from pilot implementation at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon in July 2013, Umoja Foundation was deployed on 1 November 2013 at all peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (cluster 1). On 1 March 2014, Umoja Foundation was also deployed in 14 special political missions, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan and the United Nations Kuwait Joint Support Office (cluster 2).

Umoja Foundation was fully operational in all UN peacekeeping operations, special political missions supported by the Department of Field Support and offices at UN Headquarters involved in the support and oversight of those missions. In addition, the integration of Umoja Foundation and Extension 1 was deployed in pilot format at the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti on 1 July 2014. At the end of August, Umoja had more than 5,000 transactional end users.

As the project moved forward and the Organization absorbed the lessons learned, the steering committee had made adjustments to the deployment plan, which were approved by the steering committee in September 2014. The plan remained in keeping with the overall timeline approved by the Assembly.

The strengthened governance model described in the fifth progress report [YUN 2013, p. 1486] remained in force, the Secretary-General said. Project management, integrated planning capability, and oversight and management of risks had been strengthened. Improved responsiveness had resulted in a dramatic decrease in identified risk items from 199 to 38 and issues from 491 to 41 in the year ending March 2014.

The report provided details of the revised resource requirements for the project until the end of 2015 in the amount of \$385,060,300, which the General Assembly was requested to approve, and details of the projected costs for 2016 and 2017 in the amounts of \$30,395,800 and \$23,895,700, respectively, which the Assembly was requested to take note of. Those additional resource requirements reflected adjustments to the implementation plan, including extended

post-implementation support to the peacekeeping missions and special political missions, enhancement of training activities and strengthening of organizational preparedness and provisions for design work, in anticipation of the deployment of clusters 3, 4 and 5.

The Assembly was requested to approve the Secretary-General's proposal to fund additional requirements of \$36,921,800, the details for which were set out in the report.

Report of Board of Auditors. In its third annual progress report on the implementation of Umoja, [A/69/158], the Board of Auditors set out the status of the project as at 31 May.

The Board noted that the project had undergone significant changes, affecting the original approach, the expected cost and the planned implementation time. Some 4,000 staff in 300 locations were using the system. The technical solution was viable and would be able to support a large and complex part of the United Nations. Nevertheless, the Organization had experienced difficulty in embedding the new standard business processes, primarily owing to the level of divergence of existing processes and the lack of business readiness to shift to new ways of working. The scale and depth of the problems illustrated not only the fundamental need for the new system, but also the challenge of introducing standardized business processes and new ways of working into a highly federated Organization with a deeply entrenched staff and managerial culture. The Administration had demonstrated perseverance and pragmatism in responding to emerging risks and issues that could compromise the system's aims and objectives. The problems, however, had not been resolved.

With regard to achieving project delivery, the Board stated that in the absence of any clear linkage between planned expenditure and planned deliverables, it could provide no assurance that expenditure was matched by the appropriate level of delivery. As at 31 March, the project had spent \$271 million, or 78 per cent, of the approved budget of \$348 million to the end of the biennium 2014–2015. The Administration was forecasting that it would need to spend \$372 million to complete the design, build and implementation of Foundation and Extension 1 and the design of Extension 2, leaving a funding gap of at least \$24 million. The anticipated final cost of the project was unknown because the cost of Extension 2 had not been fully defined. While the Board could not provide assurance about the accuracy of the projected cost of Foundation and Extension 1, it considered their delivery within the current budget highly unlikely. On the basis of the current rate of monthly expenditure and the likelihood that more support than expected would be needed for the remaining roll-outs, the project would exceed the approved budget in June 2015 at the latest. The level of associated costs, such as data cleansing and training, remained unknown, as they were not recorded cen-

trally; therefore the full costs of the project remained unknown. In the light of the delays incurred, and the likelihood of further delays, the Board considered that the revised deployment schedule agreed upon in February 2014 was unlikely to be met.

The Board reiterated 16 of its previous recommendations, which had been partially implemented or not implemented, and made five additional recommendations.

ACABQ report. Following consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee in October [A/69/418] noted that with the deployment of Umoja Foundation in peacekeeping and special political missions (clusters 1 and 2), the system had become an operational reality. Notwithstanding the difficulties encountered, the Committee considered that first large-scale deployment of Umoja to be a milestone. The Committee, however, was concerned by the extent and serious nature of the issues faced following deployment, the magnitude of the effort required to resolve the issues and the resulting delays and cost escalation projected for the remaining phases of the project. ACABQ emphasized the need to adhere to the revised timeline approved by the General Assembly in resolution 67/246 [YUN 2012, p. 1434] for implementation of the project by December 2018, pointing out that the revised timeline reflected a delay of over six years compared with the original target of completing the design, build and deployment of the system by the end of 2012. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General: to closely monitor the design, build and deployment of the remaining phases of the project and ensure strict management of the implementation timetable and costs; to keep under continuous review the adequacy of project governance, oversight and risk management, as well as the level of cooperation and coordination throughout the Secretariat; to take action, if necessary, to strengthen ownership and accountability; and to implement the recommendations of the oversight bodies expeditiously.

In conclusion, ACABQ recommended that the Assembly approve the revised resource requirements of the project until 31 December 2015, as presented in the Secretary-General's report; and approve the reclassification of the post of Deputy Project Director at the D-2 level. With regard to the programme budget, ACABQ recommended that the Assembly appropriate an amount of \$5,538,200 under the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, representing the regular budget share for the additional Umoja project costs until 31 December 2015, to be charged against the contingency fund for the biennium. ACABQ further recommended that the Assembly note that resource requirements in the amount of \$22,891,500 would be included in the subsequent requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the financial period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016,

and that requirements in the amount of \$8,492,100 would be funded from extrabudgetary resources in the financial period from 1 January to 31 December 2015.

By **decision 69/553 A** of 29 December, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the documents related to enterprise resource planning to its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UN premises and property

Capital master plan

Implementation of CMP

Reports of Secretary-General (February). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/247 A [YUN 2013, p. 1451], the Secretary-General in February [A/68/352/Add.2] provided an update on the status of the capital master plan (CMP) since the issuance of his eleventh annual progress report [YUN 2013, p. 1487]. He reported that renovation work on remaining portions of the project had proceeded quickly and on schedule, and comprised three areas: the General Assembly Building, the basements and First Avenue security enhancements.

The Secretariat and Conference Buildings had been completed and the General Assembly Building was projected to be completed in time for the general debate of 2014. Construction activity for the project, including remaining work relating to the basements and security on First Avenue, was set to be completed within 2014, although continued delays in the permitting process by the host city might move that date to 2015. Renovation of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and South Annex Building remained suspended because of security concerns. As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 68/247 A (see above), the Secretary-General laid out additional options related to the Library and the South Annex Building.

The General Assembly was asked to take note of the progress made since the issuance of the eleventh annual progress report; request the Secretary-General to seek resolution of the perimeter security concerns with the host country and the host city; and decide on the financing of the cumulative associated costs and the cost of the secondary data centre.

Also in February [A/68/352/Add.3], in accordance with resolution 68/247 A (see above), the Secretary-General provided updated information on final expenditure for associated costs for the period 2008–2013, which were \$140,253,300, as compared to the previously reported \$141,408,600, representing a decrease of \$1,155,300. The costs of activities associated with CMP, as well as the cost of the secondary data centre (\$15 million) were not included in the original scope of CMP. As approved by the General Assembly, those costs had been incurred and borne by the cash funds of CMP project since 2008. The Secretary-General reiterated that those costs could not be absorbed within the approved CMP budget. A

decision on the financing of the cumulative associated costs and the cost of the secondary data centre was required, since without the replenishment of the cash resources, the project would not be able to proceed to completion in 2014.

ACABQ report. Considering the Secretary-General updates in March [A/68/797], ACABQ noted with concern that the timeline for the CMP project indicated that the projected completion had been postponed by one year. It recommended that the Secretary-General provide explanations to the General Assembly for the delays related to the work at the entrances on First Avenue, in particular the planning process for the permit application. ACABQ also recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to report on his plans for the management and supervision of the delayed work, including the possibility of reducing the projected 18-month work schedule, and to confirm the timing for the closure of the Office of CMP.

ACABQ recommended that the Secretary-General provide to the General Assembly the most up-to-date information on the final expenditure of the associated costs, and that the Assembly decide to appropriate an amount, based on that information, to finance the cumulative associated costs and the cost of the secondary data centre before the CMP funds were exhausted.

ACABQ requested that the Secretary-General provide information to the Assembly on the plans for the continued use of the Library and South Annex Buildings. Regarding alternative options for the locations of the functions housed in those buildings, the Committee recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit new proposals.

ACABQ recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of CMP was phased out with the completion of the remaining activities of the project, and that its operation would not be extended for the planning and management of solutions for the functions in the Library and South Annex Buildings. Any solutions for the functions of the two buildings should be developed and managed by the Office of Central Support Services of the Department of Management.

In section VII of **resolution 68/247 B** of 9 April (see p. 1639), the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's reports and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of ACABQ. The Assembly welcomed the donations from Member States contributing to the CMP project; and noting that as at 28 March an amount of \$678,214 in assessments remained unpaid to CMP, urged the Member States concerned to disburse those contributions. It called on the Secretary-General to reduce the delay in the schedule for the completion of the project, to confirm the timing of the closure for the Office of CMP and to report on the plans for the management and supervision of the work remaining after the closure of the Office.

With regard to project funding, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General, on an exceptional basis, to make use of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account as a bridging mechanism to address possible cash flow challenges until project completion. The Assembly decided that the bridging mechanism would be replenished at its sixty-ninth session.

Report of Secretary-General (August). In his twelfth annual progress report on the implementation of CMP [A/69/360], submitted in August pursuant to Assembly resolution 57/292 [YUN 2002, p. 1375], the Secretary-General reviewed the status of the project, which would begin to draw to a close with the completion and occupancy of the General Assembly Building in September. All the other major portions of the project had been completed, including the renovation and reoccupancy of the Secretariat and Conference Buildings, the replacement of major infrastructure in the basements and the enhanced security upgrades to strengthen the eastern and western perimeters of UN Headquarters. Following completion of the renovation phase in 2014, the remaining work, reflecting approximately 1 per cent of the budget, would be to complete post-renovation activities and to close out the project. Post-renovation and close-out would continue under the management of the Office of CMP until the Office was disbanded in June 2015, and thereafter would be completed by the Office of Central Support Services by the end of 2016. The cost of post-renovation construction and close-out activities would be met from within the approved resources.

As at 30 June 2014, the cost to complete the CMP project was projected to be \$2,215 million, as compared with the approved resources of \$2,150 million. Approved resources comprised the original budget plan and donations of 1,990.6 million, plus interest income and the working capital reserve fund of \$159.4 million. The scope of CMP remained unchanged, although the approved funding was being applied to ongoing renovation activities and contracts. Renovation of the Library and South Annex Buildings, the original cost of which was estimated at \$65 million, remained suspended because of security concerns. The cash balance of \$150 million as at 30 June was used to make payments for contractual obligations and project commitments. The estimated cost of activities associated with CMP amounted to \$139.8 million as at 30 June, and the cost of the secondary data centre borne by CMP amounted to \$15 million (net of the \$4.2 million contributions from the support account for peacekeeping operations). Those activities were not included in the original scope or budget of CMP. In summary, the consolidated project requirements amounted to \$2,369.8 million.

The Secretary-General recommended, among other things, that the General Assembly note his intention to seek interim measures for the reduction of

functions housed in the Library and South Annex Buildings; take a decision on the relocation of the functions taking place in both buildings; and decide on the financing of the cumulative associated costs and the cost of the secondary data centre.

Review of CMP

Report of Board of Auditors. In its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2013 [A/69/5 (Vol. V)], the Board of Auditors noted that the project was approaching closure, with the substantial completion of the General Assembly Building planned for September 2014. All other construction work, including the dismantling of the North Lawn Building and landscaping, was expected to be completed by April 2015, and financial closure of the project was planned for June 2015. The Board noted that costs had largely been contained since it last reported in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1487], reflecting a skilled and agile approach by the Office of CMP. Since the Board's last report, the estimated total cost to the United Nations was largely unchanged at \$2,374 million, reflecting a \$379 million (19 per cent) cost overrun against the consolidated budget of \$1,995 million, which took into account the associated costs of the project and the cost of the secondary data centre.

The Board recommended that the Administration clarify to the General Assembly which elements of the scope of the project would not be delivered as part of CMP and define plans for delivery and on budgetary implications. The Board also recommended that the Administration apply independent project assurance to all major projects; and that it review maintenance arrangements on the basis of the operating data with respect to new assets being collected and assess possibilities for obtaining better value for money. The Board further recommended that the Administration commit to visible senior management leadership on the flexible workplace project; senior management leading by example would be vital in gaining staff buy-in and securing the intended benefits.

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/353], the Secretary-General responded to the Board of Auditor's recommendations, indicating that of the four recommendations made by the Board, two (on project scope and project assurance) had been implemented, while the other two were in progress and set for implementation by the end of 2015 and 2016, respectively.

ACABQ report. In November [A/69/529], ACABQ commented on the Board of Auditor's report as well as on the Secretary-General's twelfth annual progress report. Concerning CMP project benefits realization, ACABQ understood that post-CMP maintenance requirements would be funded under the regular budget, but questioned the basis for the request for financial resources under the regular budget for improvements

to Headquarters premises. ACABQ recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that resources for activities within the approved scope of the CMP project would not be borne by the regular budget; and the Assembly request the Secretary-General to report on the actual, as compared with the planned, project benefits.

With reference to project schedule and scope, ACABQ stressed that the conclusion of the CMP project by late 2016 was not in line with the approved project schedule and did not include all the scope of the approved project. It pointed out that the schedule presented by the Secretary-General for the demolition of the temporary North Lawn Building by late 2015 and the site landscaping thereafter would represent a further delay; it reiterated that the matter relating to the future of the temporary North Lawn Building was to be decided by the Assembly. ACABQ noted with concern that the latest change in the completion of the work at the entrances on First Avenue from late 2015 to 2016 would represent a delay of an additional year; it believed that the Secretary-General should strive to reduce the delay and recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide clear information and justification on the completion of the work. Should the Assembly approve the delay, the Committee believed that the Board of Auditors should continue its annual audit on the project until the final report was submitted.

Concerning project costs, ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to continue to seek additional voluntary contributions to help finance the CMP budget shortfall.

The Committee was concerned that the Secretary-General had not presented plans for the future of the Library and South Annex Buildings and related costs, nor had presented feasible alternative options. It was therefore not in a position to recommend a most preferable option relating to the functions housed in those buildings, and reiterated its recommendation that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit new proposals.

By **decision 69/553 A** of 29 December, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the documents related to CMP until its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Strategic capital review

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to resolution 65/259 [YUN 2010, p. 1429], the Secretary-General in February [A/68/733] described preliminary findings on progress, since his last report on overseas property [ibid., p. 1465], on the strategic capital review, which involved next steps in developing a strategy, requirements and sequencing for major maintenance, alterations and improvements, as well as new construction for the UN Secretariat global premises.

ACABQ report. ACABQ in March [A/68/796] noted that, *inter alia*, it expected the next report of the Secretary-General would address the implications of alternative workplace strategies, including justifications of their applicability in the Secretariat; broaden the review's scope to include all global premises that the Organization owned and/or managed; and that future decisions on capital investment and maintenance would depend on reliable, consistent and realistic valuation methodology.

Headquarters accommodation needs

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to the General Assembly's request in resolution 67/254 A [YUN 2013, p. 1439], the Secretary-General in February [A/68/734] provided information on the long-term accommodation needs of the United Nations in New York, including options not previously considered. The report gave an update on the population of the Secretariat and other offices, with and without the staff of funds and programmes anticipated to co-locate with the Secretariat, the impact of flexible workplace strategies, information on the sequencing of UN construction projects and on the short- and long-term financing alternatives for each option, a consideration of the potential impact on the architectural integrity of the UN compound, an analysis of the target ratio of owned versus leased space, and information on options for the renovation of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and South Annex Buildings.

The population forecast of the Secretariat and other offices, funds and programmes expected to require accommodation was 9,593 in 2018, assuming no growth, of which 850 were from funds and programmes. As set out in the Secretary-General's report on flexible workplace [YUN 2013, p. 1489], the implementation of flexible workplace strategies was anticipated to reduce the overall space requirement by 20 per cent; taking that into account, the total off-campus space requirement, in a no-growth scenario, was approximately 1,109,311 square feet, which included office space, shared amenities and building support spaces.

In addition to the four options put forward in previous reports, six additional ones were presented in the Secretary-General's report, but ultimately only three options were considered viable and advantageous for the Organization, and were financially analysed in detail. They were: a new building on the North Lawn, to be funded through a special assessment; a new DC-5 building, through a lease-to-own arrangement with the United Nations Development Corporation; and a continuation of the status quo scenario of leasing on the commercial real estate market. Of those options, in a no-growth population scenario, the North Lawn option was the least costly, at \$3.528 billion; the DC-5 option was \$4.083 billion; and the status quo option was the most costly, at \$4.551 billion.

The General Assembly was requested to take note of the report, approve the most preferred option and authorize the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary for implementation.

ACABQ report. ACABQ in March [A/68/798] noted that the three options deemed viable by the Secretary-General were all from his previous report on the expanded feasibility study [YUN 2013, p. 1488], while the six additional options presented in February were all considered unfeasible and had not benefited from further consideration and analysis. The Committee believed that the Secretary-General should have given adequate consideration to the additional options and alternative financing opportunities, some of which, or a combination of which, could prove viable. In the Committee's view, other options, including but not limited to those considered viable by the Secretary-General, should be kept open for further development and consideration.

ACABQ felt that it was not in a position to recommend any of the options for consideration by the General Assembly. Without prejudice to any decision by the Assembly concerning the Headquarters office space needs for 2014–2034 on the basis of every option, and given the time sensitivity of the option of a DC-5 building, the Committee recommended that the Assembly allow the Secretary-General to continue to negotiate with the United Nations Development Corporation so as to ensure that that option remained viable.

On 9 April, the General Assembly, by **decision 68/549 B**, deferred consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General and ACABQ until its sixty-ninth (2014) session.

On 29 December, the Assembly, in **resolution 69/262** (Section VII), endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of ACABQ. It requested the Secretary-General to present, at its seventieth (2015) session, comprehensive information on all aspects pertinent to the DC-5 option which, subject to additional information to be provided, appeared to be a feasible and serious option. It urged him to ensure equal treatment of all viable four options and to work towards securing the most favourable terms for the Organization in addressing its long-term accommodation needs. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to conduct high-level dialogue with all relevant entities regarding the long-term accommodation needs for UN Headquarters. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide updated comprehensive information on the four viable options, particularly financial costs and accurate cost projections. It further requested him to obtain statistically substantiated estimations of the impact that the implementation of a flexible workplace strategy would have on the projection of the office space requirements, and to inform the Assembly of the possible impact of the implementation of Umoja and the

new global service delivery model. The Assembly underlined the need to respect the architectural integrity of the UN complex and of the original design.

Additional office/conference facilities

Geneva

In October [A/69/417 & Corr.1], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/247 A (section V) [YUN 2013, p. 1454], the Secretary-General in October presented a progress report on the planning and implementation of the strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva, which summarized the work undertaken during 2014 and contained updated information on the establishment of the internal project control mechanisms and the governance and oversight framework, as well as a refined proposal with regard to the core functions of the dedicated project management team.

In addition, the report provided information with regard to the status of negotiations with the host country on the loan package, details of which had been determined, including separate loans for the new construction and for the renovation portions of the project and the impact of that loan upon project financing. The report provided details of the revised resource requirements for the project until the end of 2015 in the amount of CHF 26,283,400, equivalent to \$28,383,800 at initial appropriation rates, which the General Assembly was requested to approve. The Assembly was also requested to approve the establishment of a multi-year special account for the strategic heritage plan and to approve the next steps as outlined in the Secretary-General's report.

ACABQ report. Commenting on the Secretary-General's proposals, ACABQ in November [A/69/580] recommended that the General Assembly approve nine new positions for the project and appropriate an additional amount of \$28,378,800 at initial appropriation 2014–2015 rates, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015; and approve the establishment of a multi-year special account for the strategic heritage plan and request the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements in that regard.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/262** (section III) of 29 December (see p. 1632), endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of ACABQ. It welcomed the continued support of Switzerland for the construction project and requested the Secretary-General to provide at the Assembly's seventieth session information on measures to expedite the commencement of construction work. It welcomed the loan package offered by Switzerland and requested the Secretary-General to continue negotiating on the most preferential terms and modalities for the loan arrangements. It requested him to continue exploring all possible funding mechanisms to reduce the overall assessment on Member States and to present a proposal

for the donation policy. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present revised proposals with a view to ensuring effective oversight. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to preserve the heritage and architectural integrity of the Palais des Nations and to continue assessing the potential for flexible workplace strategies. The Assembly decided to appropriate an additional amount of \$28,199,400; to revert to the establishment of the multi-year special account for the strategic heritage plan at its seventieth session; and to establish seven positions comprising three project team positions and four operational experts, effective 1 January 2015.

Addis Ababa

In August [A/69/359], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/263 [YUN 2008, p. 1546], the Secretary-General provided an update on the completion of the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa and the full occupancy of the premises in August. He also presented the cost plan for project completion, which entailed completion of the remaining ancillary projects and close-out in mid-2015.

Pursuant to resolution 68/247 A (section III) [YUN 2013, p. 1452], the Secretary-General's report set out the findings of an assessment of the structural conditions of the conference buildings and standard of facilities at ECA, and presented his proposals for the renovation of the conference facilities, which included a proposed project scope, implementation schedule and cost plan for the renovation of the Africa Hall Building. An update on the progress of renovation work at the UN Conference Centre was also provided.

The Secretary-General requested approval of the proposed scope of the Africa Hall Building renovation project, its schedule and estimated cost plan for the period 2015–2021. He also requested the Assembly to approve the project budget of \$56,896,300 for the Africa Hall Building renovation project and the establishment of a multi-year special account for the duration of the project. In addition, the Secretary-General proposed the establishment of an additional 18 security officers posts, effective 1 January 2015, under the 2014–2015 programme budget, related to the increased safety and security operations for the new office facilities, and two temporary positions, effective 1 July 2015, related to the dedicated project management team. He further requested the Assembly to appropriate an additional \$2,695,900 under the 2014–2015 programme budget, to be charged against the contingency fund for the biennium.

ACABQ report. The Advisory Committee, in October [A/69/415], noted the continued support by the host country throughout the construction of the additional office facilities at ECA. It recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General

to ensure that the remaining ancillary work was completed within the planned time frame, by June 2015, and to avoid any further delay or cost escalation. It recommended that the Assembly approve the establishment of 14 security officers and two temporary positions related to the dedicated project management team. It recommended the appropriation of an additional amount of \$2,610,000 under the 2014–2015 programme budget, to be charged against the contingency fund. It also recommended approving the establishment of a multi-year special account for the duration of the Africa Hall renovation project and requesting the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the Assembly's seventieth session.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/262** (section V) (see p. 1635), endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of ACABQ, and noted with appreciation the continued efforts of the host country in facilitating construction of the additional office facilities. It requested the Secretary-General to bring the construction project to a swift conclusion and to ensure completion of the remaining ancillary work by June 2015. It further requested him to monitor the Africa Hall renovation in order to avoid further delays and to submit information on expenditures and total cost estimates. It decided to appropriate an additional amount of \$2,610,000 and to make a final decision on the establishment of a separate and multi-year account for the renovation of Africa Hall at its seventieth session.

Strengthening property management in the UN Secretariat

Report of Secretary-General. In September [A/69/400], the Secretary-General presented a report on strengthening property management at the UN Secretariat, describing changes being made in property management pursuant to the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and required as a result of the implementation of Umoja. Those major administrative reforms had increased the scope and complexity of financial reporting, record-keeping and management of the diverse portfolio of assets held by the United Nations. Those reforms were set against the background of concerns expressed by oversight bodies on the need to strengthen the management of UN property. The report described improvements made to the framework for property management, also outlining a plan for the management of property across the UN Secretariat.

ACABQ report. Commenting on the Secretary-General's report, ACABQ in November [A/69/571] noted that the total net book value of UN property, plant and equipment, including assets under construction, was estimated at \$4.1 billion, comprising \$2.1 billion in unaudited opening balances for property, plant and equipment as at 1 January for UN operations listed under volume I of the financial statements

of the Organization, and \$1.4 billion in unaudited closing balances for property, plant and equipment as at 30 June 2014 for peacekeeping operations. As to inventory, the total value was estimated at \$393.3 million, comprising 4.2 million in unaudited opening balances as at 1 January 2014 for UN operations listed under volume I of the financial statements, and \$389.1 million in unaudited closing balances as at 30 June 2014 under volume II (peacekeeping operations).

ACABQ maintained that, should the Secretary-General wish to take action to strengthen property management at the Secretariat, he should submit his proposal to the General Assembly, with a clear business case, including full justification for any new staffing requirements. ACABQ recommended that, subject to its observations and recommendations, the Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's report.

The General Assembly, by **decision 69/553 A** (section C) of 29 December, deferred consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee until its resumed seventieth (2016) session.

Staff matters

Conditions of service

International Civil Service Commission

The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), a 15-member body regulating and coordinating the conditions of service and the salaries and allowances of the UN common system, held its seventy-eighth (New York, 17–28 March) and seventy-ninth (Rome, 21 July–1 August) [A/69/30] sessions. It considered, in addition to organizational matters, the conditions of service applicable to Professional and General Service categories of staff, locally recruited staff and staff in the field (see below).

Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff

Compensation package

In 2014, ICSC continued its review of the common system compensation package begun in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1494]. The Commission noted that substantial progress had been made, with the exploratory phase, including research and analysis, which had been completed. Based on those and subsequent feedbacks from both the working groups and the Commission, some general directives were agreed upon. The next step would be for the Commission to develop a specific outline of the system. The Commission would appraise the revised compensation package at its eightieth (2015) session, and finalize its package proposals at its eighty-first (2015) session for presentation to the General Assembly's seventieth (2015) session.

Health insurance

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 68/253 [YUN 2013, p. 1491] and 68/244 [ibid., p. 1497], ICSC reviewed the item of health insurance coverage within the UN system. It recommended to the Assembly that the current apportionment of health insurance premiums between the Organization and both active and retired staff in United States and non-United States health insurance plans be maintained at their existing ratios.

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (UNJSPB), at its sixty-first session in July [A/69/9] (see p. 1706), considered the Assembly's request, in resolution 68/244 [YUN 2013, p. 1497], and examined the option of broadening the mandate of UNJSPF to include the administration of after-service health insurance scheme (ASHI) benefits. Noting that the investment objectives of UNJSPF differed from those of ASHI benefits, the Board felt that it might be inappropriate for the Fund to manage the resources related to those benefits and agreed that it would not be advisable to broaden the mandate of UNJSPF to include their administration, as that option could jeopardize the Fund's operational viability.

ACABQ, in its October report on the UN pension system [A/69/528], reaffirmed that the funding and administration of ASHI benefits was an issue of system-wide concern that would be best resolved through a system-wide approach in which UNJSPF could play a key role. ACABQ concurred with the conclusion of the consulting actuary that the Pension Fund could provide a cost-effective solution to the investment of ASHI assets if a proper structure were in place. The Committee welcomed the initiative by the High-level Committee on Management to establish a working group on ASHI and looked forward to receiving its findings.

Mandatory age of separation

In 2014, ICSC followed up on its 2013 recommendation [YUN 2013, p. 1494] that the mandatory age of separation for current staff members be raised to age 65, with effect from 1 January 2016. As requested by General Assembly resolution 68/253 [YUN 2013, p. 1491], the secretariat had provided the Commission with an analysis of increasing the mandatory separation age to 65, discussing the costs to the UNJSPB organizations and the impact on human resources. The analysis posited that while such an increase could delay some organizational programmes, there would be an overall benefit to the common system and the impact on human resources would be minimal. In many Member States, there was a trend towards increasing the retirement age in line with longer life expectancy in order to preserve pension funds. Increasing the mandatory age of separation for current UN staff would lead to a reduction in the actuarial deficit of UNJSPF, which had been estimated to be in the range of 0.13 per cent of pensionable remuneration, or \$13.5 million per year.

Based on its consideration of the analysis, ICSC concluded that changing the mandatory age of separation would not have a deleterious effect on the organizations or their strategic plans.

Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories

Gender balance in the UN common system

At its seventy-eighth session, ICSC considered a report by its secretariat providing information on its collaborative efforts with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on gender balance, an update on the status of women in the UN Secretariat as at 31 December 2011 and an overview of staffing profiles by region of origin as at 31 December 2012. The scope of the review extended to international staff holding an appointment of one year or more in the Professional and higher categories.

The representation of women in such categories in the UN system had increased marginally from 39.9 per cent in 2009 to 40.7 per cent in 2011, an increase of 0.8 per cent. As at 31 December, at the D-1 level and above, women represented 29.5 per cent compared with 28.4 per cent in 2009, an increase of 1.1 per cent. The qualitative analysis showed that there were already sufficient numbers of policies and measures in place towards achieving gender balance.

ICSC decided to: take note of the progress made with regard to the status of women in the Professional and higher categories in the UN common system, while expressing concern that the goal of 50/50 gender balance remained unmet, especially at the D-1 level and above; urge organizations to fully implement gender balance policies and measures; underscore the importance of integrating gender balance and geographical distribution into its review of the UN common system compensation package; monitor progress in achieving gender balance, together with geographical distribution, as part of a comprehensive report on diversity in the UN system; and request its secretariat to provide a report and thereafter monitor progress in achieving gender balance every four years.

Diversity in the UN system

ICSC considered measures that the organizations of the common system had taken to attract and recruit staff to secure as diverse a workplace as possible, while at the same time ensure that the best qualified person was appointed to each position. It further reviewed diversity policies within organizations as well as barriers to diversity.

The Commission decided to review diversity periodically, including geographical representation and gender balance, and to include the following elements in the definition and scope of diversity as it related to the UN common system: cultural diversity (multicul-

turalism); generational diversity; gender parity; and multilingualism. It requested its secretariat to develop a compendium of good practices concerning inclusiveness and diversity.

Base/floor salary scale

The concept of the base/floor salary scale was introduced by General Assembly resolution 44/198 [YUN 1989, p. 886], with effect from 1 July 1999. The scale was set by reference to the General Schedule salary scale of the comparator civil service, currently the United States federal civil service, excluding any locality pay. Periodic adjustments were made on the basis of a comparison of net base salaries of UN officials at the midpoint of the scale (P-4, step VI, at the dependency rate), with the corresponding salaries of their counterparts in the United States federal civil service. The adjustments were implemented through the standard method of consolidating post adjustment points into the base-floor salary, namely, by increasing base salary while commensurately reducing post adjustment.

ICSC was informed that a 1 per cent increase had been implemented in the comparator's base General Schedule scale effective 1 January 2014. Minor changes were also introduced in the United States tax schedules at the federal level for 2014.

Accordingly, the Commission recommended to the General Assembly for approval, with effect from 1 January 2015, the revised base/floor salary scale for the Professional and higher categories, reflecting a 1.01 per cent adjustment, to be implemented by increasing the base salary and commensurately reducing post adjustment multiplier points, resulting in no change in net take-home pay. It also recommended that no revisions were necessary to the staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross base salaries.

Evolution of the net remuneration margin

ICSC continued to review the relationship between the net remuneration of UN staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of United States federal civil service staff in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. For that purpose, the Commission annually tracked changes in the remuneration levels of both civil services.

The Commission noted that with the lifting of the statutory freeze in United States federal pay adjustments, which had been in effect from 1 January 2011 until 31 December 2013, a 1.0 per cent general increase was granted as at 1 January 2014 for all statutory pay systems in the comparator civil service. ICSC reported to the General Assembly that the margin between the net remuneration of UN staff in New York in the Professional and higher categories and officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C., for the calendar year 2014 amounted to 117.4 and its five-year average

(2010–2014) amounted to 116.4, which was above the desirable midpoint of 115. The Commission decided that the normal procedure for management of the margin within the established range would be suspended, and that the freeze in net remuneration in New York would be continued until such time that the margin had been brought back to its desirable midpoint.

Post adjustment

ICSC continued to keep under review the operation of the post adjustment system and in that context considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions (ACPAQ) on the work of its thirty-sixth session (Budapest, Hungary, 7–14 April). ACPAQ found the structure of the post adjustment index to be fit for the purpose and saw no compelling reason to change it. It recommended, however, that the Commission consider modifications to the operational rules governing the post adjustment system as a means of improving the stability and predictability of salary adjustments, as well as ensuring the sustainability of the UN common system remuneration over time. ACPAQ recommended the use, with effect from the next round of surveys, of a harmonized specification of the weight of the out-of-area component for all duty stations, with financial implications in terms of increases in net remuneration estimated at about \$13 million per annum for group I duty stations. The Committee had, at an earlier session, also recommended a new methodology for calculating the rent index for all group I duty stations, based on weights derived from ICSC staff housing surveys, with financial implications, in terms of system-wide reductions in net remuneration, estimated at about \$56 million per annum for group I duty stations.

ICSC approved the ACPAQ recommendations and requested the secretariat to initiate preparations for the next round of surveys and to submit proposals to the Advisory Committee at its next session.

Regarding proposals on synchronizing the post adjustment classification review cycles, ICSC decided that the post adjustment classifications of all headquarters and other group I duty stations should be reviewed once a year, on the anniversary date of the post adjustment classification review for New York. The Commission referred the question of the continued use of the 5 per cent rule for group I duty stations to ACPAQ for consideration at its next session.

Conditions of service of the General Service and other categories of staff

Salary adjustments at duty stations with fewer than 30 staff

ICSC outlined alternative modalities other than surveys to review salary scales at duty stations with fewer than 30 General Service staff (non-survey, or category V, duty stations). Given the small numbers of locally

recruited staff in those duty stations and the fact that it would not be cost-effective to conduct comprehensive salary surveys at those locations, the Commission agreed that adopting a form of indexation mechanism to revise salaries would streamline the process. On that basis, it established the modalities for such revisions. The Commission also decided that, wherever justified by the labour market based on economic circumstances in highly developed economies, it would be desirable to reference the national civil service in adjusting salaries in category V duty stations.

Conditions of employment in Madrid

On the basis of the methodology for surveys of best prevailing conditions of employment of the General Service and other locally recruited staff at headquarters and similar duty stations, ICSC conducted a survey in Madrid, with reference date of October 2013. The Commission recommended a new salary scale for the General Service category of the Madrid-based organizations, with annual financial implications at approximately \$110,000. In view of the General Assembly's request to ICSC in resolution 68/253 [YUN 2013, p. 1491] not to increase any of the allowances under its purview until the comprehensive review decided by resolution 67/257 [ibid., p. 1493] was submitted to the Assembly, the Commission decided that dependency allowances for the General Service staff of the Madrid-based organizations would not be adjusted pending the decision by the Assembly on the 2015 Commission report containing recommendations on the review.

Administrative and financial implications

Statement by Secretary-General. In a September statement [A/C.5/69/3], the Secretary-General described the administrative and financial implications arising from the decisions and recommendations of ICSC, in particular for the 2014–2015 UN programme budget, as well as implications for the budgets of peacekeeping operations, commencing with those for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 peacekeeping financial periods.

Resource requirements arising from ICSC recommendations were estimated at \$65,800 under the 2014–2015 programme budget and would be addressed in the context of the performance report for that biennium. The resources requirements for peacekeeping operations for the financial periods 2014/15 and 2015/16 were estimated at \$66,400 (six months) and \$132,800 (one year), respectively, and would be taken into account in the context of the performance reports for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and in the context of the proposed budgets for the financial period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

The Advisory Committee, in an October report [A/69/546], voiced no objection to the financial implications and proposals by the Secretary-General.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/683], adopted **resolution 69/251** without vote [agenda item 139].

United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/198 of 21 December 1989, 51/216 of 18 December 1996, 52/216 of 22 December 1997, 53/209 of 18 December 1998, 55/223 of 23 December 2000, 56/244 of 24 December 2001, 57/285 of 20 December 2002, 58/251 of 23 December 2003, 59/268 of 23 December 2004, 60/248 of 23 December 2005, 61/239 of 22 December 2006, 62/227 of 22 December 2007, 63/251 of 24 December 2008, 64/231 of 22 December 2009, 65/248 of 24 December 2010, 66/235 A of 24 December 2011, 66/235 B of 21 June 2012, 67/257 of 12 April 2013 and 68/253 of 27 December 2013 and its decisions 67/551 and 67/552 A of 24 December 2012,

Having considered the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2014,

Reaffirming its commitment to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the International Civil Service Commission;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission for the year 2014;

3. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in approving conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission;

4. *Recalls* articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission, and reaffirms the central role of the Commission in regulating and coordinating conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system;

I

Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff

A. Comprehensive review of the common system compensation package

1. *Takes note* of the information provided in the report of the Commission on the status of the comprehensive review of the common system compensation package;

2. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Commission on the comprehensive review of compensation, and looks forward to considering the results of this exercise at the seventieth session of the General Assembly;

3. *Requests* the Commission to provide, at the first part of the resumed sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, an informal briefing on the progress of the comprehensive review of compensation;

B. Health insurance

Approves the recommendation of the Commission to maintain at their existing ratios the current apportionment

of health insurance premiums between the Organization and both active and retired staff participating in United States and non-United States health insurance plans;

C. Mandatory age of separation

1. *Takes note* of the analysis undertaken by the Commission, as requested in General Assembly resolution 68/253, on the impact of the suggested change in the mandatory age of separation on workforce and succession planning frameworks and all relevant human resources management policies;

2. *Decides* to raise the mandatory age of separation to 65 years for staff recruited before 1 January 2014, taking into account the acquired rights of staff, and requests the Commission to revert to the General Assembly with an implementation date at its earliest opportunity, but no later than the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, after consultations with all the organizations of the common system;

II

Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories

A. Gender balance in the United Nations common system

Notes with disappointment the insufficient progress made with regard to achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations common system, especially in the Professional and higher categories, requests the Commission to encourage the organizations of the common system to fully implement existing gender balance policies and measures, and encourages the Commission to continue to monitor progress in achieving gender balance and to report thereon in compliance with the decision contained in paragraph 137 of the report of the Commission;

B. Diversity in the United Nations common system

Welcomes the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 149 of its report, requests the Commission to continue to recommend measures that would be more favourable to diversity, and encourages the Commission to continue its periodic reviews and reports on all diversity-related issues in the common system;

C. Base/floor salary scale

Recalling its resolution 44/198, by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service),

Approves, with effect from 1 January 2015, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 157 of its report, the revised base/floor scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories, as contained in annex III to the report;

D. Evolution of the margin and margin management around the desirable midpoint

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 51/216 and the standing mandate from the General Assembly, in which the Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of the United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the comparator civil service employ-

ees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as “the margin”),

1. *Reaffirms* that the range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the comparator civil service should continue to apply, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the desirable midpoint of 115 over a period of time;

2. *Notes* that the estimated margin between net remuneration of the United Nations staff in grades P-1 to D-2 in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C., for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 is 117.4 and that its five-year average (2010–2014) stands at 116.4, which is above the desirable midpoint of 115;

3. *Recalls* section II.B, paragraph 5, of its resolution 68/253, and requests the Commission to continue action to bring the calendar year margin to around the desirable midpoint, without prejudice to any future decision of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Commission to further examine issues relating to margin management in the context of its ongoing comprehensive review of compensation;

E. Post adjustment matters

Recalling its request, contained in its resolution 68/253, that the Commission submit proposals on synchronizing the post adjustment cycles at headquarters duty stations,

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the Commission to review the post adjustment classifications of all headquarters and other group I duty stations once a year, on the anniversary date of the post adjustment classification review for New York;

2. *Also takes note* of the decision of the Commission to refer the question of the continued use of the 5 per cent rule for group I duty stations for consideration by the Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions, in the context of its review of the operational rules governing the post adjustment system;

III

Conditions of service of staff in the General Service and other locally recruited categories

Notes the intention of the Commission to review the compensation package for staff in the General Service and National Professional Officer categories once the review of the compensation package for staff in the Professional and higher categories is completed.

Also on 29 December, the Assembly retained the agenda item on the United Nations common system for consideration at its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Human resources management

Reform

In 2014, progress was made in implementing the human resources management reforms approved by the General Assembly since 2009, which included preparations for the new mobility and career

development framework, an assessment of the system of desirable ranges, performance management, the young professionals programme and other matters.

By **decision 69/553 A** of 29 December, the General Assembly deferred until its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session consideration of a number of reports by the Secretary-General (for details see below), as well as the related report of ACABQ [A/69/572], tabled under the agenda item “Human resources management”. On the same date, by **decision 69/554**, the Assembly retained the agenda item on human resources management for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Mobility framework

In 2014, the General Assembly approved the refined managed mobility framework put forward by the Secretary-General in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 1512] and preparations continued for its phased implementation slated to begin in 2016.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 April [meeting 81], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/690/Add.1], adopted **resolution 68/265** without vote [agenda item 139].

Mobility framework

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 67/255 of 12 April 2013 and 68/252 of 27 December 2013 as well as its decision 68/549 of 27 December 2013,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Towards a global, dynamic and adaptable workforce: mobility”, the letter dated 22 October 2013 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chair of the Fifth Committee and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Towards a global, dynamic and adaptable workforce: mobility” and the letter dated 22 October 2013 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chair of the Fifth Committee;

2. *Recalls* its resolutions expressing support for staff mobility in the Organization, in particular section IV of its resolution 67/255, and welcomes the efforts made by the Secretary-General in submitting his refined managed mobility framework, as well as an alternative proposal, to the General Assembly;

3. *Approves* the refined managed mobility framework, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Emphasizes* that the managed mobility framework should ensure a fair sharing of the burden of service in hardship duty stations;

5. *Recalls* regulation 1.2 (c) of the United Nations Staff Regulations, and in this regard underlines that the calculation of post occupancy for staff members under the managed mobility framework shall include time served in their current posts;

6. *Decides* that staff members who have reached the maximum occupancy limit when managed mobility comes

into effect for their job network will not be subject to reassignment in the first year of operationalization in that job network;

7. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to implement the refined mobility framework with a view to commencing mobility for one job network in 2016 and one in 2017, followed by two job networks each year thereafter;

8. *Decides* that the number of geographic moves for the job networks in 2016 and 2017 shall be no greater than the average number of geographic moves in those networks in 2014 and 2015;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that managed mobility shall not have a negative effect on mandate implementation under the peace and security, development and human rights pillars of the United Nations;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, when considering applicants for vacancies, to give equal treatment to internal and external candidates;

11. *Acknowledges* that additional information is required on the managed mobility framework, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his first annual report, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, *inter alia*, data and information on the following:

(a) Current staff mobility statistics and an analysis of trends, including the tracking of actual costs related to geographic and non-geographic moves and of vacancy rates by job network and other potential costs that may arise;

(b) The number of posts open to external candidates and the number of external candidates selected in 2013 and the first quarter of 2014;

(c) The number of staff moves within and among duty stations and the direct and indirect costs of each move by job network in 2013 and the first quarter of 2014;

(d) An explanation of the criteria to be applied in the implementation of paragraph 8 above should the number of staff reaching the post occupancy limit exceed the average number of geographic moves in 2014 and 2015;

(e) The comprehensive list of non-rotational positions;

(f) The terms of reference and operating guidelines of the job network boards and the special constraints panel;

(g) An analysis of the link between the recruitment and selection recommendations of the job network boards and the future workforce planning agenda for the Organization;

(h) An analysis of how the recommendations of the job network boards would incorporate the Organization's gender balance and geographical representation targets and ensure the equal treatment of internal and external candidates;

(i) The training and knowledge management plans associated with the refined framework;

(j) The structure and reporting lines involved in the functioning of the job network boards, including all expected numbers, configurations and roles of staff members involved in the semi-annual staffing exercises;

(k) Transitional measures to ensure the sustainable implementation of mobility for staff;

12. *Decides* that the job network boards shall include a staff representative in an observer capacity;

13. *Also decides* that the minimum post occupancy limits for duty stations classified as D and E will be one year and for all other duty stations will be two years, with the exception of special circumstances in which the movement of staff members earlier than the minimum post occu-

pancy limit is necessary for their health and safety or for the prompt delivery of mandates;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the fair treatment of all staff members in the context of the reassignment pool related to the managed mobility framework;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore ways of assisting spouses and children of staff members in resolving family issues arising from mobility requirements;

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to identify the number of posts open to external candidates and the number of external candidates selected in 2014 and the first quarter of 2015 and to report thereon in his second annual report, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify the number of staff moves within and among duty stations and the direct and indirect costs of each move by job network in 2014 and the first quarter of 2015 and to report thereon in his second annual report;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide a full estimate of and rationale for the financial resources required for mobility in 2016 and 2017, including requests for any additional geographic moves necessary to achieve the strategic objectives of mobility, in his regular and peacekeeping-related budget requests over the course of that period;

19. *Recalls* paragraph 78 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and, in the context of the managed mobility framework, emphasizes the importance of a thorough reform of performance management, to be implemented at the same time as the framework, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-ninth session an update on progress and further proposals in this regard;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly annual reports on mobility until its seventy-second session, a five-year comprehensive review of the mobility framework at its seventy-third session and biennial reports on mobility thereafter.

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/190/Add.1], pursuant to resolution 68/265 (see above), the Secretary-General submitted his first annual report on mobility reviewing preparations for the phased implementation of the new mobility and career development framework. The Secretary-General stressed that the report should be read in connection with his report [A/69/190/Add.2 & Corr.1] outlining proposals aimed at strengthening the performance management system (see p. 1689), which would be implemented at the same time as the mobility framework.

The mobility framework, the Secretary-General noted, would apply to all internationally recruited staff of the UN Secretariat in the Field Service and Professional and higher categories up to and including the D-2 level, holding fixed-term, continuing and permanent appointments, except those on non-rotational positions (which required an advanced level of technical expertise, knowledge and qualifications with respect to which there was no comparable posi-

tion at the same level in another organizational unit or at another duty station). The Office of Human Resources Management had consulted with departments and created a provisional list of 109 non-rotational positions. Prior to the launch of mobility, each job network board would review and confirm the provisional list of non-rotational positions corresponding to its job network; the boards would then present those lists to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management for final approval.

The report provided data and statistics on mobility trends of those staff who would be subject to mobility. According to the 30 June 2013 data as reflected in the Secretary-General's September 2013 report [YUN 2013, p. 1505], there were 14,094 Professional, Director and Field Service staff in the "mobility population".

Mobility had been defined as a change in position, which could include one or more of the following: a change in role, function, department or duty station, or a move to or from an agency, fund or programme. During each of the past five years, the Secretary-General said, internationally recruited staff had made an average of 1,762 duty station moves.

The report also provided additional data requested by the General Assembly on the direct and indirect costs of moves, as well as the number of positions open to external candidates and the number of such candidates appointed. For 2011 and 2012, direct costs associated with duty station moves between departments, offices away from Headquarters and regional commissions totalled \$33.4 million and those associated with field missions totalled \$64.3 million (not including some one-time costs of moves to or from missions). The indirect costs of administering the mobility framework were related primarily to the reconfiguration of Inspira to manage the selection and reassignment and the creation of network staffing teams, which would carry out staffing and career support functions. The number of opportunities for selection between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2013 was 9,211; the number fluctuated over the years, ranging from 1,931 to 2,809. The majority of opportunities (6,215, or 67.5 per cent of the total number available) occurred in the Professional category, which was the largest category of staff in the mobility population. In the Field Service category there were 2,435 opportunities, representing 26.4 per cent of the total. At the Director level, opportunities numbered 561, or 6.1 per cent of the total.

External appointments from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013 totalled 3,102, ranging from 637 to 857 annually. The proportion of external appointments as compared with the proportion of all job opportunities for selection ranged from 30 to 40 per cent. The highest number of appointments (2,535) was in the Professional category; there were 421 external appointments in the Field Service category and 146 at the Director levels.

Turning to the staffing process under the new mobility and career development framework, the Secretary-General said that it would operate through semi-annual staffing exercises through which job network boards would manage the selection and reassignment of staff in the Field Service category and at the P-3 to P-5 levels (and staff at the P-2 level who were not subject to the young professionals programme). A senior review board would manage the selection and reassignment of staff at the Director level.

Regarding implementation, mobility would be phased in by job network, starting with one network in 2016, one in 2017 and two each year thereafter. The Secretary-General intended to begin implementation with the political, peace and security network. A global steering committee was set up to oversee the project, chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Management and with the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support as the Vice-Chair. The committee membership included representatives at the Under-Secretary-General level from various departments, offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions and field missions. The steering committee would provide strategic oversight through 2020. More specific advice and feedback relating to selection and reassignment would be provided by a technical advisory group.

ACABQ report. In its November report [A/69/572] on human resources management, the ACABQ commented on the new mobility framework. Since the different aspects of the implementation plan and its underlying support structures and systems had not been finalized, its observations and recommendations were to be considered to be of a preliminary nature.

Towards a global, dynamic and adaptable UN workforce

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/190], pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/255 [YUN 2013, p. 1498], 68/252 [ibid., p. 1503] and 68/265 (see above), the Secretary-General presented an overview of human resources management in the Organization, specifically addressing progress in implementing the human resources management reforms approved by the Assembly since 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1463]. The report provided information on the learning and career development strategy and on efforts to improve gender and geographical representation, including the representation of developing countries, and to improve staff health and well-being. The annex to the report set out the status of implementation of requests by the Assembly in its resolutions 63/250 [YUN 2008, p. 1616], 67/255 [YUN 2013, p. 1498], 68/252 [ibid., p. 1503] and 68/265 (see above) and of requests and recommendations of ACABQ endorsed by the Assembly. Four addenda contained an update on the preparatory work for implementing the mobility and

career development framework [A/69/190/Add.1] (see above); a proposal for strengthening the performance management system [A/69/190/Add.2 & Corr.1] (see below); a progress report on and proposed next steps for the young professionals programme [A/69/190/Add.3] (see below); and a comprehensive review of the system of desirable ranges [A/69/190/Add.4] (see below).

ACABQ report. In its November report [A/69/572], ACABQ made recommendations on various aspects of the Secretary-General's report, including implementation of human resources reform, workforce planning, staff selection and recruitment, gender parity, equitable geographical representation and permanent resident status.

Performance management

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/190/Add.2 & Corr.1], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/252 [YUN 2013, p. 1503], the Secretary-General submitted a report containing a proposal to revise the performance management system. Based on extensive research and consultations with Member States, staff, managers and the senior leadership of the Organization, the Secretary-General's proposal contained the following elements: increasing accountability; simplifying the policy and the appraisal process; improving the management culture; and addressing underperformance more effectively.

Concerning the financial implications of the proposal, the Secretary-General said that the Inspira e-performance tool would need to be reconfigured in late 2014 or early 2015 in order to align it with the policy changes. Those technical changes, which represented the main costs associated with the reforms, would be financed by reprioritizing existing resources. As to the time frame, the aim was for the revised policy to enter into effect by April 2015.

The General Assembly was requested to endorse the revisions proposed in the report.

ACABQ report. In its November report [A/69/572] on human resources management, ACABQ voiced no objection to the proposed amendments to the performance management system.

Young professionals programme

Report of Secretary-General. In a July report [A/69/190/Add.3], pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/255 [YUN 2013, p. 1498] and 68/252 [ibid., p. 1503], the Secretary-General summarized progress made in implementing the young professionals programme since its inception in 2011 and proposed improvements to the examination format and delivery methods.

The Secretary-General recalled that in resolution 65/247 [YUN 2010, p. 1480], the General Assembly approved the programme, which would rejuvenate the Organization by providing an influx of young talent with increased diversity and geographical representation. The programme would employ an

efficient and effective examination process. The existing eligibility requirements (maximum age limit of 32) and available positions (15 per cent of the positions at the P-1 and P-2 levels in field operations financed through the regular budget and voluntary contributions only) were maintained.

The report also dealt with legacy rosters from national competitive recruitment examinations which, the report noted, were open indefinitely. As at 23 June, 84 candidates remained unplaced from the legacy rosters of those examinations, representing 31 Member States in 19 job families. The Secretariat had made some progress in reducing the legacy rosters by placing more candidates in positions, and proposed that those candidates who had been on the roster for more than seven years be removed; that would eliminate the rosters entirely by December 2018. The Secretary-General requested that the General Assembly take note of the report and approve those measures.

ACABQ report. In its November report [A/69/572] on human resources management, ACABQ recommended that the General Assembly broaden the pool of available posts and positions for successful candidates from the young professionals programme. It encouraged the Secretary-General to place successful candidates within the two-year time limit of the roster. The Committee recommended against the proposal to remove candidates from the legacy roster after seven years and to abolish those rosters in 2018.

Assessment of the system of desirable ranges

Report of Secretary-General. In a September report [A/69/190/Add.4], submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/255 [YUN 2013, p. 1498], the Secretary-General reviewed the system of desirable ranges for staff in posts subject to geographical distribution, which had remained mostly unchanged since its adoption by resolution 42/220 A [YUN 1987, p. 1132] and which, in the Secretary-General's view, had served well). As at 30 June, only 342 persons (9.8 per cent of the 3,500 base figure) needed to be recruited from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States; that number was smaller than that of vacant geographical posts and of posts temporarily encumbered by staff without geographical status.

The Secretary-General reviewed the steps necessary for determining desirable range and representation of individual Member States and recommended two changes: updating the calculation to determine the lower limit of the desirable range, which would increase the number of Member States that were within range from 120 to 127; and updating the calculation to determine the upper limit of the desirable range, which would increase the number of Member States within range from 120 to 126. Both calculations would be updated every six months to take account of any change in the base figure or number of Member States.

The Secretary-General invited the Assembly to take note of the report, approve the recommended changes and give further guidance to the Secretariat.

ACABQ report. In its November report [A/69/572], ACABQ stated that once again, the Secretary-General had not responded adequately to the General Assembly's request for a comprehensive review of the system of desirable ranges and had not put forward any new elements that could enhance the effectiveness of the system. Until the requested comprehensive review had been completed and considered by the Assembly, ACABQ did not see merit in making the minor changes to the calculations put forward by the Secretary-General. It did not, therefore, recommend that the Assembly approve the proposed changes.

Amendments to Staff Rules

Report of Secretary-General. In a July report [A/69/117], the Secretary-General presented the full text of amendments to the Staff Rules that he proposed to implement as at 1 January 2015. The amendments pertained to rules 3.12 (Night differential); 3.19 (Repatriation grant); 4.16 (Competitive examinations); 7.11 (Miscellaneous travel expenses); 9.8 (Termination indemnity); 10.4 (Administrative leave pending investigation and the disciplinary process); and Appendix C (Arrangements relating to military service). The report provided the rationale for those amendments.

ACABQ report. In its November report on human resources management [A/69/572], ACABQ noted that aside from several technical amendments, some of the proposed amendments were put forward to correct inconsistencies in the 100 series of staff rules stemming from past human resources reforms and/or legislative decisions. Some other amendments were proposed to ensure that the correct wording was reflected. ACABQ concurred with the Secretary-General's proposal that the Assembly take note of the amendments, taking into account the Committee's comments.

Other matters

On 23 December [A/C.5/69/SR.26], the Russian Federation introduced in the Fifth Committee a draft decision [A/C.5/69.L.9] entitled "Human resources management" which, it said, concerned one aspect of human resources management that unfortunately had not been included in the Secretary-General's reports. By the draft, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to withdraw a document entitled "Personal status for the purposes of United Nations entitlements", and would request him to submit a report at the Assembly's seventieth session on the implementation of resolution 58/285, on human resources management [YUN 2004, p. 1486].

The Chair of the Committee stated that action on the draft decision would be taken at a subsequent meeting.

Staff composition

Staff demographics

Reports of Secretary-General. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 67/255 [YUN 2013, p. 1498] and 68/252 [ibid., p. 1503] on human resources management, as well as previous resolutions, the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/292] containing a demographic analysis of the composition of Secretariat staff from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. The global staff of the Secretariat totalled 41,426 as at 30 June 2014, 153 more than the previous year, comprising all categories of staff holding permanent/continuing, fixed-term and temporary contracts, recruited both internationally and locally from 188 Member States. Staff were employed in four entity groups: departments/offices, regional commissions, tribunals and field operations. Non-field operations comprised 20,178 staff members (48.7 per cent) and field operations 21,248 (51.3 per cent). The largest change in the number of staff took place in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, with an increase of 826 staff.

By category, staff were distributed as follows: 24,855 General Service and related categories (60 per cent), with the largest number (6,467) at grade G-4; 12,420 Professional and higher categories (30 per cent), with the largest number (4,216) at the P-3 level; and 4,151 Field Service (10 per cent), with the largest number (2,164) at FS-4 the level. Staff were appointed under one of three appointment types: 32,235 fixed-term (78 per cent), with the largest number at the G-4 level totalling 5,827; 6,993 permanent/continuing (17 per cent); and 2,198 temporary (5 per cent). As at 30 June 2014, the percentage of female staff was 34.1 per cent, with the percentages in non-field operations being 47.8 per cent and in field operations 21 per cent. The highest level of female representation in a non-field operation entity was found in the United Nations Compensation Commission (80 per cent), while the highest percentage of females in a field operation was in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel (50 per cent). The average age for all staff as at 30 June was 43.8 years, in non-field operations 44.6 years and in field operations 43.1 years.

In order to provide analysis and trends as requested by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General proposed adjusting the reporting period to the calendar year, with a cut-off date of 15 March of the following year. He proposed that the next report, to be presented to the Assembly at its seventy-first session, cover the demographic data for the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, with a data cut-off date of 15 March 2016.

Pursuant to a General Assembly request in resolution 67/255 [YUN 2013, p. 1498], the Secretary-General provided, also in August [A/69/292/Add.1], a demographic analysis of the engagement of gratis personnel (4,531),

retired staff (3,051), and consultants and individual contractors (40,655) during the biennium 2012–2013.

ACABQ report. The Advisory Committee, in its November report on human resources management [A/69/572], had no objection to the proposed change in the reporting cycle and the cut-off date for the data included in the composition report. Commenting on the number of staff at the levels of Under-Secretary-General and Assistant-Secretary-General, which at 15 October 2014 had grown to 161, or over 10 per cent more than a year previously, ACABQ expressed concern that the growth trend in senior-level positions was continuing. ACABQ stressed that greater clarity was required in terms of the functions for which government-provided personnel might be appropriate and reiterated that proper reporting lines should be established for them, so as to ensure that they acted in accordance with UN mandates. It reiterated its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive review of the engagement of government-provided personnel.

Disciplinary matters

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/283], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/287 [YUN 2005, p. 1474], the Secretary-General presented his annual report, covering the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, on action taken in cases of established misconduct and/or criminal behaviour, as well as disciplinary action and, where appropriate, legal action. The cases in which the Secretary-General had imposed disciplinary measures pertained to abuse of authority, harassment and discrimination; theft and misappropriation; misrepresentation and false certification; misuse of UN property or assets; misuse of ICT resources; sexual exploitation and abuse; unauthorized outside activities and conflict of interest; assault; failure to comply with financial disclosure obligations; and failure to honour private obligations. During the reporting period, 115 cases were completed. A relatively small percentage of disciplinary measures had been appealed since 1 July 2009. The Secretary-General also provided information about the status and outcome of the 38 cases before the Dispute and Appeals Tribunal from 1 July 2009 to date.

During the reporting period, 140 cases were referred to OHRM for possible disciplinary action, 35 (or 24 per cent) of which related to staff based at UN Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters, and 105 (or 76 per cent) related to field staff. Of those 140 cases, 34 related to theft and misappropriation; 18 to misrepresentation and false certification; 16 to abuse of authority/harassment/discrimination; 11 to inappropriate or disruptive behaviour; 8 to verbal and physical assault; 7 to misuse of ICT resources and computer-related misconduct; 5 to misuse of UN property or assets; 5 to unauthorized outside activities

and conflict of interest; 4 to failure to honour private legal obligations; 4 to failure to comply with financial disclosure obligations; 3 to sexual exploitation and abuse; 1 to retaliation; 1 to violation of local laws; and 23 to other acts. Eleven cases involving credible allegations of criminal conduct by UN officials or experts on mission were referred to Member States.

ACABQ report. Referring to the 140 cases referred to OHRM during the reporting period 2013/2014, the Advisory Committee, in its November report on human resources management [A/69/572], said that it intended to keep the matter under review.

Ethics Office

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/332], in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/254 [YUN 2006, p. 1633], the Secretary-General submitted the ninth annual report on the Ethics Office, covering its activities from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014.

The Office, which provided direct services to UN staff at all levels, received 924 requests for its services in the period under review. Highlights included responding to 476 confidential requests for ethics advice; managing the 2013 cycle of the financial disclosure programme, requiring review of 4,573 disclosure files; undertaking 152 outreach, training and education activities; administering the Secretariat's first-ever leadership dialogue; enhancing the coherent application of ethics among UN entities and advancing policy development; and receiving 55 matters relating to the Organization's protection against retaliation policy. In addition, the Office continued its work to promote an ethical organizational culture, including highlighting ethical leadership, promoting understanding about ethical obligations, conducting ethical risk assessments and developing evaluative metrics.

The Secretary-General observed that the Office had devoted significant effort to promoting a culture of ethics and ensuring that UN staff members around the world had access to ethics advice that was independent, confidential, impartial and helpful. The Office had increased its visibility in order to reach offices away from Headquarters, peacekeeping and field missions, special political missions and regional commissions. Global attention to whistle-blowing and retaliation continued.

As requested in resolution 63/250 [YUN 2008, p. 1616], the Secretary-General provided information on the activities of the Ethics Panel of the United Nations, the sole mandated mechanism to promote the coherent and consistent application of ethical standards and to consult on important system-wide matters.

During the reporting period, the Ethics Panel held 10 formal sessions. It focused on enhancing coherence and consistency in the application of ethics standards

and reviewed lessons learned from the implementation of its mandates, in particular financial disclosure and conflict of interest management, protection against retaliation and ethics training. The Ethics Office and members of the Ethics Panel participated in the activities of the Ethics Network of Multilateral Organizations, which provided support to professional development, benchmarking and the exchange of ethics policies and practices within the UN system. The sixth meeting of the Network (Copenhagen, Denmark, 9–11 July) was hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services.

ACABQ report. Commenting on the Secretary-General's report, ACABQ in November [A/69/572] recommended that the Ethics Office, in collaboration with the Office of Internal Oversight Services and OHRM, undertake additional efforts to clarify the reporting and advisory mechanisms relating to cases of alleged wrongdoing.

Staff safety and security

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/101 [YUN 2013, p. 1508], the Secretary-General in September [A/69/406] submitted a report on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of UN personnel during 2013 and the first six months of 2014. The report provided an update on the safety and security of UN personnel and on the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security (DSS) to implement the recommendations contained in resolution 68/101 that fell within the Department's purview.

Threats against the United Nations were of increasing concern, the Secretary-General said. The reporting period had witnessed complex attacks targeting UN personnel and premises. Security threats had become more complex, with the use of unconventional tactics, including improved explosive devices, suicide bombings and abductions. The line between criminals and hostile groups, including extremists with transnational strategies and using sophisticated tactics, was increasingly blurred. The number of countries, missions and areas characterized by those conditions, as well as the number of UN personnel involved in operations at such locations, had increased significantly.

Despite those challenges, the UN security management system enabled the delivery of critical programmes in several high-risk areas of Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

In 2013, 1,216 UN personnel were affected by significant security incidents—incidents resulting in death, injury or abduction and other incidents such as robbery, residence break-in, aggravated sexual assault, burglary, intimidation, harassment, arrest and

detention. Twenty-eight personnel lost their lives in those incidents; 18 personnel lost their lives as a result of violence (7 were killed in military hostilities, 2 died in extremist attacks and 9 were victims of crime) and 10 were killed in road traffic accidents. A total of 226 personnel were injured, 82 as a result of violence and 144 in safety-related incidents.

In 2013, 17 UN personnel were abducted. Most of the abductions and hostage-taking incidents occurred in the Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

During 2013, 314 personnel were affected by robberies, 23 by break-ins of their residences and 35 by aggravated assault; 81 personnel were subjected to acts of intimidation and there were 28 incidents of harassment. There were 18 cases of intrusion into UN premises and 14 armed attacks.

Females accounted for some 40 per cent of UN personnel and almost 36 per cent of all personnel affected by significant security incidents. Female personnel were more affected by certain types of incidents; about 52 per cent of the personnel affected by robberies and almost 100 per cent of those affected by sexual assault were female.

In 2013, 35 per cent of significant security incidents affected 406 internationally recruited personnel, while 65 per cent affected 810 locally recruited personnel. Of the 18 UN personnel killed by violence, 13 were locally recruited. In addition, incidents involving harassment, arrest and detention, and intimidation had a greater impact on locally recruited staff.

In 2013, 138 UN personnel were detained or arrested; 88 per cent of them were locally recruited and about 80 per cent were detained or arrested following traffic accidents and for alleged civil or criminal offences. In 2013, in 21 cases of arrest or detention, the United Nations was denied access to detainees and given no reasons for the arrest. The number of UN personnel detained or arrested by host country authorities remained unacceptably high, the Secretary-General said. DSS had intensified its efforts, in cooperation with host Governments, to address that issue. Efforts included improving the reporting system and proactive engagement with host government authorities.

Although staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) did not fall under the UN security system and were not included in the statistics contained in the report, the Secretary-General considered it important to highlight the security incidents affecting UNRWA staff because they were symptomatic of the environment in which the United Nations operated. From 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2014, 13 UNRWA staff were killed and 21 injured as a result of acts of violence, 4 were abducted, 12 reported missing and 68 detained or arrested. Most of the incidents occurred in Syria, where 10 UNRWA staff were killed, 16 injured, 2 abducted, 10 reported missing and 46 detained or arrested.

The Secretary-General also outlined measures to strengthen the UN security management system. During the reporting period, DSS senior leadership maintained dialogues with Member States authorities, and the Organization promoted collaboration in the areas of information-sharing, situational awareness, threat analysis, contingency planning and other aspects of security risk management. A critical aspect of collaboration with the host Government was the effort to address impunity. DSS worked closely with Member States to ensure that attacks against the United Nations were fully investigated.

The Secretary-General said that the United Nations continued to refine its security management system in line with the Organization's shift from a "when to leave" to "how to stay" approach; one of the main challenges was how to balance security risks and programme imperatives. At the same time, there was a need to re-examine the strategic approach towards enhancing the "duty of care" towards UN personnel.

Programme criticality

In October [A/69/530], in response to General Assembly resolution 67/254 A [YUN 2013, p. 1439], the Secretary-General submitted a report containing the final conclusions of the High-level Working Group on Programme Criticality. According to the report, under the Programme Criticality Steering Committee, the Coordination Team continued to support UN teams in country (in mission and non-mission settings) that wished to undertake programme criticality assessments. To date, support had been provided to 15 countries based on the programme criticality framework approved by the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination in 2013. Training sessions on programme criticality were carried out with UN teams at the country level and various Headquarters personnel, contributing to better knowledge of the framework and its intended use throughout the UN system. An e-learning module was also developed. In January, the Steering Committee commissioned an independent review of programme criticality, which concluded that, overall, the programme criticality framework was working as intended, and no major immediate changes to the framework were envisaged. It was expected that programme criticality would continue to be supported by the Steering Committee and the Coordination Team at the global and country levels based on demand from UN teams in country. All support would be provided on the basis of voluntary contributions and was subject to the availability of resources. The Assembly was requested to take note of the report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/133** [draft: A/69/L.33 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 69].

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,

Recalling all relevant resolutions on safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, including its resolution 68/101 of 13 December 2013, as well as Security Council resolutions on the protection of humanitarian personnel, including resolution 2175(2014) of 29 August 2014, and relevant statements by the President of the Council,

Recalling also all Security Council resolutions and presidential statements and reports of the Secretary-General to the Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

Reaffirming the principles, rules and relevant provisions of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, as well as all relevant treaties, and the need to further promote and ensure respect thereof,

Recalling the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977, and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and urging all such parties to comply with international humanitarian law and ensure respect for and protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

Deeply concerned by the continuous erosion, in many cases, of respect for the principles and rules of international law, in particular international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Recalling that primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel lies with the Government hosting a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter of the United Nations or its agreements with relevant organizations,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments which respect the internationally agreed principles on the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, while expressing concern over the lack of respect for these principles in some areas,

Noting the fact that the number of States parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which entered into force on 15 January 1999, has reached 91, mindful of the need to promote the universality of the Convention, and welcoming the entry into force on 19 August 2010 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which expands the scope of legal protection under the Convention,

Expressing deep concern at the threats and security risks faced by humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, and the unprecedented increase in the scale and the increasingly complex nature of the threats faced by such personnel at the field level, as they operate in increasingly high-risk environments, and noting that the majority of such incidents continue to affect locally recruited personnel,

Expressing deep concern also that the occurrence of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel is a factor that severely restricts the provision of assistance and protection to populations in need, and commending the commitment of the United Nations and other humanitarian personnel to stay and deliver the most critical programmes even in dangerous environments,

Stressing the need to uphold the respect and protection which the flag of the United Nations, and the nature of humanitarian work, should command and ensure, and stressing the importance of fully respecting the obligations relating to the use of vehicles and premises of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel as defined by relevant international instruments, as well as the obligations relating to distinctive emblems recognized in the Geneva Conventions,

Commending the courage and commitment of those who take part in humanitarian operations, often at great personal risk, especially national and locally recruited personnel,

Commending also the courage and commitment of those who take part in peace operations, including peacekeeping operations, often at great personal risk, especially national and locally recruited personnel,

Noting with concern that, despite the decrease in the number of the United Nations system personnel affected by security incidents in 2013, 1,216 persons, representing 0.8 per cent of the United Nations system personnel, were still affected by significant security incidents, with 28 personnel killed, 226 injured and 17 abducted,

Strongly condemning all attacks against humanitarian personnel, expressing profound regret at the deaths, injuries and abductions resulting from these attacks, and noting with concern that the number of attacks against humanitarian personnel in 2013 was the highest ever recorded, with at least 155 personnel killed, 171 injured and 134 abducted,

Strongly condemning also all attacks against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and deploring the long-term consequences of such attacks for the population and health-care systems of the countries concerned,

Expressing profound regret at the deaths of humanitarian personnel and health-care personnel as a result of public health hazards such as the current outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, and stressing the need for a conducive environment, appropriate equipment and resilient public health systems and the urgency of preparedness,

Expressing deep concern at the deep and long-lasting impacts of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

Strongly condemning acts of murder and other forms of violence, rape and sexual assault and all forms of violence committed in particular against women and children, and intimidation, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which those participating in humanitarian operations are exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of property,

Affirming the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associ-

ated personnel and against their premises or assets do not operate with impunity, and that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law,

Recalling the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under the international law of armed conflict, as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and noting the role that the Court can play in appropriate cases in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming the need to ensure adequate levels of safety and security for United Nations personnel and associated personnel, including locally recruited staff, which constitutes an underlying duty of the Organization, and mindful of the need to promote and enhance security consciousness within the organizational culture of the United Nations and a culture of accountability at all levels, as well as to continue to promote awareness of and sensitivity to national and local cultures and laws,

Gravely concerned at the high number of accidents and resulting casualties among United Nations and associated personnel, and conscious of the importance of road safety and aviation safety in ensuring the continuity of United Nations operations and preventing casualties among civilians and United Nations and associated personnel, and in this regard regretting the loss of civilian life as a result of such incidents,

Stressing that acceptance of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel by the host Governments, local authorities, local communities, populations and other parties as appropriate crucially contributes to their safety and security,

Noting the importance of reinforcing close collaboration between the United Nations and the host country on contingency planning, information exchange and risk assessment in the context of good mutual cooperation on issues relating to the security of United Nations and associated personnel,

Noting also that the effective functioning of the United Nations security management system requires, among other elements, an effective management structure, adequate and predictable resources and the timely deployment of security personnel with appropriate skills and field experience and of the equipment necessary for the performance of their duties, including vehicles and telecommunications equipment, which have an essential role in facilitating the safety of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Urges* all States to make every effort to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and refugee law as applicable, related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel;
3. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the alarming increase in threats to and deliberate targeting of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and the unprecedented increase in the scale and

the increasingly complex nature of threats faced by such personnel, such as the disturbing trend of politically and criminally motivated attacks, including extremist attacks, against them;

4. *Strongly urges* all States to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of national and international humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises, which are essential to the continuation and successful implementation of United Nations operations;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow those personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

6. *Calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to and to respect fully their obligations under the relevant international instruments;

7. *Also calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

8. *Further calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and urges States parties to put in place appropriate national legislation, as necessary, to enable its effective implementation;

9. *Calls upon* all States, all parties involved in armed conflict and all humanitarian actors to respect the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

10. *Welcomes* the contribution of female humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel in humanitarian and United Nations operations, expresses concern that in some cases these personnel are relatively more exposed to certain forms of crime and acts of intimidation and harassment, and strongly urges the United Nations system and Member States to take appropriate and gender-sensitive action for their safety and security;

11. *Strongly condemns* all threats and acts of violence against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, also condemns attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as long as they are entitled to protection from attack under international humanitarian law, reaffirms the need to prosecute, penalize and punish those responsible for such acts, strongly urges all States to take stronger action to ensure that crimes against such personnel do not remain unpunished and are investigated fully, and affirms the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of any such acts committed on their territory do not operate with impunity, as provided by national laws and obligations under international law;

12. *Stresses* the importance of continued close coordination and consultation with host Governments on the

functioning of the security level system and related tools, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to continue to consult with the host Governments;

13. *Calls upon* all States to comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including as provided by the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, in order to respect and protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel, in territories subject to their jurisdiction;

14. *Stresses* the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and national laws and regulations as applicable, to respect and protect medical personnel, as well as humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, in this regard notes the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, and urges States to develop effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel;

15. *Calls upon* all States to provide adequate and prompt information in the event of the arrest or detention of humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel, so as to afford them the necessary medical assistance and to allow independent medical teams to visit and examine the health of those detained, and to ensure their right to legal counsel, and urges States to take the necessary measures to ensure the speedy release of those who have been arrested or detained in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law;

16. *Calls upon* all other parties involved in armed conflict to refrain from abducting, taking hostage or kidnapping humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel or detaining them in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law, and speedily to release, without harm or requirement of concession, any abductee or detainee;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to promote full respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and associated personnel, and also requests the Secretary-General to seek the inclusion, in negotiations of headquarters and other mission agreements concerning United Nations and associated personnel, of the applicable conditions contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;

18. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission, host country and other related agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

19. *Calls attention to and reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel to respect and, where required, observe the national laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter;

20. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are aware and respectful of national and local customs and traditions in their countries of assignment and communicate clearly their purpose and objectives to local populations in order to enhance their acceptance, thereby contributing to their safety and security, and in this regard ensure that humanitarian action is guided by humanitarian principles;

21. *Urges* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include as part of their risk-management strategy the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and the promotion of acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors with a view to enhancing safety and security;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation are properly informed about and operate in conformity with the minimum operating security standards and relevant codes of conduct and are properly informed about the conditions under which they are called upon to operate and the standards that they are required to meet, including those contained in relevant national laws and international law, and that adequate training in security, human rights law and international humanitarian law is provided so as to enhance their security and effectiveness in accomplishing their functions, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

23. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in coordination with Member States, to take the necessary measures to ensure that all United Nations premises and assets, including staff residences, are compliant with the United Nations minimum operating security standards and other relevant United Nations security standards, and to continue the ongoing assessment of the United Nations premises and physical security worldwide;

24. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel receive adequate safety and security training, stresses the need to continue to improve training so as to enhance cultural awareness and knowledge of relevant law, including international humanitarian law, prior to their deployment to the field, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

25. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to provide counselling and support services to United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents, and emphasizes the importance of making available stress management, mental health and related services for United Nations personnel throughout the system, and encourages all humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

26. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing measures taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to enhance road safety, including through im-

proved training and initiatives to promote road safety so as to reduce incidents caused by road hazards and, in particular, to reduce casualties or injuries resulting from these incidents among United Nations and associated personnel and among the civilian population in the host country, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the collection and analysis of data and to report on road incidents, including civilian casualties resulting from road accidents;

27. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, and supports the continued implementation of the good practice to stay and deliver while focusing on effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed in order to enable the United Nations system to deliver the most critical programmes, even in high-risk environments;

28. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue consistent implementation of the programme criticality framework as an operational tool allowing informed decisions on acceptable risk to United Nations personnel;

29. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to develop enabling procedures that facilitate the deployment of suitably qualified United Nations security personnel, with the aim of improving the safety and security measures of the United Nations, in order to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to deliver on its programmes, mandates and activities, including humanitarian programmes;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General, inter alia through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, to continue the increased cooperation and collaboration among United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations, including between their headquarters and field offices, in the planning and implementation of measures aimed at improving staff security, training and awareness, and calls upon all relevant United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations to support those efforts;

31. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to make every effort to support in their public statements a favourable environment for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel;

32. *Emphasizes* the need to pay particular attention to the safety and security of locally recruited humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, who account for the large majority of casualties and who are particularly vulnerable to attacks, including in cases of kidnapping, harassment, banditry and intimidation, requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the relevant United Nations safety and security policy and to enhance the safety and security of locally recruited personnel, while maintaining operational effectiveness, and calls upon the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to ensure that their personnel are adequately consulted on, informed about and trained in the relevant security measures, plans and initiatives of their respective organizations, which should be in line with applicable national laws and international law;

33. *Notes with appreciation* the progress reported in implementing the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide;

34. *Requests* the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat to further strengthen the security

management of the United Nations, focusing on strengthening security risk management policy and tools as well as their application, increasing situational awareness and analysis capacity, strengthening policy development and promoting best practices, increasing compliance with minimum operating security standards and improving monitoring and evaluation, enhancing surge capacity for emergency response, devising effective physical security measures, developing the expertise of security professionals and strengthening support to the designated officials and the security management teams in the field, and promoting an effective and preventive security management approach that is multidimensional;

35. *Welcomes* the work of the Secretary-General in enhancing security collaboration with host Governments, including efforts to support United Nations designated officials with regard to collaboration with host Government authorities on staff safety and security;

36. *Stresses* that the effective functioning at the country level of security operations requires a unified capacity for policy, standards, coordination, communication, compliance and threat and risk assessment, and notes the benefits thereof to United Nations and associated personnel, including those achieved by the Department of Safety and Security since its establishment;

37. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Secretary-General thus far and encourages further efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation, at both the headquarters and the field levels, between the United Nations and other humanitarian and non-governmental organizations on matters relating to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, with a view to addressing mutual security concerns in the field, based on the "Saving Lives Together" framework as well as other relevant national and local initiatives in this regard, and in this respect requests the Secretary-General to encourage further collaborative initiatives to address the security needs of implementing partners, including through enhanced information-sharing and, where appropriate, training, invites Member States to consider increasing support to those initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to report on steps taken in this regard;

38. *Underlines* the urgent need to allocate adequate and predictable resources to the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, through regular and extrabudgetary resources, including through the consolidated appeals process, and encourages all States to contribute to the Trust Fund for Security of Staff Members of the United Nations System, inter alia, with a view to reinforcing the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security to meet its mandate and responsibilities to enable the safe delivery of programmes;

39. *Also underlines* the need for better coordination between the United Nations and host Governments, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, on the use and deployment of essential equipment required to provide for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and associated personnel working in the delivery of humanitarian assistance by United Nations organizations;

40. *Calls upon* States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations of 18 June 1998, which entered into force

on 8 January 2005, and urges them to facilitate and expedite, consistent with their national laws and international obligations applicable to them, the use of communications equipment in those and other relief operations, inter alia, by limiting and, whenever possible, expeditiously lifting the restrictions placed on the use of communications equipment by United Nations and associated personnel;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a comprehensive and updated report on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the impact of safety and security risks on such personnel, and the development, implementation and outcomes of policies, strategies and initiatives of the United Nations system in the field of safety and security.

Investigation into the death of Dag Hammarskjöld

On 7 March [A/68/PV.75], the General Assembly included in the agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item "Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him".

By a 21 March note [A/68/800], the Secretary-General, pursuant to Assembly resolution 1759(XVII) [YUN 1962, p. 159], informed the Assembly that new evidence had come to his attention relating to the conditions and circumstances resulting in the death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of his party [YUN 1961, p. 63 & 161].

In July 2012, an enabling committee chaired by Lord Lea of Crondall, and consisting of the former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Emeka Anyaoku, and the Archbishop Emeritus of the Church of Sweden, K. G. Hammar, set up the Commission of Jurists on the Inquiry into the Death of Dag Hammarskjöld (the "Hammarskjöld Commission") chaired by Sir Stephen Sedley (United Kingdom) and composed also of Ambassador Hans Corell (Sweden), Justice Richard Goldstone (South Africa) and Justice Wilhelmina Thomassen (The Netherlands).

The report of the Hammarskjöld Commission was made public on 9 September 2013. In successive submissions between 27 September and 20 December 2013, the Commission also made available the information it had relied on in its report. It was the Secretary-General's assessment that the documentation presented to the Commission included new evidence. In that connection, he said, it appeared that additional new evidence might exist which, for national security reasons, was and remained classified by several Governments for more than 50 years. The General Assembly might wish to encourage Member States, in the light of the passage of time, to seek to declassify any records in their possession. Given the open verdict of the 1961–1962 UN Inquiry and the possibility that the new evidence in the Secretary-General's possession

might lead to a conclusive finding about the theories of the causes of the crash of Dag Hammarskjöld's plane, the Assembly might wish to consider three options: establishing an independent panel of experts to examine the new evidence, assess its probative value and make recommendations; reopening the 1961–1962 Inquiry; or establishing a new inquiry.

Annexed to the Secretary-General's note was the report of the Hammarskjöld Commission, "Report of the Commission of Inquiry on whether the evidence now available would justify the United Nations in reopening its inquiry into the death of Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1759(XVII) of 26 October 1962".

In April [A/68/800/Add.1], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that on 28 March he had received a subsequent submission from the Hammarskjöld Commission stating that the Commission was *functus officio* (that is, it had no longer authority because its duties had been accomplished); any further action would be a matter for the United Nations, but the former Commissioners felt obliged to pass on to the Organization any new and possibly relevant materials that might reach them. The Commissioners had accordingly made available to the Secretariat declassified material that had reached them in February from a Member State. The Secretariat would consolidate the additional new material, and any further new material it received from the Commission, with the information received in earlier submissions.

By **decision 68/667** of 15 September, the General Assembly, on a request by Sweden, deferred consideration of the item and included it in the draft agenda of its sixty-ninth session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 29 December [meeting 77], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/246** [draft: A/69/L.42 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 128].

Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1759(XVII) of 26 October 1962,

Acknowledging the report of the Commission of Jurists on the Inquiry into the Death of Dag Hammarskjöld,

Considering the note by the Secretary-General with his assessment that the report of the Hammarskjöld Commission includes new evidence,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint an independent panel of experts to examine new information and to assess its probative value;

2. *Encourages* Member States to release any relevant records in their possession and to provide to the Secretary-General relevant information related to the death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the progress made.

Other staff matters

Multilingualism

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/69/282], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/292 [YUN 2013, p. 1513], the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of the Assembly's resolutions on multilingualism, reviewing the activities undertaken to promote multilingualism throughout the various activities of the Secretariat since his 2012 report [YUN 2012, p. 1491].

The report noted that the diversity of individuals working for the United Nations itself had served to promote multilingualism. The UN career portal was fully bilingual in English and French. Peacekeeping missions continued to promote multilingualism and conduct public information outreach in several languages, including through radio broadcasts. Virtually all UN entities—from the Department of Political Affairs and the Office for Disarmament Affairs to the Office of Legal Affairs—had promoted multilingualism. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs had made its information products available in official languages in over 50 countries. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had collected translations of the 1949 Universal Declaration of Human Rights [YUN 1948–1949, p. 535] in a record 437 languages. A review of 272 websites across the Secretariat, including regional commissions and 53 United Nations information centres (UNICs), found a high degree of adherence to multilingualism. The Department of Public Information (DPI) offered UN publications for sale in all official languages. During the reporting period, 45 contracts were signed for individual UN publications. Translation agreements led to 11 additional language editions of many flagship publications in Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Bengali, Chinese, French, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Russian and Turkish. Licensing agreements increased the Organization's visibility worldwide by generating some 19,000 additional printed and over 18,000 electronic pages. DPI also increased the number of language versions of flagship publications offered on its e-commerce website and through local distributors. The network of 63 UNICs epitomized the spirit of multilingualism, communicating in English and in local languages. In addition to working in five of the six official languages, UNICs produced print and multimedia products and promotional materials in 40 languages in 2013, also maintaining websites in 30 local languages. UNICs had expanded their use of websites and social media tools, and continued to engage audiences in local languages through traditional media, such as radio and television.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) Library were digitizing UN official documents in all official languages. The United Nations Bibliographic Information System thesaurus used for the cataloguing and retrieval of UN official documents was maintained in all official languages. In conclusion, the Secretary-General said that the United Nations continued to improve and seek creative ways to increase its communication with the peoples of the world in their own languages.

In **resolution 69/96 B** of 5 December (see p. 738), the General Assembly underlined the responsibility of the Secretariat in mainstreaming multilingualism into all its communication and information activities, within existing resources on an equitable basis. The Assembly called on DPI to continue working with the Coordinator for Multilingualism on best practices throughout the Secretariat to fulfil that responsibility, and requested the Secretary-General to report on such best practices and their implementation in his upcoming report to the Committee on Information.

By **decision 69/554** of 29 December, the Assembly retained the agenda item on multilingualism for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Report of Secretary-General. In February [A/68/756], in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/306 [YUN 2003, p. 1237], the Secretary-General provided data on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in the UN system for 2013, as well as information on actions taken to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel.

Ninety-six allegations were received for the 2013 reporting period, 66 of which were reported in peacekeeping operations and none in special political missions. Allegations were received from 42 entities. Six entities, including peacekeeping operations, reported receiving one or more allegations, while 36 received none.

Allegations reported against UN staff and related personnel other than those deployed in peacekeeping operations and special political missions numbered 30. At the end of the reporting period, 19 (or 63 per cent) allegations were under investigation and 11 (37 per cent) had been closed because they were found not to be substantiated or lacking sufficient supporting evidence. Investigations into 19 allegations received in 2012 continued; of those, ten were concluded, six were found to be unsubstantiated and four were further reviewed, found to be substantiated and subsequently closed. Investigations into the remaining nine allegations were either continuing or the investigation report was under review.

Of the 66 allegations reported in nine peacekeeping operations, 37 involved members of military contingents or UN military observers, 21 involved staff members, contractors or United Nations Volunteers, 7 involved UN police officers or members of formed police units and one involved a person of a yet unidentified category. The majority (53, or 80 per cent) of the allegations were received from four peacekeeping missions: the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with 23 allegations; the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, with 17 allegations; the United Nations Mission in Liberia, with 7 allegations; and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, with 6 allegations. The remaining 13 allegations were from the United Nations Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (5); the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (4); the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (2); the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (1) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (1). Nine of the 66 allegations had been substantiated and 13 were reported without sufficient information on the number of potential adult or minor victims.

Responses from Member States on referrals for action increased in 2013, with an overall response rate of 91 per cent. The enhanced level of follow-up and communication between Member States and the Organization had led to a number of cases being closed, as well as to a reduction in the number of pending investigations from previous periods. According to data compiled by the Secretariat on the status of completed investigations received between 2010 and 2012, 69 allegations were substantiated, while for 12 an investigation was pending. Of the 69 allegations, 40 involved sexual abuse. In 66 per cent of instances, information was deemed insufficient to launch an investigation or allegations were found to be unsubstantiated.

The Secretary-General also reviewed activities undertaken to implement the programme of action for a strengthened accountability and governance framework. A risk management framework for sexual exploitation and abuse was developed, along with a draft action plan, for application in field missions. Field mission capacity to conduct investigations was enhanced through training for security and investigative personnel. A team of experts was established to identify risk factors that could undermine implementation of the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. Between June and August 2013, the team visited the four field missions most affected by allegations. It identified factors that posed a challenge to the zero-tolerance policy, including post-conflict and post-disaster situations which resulted in degrading conditions for women; poverty; differences in cultural norms; improvements in security providing more opportunities for interaction; and reluctance

to report given possible money exchanges to silence complainants. The team's recommendations included enhanced mandatory training; outreach to communities and strengthening partnerships with civil society; regular risk assessment for prevention; engagement of mission leadership; strengthening investigations; and enhancing conditions of welfare and recreation.

The Secretariat continued to follow-up with Member States on results of investigations or disciplinary processes by Member States. Two database interface projects were completed in 2013 to ensure the screening of field mission personnel against records of prior misconduct. The Secretary-General continued to require that field missions report allegations that might involve criminal conduct to Headquarters and that they cooperate with the host State in carrying out investigations. All field missions conducted systematic induction training that addressed misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse. Field missions continued to implement the victim assistance strategy.

The Secretary-General remained committed to ensuring that all reported allegations for which there was sufficient information to allow for an investigation to be initiated were investigated fully and promptly. Should allegations be substantiated, he would continue to take measures within his authority and request that Member States also ensure that those responsible were held accountable.

In October 2013 the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse merged with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Accountability to Affected Populations to form a task team on creating a system-wide culture of accountability.

ACABQ report. In a May report [A/68/782] on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, the Advisory Committee said that it looked forward to receiving in the next report the Secretary-General's proposals on the findings of the panel of experts, trusting that he would propose steps to improve the risk management framework and to ensure stricter enforcement of standards ACABQ looked forward to reviewing the details of the new accountability framework and trusted that it would include steps to give renewed impetus to the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy.

Conditions of service for judges

By **decision 69/553 A** (section D) of 29 December, the General Assembly deferred until its seventy-first (2016) session consideration of five documents pertaining to the item "Conditions of service for officials other than Secretariat officials: judges": a 2013 report of the Secretary-General [YUN 2013, p. 1497] and the related ACABQ report [ibid.]; a 2011 report of the Secretary-General [YUN 2011, p. 1434] and the related ACABQ report [YUN 2012, p. 1483]; and a letter of 1 Feb-

ruary 2012 from the President of the International Court of Justice to the President of the General Assembly [YUN 2012, p. 1482].

Travel-related matters

Report of Secretary-General. In December [A/69/643 & Corr.1], pursuant to a series of General Assembly resolutions and decisions, the latest of which were resolution 67/254 A [YUN 2013, p. 1439] and decision 57/589 [YUN 2003, p. 1458], the Secretary-General presented a report on standards of accommodation for air travel for the two-year period ended 30 June 2014 and comparative statistics for the two-year period ended 30 June 2012, as well as trend analyses for the past 10 years. The report also dealt with the first-class travel of delegations and of the President of the General Assembly; exceptions for travel-class update authorized by the Secretary-General; exceptions authorized due to arduous journeys; travel authorized by the President of the General Assembly; and exceptions for some UN agencies, offices and programmes.

Reviewing the implementation of the 2013 recommendations of OIOS [YUN 2013, p. 1518] on the comprehensive audit of air travel activities and related practices, the report noted that the Department of Management had implemented the recommendations to the extent possible. Monitoring of compliance with the advance purchase requirement for all air travel had been strengthened. Departments, offices and peacekeeping missions were required to submit quarterly reports on their compliance to the Office of Central Support Service.

Progress had also been made in moving towards a more global approach to travel management. UN Headquarters and UNOG had worked with a global airline alliance to allow the respective offices to utilize each other's local airline discounts, thereby extending discounts on 13 air carriers for travel issued at the two UN duty stations with the largest travel volume. Both UN Headquarters and UNOG had made progress in obtaining discounts for travel originating at locations other than New York and Geneva. As suggested by OIOS, a dashboard that consolidated travel agency reporting and provided up-to-date data on all travel ticketed at UN Headquarters had been implemented; such reports provided management information on volume and spending for the current month and year-to-date periods and trend analysis through the use of historical benchmarks.

In line with the OIOS recommendation, the Department of Management augmented its practice of concurrent auditing of all airline tickets issued at UN Headquarters by introducing a pre-trip auditing tool that automated parts of the approval process. As a result of the changes, the concurrent review auditing concentrated on higher-priced tickets and ensured that lower-priced options were explored.

Lump-sum option

Report of Secretary-General. In his December report on standard accommodation for air travel [A/69/643 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/254 A [YUN 2013, p. 1439], provided an analysis of the impact of the implementation of the Assembly's decision that he revise, as an interim measure pending the outcome of the review to be concluded in 2015, the provision for determining the travel-related lump-sum payment to 70 per cent of the least restrictive economy class fare. He reported that a new administrative instruction on official travel [ST/AI/2013/3] was issued to implement the Assembly's decisions on the standards of accommodation of air travel. The instruction included a revised methodology for calculating the lump-sum travel on home leave, family visit and education grant travel from 75 per cent of the full economy class fare to 70 per cent of the least restrictive economy class base fare, excluding taxes and surcharges, by the least costly scheduled air carrier. The routing for lump-sum calculation was now based on the most economical rather than on the most direct route.

At Headquarters, a 5 per cent decrease in the lump-sum entitlement had resulted in a minimum savings of 6.7 per cent. At the same time, no significant drop was observed in the selection of lump-sum travel entitlement compared with the provision of tickets, and its acceptance remained at approximately 93 per cent. As a result of the new policy, lump-sum amounts granted to UNOG staff decreased by 38 per cent. While the utilization rate had declined from 97 to 90 per cent, most of the UNOG staff continued to opt for the lump-sum. The United Nations Office at Vienna reported an average decrease of 9 per cent in lump-sum payments between 2012 and 2014, while there was a significant increase in the number of staff applying for travel-related services.

The lump-sum option reduced the administrative workload, thereby saving on staff costs. In order for the Organization to continue to benefit from that option, the amount needed to remain attractive enough for the vast majority of staff to opt for it in lieu of issuance of air tickets, while at the same time remaining cost-effective. As the change to the lump-sum option was introduced just over a year ago, the Secretary-General recommended maintaining the lump-sum provision at 70 per cent of the least restrictive economy class fare until the resumed seventieth (2016) Assembly session, when a proposal based on the additional experience gained would be submitted.

Administration of justice

Reports of Secretary-General. In July [A/69/126], the Secretary-General submitted his sixth report covering the activities of the Office of the United Nations

Ombudsman and Mediation Services, which delivered workplace informal conflict resolution services to the Secretariat, the funds and programmes—UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN-Women—and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The report, covering activities carried out in 2013, focused on Secretariat-specific activities, including dispute resolution services offered to staff, initiatives to promote greater conflict competence among staff and managers, and observations on systemic issues. Information on the activities undertaken by the funds and programmes and by UNHCR was provided in separate annual reports.

The Office was headquartered in New York and had seven regional offices and a mediation service. In 2013, the Office opened 2,079 cases; 1,605 originated in the Secretariat, 340 in the funds and programmes and 134 in UNHCR. The categories “job and career” and “evaluative relationships” (the relationship between a supervisor and a supervisee) accounted for more than half of such cases. The mediation service opened 73 cases, including group cases. Most mediation cases were resolved without any financial component in their settlement.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/254 [YUN 2013, p. 1521], the Secretary-General in August [A/69/227] submitted a report on the administration of justice at the United Nations, providing statistics and observations on the functioning of the system for 2013.

The Secretary-General noted that the system of justice served approximately 74,000 staff members in the Secretariat and the separately administered funds and programmes. The formal system had two tribunals: the United Nations Dispute Tribunal as the first and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal as the second instance, which were composed of independent judges and supported by Registries in Geneva, Nairobi and New York. The Office of Administration of Justice administered the elements of the formal system, providing substantive support to the Tribunals through the Registries; legal assistance and representation to staff members through the Office of Staff Legal Assistance; and assistance to the Internal Justice Council.

The mandatory first step in the formal system in non-disciplinary matters was management evaluation. The Management Evaluation Unit of the Department of Management at Headquarters or the respective entity performing that function in the funds and programmes conducted a first review of a contested decision—that step was designed to give management a chance to correct any improper decision or to provide remedy in cases where the decision had been flawed, reducing the number of cases that proceeded to the Dispute Tribunal.

The majority of cases continued to relate to non-selection, non-promotion and other appointments-related decisions, and to separation from service. Efforts to settle cases in the formal system at the management evaluation stage and before the Dispute Tribunal prior to a judgement on the merits continued, with notable success in terms of the number of cases considered.

The Management Evaluation Unit received 933 requests for management evaluation, many of which reflected problems with performance management issues. The two largest groups of requests continued to relate to the administrative decisions on non-selection and non-promotion (226 requests or 24.2 per cent) and separation from service (200 requests of 21.4 per cent). Only 2.6 per cent of those requests were settled; 23.6 per cent were found moot, and 63.8 per cent were not receivable or the decision was upheld.

Cases continued to be resolved within the formal system without the need for a final judgement on the merits. Some 241 cases were resolved at the management evaluation stage in the Secretariat and separately administered funds and programmes. Some 55 cases before the Dispute Tribunal were withdrawn, with settlement discussions initiated by the counsel for the parties or, in 26 cases, following judicial intervention or case management by the judges of the Dispute Tribunal.

The separately administered funds and programmes—UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)—received 122 requests for management evaluation in 2013.

In 2013, the Dispute Tribunal received 289 new cases and disposed of 325. As at 31 December 2013, 226 cases were pending, including one case from the old system. In 2013, the Tribunal rendered 181 judgements, issued 775 orders and held 218 court sessions. Cases received in 2013 fell into six main categories: appointment-related matters (non-selection, non-promotion and other), 142 cases; separation from service (non-renewal and other separation matters), 59 cases; benefits and entitlements, 36 cases; disciplinary cases, 6; classification, 2 cases; and other, 44 cases.

The Secretary-General reported that on 11 June 2013, a permanent courtroom was inaugurated in Nairobi and on 11 March 2014, a permanent courtroom was inaugurated in Geneva. Work on the construction of a new courtroom in New York had been completed, to be inaugurated in 2014.

The Appeals Tribunal held three sessions in 2013: 18–28 March, 17–28 June, 7–18 October. The Tribunal received 125 new cases and disposed of 137. As at 31 December, it had 110 cases pending. During the year, it rendered 115 judgements, issued 47 orders and held 5 oral hearings. The Tribunal also rendered 19 judgements on applications for revision, interpre-

tation and correction, disposing of 19 applications. An additional application for interpretation was disposed of by an order. The Tribunal also considered seven cross-appeals, which it disposed of in the respective judgements. The Tribunal issued three judgements on appeals of decisions taken by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Pension Board; one was granted in part and two were remanded to the Standing Committee.

The Office of Staff Legal Assistance worked to ensure that staff members received independent and professional legal advice and representation. The Office served approximately 74,000 staff members. In 2013, the Office received 762 new cases and closed or resolved 781, including cases carried over from previous years. As at 31 December, there were 214 cases pending. The single largest client group of the Office was staff at peacekeeping missions. The bulk of the written submissions of the Office on behalf of staff members related to management evaluation.

The funding for the staffing of the Office through the regular budget had not changed since its inception in 2009. By resolution 68/254 [YUN 2013, p. 1521], the General Assembly had decided to implement, on an experimental basis, throughout 2015, a voluntary payroll deduction from staff in order to supplement the funding of the Office.

Under resource requirements, the Secretary-General listed a proposed extension of three ad litem judges of the Dispute Tribunal from 1 January to 31 December 2015; a proposed Legal Officer at the P-3 level in the United Nations Appeals Tribunal Registry; and a revised proposal for conducting an interim independent assessment of the system of administration of justice.

Annexes to the report included the revised proposal for conducting an interim independent assessment of the system of administration of justice (Annex I); a proposed amendment to article 3 of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal relating to qualifications of judges (Annex IV); privileges and immunities of the judges of the Tribunals (Annex V); and proposed mechanism for addressing potential complaints under the code of conduct for the judges of the Tribunals (Annex VII).

Report of Internal Justice Council. In a report issued in August [A/69/205], the Internal Justice Council discussed, among others, the General Assembly request concerning interim judgements and orders. Summarizing its recommendations to the Assembly, the Council noted that the Assembly was expected to approve the establishment of an independent review panel to conduct an interim assessment of the internal justice system. Concerning the Tribunals, the Council recommended that the Assembly ensure that the planned improvements to the search engine on the jurisprudence of the Tribunals become operational, and that the Assembly encourage the Tri-

bunals to consider longer-term measures that could help speed up the disposition of cases. Regarding self-represented litigants, the Council recommended that the Assembly encourage the re-establishment of a volunteer system with incentives to attract qualified staff to assist applicants and appellants in the system of administration of justice.

ACABQ report. Commenting in October [A/69/519] on the Secretary-General's report, ACABQ voiced no objections to the proposed extension of the three ad litem judges of the Dispute Tribunal; recommended against adding a P-3 post in the Appeals Tribunal; saw the interim independent assessment of the system of administration of justice as desirable; recommended that the position of Secretary of the panel carrying out the assessment be at the P-5 level; expected that the revised terms of reference for the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services would be promulgated by year's end; requested the Secretary-General to provide information on the reasons for staff opting out of voluntary contributions to the Office of Staff Legal Assistance; and reiterated the importance of addressing the accountability of individuals where violations of the rules and procedures of the Organization had led to financial loss. Subject to its comments and recommendations, ACABQ recommended that the Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's report.

Letter of General Assembly President. On 29 October [A/C.5/69/10], the President of the General Assembly transmitted to the Chair of the Fifth Committee a letter from the Chair of the Sixth (Legal) Committee on the administration of justice at the United Nations.

On 10 December (**decision 69/413**), the Assembly appointed Ms. Deborah Thomas-Felix (Trinidad and Tobago) as a judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal for a term of office beginning on 10 December 2014 and ending on 30 June 2019 to fill the vacancy occurring on the resignation of Mr. Jean Courtial.

On 18 December (**decision 69/414**), the Assembly decided to extend the terms of office of Ms. Alessandra Greceanu and Ms. Nkemdilim Amelia Izuako as ad litem judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2015 and expiring on 31 December 2015. At the same meeting, the Assembly appointed Mr. Rowan Downing (Australia) as an ad litem judge of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2015.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the Assembly decided that the item on the appointment of ad litem judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and the item on the appointment of the judges of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/664], adopted **resolution 69/203** without vote [agenda item 144].

Administration of justice at the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling section XI of its resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001, its resolutions 57/307 of 15 April 2003, 59/266 of 23 December 2004, 59/283 of 13 April 2005, 61/261 of 4 April 2007, 62/228 of 22 December 2007, 63/253 of 24 December 2008, 64/233 of 22 December 2009, 65/251 of 24 December 2010, 66/237 of 24 December 2011, 67/241 of 24 December 2012 and 68/254 of 27 December 2013,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on administration of justice at the United Nations and on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, the report of the Internal Justice Council on administration of justice at the United Nations and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as well as the letter dated 29 October 2014 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Fifth Committee,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on administration of justice at the United Nations and on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services;
2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

I

System of administration of justice

3. Emphasizes the importance of the principle of judicial independence in the system of administration of justice;
4. Stresses the importance of ensuring access for all staff members to the system of administration of justice, regardless of their duty station;
5. Reaffirms its decision, contained in paragraph 4 of its resolution 61/261, to establish a new, independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice consistent with the relevant rules of international law and the principles of the rule of law and due process to ensure respect for the rights and obligations of staff members and the accountability of managers and staff members alike;
6. Notes with appreciation the achievements of the system of administration of justice since its inception regarding both the disposal of the backlog and the addressing of new cases, as well as the increased use of informal resolution mechanisms;
7. Acknowledges the evolving nature of the system of administration of justice and the need to carefully monitor its implementation to ensure that it remains within the parameters set out by the General Assembly;
8. Decides to extend the three ad litem judge positions for one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2015;
9. Stresses the importance of continuous consultation among relevant stakeholders in fostering a dialogue-oriented culture across the Organization;

10. *Reaffirms* its decision, contained in paragraph 12 of its resolution 68/254, that the interim independent assessment shall examine the system of administration of justice in all its aspects, with particular attention to the formal system and its relation with the informal system, including an analysis of whether the aims and objectives of the system set out in resolution 61/261 are being achieved in an efficient and cost-effective manner;

11. *Decides* that the panel shall be appointed from a pool of experts drawn from all regional groups and judicial systems, selected to ensure the independent nature of the assessment, taking into account geographical representation and gender balance, and that it shall have a broad mix of expertise, comprising members with knowledge of internal United Nations processes and United Nations intergovernmental legislation, as well as judicial experience, knowledge of internal labour dispute mechanisms and knowledge of different legal and justice systems, including expertise in employment and/or human rights law;

12. *Also decides* that the objective of the interim assessment is the improvement of the current system and that the assessment should include consideration of, inter alia, elements set out in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General and in the letter from the Chair of the Sixth Committee and any other significant issues relevant to the assessment, such as the role of stakeholders in the system of administration of justice in the preparation of relevant proposals;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the recommendations of the panel of experts, together with its final report and his comments, for consideration by the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-first session;

II

Informal system

14. *Recognizes* that the informal system of administration of justice is an efficient and effective option for staff who seek redress of grievances and for managers to participate in;

15. *Reaffirms* that the informal resolution of conflict is a crucial element of the system of administration of justice, emphasizes that all possible use should be made of the informal system in order to avoid unnecessary litigation, without prejudice to the basic right of staff members to access the formal system of justice, and encourages recourse to the informal resolution of disputes;

16. *Welcomes* the outreach activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services to encourage informal dispute resolution;

17. *Also welcomes* the recommendations to address systemic and cross-cutting issues contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations in his next report;

18. *Requests* that information on the number and nature of cases from non-staff personnel continue to be clearly set out in future reports on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services;

19. *Recalls* paragraph 49 of the report of the Advisory Committee and paragraph 23 of its resolution 68/254, and requests the Secretary-General to provide, in his next report on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Om-

budsman and Mediation Services, data and other relevant information on outreach activities, focusing on conflict resolution, systemic issues and conflict competence, as well as on promotion of the benefits of informal resolution;

20. *Also recalls* paragraph 32 of the report of the Advisory Committee, regrets that the Secretary-General has not fulfilled the request to ensure that the revised terms of reference and guidelines for the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services are promulgated, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to do so by the end of December 2014 at the latest;

21. *Recognizes* that in-person access to the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services is a challenge for staff in the field, including for those in special political missions;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen performance management skills among managers, including by enriching training programmes for conflict competence;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of both staff and managers understanding and adopting conflict competency skills in order to prevent conflicts, cope with potential or actual conflicts and maintain resilience, and in this regard notes with appreciation the activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services to promote conflict competence at all levels of the Organization;

24. *Reiterates* that sound performance management can greatly contribute to avoiding conflict in the workplace, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote collaboration among all relevant stakeholders towards the full implementation of a credible, fair and consistent performance management system;

III

Formal system

25. *Recognizes* the ongoing positive contribution of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance to the system of administration of justice;

26. *Also recognizes* the importance of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance as a filter in the system of administration of justice, and encourages the Office to continue to advise staff on the merits of their cases, especially when giving summary or preventive legal advice;

27. *Recalls* the emphasis placed by the General Assembly on the resolution of disputes, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the practice of proactive case management by the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal in the promotion and successful settlement of disputes within the formal system in his next report;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to track the data on the number of cases received by the Management Evaluation Unit and the Dispute Tribunal in order to identify any emerging trends and to include his observations on those statistics in future reports;

29. *Reaffirms* the need for the Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal to have at their disposal functional courtrooms equipped with adequate facilities;

30. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the voluntary supplemental funding mechanism with respect to additional resources for the Office of Staff Legal Assistance;

31. *Stresses* the need to explore further means to raise awareness among staff of the importance of financial contributions to the Office of Staff Legal Assistance;

32. *Recalls* paragraph 35 of its resolution 68/254, and requests the Secretary-General to implement incentives for staff not to opt out and to report thereon to the General Assembly in his next report;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to collect and examine data relating to staff contributions to the Office of Staff Legal Assistance and to report thereon to the General Assembly in his next report;

34. *Stresses* the importance of the dissemination of the jurisprudence of the Tribunals, including through improvement to the search engine;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that a lessons-learned guide on performance management based on the jurisprudence of the Tribunals is completed before the main part of the seventieth session of the General Assembly and that it is shared with managers across the Organization;

36. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with paragraph 25 of its resolution 68/254, paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/241 and paragraph 28 of its resolution 63/253, the Dispute Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal shall not have any powers beyond those conferred under their respective statutes;

37. *Also reaffirms* that recourse to general principles of law and the Charter of the United Nations by the Tribunals is to take place within the context of and consistent with their statutes and the relevant General Assembly resolutions, regulations, rules and administrative issuances;

38. *Decides* to amend article 10, paragraph 5, of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal and article 9, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal, by adding the word “only” between the words “may” and “order”, and to amend article 10, paragraph 5 (b), of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal and article 9, paragraph 1 (b), of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal, by adding the words “for harm, supported by evidence” after the word “compensation”;

39. *Also decides* to amend article 11, paragraph 3, of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal by inserting the words “and orders” after the word “judgements” and by adding, at the end of the paragraph, a sentence reading “Case management orders or directives shall be executable immediately.”, and to amend article 7, paragraph 5, of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal by inserting the words “or order” after the word “judgement”;

40. *Emphasizes* that the amendments to article 11, paragraph 3, of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal shall not affect the provisions of article 2, paragraph 2, and article 10, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the amendment to article 11, paragraph 3, of the statute of the Dispute Tribunal and article 7, paragraph 5, of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal, including with respect to the administrative implications, any implications for the timely disposal of these cases, the ultimate disposition of appeals of orders, if any, and any costs saved by reason of stays pending such appeals;

42. *Decides* to approve the amendments to article 3 of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal proposed in annex IV to the report of the Secretary-General, with the following modifications:

(a) Replace the second sentence of article 3, paragraph 3 (b), as follows: “Relevant academic experience, when combined with practical experience in arbitration or

the equivalent, may be taken into account towards 5 of the qualifying 15 years.”;

(b) Delete the third sentence of article 3, paragraph 3 (b);

(c) Delete the following words of article 3, paragraph 3 (c), “and, on appointment, be in a state of health appropriate for effective service during the entirety of the proposed term of appointment”;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the issue of harmonization of the privileges and immunities of the judges and to submit a proposal to the General Assembly in his next report on this item;

44. *Stresses* the need to ensure that all individuals acting as legal representatives appearing before the Dispute Tribunal and Appeals Tribunal are subject to the same standards of professional conduct, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly in his next report a single code of conduct for all legal representatives, without prejudice to other lines of disciplinary authority;

45. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to develop incentives for staff and management, including through training opportunities, to enable and encourage staff to continue to participate as volunteers in the work of the Office of Staff Legal Assistance;

IV

Other issues

46. *Notes* the proposal of the Secretary-General of a mechanism for addressing complaints under the code of conduct of judges, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, in his next report, a refined proposal with regard to the scope of application and the title of the mechanism;

47. *Stresses* that the Internal Justice Council can help to ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the system of administration of justice, and requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Council with including the views of both the Dispute Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal in its reports;

48. *Recalls* paragraph 39 of the report of the Advisory Committee and paragraph 8 of its resolution 61/261, and requests the Secretary-General to present, in his next report, proposals with reference to the accountability of all individuals where violations of the rules and procedures of the Organization have led to financial loss;

49. *Invites* the Sixth Committee to consider the legal aspects of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, without prejudice to the role of the Fifth Committee as the Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the administration of justice at the United Nations would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

UN Joint Staff Pension Fund

As at 31 December 2014, the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) recorded 122,759 active

participants compared to 120,294 at the end of 2013. The number of member organizations remained unchanged at 23.

Periodic benefits increased to 72,367. The distribution of benefits was as follows: 26,217 full retirement benefits; 15,746 early retirement benefits; 7,673 deferred retirement benefits; 11,233 widow and 923 widower benefits; 9,124 child benefits; 1,410 disability benefits; and 41 secondary dependent benefits.

Contributions received from active participants and member organizations were slightly less, by \$158 million or 6.9 per cent, than the benefit payments made of \$2.4 billion. The gap between contributions and benefit payments, however, continued to represent a very small portion of total assets (0.3 per cent). The principal of the Fund continued to grow. Income (contributions plus investment income) considerably exceeded benefit payments. During 2014, the Fund earned an approximate 3.21 per cent return.

The Fund continued to be in a strong financial position. Compared to the 3.5 per cent real return objective, long-term investment performance was in line with expectations. In 2014, the Fund carried out its third comprehensive Asset Liability Management study, which provided additional confirmation of the Fund's sound actuarial valuation position and favourable funded status.

The market value of the Fund's assets was \$52,280 million as at 31 December 2014, which represented a real rate of return of 2.4 per cent. Through the management and re-balancing of the assets to maintain its long-term investment objectives, the Fund out-performed the policy benchmark in three, seven and ten year periods. The management of the Fund's investments continued to focus on balancing the risk and reward expectations with broad global diversification. As at 31 December 2014, the Fund had investments in 39 countries, 7 international institutions and 23 currencies.

The Fund's actuarial valuation completed as of 31 December 2013 revealed a deficit, amounting to -0.72 per cent of pensionable remuneration, which meant that the theoretical contribution rate required to achieve balance as of 31 December 2013 was 24.42 per cent of pensionable remuneration, compared to the actual contribution rate of 23.70 per cent; those results showed a reverse of the downward trend since 2001 and a significant long-term development considering the size and maturity of the Fund.

The Fund strengthened its internal control framework. The Fund's first Statement of Internal Control (sic) accompanied its financial statements for the year 2013. During 2014, the Fund's management introduced refinements to its Enterprise-wide Risk Management Framework, including the approval of the Internal Control Policy and updates to the Enterprise-wide Risk Management Framework Methodology.

UNJSPB Audit Committee met three times during the year, making recommendations to the Board on the preparation of financial rules for the Fund, expanding sic and the relationship with internal and external auditors. The Assets and Liabilities Monitoring Committee met twice during the year, providing analysis, advice and recommendations to the Board.

UNJSPB held its sixty-first session (Rome, 10–18 July) [A/69/9], addressing actuarial matters, the management of the Fund's investments, the Fund's strategic framework for 2016–2017, the performance report on the strategic framework indicators for 2012–2013, possible changes in the Fund's Regulations and Administrative Rules and other matters. Annexed to the Board's report was the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2013, which also included the Board of Auditors' recommendations.

By **resolution 68/247 B** (section VIII) of 9 April (see above), the General Assembly, having considered the Secretary-General's report [A/68/753] on proposed terms of reference for the representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the Pension Fund, and the related ACABQ report [A/68/805], established the post of full-time representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the Pension Fund at the Assistant Secretary-General level. The terms of reference of the post were annexed to the resolution.

Report of Secretary-General. In August [A/C.5/69/2], the Secretary-General reported on the investments of the Pension Fund and on measures undertaken to increase the diversification of the Fund, providing information on the management of the investments during the fiscal biennium from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014. During the fiscal biennium, the Fund had an annualized return of 10.1 per cent. The total investment return was 8.1 per cent for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2013 and 12.1 per cent for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2014.

As at 31 March 2014, the Fund held direct securities investments in 39 countries and 23 currencies, along with indirect country investments through international institutions and externally managed funds. In terms of geographical diversification, the proportion of the total Fund invested in North America increased to 50.5 per cent in March 2014, compared to March 2012. Investments in Europe decreased to 24.1 per cent, while in Asia and the Pacific the proportion of investments decreased to 14.9 per cent. The rest of the portfolio was invested with international institutions. The equities portfolio was directly invested in 35 countries and 4 supranational and regional institutions as at 31 March 2014. The fixed-income portfolio was directly invested in 28 countries, plus 4 supranational and regional institutions. In terms of currency diversification, the equities portfolio invested

in 23 different currencies through direct investments, 55.4 per cent of which were in United States dollars and 44.5 per cent in non-United States dollar currencies. Further diversification opportunities in emerging markets were being carefully reviewed while considering the four investment criteria: safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility.

ACABQ report. In October [A/69/528], the Advisory Committee commented on the reports of the Pension Board and of the Secretary-General. It recommended approval of the Board's proposals, taking into account the Committee's observations and recommendations. The Committee welcomed the appointment of a full-time representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of UNJSPF assets. It had no objections to the Secretary-General's proposed appointments to the Investment Committee and to the proposed amendment of an addition to article 14(b) of the regulations of the Fund to clarify the mandate of the Board of Auditors in relation to the Fund and to establish the terms of reference for the Fund's annual audits.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/637], adopted **resolution 69/113** without vote [agenda item 140].

United Nations pension system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/240 of 24 December 2012, section VII of its resolution 68/247 A of 27 December 2013 and section VIII of its resolution 68/247 B of 9 April 2014,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 2014, including the financial statements of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for the year ended 31 December 2013, the audit opinion and report of the Board of Auditors thereon, the information provided on the internal audits of the Fund and the observations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and of the Audit Committee, the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the Fund and measures taken to increase the diversification of the Fund and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 2014, in particular the actions taken by the Board as set out in chapter II.B of the report;

2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

Actuarial matters

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund meeting its target annual real rate of return of 3.5 per cent over the long term;

4. *Takes note* of the results of the actuarial valuation of the Fund, which revealed a deficit of 0.72 per cent of pensionable remuneration as at 31 December 2013, which was a significant improvement over the deficit of 1.87 per cent

of pensionable remuneration revealed by the prior actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2011;

5. *Welcomes* the improvement in the actuarial position of the Fund, which represents a reversal of the downward trend observed since 1999, and in this regard emphasizes the need to ensure the sustainability of these gains;

Financial statements of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and report of the Board of Auditors

6. *Notes* that the Board of Auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2013;

7. *Also notes* the observation of the Board of Auditors that the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards in 2012 had enhanced the quality of the financial statements of the Fund;

8. *Stresses* the need for the Fund to address all the weaknesses identified by the Board of Auditors in relation to financial management and financial statement disclosure, investment management, information system management and other administrative processes;

Amendments to the Regulations and Administrative Rules of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

9. *Approves* the amendment to article 4 of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, as set out in annex XI to the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, in order to establish clear authority and reference to the financial rules of the Fund;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Board promulgating financial rules that will govern the financial management of the Fund, and in this regard looks forward to receiving further information in the next report of the Board;

11. *Takes note* of paragraph 36 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to approve the proposed amendment to article 14 as set out in annex XI to the report of the Board;

12. *Encourages* the Audit Committee of the Fund to continue to work closely with the Board of Auditors in order to address issues of mutual interest;

13. *Approves* the technical changes in the Regulations of the Fund, as set out in annex XI to the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, in accordance with past decisions and amendments adopted by the Board and the General Assembly;

14. *Takes note* of the amendments to the Administrative Rules of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, as set out in annex XII to the report of the Board, to refine the Administrative Rules and align them with the Regulations of the Fund;

Pension adjustment system

15. *Approves* the amendment regarding the special adjustment for small pensions, as set out in annex XIII to the report of the Board, to reflect the 10 per cent adjustment to small pension threshold amounts for separations on or after 1 April 2016;

16. *Concurs* with the recommendation of the Board that the following assessments be discontinued, considering the comments of the Committee of Actuaries that the assessments were consistent with the initial estimates of the consulting actuary and were subsumed in the overall cost of the two-track feature, which would continue to be

monitored in conjunction with each actuarial valuation: (a) assessment of the costs of the April 1992 modification of the cost-of-living differential factors as applicable to the Professional and higher categories, (b) assessment of actual savings from the reduction of the 120 per cent cap provision to 110 per cent, effective for separations on 1 July 1995 or later and (c) assessment of the costs and/or savings of the minimum guarantee at 80 per cent of the United States dollar track amount;

Other matters

17. *Concurs*, in accordance with article 13 of the Regulations of the Fund and with a view to securing the continuity of pension rights, with the new transfer agreements of the Fund with the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, the European Union Satellite Centre and the European Union Institute for Security Studies, as approved by the Board and set out in annex XIV to its report, which will become effective 1 January 2015;

18. *Notes* that the transfer agreement of the Fund with the African Development Bank has been withdrawn, because the Bank has not signed the approved agreement;

19. *Recalls* paragraph 10 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and welcomes the initiative taken by the High-level Committee on Management to establish a working group on after-service health insurance and looks forward to receiving information on its findings at the seventieth session of the General Assembly, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/244 of 27 December 2013;

20. *Also recalls* paragraph 13 of section VII of resolution 68/247 A and paragraph 26 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Board to inform the General Assembly of the outcome of the revision of the memorandum of understanding between the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat and the Fund in the context of its next report to the Assembly;

21. *Notes with concern* the observation of the Board of Auditors regarding performance evaluations not having been completed for Fund staff for the cycle ended 31 March 2013, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue his effort to ensure that the performance of all staff members of the Fund is properly evaluated in a timely manner;

Investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

22. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the Fund and measures taken to in-

crease the diversification of the Fund and the observations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board as set out in its report;

23. *Reaffirms* its resolution 33/121 B of 19 December 1978;

24. *Notes* the overall improved investment performance of the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2013 as compared with its performance benchmarks for the same period in 2012, and commends its success in meeting its investment objectives;

25. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard commends the Fund for its success in meeting its long-term investment objectives over the past 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50 years;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance of the policy of the Fund of broad diversification of its investments by currency, type of asset class and geographical area as a reliable method of improving the risk-return profile of its portfolio over long periods of time;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as fiduciary for the investment of the assets of the Fund, to continue to diversify its investments between developed, developing and emerging markets, wherever this serves the interests of the participants and the beneficiaries of the Fund, and also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that decisions concerning the investments of the Fund in any country are implemented prudently, taking fully into account the four main criteria for investment, namely, safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility, under volatile market conditions;

28. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, as fiduciary for the investment of the assets of the Fund, to continue to explore prospects in all markets, taking into account risk-return profiles and always applying sound risk management techniques, and taking fully into account the four main criteria for investments of the Fund;

29. *Recognizes* the importance of the use of in-house expertise, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all measures to ensure that the costs for non-discretionary advisory fees are reduced and to report thereon in the context of future reports.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the item on the United Nations pension system would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

Appendices

Appendix I

Roster of the United Nations

(There were 193 Member States as at 31 December 2014.)

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Date of admission</i>	<i>Member State</i>	<i>Date of admission</i>
Afghanistan.....	19 Nov. 1946	Côte d'Ivoire	20 Sep. 1960
Albania	14 Dec. 1955	Croatia ²	22 May 1992
Algeria.....	8 Oct. 1962	Cuba.....	24 Oct. 1945
Andorra.....	28 July 1993	Cyprus.....	20 Sep. 1960
Angola.....	1 Dec. 1976	Czech Republic ⁴	19 Jan. 1993
Antigua and Barbuda	11 Nov. 1981	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	17 Sep. 1991
Argentina.....	24 Oct. 1945	Democratic Republic of the Congo ⁵	20 Sep. 1960
Armenia	2 Mar. 1992	Denmark.....	24 Oct. 1945
Australia	1 Nov. 1945	Djibouti.....	20 Sep. 1977
Austria.....	14 Dec. 1955	Dominica	18 Dec. 1978
Azerbaijan	2 Mar. 1992	Dominican Republic	24 Oct. 1945
Bahamas.....	18 Sep. 1973	Ecuador.....	21 Dec. 1945
Bahrain	21 Sep. 1971	Egypt ⁶	24 Oct. 1945
Bangladesh	17 Sep. 1974	El Salvador	24 Oct. 1945
Barbados	9 Dec. 1966	Equatorial Guinea	12 Nov. 1968
Belarus ¹	24 Oct. 1945	Eritrea	28 May 1993
Belgium.....	27 Dec. 1945	Estonia.....	17 Sep. 1991
Belize	25 Sep. 1981	Ethiopia.....	13 Nov. 1945
Benin	20 Sep. 1960	Fiji	13 Oct. 1970
Bhutan.....	21 Sep. 1971	Finland	14 Dec. 1955
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	14 Nov. 1945	France.....	24 Oct. 1945
Bosnia and Herzegovina ²	22 May 1992	Gabon	20 Sep. 1960
Botswana	17 Oct. 1966	Gambia	21 Sep. 1965
Brazil.....	24 Oct. 1945	Georgia	31 July 1992
Brunei Darussalam	21 Sep. 1984	Germany ⁷	18 Sep. 1973
Bulgaria.....	14 Dec. 1955	Ghana	8 Mar. 1957
Burkina Faso	20 Sep. 1960	Greece.....	25 Oct. 1945
Burundi	18 Sep. 1962	Grenada	17 Sep. 1974
Cabo Verde ³	16 Sep. 1975	Guatemala.....	21 Nov. 1945
Cambodia.....	14 Dec. 1955	Guinea.....	12 Dec. 1958
Cameroon	20 Sep. 1960	Guinea-Bissau.....	17 Sep. 1974
Canada	9 Nov. 1945	Guyana	20 Sep. 1966
Central African Republic.....	20 Sep. 1960	Haiti	24 Oct. 1945
Chad.....	20 Sep. 1960	Honduras	17 Dec. 1945
Chile.....	24 Oct. 1945	Hungary	14 Dec. 1955
China	24 Oct. 1945	Iceland.....	19 Nov. 1946
Colombia	5 Nov. 1945	India	30 Oct. 1945
Comoros.....	12 Nov. 1975	Indonesia ⁸	28 Sep. 1950
Congo	20 Sep. 1960	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	24 Oct. 1945
Costa Rica.....	2 Nov. 1945	Iraq.....	21 Dec. 1945

¹ On 19 September 1991, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Belarus.

² The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission, as new Members, of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia were admitted as Members of the United Nations on 22 May 1992. On 8 April 1993, the General Assembly decided to admit as a Member of the United Nations the state provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", pending settlement of the difference that had arisen over its name. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was admitted as a Member of the United Nations on 1 November 2000. On 12 February 2003, it informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Serbia and Montenegro, effective 4 February 2003. In a letter dated 3 June 2006, the President of the Republic of Serbia informed the Secretary-General that the membership of Serbia and Montenegro was being continued by the Republic of Serbia following Montenegro's declaration of independence from Serbia on 3 June 2006. On 28 June 2006, Montenegro was accepted as a United Nations Member State by the General Assembly.

³ On 25 October 2013, the Republic of Cape Verde informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to the Republic of Cabo Verde.

⁴ Czechoslovakia, an original Member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945, changed its name to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on 20 April 1990. It was dissolved on 1 January 1993 and succeeded by the Czech Republic and Slovakia, both of which became Members of the United Nations on 19 January 1993.

⁵ The Republic of Zaire informed the United Nations that, effective 17 May 1997, it had changed its name to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

⁶ Egypt and Syria, both of which became Members of the United Nations on 24 October 1945, joined together—following a plebiscite held in those countries on 21 February 1958—to form the United Arab Republic. On 13 October 1961, Syria, having resumed its status as an independent State, also resumed its separate membership in the United Nations; it changed its name to the Syrian Arab Republic on 14 September 1971. The United Arab Republic continued as a Member of the United Nations and reverted to the name Egypt on 2 September 1971.

⁷ Through accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany on 3 October 1990, the two German States (both of which had become Members of the United Nations on 18 September 1973) united to form one sovereign State. As from that date, the Federal Republic of Germany has acted in the United Nations under the designation Germany.

⁸ On 20 January 1965, Indonesia informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw from the United Nations. On 19 September 1966, it notified the Secretary-General of its decision to resume participation in the activities of the United Nations. On 28 September 1966, the General Assembly took note of that decision, and the President invited the representatives of Indonesia to take their seats in the Assembly.

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Date of admission</i>	<i>Member State</i>	<i>Date of admission</i>
Ireland	14 Dec. 1955	Republic of Korea	17 Sep. 1991
Israel	11 May 1949	Republic of Moldova	2 Mar. 1992
Italy	14 Dec. 1955	Romania	14 Dec. 1955
Jamaica	18 Sep. 1962	Russian Federation ¹⁰	24 Oct. 1945
Japan	18 Dec. 1956	Rwanda	18 Sep. 1962
Jordan	14 Dec. 1955	Saint Kitts and Nevis	23 Sep. 1983
Kazakhstan	2 Mar. 1992	Saint Lucia	18 Sep. 1979
Kenya	16 Dec. 1963	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	16 Sep. 1980
Kiribati	14 Sep. 1999	Samoa	15 Dec. 1976
Kuwait	14 May 1963	San Marino	2 Mar. 1992
Kyrgyzstan	2 Mar. 1992	Sao Tome and Principe	16 Sep. 1975
Lao People's Democratic Republic	14 Dec. 1955	Saudi Arabia	24 Oct. 1945
Latvia	17 Sep. 1991	Senegal	28 Sep. 1960
Lebanon	24 Oct. 1945	Serbia ²	1 Nov. 2000
Lesotho	17 Oct. 1966	Seychelles	21 Sep. 1976
Liberia	2 Nov. 1945	Sierra Leone	27 Sep. 1961
Libya	14 Dec. 1955	Singapore ⁹	21 Sep. 1965
Liechtenstein	18 Sep. 1990	Slovakia ⁴	19 Jan. 1993
Lithuania	17 Sep. 1991	Slovenia ²	22 May 1992
Luxembourg	24 Oct. 1945	Solomon Islands	19 Sep. 1978
Madagascar	20 Sep. 1960	Somalia	20 Sep. 1960
Malawi	1 Dec. 1964	South Africa	7 Nov. 1945
Malaysia ³	17 Sep. 1957	South Sudan ¹¹	14 July 2011
Maldives	21 Sep. 1965	Spain	14 Dec. 1955
Mali	28 Sep. 1960	Sri Lanka	14 Dec. 1955
Malta	1 Dec. 1964	Sudan	12 Nov. 1956
Marshall Islands	17 Sep. 1991	Suriname	4 Dec. 1975
Mauritania	27 Oct. 1961	Swaziland	24 Sep. 1968
Mauritius	24 Apr. 1968	Sweden	19 Nov. 1946
Mexico	7 Nov. 1945	Switzerland	10 Sep. 2002
Micronesia (Federated States of)	17 Sep. 1991	Syrian Arab Republic ⁶	24 Oct. 1945
Monaco	28 May 1993	Tajikistan	2 Mar. 1992
Mongolia	27 Oct. 1961	Thailand	16 Dec. 1946
Montenegro ²	28 June 2006	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ²	8 Apr. 1993
Morocco	12 Nov. 1956	Timor-Leste	27 Sep. 2002
Mozambique	16 Sep. 1975	Togo	20 Sep. 1960
Myanmar	19 Apr. 1948	Tonga	14 Sep. 1999
Namibia	23 Apr. 1990	Trinidad and Tobago	18 Sep. 1962
Nauru	14 Sep. 1999	Tunisia	12 Nov. 1956
Nepal	14 Dec. 1955	Turkey	24 Oct. 1945
Netherlands	10 Dec. 1945	Turkmenistan	2 Mar. 1992
New Zealand	24 Oct. 1945	Tuvalu	5 Sep. 2000
Nicaragua	24 Oct. 1945	Uganda	25 Oct. 1962
Niger	20 Sep. 1960	Ukraine	24 Oct. 1945
Nigeria	7 Oct. 1960	United Arab Emirates	9 Dec. 1971
Norway	27 Nov. 1945	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	24 Oct. 1945
Oman	7 Oct. 1971	United Republic of Tanzania ¹²	14 Dec. 1961
Pakistan	30 Sep. 1947	United States of America	24 Oct. 1945
Palau	15 Dec. 1994	Uruguay	18 Dec. 1945
Panama	13 Nov. 1945	Uzbekistan	2 Mar. 1992
Papua New Guinea	10 Oct. 1975	Vanuatu	15 Sep. 1981
Paraguay	24 Oct. 1945	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	15 Nov. 1945
Peru	31 Oct. 1945	Viet Nam	20 Sep. 1977
Philippines	24 Oct. 1945	Yemen ¹³	30 Sep. 1947
Poland	24 Oct. 1945	Zambia	1 Dec. 1964
Portugal	14 Dec. 1955	Zimbabwe	25 Aug. 1980
Qatar	21 Sep. 1971		

⁹ On 16 September 1963, Sabah (North Borneo), Sarawak and Singapore joined with the Federation of Malaya (which became a Member of the United Nations on 17 September 1957) to form Malaysia. On 9 August 1965, Singapore became an independent State; on 21 September 1965, it became a Member of the United Nations.

¹⁰ The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was an original Member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. On 24 December 1991, the President of the Russian Federation informed the Secretary-General that the membership of the USSR in all United Nations organs was being continued by the Russian Federation.

¹¹ The Republic of South Sudan formally seceded from the Sudan on 9 July 2011 as a result of an internationally monitored referendum held in January 2011, and

was admitted as a new Member State by the United Nations General Assembly on 14 July 2011.

¹² Tanganyika was admitted to the United Nations on 14 December 1961, Zanzibar on 16 December 1963. Following ratification, on 26 April 1964, of the Articles of Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar, the two States became represented as a single Member: the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar; it changed its name to the United Republic of Tanzania on 1 November 1964.

¹³ Yemen was admitted to the United Nations on 30 September 1947, Democratic Yemen on 14 December 1967. On 22 May 1990, the two countries merged and were thereafter represented as one Member of the United Nations under the designation Yemen.

Structure of the United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is composed of all Member States of the United Nations.

SESSIONS

- *Resumed sixty-eighth session*: 29 January–15 September
- *Sixty-ninth session*: 16 September–29 December (suspended)

OFFICERS

Resumed sixty-eighth session

- *President*: John William Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)
- *Vice-Presidents*: Botswana, Cameroon, Chile, China, France, Guatemala, Guinea, Malaysia, Monaco, Romania, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States

Sixty-ninth session

- *President*: Sam Kutesa (Uganda)¹
- *Vice-Presidents*²: Argentina, Burkina Faso, China, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Georgia, Grenada, Iceland, Kiribati, Libya, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Swaziland, Tajikistan, United Kingdom, United States

The Assembly has four types of committees: (1) Main Committees; (2) procedural committees; (3) standing committees; (4) subsidiary and ad hoc bodies. In addition, it convenes conferences to deal with specific subjects.

MAIN COMMITTEES

By resolution 47/233, the General Assembly rationalized its Committee structure as follows:

- Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee);
- Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee);
- Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee);
- Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee);
- Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee);
- Legal Committee (Sixth Committee).

The General Assembly may constitute other committees, on which all Members of the United Nations have the right to be represented.

OFFICERS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES

Resumed sixty-eighth session

*Fourth Committee*³

- *Chairperson*: Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador)
- *Vice-Chairpersons*: Mafiroane Motanyane (Lesotho), Christina Rafti (Cyprus), Francesco Santillo (Italy)
- *Rapporteur*: Michal Komada (Slovakia)

*Fifth Committee*³

- *Chairperson*: Janne Taalas (Finland)
- *Vice-Chairpersons*: Carlos Alejandro Funes (El Salvador), Joanna Fiodorow (Poland), Kodjovi Dosseh (Togo)
- *Rapporteur*: Ken Siah (Singapore)

*Sixty-ninth session*⁴

First Committee

- *Chairperson*: Courtenay Rattray (Jamaica)
- *Vice-Chairpersons*: Saad Abdullah N. Al Saad (Saudi Arabia), María Victoria González Román (Spain), Narcisa Daciana Vlădulescu (Romania)
- *Rapporteur*: Saada Daher Hassan (Djibouti)

Fourth Committee

- *Chairperson*: Durga Prasad Bhattarai (Nepal)
- *Vice-Chairpersons*: Inese Freimane-Deksne (Latvia), Mordehai Amihai (Israel), George S. W. Patten (Liberia)
- *Rapporteur*: Gabriel Orellana Zabalza (Guatemala)

Second Committee

- *Chairperson*: Sebastiano Cardi (Italy)
- *Vice-Chairperson*: Tishka Francis (Bahamas), Tarik Iziraren (Morocco), Aleksandra Stepowska (Poland)
- *Rapporteur*: Borg Tsien Tham (Singapore)

Third Committee

- *Chairperson*: Sofia Mesquita Borges (Timor-Leste)
- *Vice-Chairpersons*: Kurt Davis (Jamaica), Pierre Faye (Senegal), Johanna Nilsson (Sweden)
- *Rapporteur*: Ervin Nina (Albania)

Fifth Committee

- *Chairperson*: František Ružička (Slovakia)
- *Vice-Chairpersons*: Paula Coto-Ramírez (Costa Rica), Aline Mukashyaka (Rwanda), Madhuka Sanjaya Wickramarachchige (Sri Lanka)
- *Rapporteur*: Matthias Dettling (Switzerland)

Sixth Committee

- *Chairperson*: Tuvako Nathaniel Manongi (United Republic of Tanzania)
- *Vice-Chairpersons*: Fernanda Millicay (Argentina), Mirza Pašić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Hossein Gharibi (Iran)
- *Rapporteur*: Salvatore Zappalà (Italy)

PROCEDURAL COMMITTEES

General Committee

- The General Committee consists of the President of the General Assembly, as Chairperson, the 21 Vice-Presidents and the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees.

Credentials Committee

- The Credentials Committee consists of nine members appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President.

Resumed Sixty-eighth session

- Belgium, China, Colombia, Gabon, Guyana, Russian Federation, Singapore, United Republic of Tanzania, United States

*Sixty-ninth session*⁵

- Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Denmark, Jamaica, Namibia, Russian Federation, Senegal, United States

*Twenty-ninth special session*⁶

- Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Denmark, Jamaica, Namibia, Russian Federation, Senegal and United States

¹ Elected on 11 June 2014 (General Assembly dec. 68/418).

² Elected on 11 June 2014 (General Assembly dec. 68/419).

³ One of the Main Committees that met during the resumed session.

⁴ Elected on 31 July 2014 (General Assembly dec. 68/423).

⁵ Appointed on 16 September 2014 (General Assembly dec. 69/401).

⁶ Decided on 19 September 2014 (General Assembly dec. 69/505).

STANDING COMMITTEES

- The two standing committees consist of experts appointed in their individual capacity for three-year terms.

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

- *To serve until 31 December 2014:* Bruno Brant (Brazil), Pavel Chernikov (Russian Federation), Dietrich Lingenthal (Germany), Jean Christian Obame (Gabon), David Traystman (United States)
- *To serve until 31 December 2015:* Jasminka Dinić (Croatia), Mohanad Al-Musawi (Iraq), Babou Sene (Senegal), Tesfa Alem Seyoum (Eritrea)
- *To serve until 31 December 2016:* Toshihiro Aiki (Japan), Conrod Hunte (Antigua and Barbuda), Richard Moon (United Kingdom), Carlos Ruiz Massieu (Mexico), Devesh Uttam (India), Catherine Vendat (France), Ye Xuenong (China)⁷

On 18 November 2014 (dec. 69/407 A), the General Assembly appointed the following persons for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2014 to fill vacancies occurring on 31 December 2013: Pavel Chernikov (Russian Federation), Fernando de Oliveira Sena (Brazil), Ali A. Ali Kurer (Libya), Dietrich Lingenthal (Germany), David Traystman (United States).

Committee on Contributions

- *To serve until 31 December 2014:* Kunal Khatri (United Kingdom)⁸, Nikolay Lozinskiy (Russian Federation), Gönke Roscher (Germany), Henrique da Silveira Sardinha Pinto (Brazil), Fu Daopeng (China)⁹, Yoo Dae-jong (Republic of Korea)
- *To serve until 31 December 2015:* Andrzej T. Abraszewski (Poland), Syed Yawar Ali (Pakistan), Edward Faris (United States)¹⁰, Ihor V. Humennyi (Ukraine), Toshiro Ozawa (Japan)¹¹, Josiel Motumisi Tawana (South Africa)
- *To serve until 31 December 2016:* Jean Pierre Diawara (Guinea), Gordon Eckersley (Australia), Mohamed A. Elshakshuki (Libya), Bernardo Greiver Del Hoyo (Uruguay), Pedro Luis Pedros Cuesta (Cuba), Ugo Sessi (Italy)

On 18 November 2014 (dec. 69/408 A), the General Assembly appointed the following persons for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2015 to fill the vacancies occurring on 31 December 2014: Fu Daopeng (China), Kunal Khatri (United Kingdom), Nikolay Lozinskiy (Russian Federation), Henrique da Silveira Sardinha Pinto (Brazil), Thomas Schlesinger (Austria), Yoo Dae-jong (Republic of Korea). At the same meeting Mohamed A. Elshakshuki (Libya) was appointed for a term beginning on 18 November 2014 and ending on 31 December 2016. On 10 December 2014, Toshiro Ozawa (Japan) was appointed for a term beginning on 21 December 2014 and ending on 31 December 2015.

SUBSIDIARY AND AD HOC BODIES

The following is a list of subsidiary and ad hoc bodies functioning in 2014, including the number of members, dates of meetings/sessions in 2014, document numbers of reports (which generally provide specific information on membership) and relevant decision numbers pertaining to elections.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations

- *Session:* Did not meet in 2014
- *Membership:* Open to all UN Member States or members of the specialized agencies or of IAEA

⁷ Appointed on 7 March 2014 (General Assembly dec. 68/407 B) to fill the vacancy created by the passing away of Zhang Wanhai.

⁸ Appointed on 13 May 2014 (General Assembly dec. 68/408 C) to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Thomas David Smith.

⁹ Appointed on 13 May 2014 (General Assembly dec. 68/408 C) to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Sun Xudong.

¹⁰ Appointed on 26 March 2014 (General Assembly dec. 68/408 B) to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Susan M. McLurg.

¹¹ Appointed Shigeki Sumi on 26 March 2014 (General Assembly dec. 68/408 B) to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Kazuo Watanabe. Appointed Toshiro Ozawa on 10 December 2014 to fill vacancy created by Shigeki Sumi.

Ad Hoc Committee on Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission

- *Session:* Did not meet in 2014
- *Membership:* Open to all UN Member States or members of the specialized agencies or of IAEA

Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996

- *Session:* Did not meet in 2014
- *Membership:* Open to all UN Member States or members of the specialized agencies or of IAEA

Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

- *Meeting:* Did not meet in 2014
- *Membership:* 43

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

- *Sessions:* Sixty-first, New York, 5–7 March 2014; sixty-second, Geneva, 2–4 July
- *Chairperson:* István Gyarmati (Hungary)
- *Membership:* 15 (plus 1 ex-officio member)
- *Report:* A/69/208

Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

- *Session:* Forty-ninth, New York, 8, 13 and 14 October
- *Chairperson:* Ken Kanda (Ghana)
- *Membership:* 25
- *Report:* A/69/516 & Add.1

Board of Auditors

- *Session:* Sixty-eighth (regular), New York, 23–24 July
- *Chairperson:* Mussa Juma Assad (United Republic of Tanzania)
- *Membership:* 3

Committee on Conferences

- *Sessions:* New York, 23 April (organizational), 20 June (reconvened organizational), 2–8 September (substantive)
- *Chairperson:* Yotam Goren (Israel)
- *Membership:* 21
- *Report:* A/69/32
- *Decisions:* GA 68/414 B, C & D, 69/412 A

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

- *Meetings:* Throughout the year
- *Chairperson:* Abdou Salam Diallo (Senegal), Fodé Seck (Senegal) (started in October)
- *Membership:* 26
- *Report:* A/69/35

Committee on Information

- *Session:* Thirty-sixth, New York, 28 April–9 May
- *Chairperson:* Lyutha Al-Mughairy (Oman)
- *Membership:* 114
- *Report:* A/69/21

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

- *Session:* Fifty-seventh, Vienna, 11–20 June
- *Chairperson:* Azzedine Oussedik (Algeria)
- *Membership:* 76
- *Report:* A/69/20

Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)

- *Sessions:* Fifty-fourth, New York, 24 April (organizational), 2–27 June (substantive)
- *Chairperson:* Ramadhan Mwinyi (United Republic of Tanzania)
- *Membership:* 31
- *Report:* A/69/16
- *Decisions:* GA 68/404 B, 69/404 A

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

- *Meetings:* New York, 6 February, 22 April, 31 July, 1 October and 4 November

- *Chairperson:* Nicholas Emiliou (Cyprus)
- *Membership:* 19 (including the United States as host country)
- *Report:* A/69/26

Committee for the United Nations Population Award

- *Chairperson:* Edita Hrdá (Czech Republic)
- *Membership:* 10 (plus the Secretary-General and the UNFPA Executive Director as ex-officio members)
- *Report:* A/69/129

Disarmament Commission

- *Sessions:* New York, 20 November 2013 (organizational), 7–25 April 2014 (substantive)
- *Chairperson:* Vladimir Drobnyak (Croatia)
- *Membership:* All UN Member States
- *Report:* A/69/42

High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

- *Session:* Eighteenth, New York, 19–22 May and 6 June
- *President:* Abdulkalam Abdul Momen (Bangladesh)
- *Membership:* All UN Member States
- *Report:* A/69/39

Human Rights Council

- *Sessions:* Twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second (special), 20 January, 23 July and 1 September; twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh (regular), 3–28 March, 10–27 June and 8–26 September, all in Geneva
- *President:* Baudelaire Ndong Ella (Gabon)
- *Membership:* 47
- *Report:* A/69/53 & Add.1 & Add.1/Corr.1, 2
- *Decision:* GA 69/403

Independent Audit Advisory Committee

- *Sessions:* Twenty-fifth, 19–21 February; twenty-sixth, 8–10 April; twenty-seventh, 9–11 July; twenty-eighth, 10–12 December, all in New York
- *Chairperson:* Joseph Christopher Mihm, Jr. (United States)
- *Membership:* 5
- *Reports:* A/69/304, A/70/284
- *Decisions:* GA 68/412 B, 69/411

International Civil Service Commission (ICSC)

- *Sessions:* Seventy-eighth, New York, 17–28 March; seventy-ninth, Rome, 21 July–1 August
- *Chairperson:* Kingston P. Rhodes (Sierra Leone)
- *Membership:* 15
- *Report:* A/69/30
- *Decision:* GA 69/410

Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions

- *Session:* Thirty-sixth, Budapest, 7–14 April
- *Chairperson:* Wolfgang Stöckl (Germany)
- *Membership:* 6

International Law Commission

- *Session:* Sixty-sixth, Geneva, 5 May–6 June, 7 July–8 August
- *Chairperson:* Kirill Gevorgian (Russian Federation)
- *Membership:* 34
- *Report:* A/69/10

Investments Committee

- *Chairperson:* Michael Klein (United States)
- *Membership:* 9 (plus ad hoc members)
- *Decision:* GA 69/409

Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

- *Session:* Forty-eighth, Geneva, 11–12 June
- *Chairperson:* Mariam Salleh (Malaysia)
- *Membership:* Open to all member States of UNCTAD and all member States of WTO
- *Report:* ITC/AG(XLVIII)/256

Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

- *Chairperson:* Cihan Terzi (Turkey)
- *Membership:* 11
- *Report:* A/69/34
- *Decision:* GA 68/424

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

- *Session:* Sixty-fifth, 29 September–3 October
- *Chairperson:* Choi Seokyoung (Republic of Korea)
- *Membership:* 91
- *Report:* A/69/12/Add.1
- *High Commissioner:* António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres (Portugal)
- *Decision:* ESC 2014/201 A

Panel of External Auditors

- *Meeting:* Fifty-fifth, New York, 8–9 December
- *Membership:* Members of the UN Board of Auditors and the appointed external auditors of the specialized agencies and IAEA

Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

- *Meetings:* New York, 18, 19, 24 and 26 February
- *Chairperson:* Marcel Van Den Bogaard (Netherlands)
- *Membership:* Open to all UN Member States
- *Report:* A/69/33

Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

- *Chairperson:* Hussein Haniff (Malaysia)
- *Membership:* 3
- *Report:* A/69/355

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

- *Session:* New York, 24 February–21 March
- *Chairperson:* U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria)
- *Membership:* 148
- *Report:* A/68/19

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

- *Session:* New York, 20 February and 1 April (first part); 16, 23, 24, 26 and 27 June (second part)
- *Chairperson:* Xavier Lasso Mendoza (Ecuador)
- *Membership:* 29
- *Report:* A/69/23

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

- *Session:* Forty-seventh, New York, 7–18
- *Chairperson:* Choong-hee Hahn (Republic of Korea)
- *Membership:* 60
- *Report:* A/69/17

United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine

- *Membership:* 3
- *Report:* A/69/349

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- *Session:* Did not meet in 2014
- *Membership:* Open to all UN Member States or members of the specialized agencies or of IAEA
- *Secretary-General of UNCTAD:* Mukhisa Kituyi (Kenya)

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

- *Sessions:* Twenty-eighth (special), 17 June; fifty-ninth and sixtieth (executive), 23–25 June and 10–12 December; sixty-first (annual), 15–26 September, all in Geneva

- *President*: Ana María Menéndez Pérez (Spain) (annual); Thomas Fitschen (Germany) (special)
- *Membership*: Open to all members States of UNCTAD
- *Reports*: A/69/15 (Part II-IV)

Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission

- *Session*: Sixth, Geneva, 28 April–2 May
- *Chairperson*: Eduardo Sperisen-Yurt (Guatemala)
- *Membership*: Open to all members States of UNCTAD
- *Report*: TD/B/C.II/26

Trade and Development Commission

- *Session*: Sixth, Geneva, 5–9 May
- *Chairperson*: Filloreta Kodra (Albania)
- *Membership*: Open to all members States of UNCTAD
- *Report*: TD/B/C.I/35

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

- *Session*: Fourteenth, Geneva, 8–10 July
- *Chairperson*: Skaidrite Ābrama (Latvia)
- *Membership*: Open to all members States of UNCTAD
- *Report*: TD/B/C.I/CLP/34

Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

- *Sessions*: Sixty-seventh, 12–14 March; sixty-eighth, 3–5 September; sixty-ninth, 1–5 December, all in Geneva
- *Chairpersons*: Mohamad Elmurtada Mubarak Ismael (Sudan) (sixty-seventh); Thomas Fitschen (Germany) (sixty-eighth); Wafa Ameuri (Algeria) (sixty-ninth)
- *Membership*: Open to all members States of UNCTAD
- *Reports*: TD/B/WP/260, TD/B/WP/265, TD/B/WP/267/Rev.1

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- *Session*: New York, first (regular), 20 January; (annual), 17–19 June; second (regular), 15–16 September
- *President*: Gonzalo Koncke Pizzorno (Uruguay)
- *Reports*: UNW/2014/1, UNW/2014/5, UNW/2014/7
- *Executive Director*: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (South Africa)
- *Decision*: ESC 2014/201 A

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (FORMERLY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL)

- *Session*: First, Nairobi, 23–27 February
- *President*: Oyun Sanjaasuren (Mongolia)
- *Membership*: 10
- *Report*: A/69/25
- *Executive Director*: Achim Steiner (Germany/Brazil)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

GOVERNING COUNCIL

- *Session*: Did not meet in 2014
- *Membership*: 58
- *Decision*: ESC 2014/201 B
- *Executive Director of UN-Habitat*: Joan Clos (Spain)

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- *Sessions*: Sixty-first, New York, 5–7 March; sixty-second, Geneva, 2–4 July
- *Chairperson*: István Gyarmati (Hungary)
- *Membership*: 15 (plus 1 ex-officio member)
- *Report*: A/69/208
- *Director of UNIDIR*: Theresa Hitchens (United States), Jarmo Sareva (Finland) (since October)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- *Session*: Fifty-fifth, Geneva, 20–21 November
- *Chairperson*: Henri Lopes (Congo)

- *Membership*: 16
- *Report*: UNITAR/BT/55/5
- *Executive Director*: Sally Fegan-Wyles (Ireland)

United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

- *Session*: Sixty-first, Rome, 10–18 July
- *Chairperson*: D. Chumakov (Russian Federation)
- *Membership*: 33
- *Report*: A/69/9
- *Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund*: Sergio B. Arvizú (Mexico)

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

ADVISORY COMMISSION OF UNRWA

- *Meeting*: Amman, Jordan, 16–17 June
- *Chairperson*: Hassan Mneymneh (Lebanon)
- *Membership*: 25 (plus 3 observers)
- *Report*: A/69/13

Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA

- *Meetings*: New York, 30 June, 15 July, 20 August and 5 and 10 September
- *Chairperson*: Y. Halit Çevik (Turkey)
- *Membership*: 9
- *Report*: A/69/391
- *Commissioner-General of UNRWA*: Pierre Krähenbühl (Switzerland)

United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

- *Session*: Sixty-first, Vienna, 21–25 July
- *Chairperson*: Carl-Magnus Larsson (Australia)
- *Membership*: 27
- *Report*: A/69/46

United Nations Staff Pension Committee

- *Membership*: 8
- *Decision*: GA 68/422

United Nations University (UNU)

COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

- *Sessions*: Sixty-first, Rome, 12–13 May; sixty-second, Tokyo, 8–9 December
- *Chairperson*: Mohammed H. A. Hassan (Sudan)
- *Membership*: 12 (plus 3 ex-officio members) and the UNU Rector
- *Rector of the University*: David M. Malone (Canada)
- *Report*: E/2015/7

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- *Session*: Twenty-seventh, Geneva, 17–21 February
- *Chairperson*: Dalee Sambo Dorrough (United States)
- *Membership*: 5
- *Report*: A/69/278

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- *Sessions*: Thirty-ninth, Geneva, 4–10 March; fortieth, 29 September–3 October
- *Chairperson*: Gaby Oré Aguilar (Peru)
- *Membership*: 5
- *Report*: A/69/296

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- *Session*: Nineteenth, Geneva, 24–28 November
- *Chairperson*: Leonardo Sakamoto (Brazil)
- *Membership*: 5
- *Report*: A/70/299

SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council consists of 15 Member States of the United Nations (five permanent members and ten non-permanent members), in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the United Nations Charter as amended in 1965.

MEMBERS

- *Permanent members:* China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States
- *Non-permanent members:* Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda

On 16 October 2014 (dec. 69/402), the General Assembly elected Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain and Venezuela for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2015, to replace Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea and Rwanda, whose terms of office expired on 31 December 2014.

PRESIDENT

The presidency of the Council rotates monthly, according to the English alphabetical listing of its Member States. The following served as President during 2014:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Representative</i>
January	Jordan	Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein
February	Lithuania	Raimonda Murmokaite
March	Luxembourg	Sylvie Lucas
April	Nigeria	U. Joy Ogwu
May	Republic of Korea	Oh Joon
June	Russian Federation	Vitaly Churkin
July	Rwanda	Eugène-Richard Gasana
August	United Kingdom	Mark Lyall Grant
September	United States	Samantha Power
October	Argentina	María Cristina Perceval
November	Australia	Gary Quinlan
December	Chad	Mahamat Zene Cherif

MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

The Military Staff Committee consists of the chiefs of staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives. It meets fortnightly.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Each of the three standing committees of the Security Council is composed of representatives of all Council members:

- Committee of Experts (to examine the provisional rules of procedure of the Council and any other matters entrusted to it by the Council);
- Committee on the Admission of New Members;
- Committee on Council Meetings Away from Headquarters.

SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)

- *Chairperson:* Raimonda Murmokaite (Lithuania)
- *Membership:* 15

United Nations Compensation Commission

GOVERNING COUNCIL

- *Sessions:* Seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth, Geneva, 29–30 April and 2–3 October; special, 18 December
- *President:* John Quinn (Australia)
- *Membership:* 15
- *Reports:* S/2014/344, S/2014/734, S/2014/961

1540 Committee

- *Chairperson:* Oh Joon (Republic of Korea)

International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

- *President:* Theodor Meron (United States)
- *Under-Secretary-General, Prosecutor:* Serge Brammertz (Belgium)
- *Assistant Secretary-General, Registrar:* John Hocking (Australia)

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

- *President:* Vagn Joensen (Denmark)
- *Under-Secretary-General, Prosecutor:* Hassan Bubacar Jallow (Gambia)
- *Assistant Secretary-General, Registrar:* Bongani Majola (South Africa)

ADVISORY SUBSIDIARY BODY

Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)¹²

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

- *Session:* Eighth, New York, 1 January–31 December
- *Chairperson:* Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil)
- *Membership:* 31
- *Report:* A/69/818

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)

- *Head of Mission, Chief of Staff:* Major General Michael Finn (Ireland)

United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

- *Chief Military Observer:* Major General Young-Bum Choi (Republic of Korea) (until June); Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi (Ghana)

United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission:* Lisa M. Bittenheim (United States)
- *Force Commander:* Major General Chao Liu (China) (until July); Major General Kristin Lund (Norway)

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

- *Head of Mission and Force Commander:* Major General Iqbal Singh Singha (India)

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

- *Force Commander:* Major General Paolo Serra (Italy) (until July); Major General Luciano Portolano (Italy)

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission:* Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber (Germany) (until July); Kim Bolduc (Canada)
- *Force Commander:* Major General Imam Edy Mulyono (Indonesia)

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Farid Zarif (Afghanistan)
- *OSCE Head of Mission in Kosovo:* Jean-Claude Schlumberger (France)
- *Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Robert E. Sorenson (until September); Jennifer Brush (United States)

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Martin Kobler (Germany)
- *Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General:* Abdallah Wafy (Niger)
- *Force Commander:* Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto Dos Santos Cruz (Brazil)

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission:* Karin Landgren (Sweden)
- *Deputy Special Representative Recovery and Governance:* Aeneas Chapinga Chuma (Zimbabwe) (until May); Antonio Vigilante (Italy)

¹² Also an advisory subsidiary body of the General Assembly.

- *Deputy Special Representative for Rule of Law*: Tamrat Samuel (Eritrea); Mark Kroeker (United States)
- *Force Commander*: Major General Leonard Muriuki Ngondi (Kenya)

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission*: Aïchatou Mindaoudou Souleymane (Niger)
- *Deputy Special Representative*: M'Baye Babacar Cissé (Senegal)
- *Force Commander*: Major General Muhammad Iqbal Asi (Pakistan) (until April); Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed (Pakistan)

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission*: Sandra Honoré (Trinidad and Tobago)
- *Deputy Special Representative*: Carl Alexandre (United States)
- *Deputy Special Representative and the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator*: Peter de Clercq (Netherlands)
- *Force Commander*: Lieutenant General Edson Leal Pujol (Brazil) (until March); Lieutenant General Jose Luiz Jaborandy, Jr. (Brazil)

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission*: Hilde Johnson (Norway) (until July); Ellen Margrethe Løj (Denmark)
- *Deputy Special Representative (Political)*: Raisedon Zenenga (Zimbabwe)
- *Deputy Special Representative and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator*: Toby Lanzer (United Kingdom)
- *Force Commander*: Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi (Ghana) (until June); Lieutenant-General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam (Ethiopia)

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)

- *AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur and Head of Mission*: Mohamed ibn Chambas (Ghana) (until September); Abiodun Oluremi Bashua (Nigeria)
- *Deputy Joint Special Representative for Operations and Management*: Joseph Mutaboba (Rwanda) (until September); Abdul Kamara (Sierra Leone)
- *Force Commander*: Lieutenant General Paul Ignace Mella (United Republic of Tanzania)
- *Police Commissioner*: Brigadier Hester Adriana Paneras (South Africa)

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

- *Head of Mission and Force Commander*: Major General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam (Ethiopia) (until June); Major General Birhanu Julia Gelalcha (Ethiopia)

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSMA*: Albert Gerard Koenders (Netherlands)
- *Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General*: Abdoulaye Bathily (Senegal) (until July); Arnaud Antoine Akodjénou (Benin)

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSCA*: Babacar Gaye (Senegal)
- *Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of MINUSCA*: Diane Corner (United Kingdom)
- *Force Commander*: Major General Martin Chomu Tumenta (Cameroon)

POLITICAL, PEACEBUILDING AND OTHER MISSIONS

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNIOGBIS*: José Ramos-Horta (Timor-Leste) (until July); Miguel Trovoada (São Tomé and Príncipe)

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of UNSOM*: Nicholas Kay (United Kingdom)

- *Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia*: Fatiha Serour (Algeria)

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO)

- *Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority*: Robert H. Serri (Netherlands)
- *Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process*: James W. Rawley (United States)

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of BINUCA*: Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye (Senegal)
- *Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General*: Georg Charpentier (Finland)

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL)

- *Special Coordinator for Lebanon*: Derek Plumbly (United Kingdom)
- *Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon*: Ross Stewart Mountain (New Zealand)

United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWA*: Said Djinnit (Algeria) (until September); Mohammed Ibn Chambas (Ghana)

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission*: Ján Kubiš (Slovakia) (until October); Nicholas Haysom (South Africa)
- *Deputy Special Representative, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator*: Mark Bowden (United Kingdom)
- *Deputy Special Representative (Political)*: Tadamichi Yamamoto (Japan)

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI*: Nickolay Mladenov (Bulgaria)
- *Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs*: György Busztin (Hungary)
- *Deputy Special Representative, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator*: Jacqueline Badcock (United Kingdom)

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL)¹³

- *Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Office*: Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen (Denmark)

United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB)¹⁴

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi and Head of BNUB*: Parfait Onanga-Anyanga (Gabon)

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNRCCA*: Miroslav Jenča (Slovakia)

United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOCA*: Abou Moussa (Chad) (until May); Abdoulaye Bathily (Senegal)

United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)

- *Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission*: Tarek Mitri (Lebanon) (until August); Bernardino León (Spain)

United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER)

- *Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Ebola*: David Nabarro (United Kingdom)
- *Special Representative and Head of UNMEER*: Anthony Banbury (United States)

¹³ Mandate ended on 31 March 2014.

¹⁴ Mandate ended on 31 December 2014.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Economic and Social Council consists of 54 Member States of the United Nations, elected by the General Assembly, each for a three-year term, in accordance with the provisions of Article 61 of the United Nations Charter as amended in 1965 and 1973.

MEMBERS

- *To serve until 31 December 2014:* Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lesotho, Libya, Nigeria, Portugal.
- *To serve until 31 December 2015:* Albania, Australia, Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Croatia, Haiti, Italy, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Nepal, San Marino, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United States.
- *To serve until 31 December 2016:* Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, Georgia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, United Kingdom.

On 29 October 2014 (dec. 69/405), the General Assembly elected the following for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2015 to fill the vacancies occurring on 31 December 2014: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, India, Japan, Mauritania, Pakistan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Zimbabwe. By the same decision, on 10 November 2014, the Assembly elected Australia, Finland, Switzerland for the remaining term of office of Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, beginning on 1 January 2015.

SESSIONS

- *Organizational session:* New York, 14 and 30 January, 18 March, 23 and 25 April, 13 and 27 June
- *Substantive session:* New York, 24–26 February, 23 and 25 April, 27–29 May, 12–13, 23–25 June, 7–11, 14–16, 25 July and 17–18 November
- *Special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD:* New York, 14–15 April
- *Annual special meeting:* New York, 5 June
- *Joint meetings with the Second Committee:* New York, 14 and 30 October
- *Special meeting on Ebola:* New York, 5 December

OFFICERS

- *President:* Martin Sajdik (Austria)¹⁵
- *Vice-Presidents:* Ibrahim Dabbashi (Libya)¹⁶, Vladimir Drobnjak (Croatia)¹⁷, Oh Joon (Republic of Korea)¹⁵, Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador)¹⁸

SUBSIDIARY AND OTHER RELATED ORGANS

SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

The Economic and Social Council may, at each session, set up committees or working groups, of the whole or of limited membership, and refer to them any item on the agenda for study and report.

Other subsidiary organs reporting to the Council consist of functional commissions, regional commissions, standing committees, expert and ad hoc bodies.

The inter-agency United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination also reports to the Council.

FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

- *Sessions:* Twenty-third, Vienna, 12–16 May and 4–5 December
- *Chairperson:* Vladimír Galuška (Czech Republic)
- *Membership:* 40
- *Report:* E/2014/30 & Add.1
- *Decision:* ESC 2014/201 A

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

- *Session:* Fifty-seventh, Vienna, 13–21 March and 3–5 December
- *Chairperson:* Khaled Abdelrahman Shamaa (Egypt)
- *Membership:* 53
- *Report:* E/2014/28 & Add.1

Commission on Population and Development

- *Session:* Forty-seventh, New York, 22–26 April
- *Chairperson:* Gonzalo Koncke (Uruguay)
- *Membership:* 47
- *Report:* E/2014/25
- *Decisions:* ESC 2014/201 A & B

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

- *Session:* Seventeenth, Geneva, 12–16 May
- *Intersessional panel:* 26–29 November
- *Chairperson:* Andrew Reynolds (United States)
- *Membership:* 43
- *Report:* E/2014/31
- *Decision:* ESC 2014/201 B

Commission for Social Development

- *Session:* Fifty-second, New York, 11–21 February
- *Chairperson:* Sewa Lamsal Adhikari (Nepal)
- *Membership:* 46
- *Report:* E/2014/26
- *Decisions:* ESC 2014/201 A & B

Commission on the Status of Women

- *Session:* Fifty-eighth, New York, 10–21 March
- *Chairperson:* Libran Cabactulan (Philippines)
- *Membership:* 45
- *Report:* E/2014/27
- *Decision:* ESC 2014/201 A

Statistical Commission

- *Session:* Forty-fifth, New York, 4–7 March
- *Chairperson:* Jil Matheson (United Kingdom)
- *Membership:* 24
- *Report:* E/2014/24

United Nations Forum on Forests

- *Session:* Did not meet in 2014
- *Membership:* Open to all UN Member States and members of the specialized agencies

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

- *Session:* Forty-seventh session of the Commission/Seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the AU and ECA Conference of Ministers, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 29–30 March
- *Chairperson:* Olusegun Obasanjo (Nigeria)
- *Membership:* 53

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

- *Session:* Did not meet in 2014
- *Membership:* 56

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- *Session:* Thirty-fifth, Lima, Peru, 5–9 May
- *Membership:* 44 members

¹⁵ Elected on 14 June 2014 (ESC dec. 2014/200 A).

¹⁶ Elected on 14 June 2014 (ESC dec. 2014/200 A).

¹⁷ Elected on 14 June 2014 (ESC dec. 2014/200 B).

¹⁸ On 27 June, the Council elected, María Emma Mejía Vélez (Colombia) to complete the term of office of Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador) (ESC dec. 2014/200 C).

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- *Session:* Seventieth, Bangkok, Thailand, 23 May (Phase I), 4–8 August (Phase II)
- *Chairperson:* Tshering Tobgay (Bhutan)
- *Membership:* 53 members
- *Report:* E/2014/39

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

- *Session:* Twenty-eighth, Tunis, Tunisia, 15–18 September
- *Chairperson:* Sheikha Rana Bint Issa Al Khalifa (Bahrain)
- *Membership:* 17
- *Report:* E/2014/41

STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

- *Sessions:* New York, 21–30 January and 7 February (regular), 19–28 May and 6 June (resumed)
- *Chairperson:* Gizem Sucuoğlu (Turkey)
- *Membership:* 19
- *Reports:* E/2014/32 (Part I & II)
- *Decision:* ESC 2014/201 A

Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)

- *Sessions:* Fifty-fourth, New York, 24 April (organizational), 2–27 June (substantive)
- *Chairperson:* Ramadhan Mwinyi (United Republic of Tanzania)
- *Membership:* 34
- *Report:* A/69/16
- *Decisions:* ESC 2014/201 A & B

EXPERT BODIES

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

- *Session:* Tenth, Geneva, 27–31 October
- *Chairperson:* Armando Lara Yaffar (Mexico)
- *Membership:* 25
- *Report:* E/2014/45
- *Decision:* ESC 2014/201 B

Committee for Development Policy

- *Session:* Sixteenth, New York, 24–28 March
- *Chairperson:* José Antonio Ocampo (Colombia)
- *Membership:* 24
- *Report:* E/2014/33

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- *Sessions:* Fifty-second, 28 April–23 May; fifty-third, 10–28 November, all in Geneva
- *Chairpersons:* Zdzisław Kedzia (Poland)
- *Membership:* 18
- *Report:* E/2015/22
- *Decision:* ESC 2014/201 B

Committee of Experts on Public Administration

- *Session:* Thirteenth, New York, 7–11 April
- *Chairperson:* Margaret Saner (United Kingdom)
- *Membership:* 24
- *Report:* E/2014/44

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

- *Session:* Seventh, Geneva, 12 December
- *President:* J. M. Hart (United Kingdom)
- *Membership:* 66
- *Reports:* ST/SG/AC.10/42, ST/SG/AC.10/42/Add.1–3, ST/SG/AC.10/42/Add.1/Corr.1–3, ST/SG/AC.10/42/Add.3/Corr.1

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

- *Session:* Thirty-first, Geneva, 15–17 October

- *Chairperson:* Ewald Müller (Qatar)
- *Membership:* 34
- *Report:* TD/B/C.II/ISAR/71
- *Decisions:* ESC 2014/201 A & B

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

- *Session:* Thirteenth, New York, 12–23 May
- *Chairperson:* Dalee Sambo Dorough (United States)
- *Membership:* 16
- *Report:* E/2014/43 & Corr.1

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

- *Session:* Twenty-eighth, New York, 28 April–2 May
- *Chairperson:* Bill Watt (Australia)
- *Membership:* Representatives of the 24 geographical/linguistic divisions of the Group of Experts
- *Report:* E/2014/78

AD HOC BODY

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)

- *Sessions:* First, Rome, 8 May; second, Washington, D.C., 20–21 November
- *Chairperson:* Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
- *Membership:* 29
- *Reports:* CEB/2014/1, CEB/2014/2

OTHER RELATED BODIES

Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS)

PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

- *Meetings:* Thirty-fourth, 1–3 July; thirty-fifth, 9–11 December, all in Geneva
- *Chairperson:* Peter Woolcott (Australia), John Paton Quinn (Australia)
- *Membership:* 22
- *Reports:* UNAIDS/PCB (34)/14.16 & Rev.1, UNAIDS/PCB (35)/14.28
- *Decisions:* ESC 2014/201 A & B
- *Executive Director of UNAIDS:* Michel Sidibé (Mali)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- *Sessions:* First and second (regular), 4–7 February and 9–12 September; annual, 3–6 June, all in New York
- *President:* Macharia Kamau (Kenya)
- *Membership:* 36
- *Report:* E/2014/34/Rev.1
- *Decision:* ESC 2014/201 A
- *Executive Director of UNICEF:* Anthony Lake (United States)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- *Sessions:* First and second regular, 27–31 January and 2–5 September; annual, 23–27 June, all in New York
- *President:* Peter Thomson (Fiji)
- *Membership:* 36
- *Report:* E/2014/35
- *Decision:* ESC 2014/201 A
- *Administrator of UNDP:* Helen Clark (New Zealand)
- *Associate Administrator:* María Eugenia Casar (Mexico)
- *Executive Director of UNFPA:* Babatunde Osotimehin (Nigeria)
- *Executive Director of UNOPS:* Grete Faremo (Norway)

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

The UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board acts as the Executive Board of the Fund.

- *Managing Director:* Helen Clark (UNDP Administrator)
- *Report:* DP/2014/12

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

- *Report:* DP/2014/13

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- *Session:* Fifty-second, Geneva, 11 April
- *Chairperson:* Maureen O'Neil (Canada)
- *Membership:* 11
- *Reports:* Board/14/3, Board/15/3
- *Director of UNRISD:* Sarah Cook (United Kingdom)

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- *Membership:* 7 (plus 4 ex-officio members)

- *Director of UNICRI:* Jonathan Lucas (Seychelles)

United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

- *Chairperson:* Susanna Malcorra (Argentina)
- *Membership:* 8 (plus 3 ex-officio members)
- *Director of UNSSC:* Jafar Javan (United States)

World Food Programme (WFP)**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- *Sessions:* First and second (regular), 10–11 February and 10–13 November; annual, 3–6 June, all in Rome
- *President:* Evelyn Anita Stokes-Hayford (Ghana)
- *Membership:* 36
- *Report:* E/2015/36
- *Decisions:* ESC 2014/201 A & B
- *Executive Director of WFP:* Ertharin Cousin (United States)

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994, following the independence, on 1 October 1994 of Palau, the last remaining United Nations trust territory. The General Assembly, in resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005,

considering that the Council no longer met and had no remaining functions, decided that Chapter XIII of the United Nations Charter and references to the Council in Chapter XII should be deleted.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

JUDGES OF THE COURT

The International Court of Justice consists of 15 Judges elected for nine-year terms by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

<i>Judge</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>End of term</i>
Peter Tomka, President	Slovakia	2021
Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor, Vice-President	Mexico	2015
Hisashi Owada	Japan	2021
Ronny Abraham	France	2018
Kenneth Keith	New Zealand	2015
Mohamed Bennouna	Morocco	2015
Leonid Skotnikov	Russian Federation	2015
Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade	Brazil	2018
Abdulgawi Ahmed Yusuf	Somalia	2018
Christopher Greenwood	United Kingdom	2018
Xue Hanqin	China	2021
Joan E. Donoghue	United States	2015
Giorgio Gaja	Italy	2021
Julia Sebutinde	Uganda	2021
Dalveer Bhandari	India	2018

- *Registrar:* Philippe Couvreur (Belgium)
- *Deputy Registrar:* Jean Pelé Fomété (Cameroon)

Chamber of Summary Procedure

- *Members:* Peter Tomka, Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor, Abdulgawi Ahmed Yusuf, Xue Hanqin, Joan E. Donoghue
- *Substitute members:* Kenneth Keith, Giorgio Gaja

Parties to the Court's Statute

All Members of the United Nations are ipso facto parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

States accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court

Declarations made by the following States, several with reservations, accepting the Court's compulsory jurisdiction (or made under the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice and deemed to be an acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Court), were in force at the end of 2014: Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Slovakia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

United Nations organs and specialized and related agencies authorized to request advisory opinions from the Court

- *Authorized by the United Nations Charter to request opinions on any legal question:* General Assembly, Security Council
- *Authorized by the General Assembly in accordance with the Charter to request opinions on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities:* Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, Interim Committee of the General Assembly, FAO, IAEA, ICAO, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMO, IMF, ITU, UNESCO, UNIDO, WORLD BANK, WHO, WIPO, WMO.

Committees of the Court**BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

- *Members:* Peter Tomka (Chairperson), Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor, Abdulgawi Ahmed Yusuf, Xue Hanqin, Joan E. Donoghue

LIAISON COMMITTEE

- *Members:* Mohamed Bennouna (Chairperson), Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade, Giorgio Gaja, Dalveer Bhandari

RULES COMMITTEE

- *Members:* Ronny Abraham (Chairperson), Kenneth Keith, Leonid Skotnikov, Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade, Joan E. Donoghue, Giorgio Gaja

OTHER UNITED NATIONS-RELATED BODIES

The following bodies are not subsidiary to any principal organ of the United Nations, but were established by an international treaty instrument or arrangement sponsored by the United Nations and are thus related to the Organization and its work. These bodies, often referred to as “Treaty organs”, are serviced by the United Nations Secretariat and may be financed in part or wholly from the Organization’s regular budget, as authorized by the General Assembly, to which most of them report annually.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

- *Sessions:* Fifty-seventh, 10–28 February; fifty-eighth, 30–18 July; fifty-ninth, 20 October–7 November, all in Geneva
- *Chairperson:* Yoko Hayashi (Japan)
- *Membership:* 23
- *Reports:* A/69/38, A/70/38

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

- *Sessions:* Eighty-fourth, 3–21 February; eighty-fifth, 11–29 August, all in Geneva
- *Chairperson:* José Francisco Calí Tzay (Guatemala)
- *Membership:* 18
- *Reports:* A/69/18, A/70/18

Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

- *Sessions:* Twentieth, 31 March–11 April; twenty-first, 1–5 September, all in Geneva
- *Chairperson:* Francisco Carrión Mena (Ecuador)
- *Membership:* 14
- *Reports:* A/69/48, A/70/48

Committee on the Rights of the Child

- *Sessions:* Sixty-fifth, 13–31 January; sixty-six, 26 May–13 June; sixty-seventh, 1–19 September, all in Geneva
- *Chairperson:* Kirsten Sandberg (Norway)
- *Membership:* 18
- *Reports:* A/69/41, A/71/48

Committee against Torture

- *Sessions:* Fifty-second, 28 April–23 May; fifty-third, 3–28 November, all in Geneva
- *Chairperson:* Claudio Grossman (Chile)
- *Membership:* 10
- *Reports:* A/69/44, A/70/44

Conference on Disarmament

- *Meetings:* Geneva, 20 January–28 March, 12 May–27 June, 28 July–12 September
- *President:* Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia.
- *Membership:* 65
- *Report:* A/69/27

Human Rights Committee

- *Sessions:* 110th, 10–28 March; 111th, 8–25 July; 112th, 7–31 October, all in Geneva
- *Chairperson:* Nigel Rodley (United Kingdom)
- *Membership:* 18
- *Reports:* A/69/40 (Vol. I & Vol. II, (Part 1 & 2)), A/70/40

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

- *Sessions:* 109th, 3–7 February; 110th, 19–30 May; 111th, 28 October–14 November, all in Vienna
- *President:* Lochan Naidoo (South Africa)
- *Membership:* 13
- *Report:* E/INCB/2014/1
- *Decisions:* ESC 2014/201 A & B

PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT**Secretariat**

- *Secretary-General:* Ban Ki-moon
- *Deputy Secretary-General:* Jan Eliasson

Executive Office of the Secretary-General

- *Under-Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet:* Susana Malcorra
- *Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Chef de Cabinet:* Kim Won-soo

Office of Internal Oversight Services

- *Under-Secretary-General:* Carman L. Lapointe

Office of Legal Affairs

- *Under-Secretary-General, Legal Counsel:* Miguel de Serpa Soares
- *Assistant Secretary-General:* D. Stephen Mathias

Department of Political Affairs

- *Under-Secretary-General:* Jeffrey D. Feltman
- *Assistant Secretary-General:* Tayé-Brook Zerihoun

Office for Disarmament Affairs

- *Under-Secretary-General, High Representative:* Angela Kane

Department of Peacekeeping Operations

- *Under-Secretary-General:* Hervé Ladsous
- *Assistant Secretary-General:* Edmond Mulet
- *Assistant Secretary-General, Military Adviser:* Lieutenant General Maqsood Ahmed

Department of Field Support

- *Under-Secretary-General:* Ameerah Haq
- *Assistant Secretary-General:* Anthony Banbury

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

- *Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Emergency Relief Coordinator:* Valerie Amos
- *Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator:* Kyung-wha Kang

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

- *Under-Secretary-General:* Wu Hongbo
- *Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development:* Shamshad Akhtar, Lenni Montiel (from November)
- *Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs:* Thomas Gass

Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

- *Under-Secretary-General:* Tegegnework Gettu
- *Assistant Secretary-General:* Catherine Pollard

Department of Public Information

- *Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information:* Peter Launskey-Tieffenthal; Maher Nasser (Acting from August)

Department of Safety and Security

- *Under-Secretary-General:* Peter Thomas Drennan

Department of Management

- *Under-Secretary-General:* Yukio Takasu

OFFICE OF PROGRAMME PLANNING, BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

- *Assistant Secretary-General, Controller:* María Eugenia Casar, Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas (from October)

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- *Assistant Secretary-General:* Catherine Pollard, Carole Wainaina (from September)

OFFICE OF CENTRAL SUPPORT SERVICES

- *Assistant Secretary-General:* Stephen Cutts

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

- Assistant Secretary-General: Atefeh Riaz

CAPITAL MASTER PLAN PROJECT

- Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director: Michael Adlerstein

Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services

- Assistant Secretary-General, Ombudsman: Johnston Barkat

Peacebuilding Support Office

- Assistant Secretary-General: Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Óscar Fernández-Taranco (from September)

United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

- Assistant Secretary-General, Chief Executive Officer: Sergio B. Arvizú

Economic Commission for Africa

- Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary: Carlos Lopes

Economic Commission for Europe

- Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary: Sven Alkalaj, Christian Friis Bach (from July)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary: Alicia Bárcena

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

- Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary: Noeleen Heyzer

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

- Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary: Rima Khalaf

United Nations Office at Geneva

- Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva: Michael Möller

United Nations Office at Vienna

- Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: Yury Fedotov

United Nations Office at Nairobi

- Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi: Sahle-Work Zewde

International Court of Justice Registry

- Assistant Secretary-General, Registrar: Philippe Couvreur

SECRETARIATS OF SUBSIDIARY ORGANS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER RELATED BODIES Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

- Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director: Jean-Paul Laborde

International Civil Service Commission

- Under-Secretary-General, Chairperson: Kingston Papie Rhodes
- Assistant Secretary-General, Vice-Chairperson: Aldo Mantovani

International Trade Centre

- Executive Director: Arancha González

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

- Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director: Michel Sidibé
- Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director, Programme: Luiz Loures
- Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director, Management and Governance: Jan Beagle
- Assistant Secretary-General, Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa: Speciosa Wandira-Kasibwe
- Under-Secretary-General, Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific: Prasada Rao
- Assistant Secretary-General, Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean: John Edward Greene

Office of the Administration of Justice

- Executive Director: Linda Taylor

Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

- Under-Secretary-General, High Representative: Gyan Chandra Acharya

Office of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria

- Assistant Secretary-General, Special Envoy: Ray Chambers

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser: Maged Abdelfatah Abdelaziz

Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for Myanmar

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser: Vijay Nambiar

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative: Said Djinnit, Mohammed Ibn Chambas (from September)

Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser: Adama Dieng

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative: Leila Zerrougui

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Violence against Children

- Assistant Secretary-General, Special Representative: Marta Santos Pais

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

- Under-Secretary-General, High Commissioner: Navanethem Pillay, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein (from June)
- Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy High Commissioner: Flavia Pansieri
- Assistant Secretary-General (New York Office): Ivan Šimonović

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- Under-Secretary-General, High Commissioner: António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres
- Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy High Commissioner: Alexander Aleinikoff
- Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant High Commissioner (Protection): Erika Feller
- Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant High Commissioner (Operations): Janet Lim

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority: Robert H. Serry
- Deputy Special Coordination: James W. Rawley

Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Greece-FYROM Talks

- Under-Secretary-General, Personal Envoy: Matthew Nimetz

Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara

- Under-Secretary-General, Personal Envoy: Christopher Ross

Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on the Border Controversy between Guyana and Venezuela

- Under-Secretary-General: Norman Girvan (until April)

Senior UN System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza

- Assistant Secretary-General, Senior UN System Coordinator: David Nabarro

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser: Iqbal Riza

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser: Alexander Downer, Espen Barth Eide (from August)

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Innovative Financing for Development

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser: Philippe Douste-Blazy

Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Legal Issues related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

- Special Adviser: Jack Lang

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and Mediator in the border dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser: Nicolas Michel

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559(2004)

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Envoy: Terje Roed-Larsen

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition

- Special Representative: David Nabarro

Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative: Zainab Hawa Bangura

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative: Peter Sutherland

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Envoy: Haile Menkerios

Special Court for Sierra Leone

- Under-Secretary-General, Prosecutor: Brenda Hollis
- Assistant Secretary-General, Registrar: Binta Mansaray

Special Tribunal for Lebanon

- Under-Secretary-General, Prosecutor: Norman Farrell
- Assistant Secretary-General, Registrar: Daryl A. Mundis

Staff-Management Coordination Committee

- Assistant Secretary-General, President: Veronica Luard

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

- Under-Secretary-General, High Representative: Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser

United Nations Children's Fund

- Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director: Anthony Lake
- Assistant Secretaries-General, Deputy Executive Director, External Relations: Johanna (Yoka) Brandt
- Assistant Secretaries-General, Deputy Executive Director, Programmes: Geeta Rao Gupta
- Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director, Management: Fatoumata Ndiaye

United Nations Compensation Commission

- Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Secretary: Mojtaba Kazazi

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

- Under-Secretary-General, Secretary-General of UNCTAD: Mukhisa Kituyi
- Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy-Secretary-General: Petko Draganov

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

- Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Secretary: Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

- Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Secretary: Monique Barbut

United Nations Development Programme

- Under-Secretary-General, Administrator: Helen Clark
- Under-Secretary-General, Associate Administrator: Rebecca Grynspan, María Eugenia (Gina) Casar (from May)
- Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery: Jordan Ryan
- Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau External Relations and Advocacy: Michael O'Neill
- Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau of Management: Jens Wandel
- Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy: Olav Kjørven, Magdy Martinez-Soliman (from September)
- Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa: Abdoulaye Mar Dieye
- Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States: Sima Sami Bahous
- Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific: Haoliang Xu
- Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Ayse Cihan Sultanoğlu
- Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean: Heraldo Muñoz, Jessica Faieta (from May)

United Nations Environment Programme

- Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director: Achim Steiner
- Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director: Ibrahim Thiaw
- Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Secretary United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: Christiana Figueres

United Nations Global Compact

- Executive Director: Georg Kell

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

- Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director: Joan Clos
- Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director: Aisa Kirabo Kacyira

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

- Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director: Sally Fegan-Wyles

United Nations International School

- Assistant Secretary-General, Special Representative: Michael Adlerstein

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Assistant Secretary-General, Special Representative: Margareta Wahlström

United Nations Office for Project Services

- Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director: Jan Mattsson, Grete Faremo (from May)

United Nations Office for Partnerships

- Executive Director: Ann de la Roche

United Nations Office of the Special Envoy to Haiti

- Special Envoy: William J. Clinton

United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace

- Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser: Wilfried Lemke

United Nations Population Fund

- *Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director:* Babatunde Osotimehin
- *Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director (Management):* Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen
- *Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director (Programme):* Kate Gilmore

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

- *Under-Secretary-General, Commissioner-General:* Filippo Grandi, Pierre Krähenbühl (from March)

- *Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Commissioner-General:* Margot B. Ellis

United Nations University

- *Under-Secretary-General, Rector:* David M. Malone

World Food Programme

- *Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director:* Ertharin Cousin
- *Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director:* Amir Mahmoud Abdulla

Agendas of the United Nations principal organs

This appendix lists the items on the agendas of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council during 2014. For the Assembly, the column headed “Allocation” indicates the assignment of each item to plenary meetings or committees.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Agenda items remaining for consideration at the resumed sixty-eighth session (29 January–15 September 2014) [decision 68/550, A/68/49 (Vol. II)]

Item No.	Title	Allocation		
9.	Report of the Economic and Social Council.	Plenary		
10.	Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS.	Plenary		
11.	Sport for peace and development: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal.	Plenary		
12.	Global road safety crisis.	Plenary		
13.	2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.	Plenary		
14.	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.	Plenary		
15.	Culture of peace.	Plenary		
16.	Information and communications technologies for development.	2nd		
18.	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference.	2nd		
19.	Sustainable development:	2nd, Plenary		
	(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;			
	(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;			
	(h) Harmony with Nature.			
21.	Globalization and interdependence:	2nd		
	(d) Culture and development.			
23.	Eradication of poverty and other development issues:	2nd, Plenary		
	(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017);			
29.	Report of the Security Council.	Plenary		
30.	Report of the Peacebuilding Commission.	Plenary		
31.	Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies.	Plenary		
33.	Prevention of armed conflict:	Plenary		
	(a) Prevention of armed conflict;			
	(b) Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution.			
34.	Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development.	Plenary		
35.	The situation in the Middle East.	Plenary		
36.	Question of Palestine.	Plenary		
38.	The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.	Plenary		
39.	Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte.	Plenary		
41.	The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development.	Plenary		
42.	Question of Cyprus.	Plenary		
43.	Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.	Plenary		
44.	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).	Plenary		
45.	The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.	Plenary		
46.	Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security.	Plenary		
47.	Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait.	Plenary		
53.	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.	4th		
63.	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:	Plenary		
	(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support;			
	(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.			
65.	Promotion and protection of the rights of children:	3rd, Plenary		
	(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children.			
67.	Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:	3rd, Plenary		
	(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;			
	(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.			

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
70.	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:	Plenary	124.	Strengthening of the United Nations system.	Plenary
	(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;		125.	United Nations reform: measures and proposals.	Plenary
	(b) Assistance to the Palestinian people;		126.	Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.	Plenary
	(c) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;		128.	International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.	Plenary
	(d) Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.		129.	International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.	Plenary
85.	The rule of law at the national and international levels.	6th	131.	Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:	5th
111.	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.	Plenary		(a) United Nations peacekeeping operations;	
112.	Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund.	Plenary		(b) Capital master plan;	
114.	Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:	Plenary		(c) United Nations Development Programme;	
	(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council.			(d) United Nations Capital Development Fund;	
115.	Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:	Plenary		(e) United Nations Children's Fund;	
	(a) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;			(f) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;	
	(d) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme;			(g) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;	
	(e) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;			(h) United Nations Population Fund;	
	(f) Election of members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.			(i) United Nations Office for Project Services;	
116.	Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:	Plenary		(j) United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).	
	(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;		132.	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.	5th
	(f) Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;		133.	Programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013.	5th
	(g) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;		134.	Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015.	5th
	(h) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit;		135.	Programme planning.	5th
	(i) Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;		137.	Pattern of conferences.	5th
	(j) Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee.		138.	Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations.	5th
117.	Admission of new Members to the United Nations.	Plenary	139.	Human resources management.	5th
118.	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit.	Plenary	140.	Joint Inspection Unit.	5th
119.	The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.	Plenary	141.	United Nations common system.	5th
120.	Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.	Plenary	142.	Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.	5th
121.	Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations.	Plenary	143.	Administration of justice at the United Nations.	5th
122.	Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.	Plenary	144.	Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.	5th
123.	Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.	Plenary			

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
145.	Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.	5th	4.	Election of the President of the General Assembly.	Plenary
146.	Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.	5th	5.	Election of the officers of the Main Committees.	1st, 4th, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th
147.	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations.	5th	6.	Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.	Plenary
148.	Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei.	5th	7.	Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee.	Plenary
149.	Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.	5th	8.	General debate.	Plenary
150.	Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.	5th	A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences		
151.	Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.	5th	9.	Report of the Economic and Social Council.	Plenary
152.	Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.	5th	10.	Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS.	Plenary
153.	Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor.	5th	11.	Sport for development and peace.	Plenary
154.	Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.	5th	12.	2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.	Plenary
155.	Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.	5th	13.	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields:	Plenary
156.	Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.	5th	(a)	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;	
157.	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia.	5th	(b)	Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.	
158.	Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.	5th	14.	Culture of peace.	Plenary
159.	Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force; (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.	5th	15.	The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order.	Plenary
160.	Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.	5th	16.	Information and communications technologies for development.	2nd
161.	Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan.	5th	17.	Macroeconomic policy questions: (a) International trade and development; (b) International financial system and development; (c) External debt sustainability and development.	2nd
162.	Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.	5th	18.	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference.	2nd
163.	Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.	5th	19.	Sustainable development: (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;	2nd
164.	Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.	5th	(b)	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;	
165.	Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863(2009).	5th	(c)	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;	
176.	Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.	5th	(d)	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind;	
Agenda of the sixty-ninth session, first part (16 September–29 December 2014) [A/69/49 (Vol. I), Annex I]					
<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>			
1.	Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly.	Plenary			
2.	Minute of silent prayer or meditation.	Plenary			
3.	Credentials of representatives to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly: (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee; (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.	Plenary			

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
	(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;		30.	Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion.	Plenary
	(f) Convention on Biological Diversity;		31.	The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict.	Plenary
	(g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;		32.	Prevention of armed conflict.	Plenary
	(h) Harmony with Nature;		33.	Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development.	Plenary
	(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy.		34.	Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.	Plenary
20.	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).	2nd	35.	The situation in the Middle East.	Plenary
21.	Globalization and interdependence:	2nd	36.	Question of Palestine.	Plenary
	(a) International migration and development;		37.	The situation in Afghanistan.	Plenary
	(b) Culture and sustainable development.		38.	The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.	Plenary
22.	Groups of countries in special situations:	2nd, Plenary	39.	Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte.	Plenary
	(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;		40.	Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.	Plenary
	(b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.		41.	The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development.	Plenary
23.	Eradication of poverty and other development issues:	2nd	42.	Question of Cyprus.	Plenary
	(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017);		43.	Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.	Plenary
	(b) Industrial development cooperation;		44.	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).	Plenary
	(c) Women in development.		45.	The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.	Plenary
24.	Operational activities for development:	2nd	46.	Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security.	Plenary
	(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system;		47.	Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait.	Plenary
	(b) South-South cooperation for development.		48.	Effects of atomic radiation.	4th
25.	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition.	2nd	49.	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.	4th
26.	Social development:	Plenary, 3rd	50.	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.	4th
	(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;		51.	Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.	4th
	(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;		52.	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.	4th
	(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing;		53.	Comprehensive review of special political missions.	4th
	(d) Literacy for life: shaping future agendas.		54.	Questions relating to information.	4th
27.	Advancement of women:	3rd	55.	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.	4th
	(a) Advancement of women;		56.	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.	4th
	(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.		57.	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.	4th
B. Maintenance of international peace and security			58.	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.	4th
28.	Report of the Security Council.	Plenary			
29.	Report of the Peacebuilding Commission.	Plenary			

<i>Item No. Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Item No. Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
59. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.	4th	F. Promotion of justice and international law	
60. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.	2nd	70. Report of the International Court of Justice.	Plenary
61. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions.	3rd	71. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.	Plenary
C. Development of Africa		72. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.	Plenary
62. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:	Plenary	73. Report of the International Criminal Court.	Plenary
(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support;		74. Oceans and the law of the sea:	Plenary
(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.		(a) Oceans and the law of the sea;	
D. Promotion of human rights		(b) Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments.	
63. Report of the Human Rights Council.	Plenary, 3rd	75. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.	6th
64. Promotion and protection of the rights of children:	Plenary	76. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-seventh session.	6th
(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children;		77. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.	6th
(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children.		78. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-sixth session.	6th
65. Rights of indigenous peoples.	Plenary, 3rd	79. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts.	6th
(a) Rights of indigenous peoples;		80. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.	6th
(b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.		81. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.	6th
66. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:	Plenary, 3rd	82. The rule of law at the national and international levels.	6th
(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;		83. The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction.	6th
(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.		84. Effects of armed conflicts on treaties.	6th
67. Right of peoples to self-determination.	3rd	85. Responsibility of international organizations.	6th
68. Promotion and protection of human rights:	3rd	G. Disarmament	
(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;		86. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.	Plenary
(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;		87. Reduction of military budgets.	1st
(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;		88. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.	1st
(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.		89. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament.	1st
E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts		90. Maintenance of international security – good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe.	1st
69. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:	Plenary		
(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;			
(b) Assistance to the Palestinian people;			
(c) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions.			

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
91.	Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security.	1st	(x)	Reducing nuclear danger;	
92.	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.	1st	(y)	Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction;	
93.	Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.	1st	(z)	Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons;	
94.	Prevention of an arms race in outer space:	1st	(aa)	Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;	
(a)	Prevention of an arms race in outer space;		(bb)	Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations;	
(b)	No first placement of weapons in outer space.		(cc)	Nuclear disarmament;	
95.	Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament.	1st	(dd)	The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;	
96.	General and complete disarmament:	1st	(ee)	Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;	
(a)	Notification of nuclear tests;		(ff)	United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons;	
(b)	Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments;		(gg)	Regional disarmament;	
(c)	Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia;		(hh)	Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;	
(d)	Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol;		(ii)	Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;	
(e)	Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium;		(jj)	Missiles;	
(f)	The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation;		(kk)	Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.	
(g)	Preventing and combating illicit brokering activities;		97.	Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:	
(h)	Disarmament and non-proliferation education;		(a)	United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;	
(i)	Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms;		(b)	United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services;	
(j)	Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;		(c)	United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;	
(k)	Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive sources;		(d)	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;	
(l)	Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status;		(e)	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;	
(m)	Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;		(f)	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;	
(n)	Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;		(g)	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;	
(o)	Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;		(h)	Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.	
(p)	The Arms Trade Treaty;		98.	Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:	1st
(q)	Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament;		(a)	Report of the Conference on Disarmament;	
(r)	Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control;		(b)	Report of the Disarmament Commission.	
(s)	Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;		99.	The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.	1st
(t)	Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;		100.	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.	1st
(u)	Relationship between disarmament and development;		101.	Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.	1st
(v)	Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;		102.	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.	1st
(w)	Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;				

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103. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.	1st	114. Admission of new Members to the United Nations.	Plenary
104. Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.	1st	115. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit.	Plenary
H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations		116. Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.	Plenary
105. Crime prevention and criminal justice.	3rd	117. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations.	Plenary
106. International drug control.	3rd	118. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.	Plenary, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 3rd, 5th, 6th
107. Measures to eliminate international terrorism.	6th		
I. Organizational, administrative and other matters		119. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.	Plenary
108. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.	Plenary	120. Strengthening of the United Nations system.	Plenary
109. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund.	Plenary	121. United Nations reform: measures and proposals.	Plenary
110. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations.	Plenary	122. Multilingualism.	Plenary
111. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:	Plenary	123. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:	Plenary
(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;		(a) Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union;	
(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council;		(b) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization;	
(c) Election of five members of the International Court of Justice.		(c) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;	
112. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:	Plenary	(d) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization;	
(a) Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;		(e) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community;	
(b) Election of five members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission;		(f) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative;	
(c) Election of fifteen members of the Human Rights Council;		(g) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization;	
(d) Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.		(h) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries;	
113. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:	Plenary, 5th	(i) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe;	
(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;		(j) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States;	
(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;		(k) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization;	
(c) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;		(l) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community;	
(d) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission:		(m) Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie;	
(i) Appointment of members of the Commission;		(n) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System;	
(ii) Designation of the Chair of the Commission;		(o) Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States;	
(e) Appointment of members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;		(p) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development–GUAM;	
(f) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;		(q) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;	
(g) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit;			
(h) Appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services;			
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(j) Appointment of ad litem judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal.			

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	(s) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States;		(m) United Nations Population Fund;		
	(t) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;		(n) United Nations Human Settlements Programme;		
	(u) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum;		(o) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;		
	(v) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization;		(p) United Nations Office for Project Services;		
	(w) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization;		(q) United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);		
	(x) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community;		(r) International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994;		
	(y) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States.		(s) International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991;		
124.	Global health and foreign policy.	Plenary	(t) International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.		
125.	International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.	Plenary	131.	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.	5th
126.	International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.	Plenary	132.	Programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015.	5th
127.	International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.	Plenary	133.	Programme planning.	Plenary, 1st, 4th, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th
128.	Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him.	Plenary	134.	Improving the financial situation of the United Nations.	5th
129.	Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War.	Plenary	135.	Pattern of conferences.	5th
130.	Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:	5th	136.	Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations.	5th
	(a) United Nations;		137.	Human resources management.	5th
	(b) United Nations peacekeeping operations;		138.	Joint Inspection Unit.	5th
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	(d) United Nations University;		140.	United Nations pension system.	5th
	(e) Capital master plan;		141.	Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency.	5th
	(f) United Nations Development Programme;		142.	Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.	5th
	(g) United Nations Capital Development Fund;		143.	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244, 59/272 and 64/263.	5th
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	(j) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;				
	(k) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;				

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150. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.	5th	164. Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.	5th
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152. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.	5th	166. Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.	5th
153. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.	5th	167. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863(2009).	5th
154. Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.	5th	168. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.	6th
155. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor.	5th	169. Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly.	6th
156. Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.	5th	170. Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly.	6th
157. Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.	5th	171. Observer status for the Developing Eight Countries Organization for Economic Cooperation in the General Assembly.	6th
158. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.	5th	172. Observer status for the Pacific Community in the General Assembly.	6th
159. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia.	5th		

SECURITY COUNCIL

Questions considered during 2014

<i>Title</i>
The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.
The situation in the Middle East.
The situation in Cyprus.
The situation concerning Western Sahara.
United Nations peacekeeping operations.
The situation in Liberia.
The situation in Somalia.
The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Security Council resolutions 1160(1998), 1199(1998), 1203(1998), 1239(1999) and 1244(1999).
International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.
International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994.
The question concerning Haiti.
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<i>Title</i>
The situation in Sierra Leone.
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The situation in Guinea-Bissau.
Protection of civilians in armed conflict.
General issues relating to sanctions.
Women and peace and security.
Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice.
Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.
Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries [UNFICYP, UNDOF, UNIFIL, MINURSO, MONUSCO, UNMIL, UNOCI, MINUSTAH, MINUSMA, UNMISS].
Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.
Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council.
The situation in Côte d'Ivoire.
Security Council mission.
The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security.
Central African region.
Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Title

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan.
Post-conflict peacebuilding.
The situation concerning Iraq.
Threats to international peace and security.
Non-proliferation.
Peace consolidation in West Africa.
Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
Maintenance of international peace and security [general issues, conflict prevention, war, its lessons, and the search for a permanent peace, security sector reform: challenges and opportunities].
Peace and security in Africa [general issues, Sahel region, Ebola].
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.
The situation in Libya.

Title

The situation in Mali.
Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.
Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.
The situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Other matters considered during 2014

Title

Annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly.
Items relating to Security Council documentation and working methods and procedure.
Election of five members of the International Court of Justice.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Agenda for the 2014 session (14 and 30 January, 24 to 26 February, 18 March, 14, 15, 23 and 25 April, 27 to 29 May, 5, 12, 13, 23 to 25 and 27 June, 7 to 11, 14 to 16 and 25 July, 14 and 30 October and 17 and 18 November)

Item No. Title

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Basic programme of work of the Council.
4. Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments.
5. High-level segment:
 - (a) High-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions;
 - (b) Development Cooperation Forum;
 - (c) Annual ministerial review;
 - (d) Thematic discussion.
6. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:
 - (a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council;
 - (b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and the World Food Programme.
7. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.
8. The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.
9. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits:
 - (a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development;
 - (b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.
10. Coordination, programme and other questions:
 - (a) Reports of coordination bodies;
 - (b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017;
 - (c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system;

Item No. Title

- (d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti;
- (e) African countries emerging from conflict;
- (f) Tobacco or health.
11. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265 and 61/16.
12. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.
13. Regional cooperation.
14. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.
15. Non-governmental organizations.
16. Economic and environmental questions:
 - (a) Sustainable development;
 - (b) Science and technology for development;
 - (c) Statistics;
 - (d) Human settlements;
 - (e) Environment;
 - (f) Population and development;
 - (g) Public administration and development;
 - (h) International cooperation in tax matters;
 - (i) Cartography;
 - (j) Women and development;
 - (k) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.
17. Social and human rights questions:
 - (a) Advancement of women;
 - (b) Social development;
 - (c) Crime prevention and criminal justice;
 - (d) Narcotic drugs;
 - (e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
 - (f) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
 - (g) Human rights;
 - (h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations

(respective heads as at December 2014)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Vienna, Austria
Internet: www.iaea.org
Director General: Yukiya Amano (Japan)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Geneva, Switzerland
Internet: www.ilo.org
Director General: Guy Ryder (United Kingdom)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Rome, Italy
Internet: www.fao.org
Director General: José Graziano da Silva (Brazil)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Paris, France
Internet: www.unesco.org
Director General: Irina Bokova (Bulgaria)

World Health Organization (WHO)

Geneva, Switzerland
Internet: www.who.int
Director General: Dr. Margaret Chan (China)

World Bank Group (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, ICSID)

Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
Internet: www.worldbank.org
President: Jim Yong Kim (United States)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
Internet: www.imf.org
Managing Director: Christine Lagarde (France)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Montréal, Canada
Internet: www.icao.int
Secretary-General: Raymond Benjamin (France)

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

Berne, Switzerland
Internet: www.upu.int
Director General: Bishar Abdirahman Hussein (Kenya)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Geneva, Switzerland
Internet: www.itu.int
Secretary-General: Houlin Zhao (China)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Geneva, Switzerland
Internet: public.wmo.int
Secretary-General: Michel Jarraud (France)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

London, United Kingdom
Internet: www.imo.org
Secretary-General: Koji Sekimizu (Japan)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Geneva, Switzerland
Internet: www.wipo.int
Director General: Francis Gurry (Australia)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Rome, Italy
Internet: www.ifad.org
President: Kanayo F. Nwanze (Nigeria)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Vienna, Austria
Internet: www.unido.org
Director General: Li Yong (China)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Geneva, Switzerland
Internet: www.wto.org
Director General: Robert Azevedo (Brazil)

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Madrid, Spain
Internet: www2.unwto.org
Secretary-General: Taleb Rifai (Jordan)

Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

Vienna, Austria
Internet: www.ctbto.org
Executive Secretary: Lassina Zerbo (Burkina Faso)

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The Hague, The Netherlands
Internet: www.opcw.org
Director General: Ahmet Üzümcü (Turkey)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Geneva, Switzerland
Internet: www.iom.int
Director General: William Lacy Swing (United States)

Note: For more information on liaison, regional, subregional and country offices maintained by any of these organizations, please visit their respective websites.

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